President's Message

David Macksam

"Even if you are on the right track, you will get run over if you just sit there."

Considering Will Rogers’ quote, I believe that our growing membership, the willingness of members to work on committees and projects, and the statewide interest in resource sharing, are all good indicators that this is an ideal time to engage in some planning efforts for our association.

As your new president I would like to outline my goals for the next two years.

1. Development of a comprehensive, multi-year legislative program which builds on the work of RILA’s Blue Ribbon Committee. The program needs to establish multi-year goals, set realistic funding targets, and provide library advocates with strategy and focus.

Database licenses, catalog interface, resource delivery system, and a statewide union list of serials were identified by the BRC as the essential building blocks for network development. These initiatives should remain our first priority for funding in 2002.

A three to five-year legislative program will also be able to

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Conference and kept expenses down. Indeed, the conference expenses, including $750 for twenty-four speakers’ programs, totalled $2,900; conference revenue totalled $6,000. The Committee members were highly visible during the conference, spending hours in the drenched registration area, managing programs, and guiding conferees around the campus. In addition to Karen, the Committee includes Judith Beir, Beth DeCristofaro, Florence Dell Doksansky, Susan Dunn, Kathleen Dyer, Gail Griffin, Pat LaRose, and

The Gavel is Passed

RILA held its Spring Conference on June 7 and 8 at the University of Rhode Island for the first time in recent memory. Attendance was nearly 200 for the two days; while the majority of conferees (60%) came from public libraries, college/academic libraries (19%), special libraries (6%), students of the Graduate School of Library and Information Studies (9%), and OLIS staff and others (6%), were well-represented. Karen McGrath, in her ninth year as Conference Committee chair, said that the co-sponsorship by the GSLIS and the University Library and the support of their respective Directors, Michael Havener and Artemis Kirk contributed to the success of the

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and Pam Mead. Tim Tierney, URI’s Assistant Director for AV/Production, and his student assistant staff made certain that equipment was available and in working order for the many programs.
At the Business Meeting, Helena Rodrigues turned the gavel over to the new President, David Macksam. David acknowledged Helena’s presidential service for the past two years, noting July 4, 1999 as a red-letter day in RILA’s history when Helena led the Association in the Bristol Parade in 100 degree temperatures. David outlined three major challenges for the Association in the next two years: securing legislative funding for network development in the state; being alert and responsive to challenges to information access in both print and electronic formats; and helping libraries and their staffs to cope with technological change through continuing education activities. Jim Giles reviewed results of a survey about the RILA Bulletin, mentioning that the written comments were especially helpful.

RILA Awards

Cindy Lunghofer, Awards Committee Chair, presents Dr. Jonathan Bertman, a family physician and webmaster, with RILA’s Citation of Merit. Dr. Bertman’s website, Afraidtoask.com, a medical information site for teens, was blocked by filtering software. He joined the American Civil Liberties Union in its suit to overturn the federal Children’s Internet Protection Act.

Kathryn Taylor, Director of the Westerly Public Library and Board of Trustees’ Chair, Michael Ryan, RILA’s Trustee of the Year.

Cindy Lunghofer presents Susan Dunn, Warwick Public Library’s Coordinator of Adult Services, with RILA’s Outstanding Librarian of the Year Award.
Program Reports

Image and Message: Communicating to the Public

Laura Lopata from Accent on Image in New York City provided an informative seminar on creating an effective image when communicating with the public. The main focus of this program was how to dress successfully and act when being interviewed in front of television cameras, however, there was plenty of beneficial information for those of us who work well outside the limelight.

Snap judgments will be made, based upon appearance, from the moment a person appears before an audience. By taking control of your image, listeners’ attention will be focused on the message at hand instead of your taste in apparel. Clothing should be tailored, simple and understated. Remember that less is more!

When faced with public speaking, remember to breathe! Take deep breaths from the bottom of your stomach in order avoid a high pitched, breathy voice. Speak slowly in a grounded, resonant voice so that people can easily listen to what you have to say. Keep gestures to a minimum, saving them for only when you are emphasizing an important point. Make sure that you are familiar with your material, and have preplanned answers to expected questions. If you are especially nervous, redirect your tension by grasping a pencil, or by clenching your toes or behind. If all else fails take a moment to calm yourself down. That moment will seem a lot longer to you than it does to your audience. Ms. Lopata also recommended observing politicians to see the way they dress and answer (or don’t answer) difficult questions.

