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Rhode Island Library Association Bulletin



JANUARY

1984

RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

150 EMPIRE STREET

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903

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Library Literature

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The Bulletin is a publication for public, school, academic and special libraries of Rhode Island. Published by the Rhode Island Library Association, the Bulletin welcomes news and discussion of interest to RILA members. Articles contained herein, however, do not necessarily reflect the ideas of the RILA membership, or the Bulletin staff or advertisers. All articles about library and media matters will be considered. All should be signed and should not exceed ten double spaced typed pages unless the editor is consulted. Cover art should be done in black and white and should measure 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches wide by 6 inches high.

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BULLETIN

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

As I sit and reflect on my tenure thus far as Editor of the Bulletin, I have a feeling of accomplishment. Much of what we as a committee set out to do has been done. The Bulletin has been bringing to the readership thought-provoking articles, news of the Association, and other items of interest, on a regular basis. At least that's how things look from here. The one thing I had hoped would happen would be the generation of on-going discussion via the Bulletin among the readership, reaction to articles in the Bulletin, or to events occurring "out there." So far that hasn't happened. And I must ask why. I cannot accept the idea that no one has anything at all to say, either about items appearing in this publication, or about issues and events occurring in the profession. And yet that seems to be the case. I wonder if it's because people are too busy to take the time to write a short letter to the editor, or a piece of news and send it in.

Or perhaps people react and comment to themselves. But this is your Bulletin -- it can be a forum for discussion, for the exchange of ideas and information. But it will be that only if you make it that. So, the next time you have something to say (and I know everyone has something to say), say it on paper and send it in. We will print it, really. Let us hear from you,

Chris Chapman
Editor



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A Conference Report by Robin Devin

This session of the Rhode Island Library Association Conference featured a discussion of book, media, and community resources which are available to assist students and teachers of Rhode Island history. Paul Drake, the moderator of the meeting, explained that Rhode Island state law requires that a unit on Rhode Island history be taught in all schools beginning in the 4th grade. The speakers were brought together to outline the resources available.

The first speaker was Carol Hagglund who is currently Curator of Education at the Rhode Island Historical Society and was formerly with the Providence Preservation Society. She discussed the resources of both organizations.

The Providence Preservation Society is a private non-profit organization interested in the architectural history of Providence. One of its main services is to provide tours of Providence which focus on the city's history and geography. The Society provides walking tours for each neighborhood and can gear their presentations to any age group. In addition, printed self-tours are available from the Society.

The Rhode Island Historical Society's resources include a library and museums. The Library, containing about 150,000 volumes, is open to the public, but its materials are non-circulating. The Library features a teachers' corner of reference material on Rhode Island history.

The Society's museums include the John Brown House and the Museum of Rhode Island History. The John Brown House contains a collection of early American furniture and decorative arts. The Museum of Rhode Island History has changing exhibits. Both provide tours for school groups and teachers' materials for use with the exhibits.

The second speaker, Jeanne Richardson, described the resources available in the Rhode Island Collection of the Providence Public Library. This collection is housed in the Reference Department of the Providence Public Library and is non-circulating. The collection consists of books, pictures, pamphlets, maps, and the Rhode Island Index. The book material includes more than 8,000 titles of works written on Rhode Island, by Rhode Island authors, or published with a Rhode Island imprint. The Rhode Island Index indexes all material in the collection, primarily by subject, and includes an index to both the Providence Journal and Evening Bulletin.

Marion Wright, the third speaker, is a professor of geography at Rhode Island College and co-author of a new publication, Rhode Island Atlas. She told the audience that more information on local history is available now than ever before including 80 titles available from the Rhode Island Publications Society. Her recently published atlas covers the physical realm, places and names, the people, the economy, and the transportation of Rhode Island.

The last speaker, Hadassah Davis, co-author of The Student as Historian, briefly summed up the discussion and mentioned a few additional resources, such as the Haffenreffer Museum, which also can provide those interested with information on the history of Rhode Island.

Courting Pay Equity

A Conference Report by Karen E. Murphy

Michele Leber, Director, Fairfax County Public Library (Virginia) presented a case study pertaining to pay inequities in her organization. Prior to delineating the demographics, historical development, and critical incidents in the case, Ms. Leber appropriately provided a context for the latter portion of her discourse by reviewing selected Federal legislation, significant litigation, and definition of key terms. Ms. Leber's exposition enabled the audience to have a deeper appreciation and comprehension of the situation in Fairfax County. Moreover, this material would serve as a touchstone for those librarians who sought to analyze their systems for possible pay inequities.

"Pay equity" and "comparable worth" are terms in the personnel lexicon which are utilized interchangeably, although the former is preferred. In essence the terms define a standardized process by which jobs/position classification schemes can be evaluated based upon "skills, effort, and responsibility" or in personnel parlance SKA's (skills, knowledge, ability). Utilizing this process Ms. Leber stated, "one could compare nurses with tree trimmers (St. Louis) to determine level of difficulty (based upon SKA's) and assign a grade level to the position." Therefore, individuals engaged in tasks of equal complexity but on differing career paths could be evaluated and considered of "comparable worth." Based upon the job analysis these positions would be allocated the same grade level.

