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Rhode Island Library Association

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Winter 2000

## Bulletin of the Rhode Island Library Association v. 73

RILA

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# RHODE ISLAND Library Association *Bulletin*

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## President's Message

Helena F. Rodrigues, D.A.



"The Campaign for America's Libraries" is the theme of a five-year commitment by the American Library Association to speak loudly and clearly about the value of libraries and librarians in our information society.

The goal of the Campaign is to inform the public about the critical role libraries and librarians play in the information age. Therefore, it is our responsibility as librarians to create enthusiasm and support for increasing funding, attracting talented people to the profession, promoting library programs, and influencing public policy.

We can achieve this goal by making every attempt to expand America's understanding of the variety of libraries, traditional library services, professional skills of librarians, new library technology,

*Continued on last page*

## ACCESS YES! UCITA NO!



By Kathy Ellen Bullard, PPL

UCITA is the Uniform Computer Information Transaction Act. It was unveiled in July of 1999 by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws (NCCUSL). That group and the American Law Institute (ALI) are responsible for drafting legislation for uniform commercial code consideration. UCITA has been controversial since its inception. The ALI, in fact, withdrew from the committee working on UCITA because of their serious concerns. To date, UCITA has been passed with

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## IMPORTANT NOTICE TO THE RILA MEMBERSHIP:

What you are currently holding in your hands is the last of the printed versions of the RILA Bulletin.

After this issue, we will be switching to an all-electronic format. This issue is also available online, linked from the RILA homepage at:

[http:// nick.uri.edu/library/rila/rila.html](http://nick.uri.edu/library/rila/rila.html)

Feel free to share the URL with your friends and colleagues, as the electronic format will always be available to members and non-members alike.

We hope you will find the electronic format more dynamic than the paper version, and more useful as a resource. Also, the "paperless" issues are more friendly to our environment.

Please enjoy our new direction, and as always, we are open to the questions, comments, and feedback of our readership.

Thanks!

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amendments in Maryland, passed in Virginia with delayed implementation, introduced and postponed in Delaware, passed in Oklahoma, but pending implementation for an interim study, introduced but tabled in District of Columbia, Illinois, and Maine, and effectively killed in Iowa but only until July 2001.

ALA believes that within the next 18 to 24 months, it will be introduced in most other states. The law as proposed is over 120 pages, and is quite complex. However, the following are the major concerns of librarians and others concerned with intellectual property.

Under UCITA, a shrink wrap license agreement is accepted by a purchaser as soon as the shrink wrap is broken, even though the purchaser has not been able to read those terms until after the shrink wrap is broken. A click-on license agreement is accepted by the purchaser as soon as the purchaser clicks "yes," even though the purchaser may not have been able to read or view those terms until after that point. Such a "click wrap" agreement can also override current copyright law, including the three major areas of *fair use*, *first sale*, and *preservation*. UCITA could allow a click wrap agreement to legally prohibit libraries from transferring digital information even if permitted by copyright law under fair use (e.g. individual, educational use) provisions. It could also prohibit libraries from transferring or sharing a product even if permitted by copyright law (e.g. interlibrary loan, posting on a web page for students to access, digitized photographs) provisions. This could also mean that people would be prevented from donating materials to libraries. Preservation could be compromised with click wrap licenses that would prevent a

library from making a copy or copies solely for archival purposes Under UCITA, a license agreement could prohibit consumer, business, or a nonprofit organization from returning a product if it fails for whatever reason to perform as advertised, if they have already opened the shrink wrap or clicked "yes" on the license agreement online page. Individuals would have the right of return, but only individuals, and only at the precise moment of agreement, regardless of what transpires afterwards, i.e. bug laden software, failure of software to perform as advertised. Furthermore, a license agreement could prohibit a consumer, business, or nonprofit organization from publicly criticizing a vendor's product or from suing for damages caused by product defects. A click wrap agreement could also allow the vendor to exercise electronic self-help options if a consumer, business, or nonprofit organization is, in the sole opinion of the vendor, not living up to the terms of the license. Electronic self-help means the vendor retains both a means and the right to stop the purchaser's use of the software. Fundamental public policy would ordinarily cover such things as hidden terms, nondisclosure terms, warranties and liability. However, in UCITA those practices are explicitly allowed, thus making it difficult to determine whether or not a license were in violation of public policy.

Librarians should consult the ALA web page for the 4 Cite (new name AFFECT) link or go directly to [www.4Cite.org](http://www.4Cite.org), or contact the RILA Legislative Action committee for more information.