Kim Deschamps Shipala
Woonsocket Harris Public Library

Showing the Difference You Make: Outcome-Based Evaluation

Karen Motylewski, the Research Officer at the Institute of Museum and Library Services and Michelle Farrell, a librarian in the Office of State Programs at IMLS, presented the program “Showing the Difference You Make: Outcome-Based Evaluation (OBE).” Traditionally, libraries have focused on output measures, such as number of visits, number of uses, circulation, etc. However, many funders now respond to our output measures and our statements of how meaningful a program with -- “prove it!” Karen and Michelle presented one valid method of doing that. They began with a definition of outcomes, which are “achievements or changes in skill, knowledge, behavior, attitude, status, or life condition.” Then followed a discussion that OBE causes a change in focus from activities to benefits. They touched upon the fears & realities of librarians as we move toward OBE, such as patron privacy and too much time needed to implement. Karen went on to discuss other key points in OBE, emphasizing that ideally OBE is incorporated into initial program development rather than tacked on afterwards, that it causes us to understand more clearly that a program should be developed as a solution to a specific need, and that determining the target audience for the program is key. Karen proceeded then to take us through a sample logic model using OBE, explaining the key components - indicators, data source, data interval, and target. Karen concluded by discussing options for implementing OBE at your library. She also stated that museums are generally ahead of libraries in the use of OBE, but that this will be a method of evaluation which many funders, including the IMLS, will be requiring in the near future.

Kathy Ellen Bullard
Providence Public Library

Newport Public Library Reopening and Ribbon-cutting ceremony, Sunday, September 9, 3-5 p.m. (The renovated library and the new addition, which almost doubled the library’s size, are currently open to the public.)

NELA Conference – Burlington, VT. September 30 – October 2. www.nelib.org
Designing Story Times for School-Aged Children

Martha Simpson from Stratford Library Association and Lynne Perrigo from Westport Public Library created a very successful and interactive after-school program for children in grades 1-3. Their program combined storytelling with games, song and craft.

Martha began by telling us how the program evolved over several years at the Stratford Library. Martha suggests that at least one librarian is required as one prepares the opening activity and tells a story while the other prepares the interactive game and craft activity. Lynn mentioned that she has been successful in recruiting teen volunteers to help with the crafts and activities.

Martha and Lynne demonstrated a typical Storycraft program by showing us how she used felt board and drawing stories. Together they led a circus theme demonstration that involved audience participation. Librarians transformed into clowns, lions, rope walkers, and lion tamers. Lynn showed how she created a clown marionette for children. Lastly, we broke up into small groups to come up with our own Storycraft ideas.

Simpson and Perrigo recently wrote a book titled Storycraft published this year by McFarland & Company ISBN 078640891X. Their book includes pictures and step-by-step instructions for creating colorful bulletin boards, booktalk lists, music, felt board creations, interactive activities and duplicating craft ideas for some of the popular themes they have designed.

Chris Wallace
Woonsocket Harris Public Library

A Forward Look at Your Retirement

Sponsored by the RILA Personnel Committee, representatives from Tucker Anthony, a full service investment firm, explained the basics of retirement planning, investment types and distribution options. They outlined how employer funded plans, individual plans and social security all contribute to a solid retirement income. Brian Drought, Tucker’s Assistant Branch Manager in Providence, pointed out that it’s best to start saving early but it’s never too late to start!

Kathy Blessing
Community College of Rhode Island

Changing Trends in Library Instruction, LIB 120

Mary MacDonald, Joanne Burkhardt, and Andree Rathemacher, URI Librarians, described this 3 credit course that students can take as part of their general education coursework. Although it is not a required course for freshmen, it is an excellent introduction to the fine art of research paper writing. The course is student-centered by design, learning by doing, and consists of three activities:

1. Taxonomy of periodicals. Why use periodicals. Stress types of periodicals. How information is produced. Popular vs. scholarly sources. Focus on audience. Types: popular magazines; professional, trade, or special interest periodicals; and scholarly/academic journals.