"Wage discrimination" is a phenomenon in which "individuals of one social category are paid differently than one of another social category." Ms. Leber cited sexual segregation as a significant factor in wage discrimination. In "sexual segregation" individuals are doing jobs of similar difficulty but are paid differently due to the predominance of one gender in the position. She indicated a "classic example of this phenomenon was secretary vs. storekeeper; storekeepers receive significantly higher wages because they are male." Furthermore, "it has been demonstrated the more a job is dominated by women, the less it pays; pay differentials are greater by sex than by minorities."

The arguments against pay equity reflect the status quo posture of the majority. According to Ms. Leber, the most common statements are: "pay equity is like comparing apples with oranges"; "we pay prevailing wages which are downgraded in women dominated areas"; "salaries are based upon supply and demand of the free marketplace (e.g. salaries of nurses held down by importation of Philippine nurses)"; "it's a woman's choice"; and "if I give them (women) more money, I'll have to do it for everyone (ripple effect)." Ms. Leber concluded this section with a quotation from the manager of the "comparable worth" program in Pismo Beach, California, who stated, "lack of money is no reason to break the law."

Litigation for pay equity by library employees has been most active in California. Without going into the details of each case, suffice it to say the litigants ranged from city to university employees, reflecting the endemic quality of salary inequity of this group dominated by women.



The pay inequity situation of the Fairfax County librarians is unique as it is "the only case initiated solely by professional librarians." Fairfax County, Virginia, is "the fastest growing (600,000 population), most affluent county (\$48,000 median income) in the D.C. area." In 1981, the Department of Justice found Fairfax County "guilty of massive sex discrimination." The consent decree "awarded \$2.7 million in back pay, ordered termination of discriminatory hiring practices, required implementation of an employee applicant tracking system, and stipulated creation of 160 jobs."

A management study of the Library performed in 1980 raised the issue of "comparability" and the consultant indicated there was "potential for involvement in litigation." An illustration of this problem was "Librarian I pay grade 16 required MLS, while Park Specialist pay grade 17 required AA degree." It should be noted a loud groan was emitted by the audience when Ms. Leber stated, "the entry level salary for librarians was \$18,500" vs. approximately \$13,000 in Rhode Island. Although the Library Board of Trustees requested higher grade levels for the Librarian career ladder, the County Executive Officer (CEO) did not act on it. Ms. Leber chronicled the travails of the librarians for pay equity. Since the County has not responded, the librarians have retained Winn Newman, the lawyer who worked for AFSCME in successfully arguing the case of the Washington State Employees for "comparable worth."

In May, 1983, one hundred Fairfax County Librarians filed a complaint with the EEOC requesting a "right to sue letter." An investigation by the Baltimore office of EEOC was implemented in July, 1983. Ms. Leber closed by indicating the librarians will file suit in early 1984. "I am a discriminatee and complainant in an EEO case soon to be a litigant."

Whizzing Through the Wires

A Conference Report by Sue Pratt



Whizzing Through the Wires: Electronic Mail - Its Implications for Rhode Island was presented by Bruce E. Daniels, Deputy Director, Dept. of State Library Services; and Dorothy B. Frechette, Chief Librarian, Planning, Development and Information Service.

The panelists addressed the need to replace the current teletype system used in Rhode Island. The system is overloaded, unreliable, obsolete and it is rented. The cost is exceeding the usefulness of the system. Once the need to replace the current system was apparent, a committee was established to evaluate other possible alternatives. The new system must be able to perform other duties, be easy to use and be within cost range.

Four or five systems were assessed. Each system was evaluated for its advantages and disadvantages. These systems were then weighted against the present system, other systems and projected needs. The final choice was to purchase a system offered by DEC (Digital Equipment Corporation). In addition to providing services which were compatible to needs, DEC also offered a substantial discount to Rhode Island libraries at the time of purchase. The system has been bought at the cost of \$140,000 and is currently in the process of installation. The system includes a central controller and 17 terminals which include keyboards, printers and screens. Once the system is in use (projected time January 1984), it can be programmed to perform other operations and duties.

20/20: A Future for Bibliographic Instruction

A Conference Report by Kathleen Gotter

The reward for the fifty people who chose to attend this program (over the report on databases) was, ironically, a discussion on computerization and library services! The dissemination of information is crucial to the decidedly non-Reaganomic vision of the future posited by Tom Surprenant of URI's Graduate Library School and Shaleen Barnes of SMU. They were assisted by a panel composed of Florence Doksansky of Brown, John Cory of Cranston Public Library, and Lenore Imondi of the Woonsocket School System. ACRL's New England Bibliographic Instruction Committee and RIJMRT cosponsored the program.

The "scenario" embodies a world at peace, devoted to the elimination of hunger and fossil fuel, in which a "planetary alliance" has dismantled nuclear weaponry. Librarians were instrumental in the change, and, in a leaf from Melvil Dewey's dream diary, they enjoy the funding and the respect of an important institution in the information flow to political decisionmakers. The audience, breaking down into discussion groups, was challenged to imagine how this transformation was achieved, what technologies of information retrieval, techniques of advertisement, and networks of cooperation were necessary to its achievement, and what was right and wrong about the scenario.

A wide range of implications surfaced swiftly, as the panelists took note of librarianish characteristics (volubility, devotion to duty, and sharing of leadership). Groups focused on several areas of concern: communication and language barriers; decentralization of information access, even to the point of individual computer chip brain implants; and the demise of the book on a local level. Political problems were foreseen -- the unchanging qualities of human nature, the question of power vs. responsibility, and the prospect of "pockets of resistance" protesting the new order.