## Making A Difference @ RILA



You can make a difference, network with other library advocates, and learn new skills by joining one of your association's committees.

The following committees are currently recruiting new members:

### **ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Plans and implements the largest continuing education opportunity in the state.

### **INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM**

Develops awareness of local and national issues and seeks to educate librarians concerning service impact.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Promotes benefits and opportunities of association membership to students, trustees, new librarians and other library advocates.

### **LEGISLATIVE ACTION**

Works to support and promote proactive state and federal legislation impacting libraries.

### **PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Develops programs and strategies to publicize the value of libraries and librarians to our communities.

### **PERSONNEL**

Fosters networking and continuing education opportunities. Advocates for adequate compensation for library staff.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU!

Derryl R. Johnson 231-4980

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## Providence Public Library's Partnership With City/State Provides Quality Programs And Services To Public

Library Director Named Goodrich Public Service Award Recipient



PPL Director Dale Thompson  
(Photo by: Jean Duffy)

PROVIDENCE, RI "This award acknowledges our proud partnership between the public and private sectors and the value added to our communities when private corporations and public agencies work together on behalf of all citizens," said Dale Thompson, Library Director.

Thompson was recently given the 2000 Robert M. Goodrich Distinguished Public Service Award by the Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council (RIPEC) at their 57<sup>th</sup> annual meeting. She won because of her "sustained superior contribution in the service of the

Rhode Island taxpayer."

The Providence Public Library (PPL), a privately governed public library, is able to provide over 70 quality programs to its patrons through a partnership between the city of Providence, the state of Rhode Island and the Library itself. PPL receives just 55% of its income from public funds, the city provides 35% and the state 20%; the rest of the Library's income comes from private sources such as the endowment 30%, fundraising 10%, and other 5%.

Because it provides such an essential public service to the state, other organizations from the private sector are enticed to support the Library. Consequently, the most library programs begin with private funding from corporations such as Verizon, which who has sponsored *Computer Whiz Kids*, a series of free computer classes for kids, for the past three years.

This type of public/private

partnership allows the Library to be more flexible and responsive to the needs and wants of the community. Without private-sector funding, the Library would not have enough money to support most of its programs and services for the public.

"Each year, we have the opportunity to justify our budget to the city. We take it very seriously because it's a way to show the city how well we have responded to the needs of the community. Over 1.8 million people used the library last year I think that means that we are providing our patrons with quality programs and services," said Thompson.



## FAMILY LITERACY INITIATIVE TAKES ROOT



The mission of the Rhode Island Family Literacy Initiative is to provide learner-centered literacy programming for Rhode Island families facing social, economic, and educational barriers because of limited English language skills. The seven public libraries collaborating on this project will share this common mission: that families throughout Rhode Island will have free and equal access to educational opportunities conveniently located in their own communities—Coventry, Cranston, East Providence, Pawtucket, Providence, Warren, and West Warwick.

The Rhode Island Family Literacy Initiative's Family Literacy Program (RIFLI/FLP) is a free, English-as-a-Second-Language, intergenerational literacy program based at public libraries throughout the state. It offers the opportunity to strengthen overall literacy skills in reading, writing, and conversational English. The thematically based curriculum encourages learners to draw on their experiences as a basis for discussion and writing. The intergenerational aspect of the program encourages parents to take a leadership role in promoting learning among their children, with parents acting as models for their children in an educational setting. The program also helps the participants to meet the challenge of learning to use today's technology with the integration of computers into the program as a learning tool.

In 1996, when it became evident that federal funding through the U.S. Department of Education was not going to continue for library literacy programs, a group of representatives from eight public libraries met to brainstorm possibilities for a collaborative venture. It was suggested that the current intergenerational literacy program at the Providence Public Library, the Family Writing Center, be used as the model for a pilot project in the proposal. PPL agreed to act as the lead organization and eventual fiscal agent if funds were received. Public libraries throughout the state were asked to join if they were interested. With fund-

ing from several different sources, the statewide program was phased in beginning in April 1998 at two sites. In October 1998, eight public libraries (eleven programs) began the first full cycle of programming.

RIFLI is a collaboration of nine public libraries, community agencies, and volunteers. Seven of the libraries (thirteen branches in total) host the Family Literacy Program, while two other serve as partners through their support of the Family Literacy Program. Every quarter, a Steering Committee meeting is held in which all the library representatives involved in RIFLI attend to discuss the literacy program and issues concerning it. At the end of each cycle, a meeting is held for Program Leaders and Assistants to get together and share experiences and ideas. The program's strength works through this statewide collaboration.