2. Concept mapping. Preparation for final project. Students can choose a favorite topic or use an assigned topic from another course. Basically, students brainstorm the topic, allowing any and all aspects to surface. Then they take all the separate issues and try to group them logically. One of these grouped concepts will serve as a final topic.

3. Final project – Paper Trail Project. Traces all the steps involved in researching the topic. Students are asked to annotate 20 sources they would use and explain why they would choose these sources. They are also asked to annotate 10 to 20 sources they would not use and explain why not.

Ulla Virks
Westerly Public Library

National Museum and Library Conference, November 1-9, Washington, D.C. Registration is free.

For more information contact Elizabeth Lyons at the Institute of Museums and Library Services
1100 Pennsylvania Ave, Washington, D.C. 20506, (202) 606-4649 or elyons@imis.gov.
**E-Books Evolving**

Mark Shelton, Physical Sciences Reference/Collection Development Librarian at Brown University, gave an excellent overview of the current state of the e-book industry. This presentation filled in some of the gaps that most of us have, and provided good pointers to Web sites where more information may be found. Mark also detailed some of the “insider information” on the thought processes and decisions that are going into Brown’s e-book collection development. He clearly demonstrated that there is no “one-size-fits-all” e-book solution, and that each individual library will have to decide how (or if) e-books will fit into their current collections.

*Joseph Ceterski, Consulting Librarian*


Six years ago the staff of Brown University Library began to reconceive its organization. Recognizing and building upon existing strengths, it wanted to change into something that was more team-like and less structured. Viewing the Library’s contribution to its community as one of “collecting and connecting for the extended classroom,” it wanted to become more proactively involved in the learning and research process and to take on a more heightened role in the electronic structure. Accomplishing these goals would require a reallocation of finite resources and more flexibility on the part of staff. In this workshop Raynna Bowlby, Florence Doksansky, Yvonne Federowicz, and Pat Putney shared the experience of this reorganization at Brown and explained the user-centered technique of “process mapping” by which they were able to focus on outcome, identify key processes (rather than traditional functions), and provide graphic or visual representations of core processes.

Still in progress, the reorganization will likely result in workflow changes, the collapsing of overlapping responsibilities, and a reexamination of employee roles and expectations. The project, including background, philosophy, and explanation of terminology, can be viewed through the Library’s MODEL (Managing Organizational Development through Effective Leadership) home page (//www.brown.edu/Facilities/University_Library/MODEL/). Clicking on “Library Transition Management Group (LTMG)” leads to an introduction to “Process Mapping” and a look at some preliminary maps. The RILA presentation will be added to this site (//www.brown.edu/Facilities/University_Library/MODEL/LTMG/maps/index.htm).

*Marlene L. Lopes
Rhode Island College*

**RILA & URI Sponsored Career Day**

“How to Find Your First Library Job” was the focus of a program on April 2nd in the Galanti Lounge at the University of Rhode Island Library. The Rhode Island Library Association in conjunction with URI’s Graduate School of Library and Information Studies sponsored the day’s events. Afternoon activities included a panel discussion and a career mentoring session. Interview techniques and resume tips were also shared with attendees.

Participants in the panel discussion included De Johnson, Director of the Marian J. Mohr Memorial Library (Johnston) and RILA Secretary; David Macksam, Director of the Cranston Public Library and RILA Vice President; Sherry O’Brien, Web Editor at the American Mathematical Society (Providence) and RI Chapter President of the Special Libraries; and Helena Rodrigues, Dean of Johnson & Wales University Libraries and RILA President. Participants in the career mentoring session included the panel members and Anne Kirby, a librarian who manages her own consulting business and is a Special Libraries Association member.

*Kathy Blessing
Community College of RI*
At the June ALA Conference, Council tackled many issues, including accreditation, certification, outsourcing, CIPA status, and overall discussion about meeting times and the ability, or rather inability, to attract a membership quorum to most of the membership meetings. CIPA dominated many a conference discussion. The two issues of accreditation and certification may have become lost in CIPA’s domination of national professional issues. CIPA will certainly have a long-term effect on libraries if upheld in court. The other two issues may also have far reaching effects.
The Committee on Education proposed certification at the 2001 Midwinter conference. The Council recommended that a professional post-Masters certification program be established. It is meant to be entirely voluntary. Some questioned whether it would eventually become another requirement on top of the MLS.
The External Accreditation Task Force presented a report that concluded that various organizations, such as the Association of Research Libraries and the Special Library Association, should work together for a common accreditation process, replacing the current ALA accreditation process.
For further information on these issues, please see the ALA web site or contact me at kbullard@provlib.org.