The panelists commented on the groups' ideas. Florence Doksansky disagreed that print information would be unavailable locally -- on the contrary, as long-distance networks relied on telecommunications and computer technology, reading would maintain its importance to individuals. John Cory and the group which advocated the eternal quality of human nature agreed that although tools for information may change, problems will not. A floor discussion of the politicization of funding for such an information society elicited fears that librarians would act as "gatekeepers" to information access. Many disagreed with the implied definition of information as neutrally factual in nature. Tom stressed the instructional role of librarians in technological access. Technology will free them to concentrate on the quality of information and of services. John and Florence agreed that librarians will manipulate available information technology to serve user needs. A lively discussion prompted by Tom's question about the librarian's role in an information-centered society concluded that more individualized, consultant-type service would be required, necessitating more technical professional education. Tom stressed the importance of librarian participation in standardization of information utilities, already taking place in the federal sector. Florence urged that librarians not relinquish their role as quality controllers in the author-publisher relationship. A floor discussion advocated changing "librarian" for a less limiting term; others pointed to the switch from "school librarian" to "media specialist" as an example of an essentially cosmetic change. Tom finished by reminding participants to think today about what will affect their lives tomorrow. Judging by the buzz of conversation as the meeting room emptied, one imagines that this audience will face the future with somewhat improved, if slightly less rose-colored, eyesight.

Holding Things Together: Book Repairs and How to do Them

A Conference Report by Scott Carlisle

Librarians from around the state rolled up their sleeves on the second day of the RILA Conference, and resolved to take book repair into their own hands. Armed with glue, wax paper, plastic folders and other devices, the participants were guided by Tom Phinney, a representative from Demco.

Phinney began by explaining that these were "quick repairs" intended to "keep books in circulation." Virtually every type of problem, from torn pages to separated book covers, could be remedied with only 5 minutes of time, 50¢ in materials and several hours of drying time. If done properly, little or no evidence will show after the work is complete.

Participants at the workshop were first told to tear a side of a page and then cut it with scissors. One could immediately see the difference between the two cuts, and that each would require different treatment. The overlapping fibers of the torn page were glued together with the company's own "Norbond," while the scissor cut could be fixed with any piece of quality transparent tape.

Secondly, the group was shown the process of "tipping-in," or refitting loose pages. This is achieved by trimming the inner edge of the page to align it with other pages, applying "Norbond," and positioning the page to prevent seepage.

Following this, the discussion led to more serious problems involving hinges or covers. A weak hinge, noted Phinney, is the first sign of trouble with the binding, and should be repaired immediately. The recommendation is to insert a mending stick dabbed in "Norbond" into the hinge area (but away from the spine). After the stick is removed and the glue dried, a piece of plastic hinge tape should be placed along the book margin.

A semi-detached cover can be restored in two ways. In the first method, "Norbond" is applied along one half of a single stitched binder tape the length of the contents. The moistened sides of the tape are pressed against the spine and contents. When the cover board is brought together with the contents, the remaining segment of tape is applied along both surfaces. An alternative method calls for using a single piece of thread drawn tape in much the same manner. A moistened half of the tape is affixed to the edge of the book's contents, and then the other half of the tape is folded over, the spine pressed against it, and plastic hinge tape applied to the seam.

Phinney closed by showing devices to repair worn spines and corners. In the former, a strip of "Fastape" is cut slightly longer than the book, and a narrow piece of craft paper placed on the middle of its adhesive side. Notches are cut on either side; these are inserted into the spine while the surrounding edges are folded over into the cover. A plastic folder can be used to smooth the tape and crease the hinge. In repairing a corner, or just a spine edge, a V-shaped "Fastape" book wing can be fastened to practically any surface and the remaining sections tucked under.





A Look into the Future: DSLS's Five-Year Long Range Plan

A Conference Report by Sondra L. Giles

After a brief introduction by Fay Zipkowitz, Bruce Daniels and Dorothy Frechette outlined DSLS's preplanning program for establishing the Five-Year Long Range Plan for library service in Rhode Island. The plans give direction for DSLS in planning and development and are required to be submitted by every state to the U.S. Department of Education under the Library Services and Construction Act which is itself undergoing reorganization and change. LSCA does not dictate what programs to undertake or how, but rather what areas of services must be targeted. These areas may change under the new LSCA. What is required is the acceptance of a basic state plan, a five-year long range plan under the basic plan, and annual plans under the five-year plan.

The current preplanning activity is for the program to cover fiscal years 1986 through 1990. DSLS anticipates preplanning tasks and development and training of the planning committee for 1983 with the actual work of the committee taking place during 1984 and 1985. The outlined preplanning tasks include:

1. Goals to be met by the new five-year long range plan.
2. Limitations on planning committee by laws and regulations.
3. Charge to planning committee:
 - What we want the committee to do
 - Define committee
4. Planning committee
 - Size
 - Types of constituency representation and proportion
 - Recruitment
5. Planning Committee training:
 - What does it need to know
 - How do we provide the training
 - How much time should be spent
6. Keeping staff and library community aware:
 - By what means
 - How often
7. What Department activities will have to be held in abeyance:
 - What activities will cease
 - Are there other ways to carry on some activities
8. Implications for DSLS

The make-up and size of the planning committee are uncertain as yet, but it will be representative of the entire library community in Rhode Island. The planning committee will itself decide how the process of evaluation and revision will work and what happens when an appointee leaves the committee. Staff for the project includes Bruce Daniels as the Project Director and Dorothy Frechette as the Data Coordinator. The finished five-year plan will go to the State Advisory Council on Libraries for review and comment and then to the Department of Education.