In 1999, the Family Literacy Program provided English instruction to 169 families, with a total enrollment of 547 adult learners and 287 children. The academic year 1999-2000 marked a 70 percent increase in the number of families. Included in these numbers are a 9 percent increase in adult and a 9.5 percent increase in child enrollment from the 1998-1999 program year. So far this fall, there are over 240 adults and 100 children coming to our program with over seventy-five volunteers donating their time. These numbers make an estimated total of 739 adults and 285 children for this year (2000). These increases demonstrate the upward trend that has continued since the inception of our statewide program.

Programs meet twice weekly for one-and-a-half hours each session in small groups with the volunteer tutors. Using lessons developed by the Program Leaders, the volunteer tutors work with learners on discussions and reading/writing activities based on themes including food, health, community, work, parenting, and culture. The thematic approach is conducive to the use of many different materials and learning activities

that enhance instruction.

A typical adult session starts with conversation activities (a priority for most of the learners), and discussion of the current topic takes place, with a reading and/or writing activity following. Whole group activities (adults and children together) take place three or four times a cycle. The learners all join together to read their stories, listen to a read-aloud or invited guest, or simply share a comment with the group. This helps to build the sense of community within the group and helps learners gain self-confidence, using their newly acquired language skills in a comfortable setting.

Children work on developmentally appropriate activities based on the same theories as the adults to help develop reading and/or school readiness skills. Depending on the ages of the children, homework is always a priority. Usually a book is read and extension activities are suggested in the form of written stories, illustrations, or occasionally, a group mural. Preschoolers develop fine motor skills through painting or cut-and-paste activities; older children are encouraged to write creatively and participate in paired or small group reading/writing activities.

As a component of the Family Literacy Program, all of the adults and school-aged children are introduced to the use of a computer as an educational and workplace tool. Once or twice each week, the Computer Coordinator is available to guide students in the use of the software applications available at each site and to help them type their written pieces. These will be included in their portfolios and for submission to *Our Stories*, a collection of student writing.

The Family Literacy Program encourages learners and their families to use the library not only during class time but also on their own time. Program Leaders inform learners about library programs and events and regularly encourage them to use the services the

*Continued on page 5*

*Family Literacy*  
Continued from Page 5

library provides. Each cycle, students are given a tour of the library, which ends with getting library cards for those who don't already have them. To reinforce what is learned through the tour, scavenger-type hunts are held by some of the Program Leaders. Students are directed to find assorted materials, talk with library staff members, use the card catalog, and make a short list of things they learned about what the library has to offer. By becoming familiar with all that a library provides to its patrons, learners begin to feel less intimidated and more comfortable in the library. Thus, the library becomes a place where students and their children go on a regular basis, even after the English classes end.

Our learners come from over sixty countries from around the world, from a wide range of cultural and socio-economic backgrounds. They primarily enroll in our program for one fundamental reason-to improve their English literary skills in order to have a better life in the United States.

The Family Literacy Program provides the opportunity for adults and their children to build and reinforce their English literacy skills in a setting that encourages lifelong learning. One of RIFLI's major strengths is its collaboration with numerous organizations and agencies around Rhode Island. Librarians, community volunteers, educational organizations, social service agencies, corporations, colleges, and high schools are all involved. It is through these partnerships and collaborations that RIFLI continues to grow.

By Debbie Peterson  
Providence Public Library



  
**Spring Conference**

The RILA Spring Conference will be held Thursday - Friday, June 7 - 8, 2001 at URI. The GSLIS and the University Library have graciously agreed to co-sponsor the event.

The Conference Committee is still working on the schedule, but we have some interesting programs already confirmed. There are two programs on e-books and e-journals. Laurel Goodgion (Director, Portland, CT Public Library) will speak on passive readers' advisory. Cindy Lunghofer (EPL) will explain the necessity of collection development in romance fiction. Preservation basics will be explored by Steve Dalton, Director of Field Service at the Northeast Document Conservation Center.

Some of the programs in development are the ethics of marketing in the library, vendor relations, adult programming, outcome-based measurements, school/public library cooperation, recruitment and retirement issues.

This is just a sampler of things to come! Mark your calendars now for June 7-8. See you at URI!



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 Campaign for America's Libraries

A five-year commitment to speak loudly and clearly about the value of libraries and librarians.  
 Sponsored by the American Library Association.