Kathy Ellen Bullard

At the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns’ annual convention, OLIS and RILA co-sponsored a program to spotlight the many services and resources of Rhode Island’s libraries. Donna Longo DiMichele from OLIS introduced each speaker and set the theme. First, libraries are your passport to a wealth of information, whether the virtual library at your desktop, your local library, the Providence Public Library as the reference resource center for the state, or libraries everywhere through interlibrary loan. Second, libraries are there to help you every step of the way.

Beth Perry, from OLIS, alerted the attendees to Find-It Rhode Island, the Government Information Locator Service (GILS). Find-It is a system devoted to making government information accessible through specialized indexing, shared subject terminology and search engines. Using Find-It, city and town officials can access state agency materials, including forms, state planning information, purchasing materials, and legislative updates as well as a rapidly expanding amount of municipal information.

Next, I spoke about legal materials available to the municipal officials, which would help them represent their government’s need as well as manage their governments. I highlighted the cases, federal and state legislative materials available, as well as regulatory and agency searching tips and techniques.

Niles Madsen from the Warwick Public Library spoke of public libraries as the gateway to a vast amount of information and materials. He addressed almanacs, directories, genealogical materials, local historical information and municipal codes. He stressed the services that libraries provide, including interlibrary loan, reference and referral. A lively discussion followed the panel’s presentation.

Karen Quinn
RI State Law Library

The FY2002 state budget, as passed by the General Assembly, eliminated the proposed Article 4 in the original budget, which would have put an annual cap of $2,500,000 on public library construction reimbursement. Much credit for this action goes to Joel Stark, Chairman of the Providence Public Library (PPL) Board of Trustees, Dale Thompson, PPL Library Director, and Edmond Magner, President of the East Greenwich Library Board of Trustees, all who testified against Article 4 at a House Finance Committee Hearing.

On The Web

ITIS, the Integrated Taxonomic Information System. Here you will find authoritative taxonomic information on plants, animals, and microbes of North America and the world.

People

Artemis Kirk, URI’s Director of University Libraries, resigned July 15 to become University Librarian at Georgetown University.

Gary Mason, Library Director of the Providence Athenaeum, resigned in May to become Director of the Woodstock Public Library in Vermont.

Catherine Poirier, Head of Library Services at the Providence Athenaeum, was appointed Interim Library Director.

Robert A. E. Cairns, Director of Library Services, East Providence Public Library, announced her retirement effective November 7, 2001.

Wendell B. Pols, Head of Reference/Special Collections and Archivist, Roger Williams University Main Library, retired in June.

Marilyn Brockway was recently appointed Young Adult Librarian at the Newport Public Library.

Joan Souillere-Denshaw was appointed Part-time Information Services Librarian at the Cranston Public Library.

Casey Rondini was appointed Young Adult Librarian at the Westerly Public Library.

Beth Curran, formerly Senior Reference Librarian at the Providence Public Library, is now the Head of Reference Services at PPL.

Margaret Chevian, formerly Senior Reference Librarian at Providence Public Library, is now the Head of Art and Music Services at PPL.

Joseph Rawson, recent URI Library School graduate, was appointed full-time Reference Librarian at Providence Public Library.

Cheryl Maraj-Abondula, URI Library School student, was appointed part-time Reference Intern at Providence Public Library.

Ivy Brunelle, URI Library School student, was appointed part-time Reference Intern at Providence Public Library.

Doug Hinman, formerly part-time Special Collections retrospective conversion cataloger at Providence Public Library, is now a full-time cataloger at PPL.

Susan Shoaf, formerly part-time Reference Librarian at Providence Public Central Library, is now a full-time Adult Services Librarian at the Rochambeau Branch of PPL.