Unbounded by books: Toys and realia in the library

A Conference Report by Sylvia C. Krausse

Because of my fascination with educational toys and realia, I always include a visit to the Casey Co.'s booth when attending RILA and NELA conferences. To my knowledge, the Casey Co. is the only vendor actively involved in helping libraries promote toy-lending programs.

In her opening remarks, Kathy Beattie pointed out that the recent baby boom is bringing more toddlers to libraries. This makes it necessary for librarians to focus more attention on this age group than ever before. Using realia as a vehicle of communication, the speaker described three levels of learning:

1. concrete ----- touching/handling toys
2. schematic ----- thinking/emotional reaction to toys
3. symbolic ----- spelling/education through toys

These methods of learning can be promoted effectively and inexpensively through a realia collection in any library.

Puzzle-lending is very popular and the most common. While describing the various types, sizes, textures and durability of the puzzles and their application to various age levels, the speaker passed some samples around. Thus the audience could examine the items more closely and admire the ingenuity of the designers. The group definitely enjoyed this aspect of the session as indicated by expressions such as "Wish I had this when I was young," or "Gee, how clever."

It was interesting to learn that some of the most frequently ordered items were colorful wooden snapblocks as well as flashcards. The latter were especially popular around exam time. They are inexpensive and easy to lend. Popular items for in-house programs are pop-up books, but because of their fragile nature, they do not lend well.

Additional tips Ms. Beattie shared with the audience:

1. Purchase items parents do not have access to, and those of limited use. Avoid items that are readily available in toy stores.
2. Always keep the age of the child in mind when buying realia. As an example, she showed a sleek-looking car, made out of solid hardwood, which when thrown could turn into a lethal weapon.
3. Seasonal toys do not lend well and it would be wise not to stock up on these, unless space is not a problem.
4. Since companies do copy each other, compare similar toys, the hand-made versus machine-made. Cost should not necessarily be a determining factor.
5. Keep circulation figures, this also gives control of heavy demand items.
6. Make certain that realia come back clean and intact. In case of loss of certain pieces, let the patron keep the incomplete toy and charge for the current replacement price.

The second part of the presentation focused on slides of different realia displays in libraries of varying size. From some of the slides it was clear that space should not be of major concern when starting a realia collection because approximately 80% plus is circulating at any given time.

Following are some addresses to write for booklets on safety:

TOY MANUFACTURERS OF AMERICA, INC.
200 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10010

TOY SAFETY. Toy Standards -- What is and is not safe
U.S. Department of Commerce. National Bureau of Standards
Washington, D.C. 20234

Grown-ups and Grief: Using Media to Help Adults Cope with Separation and Loss:

A Conference Report by Michael Vocino

Donna Barkman, Director of the Rhode Island Library Film Cooperative, gave a presentation of films about death and dying on the last day of the RILA Conference. The presentation was supported by a display of print materials and audio-tapes.

Ms. Barkman made it clear that she was not an expert on the subject of death but she could relay to other librarians her experiences with showing films on the subject to library patrons. She noted emphatically that there is a difference in audience reaction to books as opposed to film. Librarians should prepare their film audiences in ways that would not need to be done for readers. Audience preparation should not be done in any "labeling" way but the sponsoring librarian should stress that films on death and dying might have strong emotional impact unexpected by the viewer.

Librarians should remember that audience reaction to films on dying depends on many factors: age, relation to and feelings about the dying individual, religious beliefs, the circumstances of the death and the individual personalities of the viewers. Any librarian sponsoring a film on death shouldn't do so at 7:30 p.m. on a Monday night saying "Welcome and Good Luck," and then begin showing the film. The librarian should prepare the audience and allow them to leave if they wish to do so. Librarians should always end such a film program with hope and the possibility of humor.

Ms. Barkman presented the following seven films for discussion. The descriptions come from her bibliography of films on death and dying held by the RI Library Film Cooperative:

THE STREET
10 min. Color National Film Board of Canada 1976

Adapted from a story by Mordecai Richler by animator Caroline Leaf, the film is about a young Jewish boy who tells of his family's summer-long vigil at the side of his dying grandmother. Leaf captures the sense of the family, the neighborhood and the strong and mixed feelings that the boy experiences. Award winner.

CHILLYSMITH FARM
55 min. Color

Filmakers Library

1981

A film 10 years in the making that portrays Gramp and three generations of his family - a family that helps him die when the time comes and helps new life to be born.

ESSIE

55 min. Color

Filmakers Library

1982

A portrait of a young, vigorous woman suddenly faced with terminal cancer.

THE GARDEN PARTY

24 min. Color

Paramount Communications, Inc.

1974

A young woman is touched by the death of another for the first time when a neighbor is killed in an accident the day of her mother's party. A sensitive treatment of a difficult theme. Adapted from the Katherine Mansfield short story.

GRIEVING: SUDDENLY ALONE

26 min. Color

Churchill

1980

A dramatization of a widow's grief and recovery, following her husband's death.

THE LAST DAYS OF LIVING

58 min. Color

National Film Board of Canada

1980

An interdisciplinary team, including lay volunteers, helps terminally ill patients and their families come to terms with death, making their last days comfortable and rewarding. Filmed in the Palliative Care Unit of Montreal's Royal Victoria Hospital.