**DOROTHY B. FRECHETTE  
RETIRES  
after  
“31 YEARS OF SERVICE”**



Dorothy, Nichole and Jim Frechette at State House Reception.  
(Photo by: Joseph McGovern)

Dorothy B. Frechette, library program manager for the Office of Library and Information Services, has retired after 31 years of service to the State of Rhode Island. Frechette's first library assignment was as a bookmobile librarian followed by several other positions, i.e. cataloger, reference librarian, supervisor of Young Readers' Services, and supervisor of Media Services, with increasing levels of responsibility at the former Rhode Island Department of State Library Services (DSLS).

In 1983 she was named Chief of Library Planning, Development and Information Services. For 10 years, from 1988-1998, she served as Deputy Director for the DSLS. Since 1998, she has been the Library Program Manager for the Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS).

Frechette has been a driving force behind OLIS' statewide library network, working with the internal "network group" which has successfully completed the establishment of the Rhode Island OCLC Group, the changeover of interlibrary loan to OCLC; the establishment of the Library of Rhode Island (LORI), Ocean State Free Net (OSFN), Internet access for the state, the development of OLIS' websites, and the creation of e-mail for librarians in the state.

When asked what she likes to do in her free time, Frechette replied: "When I have time, my favorite activities usually involve reading anything

I can get my hands on, or something to do with music, from listening, to playing, to dancing, or working with my hands, from weaving to home repair."

Frechette has no immediate retirement plans, especially since she has assumed the position of Executive Director of RILINK.

On November 10, 2000, colleagues from across the state honored Frechette at a reception at the State House.



Dr. Robert Carl, Director of Administration, presents Dorothy Frechette with the Governor's Proclamation.  
(Photo by: Joseph McGovern)



## PEOPLE

**Rick Barr** is the new Young Adult Services Librarian at East Providence Public Library.

**Lisa Walling** recently was appointed Director of Tiverton Library Services.

The Director of the Phillips Memorial Library at Providence College is **Harvey Barnett, D.A.**

The new Dean of Library Services at Roger Williams University is **Peter Deekle, Ed.D.**

**Happy New Year**

**INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP**  
**Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2001**

Regular membership - Salaried Library Personnel earning			
Under \$15,000	\$15.00	\$15,000 – 19,000	\$25.00
\$20,000 – 29,000	\$30.00	\$30,000 and above	\$35.00
Student, Trustee, Retired, Affiliate membership		\$15.00	

Memberships include:

- > subscription to the RILA Bulletin (electronic)
- > discounted registration costs to attend RILA Annual Conference
- > voting rights except for affiliate, student, trustee and retired memberships

Listings in the RILA Annual Membership Directory are based on the information provided below.

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Please make checks payable to RILA and mail to: **Rhode Island Library Association, PO Box 7858, Warwick, RI 02887-7858**

**INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP**  
**Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2001**

Institutional Membership dues  
 Single annual fee of \$50.00

Institutional memberships include:

- > subscription to the RILA Bulletin (electronic)
- > an institutional member may send up to five (5) non-members to the RILA Annual Conference at the member rate

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### *President's Message* *Continued from page 1*

and funding and support for libraries.

In 1999 ALA members were asked to identify the needs of American libraries. Most respondents indicated that the public needed to be "educated about the value of libraries." In response to this, the American Library Association has made this campaign a major priority.

ALA has provided a substantial budget with a comprehensive, research-based plan, a trademarked campaign logo, "@yourlibrary," which is available to all libraries, and a strong Web site to support this campaign:

[www.ala.org/@yourlibrary](http://www.ala.org/@yourlibrary).

The national kickoff has been scheduled during National Library Week, April 1-7, 2001. Mini-campaigns "designed for public, school, academic and special libraries will be available to help librarians tell their stories." While library advocacy is not a new idea, the Campaign with its nationwide grassroots efforts to spread the word about the worth of our profession is. So let us join together to promote the Campaign in our own libraries. Use the "@yourlibrary" brand on your promotional materials for new or existing programs. Spread the campaign message in press releases and when you speak on

your library's behalf. Gerald Hodges, the Director of the ALA Chapter Relations Office, explained that "The Campaign for America's Libraries' is an unprecedented opportunity for our diverse profession to come together and speak with a unified voice. We encourage every chapter to adopt and use the '@yourlibrary' brand and to become actively involved in 'The Campaign for America's Libraries.' Working together, we can and will make a difference on behalf of libraries and librarians nationwide."



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