Hall History Published

Marian Sachs, a Hall Library Trustee, recently published A Library is Born: the History of the William H, Hall Free Library. The idea of a library history was conceived by the late Judith Paster, Hall Trustee and past RILA President. The library, now Cranston Public Library’s largest branch, was built in 1926, using the property and endowment of William H. Hall. Today, it continues as a vital asset to the Edgewood community. To buy the book at $14.95, Contact John Bucci, Hall Librarian, 781-2450.
address the additional funding needs as identified in the Blue Ribbon Committee's final report.

2. Design and implement a state-wide library promotion and education project utilizing the ideas, resources and momentum generated by ALA's @ Your Library Campaign.

3. Revision of the Association's Strategic Plan 1997-2000. To start our effort, a short survey has been inserted in this Bulletin requesting your ideas and comments concerning the future direction for the association.

PLEASE TAKE YOUR TIME TO SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS WITH US.

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**Executive Board**

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**Bulletin Questionnaire Results**

Twelve members responded to the questionnaire in the Spring Issue. The results indicated that the Bulletin be eight pages long, published quarterly in hard copy, and that the content of the Bulletin emphasize Rhode Island projects and people. Jim Giles announced the results at the Business Meeting during the Spring Conference. A show of hands of the seventy people present indicated that the majority wanted to receive the Bulletin in hard copy as well as accessing it online. The Bulletin will be published on the Web and in hard copy.

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**RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

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Warwick, RI 02887-7858
http://www.uri.edu/library/rika/rika.html

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STEPHEN L. THOMPSON
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Providence RI 02912-0001
RILA SURVEY

The RILA Executive Board is seeking your input in planning the Association’s future direction and activities.

PLEASE RETURN THIS COMPLETED SURVEY TO:
David Macksam, Cranston Public Library
Delivery Code: CRA
Mailing: 140 Sockanosset Cross Rd.,
Cranston, RI 02920
PLEASE RETURN BY: September 21st, 2001

1. WHAT SHOULD RILA’S PRIORITIES BE FOR THE NEXT TWO (2) YEARS, 2002-2003? (Please rank in order of importance on a scale of 1-8, #1 equaling the most important.)

   A. Development of Continuing Education Activities
   B. Expand Association Membership
   C. Promote Libraries and Their Services with a public relations campaign
   D. Publications (Bulletin, membership directory)
   E. Library Legislation and Lobbying Activities
   F. Intellectual Freedom Advocacy
   G. Expand Opportunities for Member Involvement in the Association
   H. OTHER: __________________________

2. IF YOU BELIEVE CONTINUING EDUCATION IS IMPORTANT FOR RILA, please rank the following topics in order of importance (on a scale of 1-12, #1 equaling the most important):

   A. Technology Skills
   B. Customer Service
   C. Trustee Development
   D. Service to Youth
   E. Service to Adults
   F. Marketing & Public Relations
   G. Training for Paraprofessional Staff
   H. Staff Supervision
   I. Labor & Employment Issues
   J. Fundraising & Development
   K. Leadership Skills
   L. OTHER: __________________________
1. IF YOU BELIEVE STRONG LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY IS IMPORTANT FOR RILA, please rank the following legislative activities in order of importance (on a scale of 1-7, #1 equaling the most important):

   ___ A. Catalog Interface
   ___ B. Literacy Programs
   ___ C. Data Base Licenses
   ___ D. Multi-type Network Development
   ___ E. Construction & Capital Improvement
   ___ F. Delivery Service
   ___ G. OTHER: ________________________

2. HELP US TO ESTABLISH PRIORITIES FOR THE ASSOCIATION’S OPERATING BUDGET. Please rank the following activities in order of importance (on a scale of 1-4, #1 equaling the most important):

   ___ A. Programs at Annual Conference
   ___ B. Publications (Bulletin, membership directories, etc.)
   ___ C. Series of Continuing Education Activities
   ___ D. OTHER: ________________________

3. WE WELCOME SUGGESTIONS FOR TOPICS OR THEMES YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE ADDRESSED AT THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

   ______________________________________

   ______________________________________

4. PLEASE SHARE WITH US ANY ADDITIONAL IDEAS OR CONCERNS THAT YOU BELIEVE WOULD BE OF ASSISTANCE IN OUR PLANNING EFFORTS.

   ______________________________________

   ______________________________________

   ______________________________________

   ______________________________________

THANK YOU FOR COMPLETING THE SURVEY.