THE OLD WOMAN

3 min. Color

Paramount Communications, Inc.

1974

In this short animated film, Death comes to call on an old woman. She is so busy living and working that she doesn't bother to notice he is present. When Death insists she come with him, she turns and throws him out.



An Evening with Banned Books

A Conference Report by Martha Hills

Did you ever want a taste of forbidden fruit? Did you ever wonder what made censors salivate? If your answer is yes, you should have stayed at the RILA Conference up to the UNbitter end. About 25 people shared videorecorded excerpts of writers and performers reading excerpts from banned books at a PEN sponsored forum in April of 1982.

The Right To Read Project of PEN, an international organization of writers and preservers of world literature, wanted to bring the issue of censorship home to Americans. Here censorship tends to be a library issue, for school and public libraries. According to recent statistics, one in five schools is hit with a demand to withdraw books, and half these attempts are successful. This is the worst time in the last 30 years.

You missed Grace Paley, Estelle Parsons, Nat Hentoff reading poetry and prose and telling the camera how they feel about censorship. June Jordan read the poem she wrote that helped to ban the Treasury of American Poetry. Toni Morrison made an analogy between Hitler's bookburning, the 19th century repression of Black literacy and current censorship. Margaret Hamilton read the wonderful excerpt from the Wizard of Oz of Dorothy and her friends entering the palace of the wizard. Andre Gregory read an essay by Ray Bradbury on the subtle roles of criticism and abridgment in creating barriers between writer and reader. Erica Jong read from Slaughterhouse 5 of a battle shown in reverse and commented on the antimilitary image of antiaircraft guns sucking bullets out of allied planes.

Before next year, you can borrow the cassette for your library. If you wait until the next RILA conference, just ask those who stayed to watch it. You can tell us by the green ribbons we were awarded for staying for the final workshop.



A Conference Report by Andrew Turyn

Mildred O'Connell, Field Service Director of the Northeast Document Conservation Center gave a very informative and interesting talk on a subject of vital interest to all librarians, "Preservation of Materials." At the beginning of the talk and slide presentation she mentioned that she is available for consultation at \$150 per day plus travel and expenses, and stressed that one day is all that is needed for her to do the basic survey. She also mentioned that very few libraries, museums, historical societies, etc., in Rhode Island have availed themselves of her services. Ms. O'Connell's address and telephone number are:

Northeast Document Conservation Center
Abbot Hall, School Street
Andover, Massachusetts 01810 Telephone: (617) 470-1010

Ms. O'Connell's talk discussed and stressed things which we as librarians should know, but of which, as she pointed out, outsiders (boards of trustees, maintenance staff, police, fire units) may not be aware. These include but are not limited to:

- a) Protection from water: are there any items such as roof, plumbing, air conditioning from which water may come; are your collections raised off the floor; is there a possibility of damage from water-staining and molds. She also mentioned water alert alarms which activate when there is more than $\frac{1}{4}$ " of water.
- b) Environment and humidity: Temperature and humidity should be kept at the same stable level 365 days per year, 24 hours per day. She stated that for every 18 degrees that the temperature rises, the rate of deterioration doubles.
- c) Light damages collection: The damage is done by a combination of two factors acting together: intensity and duration. To protect collections cover the windows, install UV filtering film, use fluorescent sleeves.
- d) Housekeeping: Keep the place clean at all times, clean the books annually (use dust cloths not feathers which just move the dust around, prohibit eating on premises as remains attract insects and rodents.)
- e) Fire safety: Libraries need quick detection with fire detectors wired to an outside agency and tested periodically with automatic extinguishers for special areas. Ms. O'Connell emphasized that burned collections can be saved but one hopes it never reaches that sad point.
- f) Security: Keep special areas under tight control. Buildings and special areas should have intrusion alarms.
- g) Storage equipment:
 - Wooden shelves contaminate books with acid.
 - Shelves should not be too narrow.
 - Books should not be tilted or shelved on foreedge.
 - Do not use string to hold books together, use boxes.
 - Non-book materials are stepchildren - place flat in file drawers or in roll storage.
 - Framed objects - hang them up.

- h) Handling of materials:
Manila folders contaminate with acids.
Documents should be upright or in boxes on shelves.
Photos should be in individual enclosures and flat in boxes of archival quality.



Dealing with Death: Using Media to Help Children Cope With Separation and Loss

A Conference Report by Amy Johnsen-Harris

Helping children cope with separation and loss necessitates an understanding of the emotional and intellectual development of the child. Joanne E. Bernstein began her treatment of the topic with a description of this maturing process, based on Maria Nagy's findings in her work with Hungarian children and their responses to death. The child begins with an inability to recognize death as permanent; it is seen as something rather like sleep, a journey or a half-life. This is followed by a stage where the irreversibility of death is accepted, but the child believes that through cleverness death can be eluded or mastered. Finally, the understanding of death as both permanent and universal comes to parallel that of adults; the emotional reactions remain quite different however. A child does not know that time will heal, and does not have the choices available to adults -- particularly economic choices such as the ability to change environment. Children lack the notion that help is available and the knowledge of where to find it. Having spent the majority of their lives learning to gain control, they are particularly threatened by the prospect of letting go, even in a therapeutic setting.

Using media to help children deal with their emotions is a sensitive, if not dangerous, enterprise. The body of Ms. Bernstein's presentation dealt with the therapeutic potential of books and media in helping children cope with life crises. These materials offer children the chance to identify, as well as to discover how others' situations differ from their own; characters can create a shield in terms of discussing situations and feelings that might otherwise be too painful; situations can be "rehearsed" before they occur; and the cathartic process is aided, freeing the individual to develop insight.

Prior to the showing of the film "Very Good Friends" (based on a popular children's book), Ms. Bernstein addressed the differences between film and books as "therapy." She described film as "pre-prepared," eliciting more predictable emotional responses. The reading process being more private, the material is more independently interpreted, and is thus more personal than a shared audience experience.

Ms. Bernstein closed her remarks with her own definition of bibliotherapy: "helping through books." In her view, this help does not necessitate psychological training or background. The reading can be directed, self-directed or accidental. The responsibility of the librarian is to be familiar with the materials, to make them available, and to be open to discussion should help be solicited.

This unfocused approach is perhaps the better part of wisdom. Books shouldn't be prescribed like medicine to cure a child's emotional maladies. Instead, the use of books and media to acquaint children with life's various emotional surprises is an ongoing adjunct to a child's education and development.

In the Beginning: Experiences in Getting it Up or "Touching All Bases"

A Conference Report by Alan King

The RILA Conference workshop "Touching All Bases" was a panel discussion on the experiences of different libraries in implementing online searching. Panelists were Ran Hock of DIALOG's New England office; Dick Desroches, Systems Librarian at the Providence Public Library; Jean Sheriden, Acquisitions Librarian at Providence College; and Jan Sieburth, Reference Librarian and Head of Online Services at the University of Rhode Island. John Etchingham, Reference Librarian at the University of Rhode Island moderated the discussion.

The program began with an outline by Mr. Hock of the basics of the DIALOG system and its relative merits as a research and reference tool. Aside from providing patrons with bibliographic information, online searching can also be used for ready reference, title verification, and cataloging (especially since the coming online of the MARC and REMARC databases). However, Mr. Hock warned the audience to use the system wisely. Online searching does not replace the need for or use of hard copy. Only searches that would be difficult to carry out manually (as regards time or effort) should be handled online.

With this warning understood, Mr. Hock went on to describe the technical aspects of implementing computerized searching. DIALOG suggests that a subscriber handle the process in the following manner: 1) obtain the needed equipment; 2) place an order for a system password; 3) obtain system manuals and handbooks; and 4) receive the proper training. However, all libraries are not the same and neither are the procedures they use to go online. The remainder of the workshop was devoted to a comparison of different methods.

The Providence Public Library took a very calculated and careful approach to the implementation of this service. Mr. Desroches outlined the various steps taken by the library administration and staff to determine if and how online services would be brought to the Providence patron community. Most important of these was the drawing up of a set of goals and objectives that would serve to guide the library in its future plans. Having done this, the library could start evaluating systems, selecting hardware, designing necessary search forms, determining costs and funding, and begin the orientation of staff members towards the new service. Each new step was carefully compared to the written goals and objectives statement to insure that patron and library requirements were being met. In this manner PPL went online.

Providence College followed a somewhat different course. Already having the hardware and funding for the project, they needed only to hook up with one of the vendors. No special studies, other than determining which system or systems they would subscribe to, were undertaken before the fact. Though this might have led at times to some confusion or inconvenience, Ms. Sheriden felt that the program went along well and accomplished much. PC librarians learned in many regards by trial and error, which helped them forge a closer working relationship among themselves, as well as helping them develop a better understanding of the system as a whole.

The University of Rhode Island proved to be the grande dame of online searching in the state. The University implemented searching in 1974 after being approached by members of the North East Academic Science Information Center (NEASIC). A consortium was established as a number of North East universities went online. Ms. Sieburth stressed the importance of networking in online searching. Groups such as NELINET provide members with both lower search and group training fees, as well as offering a wide body of information and expertise.

Alternatives to regular daytime searching were also discussed. BRS After Dark and DIALOG's Knowledge Index give subscribers a wide range of databases from which to choose. Besides being relatively inexpensive (charging a minimum flat rate), these systems require little or no training as they tend to be very "user friendly." While these services are limited, both in size and range, they open up the field of online searching to virtually any library.

Though there are no cut and dried procedures for bringing online services to a library, there are certain steps that should be followed by all. This workshop outlined those procedures and provided the audience with a number of first-hand experiences from which to learn.

Uncle Sam's Not Telling: Barriers to the Flow of Federal Information

A Conference Report by Claudia Perry-Holmes

An informed citizenry is basic to the effective functioning of a democracy, and directly dependent on the fullest implementation of the principles of freedom of speech and freedom of the press. Libraries owe their very existence to this belief in the need for freely available information. Yet, to an extent unparalleled in recent history, the Reagan Administration is increasingly attempting to control the public's access to federal information. This phenomenon was explored in depth at a panel discussion sponsored by the Intellectual Freedom Committee of RILA.

Rita Warnock, incoming co-chair of the Intellectual Freedom Committee, presented an overview of legislation and administration policy affecting the availability of federal information. The 1966 Freedom of Information Act provided the population with the right to access federal files without the obligation to prove why they might need such information. In fact, during the Carter Administration, Attorney General Griffin Bell insisted that federal agencies show cause for withholding information from the public. A very different interpretation has been set forth by the Reagan Administration, and legislation aimed at further restricting access has been proposed by Senator Orin Hatch, among others.

A detailed look at the effects of the Paperwork Reduction Act was provided by Claire Loranz, Government Documents Librarian at Wellesley College. An act aiming to increase the availability and accuracy of federal information, this legislation has been used by the Office of Management and Budget to save money and limit access to information. OMB has eliminated the Office of Statistical Policy, severely affecting the provision of statistical information and causing an underemphasis on the sharing of information among federal agencies.

Since an estimated one-half to three-quarters of federal budget allocations are based on statistical indexes, it is particularly important that these be accurate and available. In general, publication of statistics (such as census data) has been delayed, such essential publications as the Standard Industrial Code Manual have not been updated, and hence detailed statistics are not being collected for rising industries such as the computer field. Severe reductions in agency funding have forced a wave of crisis management, and recommendations favoring the imposition of user fees have been put forward. In short, information, often already paid for with our tax dollars, is not being made freely available to the public in printed form, although magnetic tapes of such data can be readily obtained. For the average citizen, this means that some materials may only be accessed by purchasing the print form from private enterprise.

Ann-Mary Curran, editor of the Providence Journal Bulletin's Action Line, examined Reagan Administration policies from a journalist's viewpoint. She noted with concern the greater latitude allowed the Government in classifying documents, excuses given for denying fee waivers in processing requests for information, and exemptions allowed to business for trade secrets. All federal employees with access to classified materials must now sign a life-time agreement not to publish

an article or book without prior review by the Government. A recent memo to all government employees warned that unauthorized disclosure of information is unethical and "just plain wrong."

Curran commented that the prohibition of press coverage in the Grenada invasion was the first such limitation on the press since the Civil War, and did not pass without substantial criticism by journalists. Acknowledging compelling reasons such as national security in a world war might temper the absolute nature of freedom of the press, she nonetheless emphasized the importance of a free flow of information to the existence of a democratic society.

All three panelists stressed the importance of individual and collective pressure on legislators and the administration in attempting to reverse the trends outlined above. Loranz noted that the influence of government documents librarians had been effective in restoring publications slated for elimination. It is essential that librarians, as advocates for the public, take an active role in combatting the erosion of freedom of access to federal information, for the present administration will surely not do so of its own accord.



Pack Up Your Old Kit Bag

A Conference Report by Lucille Cameron



Things must really be getting out of hand! Did you hear all that singing -- and see someone playing with a yo-yo at the conference? (She couldn't do walk-the-dog, though.) Take heart! We were not suffering from nervous breakdowns or worse. We were all enjoying a sampling of one of the many multimedia kits which Sheila Carlson, the Supervisor of Institutional Library Services of DSLS, uses with some of her clientele at the General Hospital, Zambarano Hospital, and with community groups. She and Debbie Brennan, Director of the North Kingstown Free Library, showed an excerpt from one of the filmstrips dealing with the 1920's and used the accompanying realia which included the yo-yo, large print sing-along booklets, large type script for a skit, a cross-word puzzle (which we were informed were first published during this time), and a scratch and sniff card that would give you a hang-over from the smell of bathtub gin of the era.

This was just one of the non-traditional approaches which librarians are using in providing services to some of our older citizens. Another example is Mary Ann Quinn who takes her bookmobile from DSLS right to the door of a number of housing units for the elderly, nursing homes, and retirement homes. Her van turns into a social gathering spot for her older clientele who are interested in a wide variety of materials from juvenile and young adult material to a large demand for biographies, autobiographies, and information on current affairs.

Phyllis Pacheco has provided some lively, innovative programs to the older people whom she services from the Fox Point Branch of Providence Public Library. Over many years, she has provided a stimulating environment especially for the people who are residing in the various retirement and nursing homes in the area. She has taken groups of children in to play games with the residents because of their expressed lack of contact with children. She also has provided integrated programs using filmstrips, records, and prints as well as the more traditional senior center and a community social service agency to help her older friends deal with the death of friends, relatives, and even themselves.

What do you have in your kit bag for this very special population? Why not try incorporating some of the techniques that were presented? All of the participants would be happy to discuss them with you.

A Conference Report by John B. Etchingham

Anne Parent, past President of RILA and current Chair of the Government Relations Committee coordinated the panel presentation which traced the legislative history of the recently-enacted law relating to library property and provided recommendations in the reliance upon and use of this new library statute.

Panelists included members of the bar, state legislators and librarians.

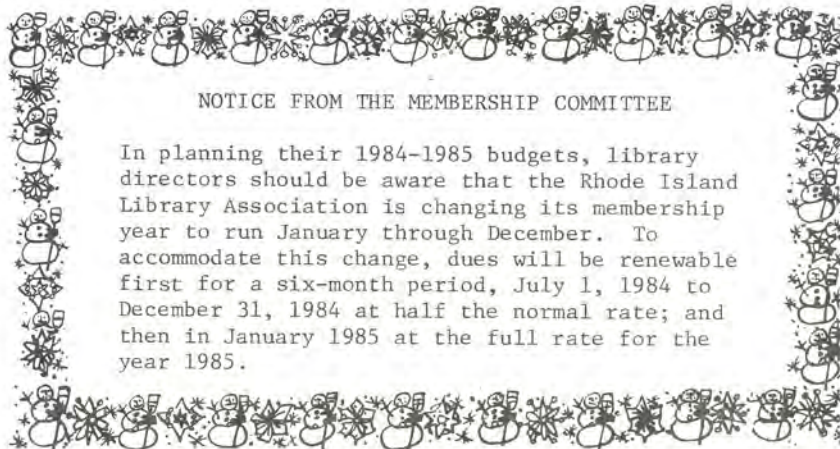
The route for this measure (83-50546 Sub.B) from introduction to final acceptance was drawn-out, indirect, given to pitfalls and was otherwise in alternating states of confusion and jeopardy. None of this of course is special in any way - it's part and parcel to our law-making process. Suffice it to say, if it were not for the organization and perseverance of the Government Relations Committee and the legislators - Senators Carlin and McKenna and Representatives McMahon ("Guardian Angel" to it all!) and Teitz - it would never have happened. Our thanks to all of them.

And what do we have? What is the product of these labors? Can we use it? And, if so, how?

As emphasized by Representative and Attorney Teitz, the chief value of the law as presently structured is as a deterrent. There remain untested and unanswered questions of physical restraint and powers of detention. In addition there is the question of the possibility of mistaken identity and the consequence of that.

Finally, concerning the business of collecting fines, for property damaged or destroyed, Representative Teitz cautioned us to be realistic and not expect immediate and complete response when we ask the courts to act as our collection agent. All this notwithstanding, the consensus was and is that it is a good statute of high deterrent value.

It is expected that this statute will be amended. If you would like to offer recommendations contact Beth Perry at Rhode Island College (Adams Library), 456-8052. Again, thanks to all those who got this "on the street."



NOTICE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

In planning their 1984-1985 budgets, library directors should be aware that the Rhode Island Library Association is changing its membership year to run January through December. To accommodate this change, dues will be renewable first for a six-month period, July 1, 1984 to December 31, 1984 at half the normal rate; and then in January 1985 at the full rate for the year 1985.



- Barbara Turman has been appointed to the position of Head Reference Librarian at Brown University. She comes to Rhode Island from the University of Texas, General Libraries System, at Austin where she has held the position of Head Librarian, Documents Collection since 1978. Before that she was a Librarian in the Special Services Department and a Reference Librarian at Texas. She received her MLS in 1970 from the State University of New York at Albany and from 1970 until 1973 was the Administrative Librarian at the Special Services Library in Fuerth, West Germany. She has been very active in A.L.A. and this year chairs the Clearinghouse Committee of the Government Documents Round Table.
- Donna Barkman, Director of the Rhode Island Library Film Cooperative, has resigned her position to move to New York. Jackie Lamoureux of Hope Library is serving as Acting Director until a permanent appointment is made.
- Martha Hills has been appointed Classified Librarian in Government Documents at the University of Rhode Island.
- Edgar Bailey, Assistant Director and Readers Service Librarian at Providence College, has been promoted from Assistant to Associate Professor.
- Hazel Essex has been hired as Librarian at the William Easton Louttit Memorial Library in West Greenwich.
- Cheryl R. Hunt, Providence Public Library Patent and Business Reference Librarian, was recently elected Patent Depository Library Advisory Council Region I Councilor. She represents the seven patent depository libraries in the Northeast. Her responsibilities include drafting guidelines governing the uniformity of collection development for these libraries.
- Michael DiMaio has joined the library staff of the Newport College/Salve Regina as Instructor of Bibliography and Cataloger. He is a graduate of Johns Hopkins University and holds an MA in Classical Languages and a Ph.D. in Classical Studies from the University of Missouri. He holds his MLS from the University of Rhode Island.
- David Kaplan, formerly Circulation Librarian at CCRI-Lincoln, is now the Periodicals Librarian at CCRI in Warwick.
- Dena Janson, Cataloger at Rhode Island College, is in England for 7 months as an exchange librarian. Dena is working at the Preston Polytechnic Institute in Preston, Lancashire, England and has been replaced at RIC by Philip O'Donohue from the Institute.

CALENDAR

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| January 6-12, 1984 | Event: ALA Midwinter Conference
Place: Washington, D.C. |
| January 18, 1984 | Event: InfoEx
Topic: Loading Noah's Ark: How To Use Your
Disaster Plan When The Water Really Comes
Place: Pawtucket Public Library
13 Summer Street, Pawtucket
Time: 9:30 A.M.
Contact: Peggy Shea, 277-2726 |
| January 25, 1984 | Event: Second RILA/PPL Personnel Seminar
Place: Providence Public Library
150 Empire Street, Providence
Time: 7-8:30 P.M.
Contact: Fran Farrell-Bergeron, 521-8728 |
| January 26, 1984 | Event: YART (Young Adult Round Table)
Topic: Horror
Place: Essex Public Library
238 Highland Road, Tiverton
Time: 9:30 coffee; 10:00 meeting
Contact: Peggy Shea, 277-2726 |
| January 31, 1984 | Event: Special Reference Service Workshop
Sponsor: Providence Public Library
Place: Providence Public Library
150 Empire Street, Providence
Time: 9:30-12 noon
Contact: Fran Farrell-Bergeron, 521-8728 |

JOBLINE

RHODE ISLAND

LIBRARY POSITION: 22 hours per week on a flexible schedule. The pay is \$8.00 per hour and certification as a School Librarian by the R.I. Dept. of Education is required. Contact: Mr. James Walsh, Principal, Rhode Island Training School, Cranston, RI 02920. Phone: (401) 464-2061.

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