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Rhode Island Library Association Bulletin



MARCH 1985

RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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Editorial Notice:

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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 for publication. 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 7½ inches wide by 6 inches high.

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

This issue of the Bulletin contains a mail ballot on the Nuclear Freeze Resolution which was presented and passed at the Executive Board for a wider distribution and vote on this issue. Contained within the Bulletin is the text of the Resolution and 2 opinions written by RILA members. The ballot itself is in the center of the Bulletin and can be removed easily for completion and return.

Also in this issue is an article by Elizabeth Breaue on the development and use of public access cable television in Rhode Island.

I hope everyone is enjoying the winter. For those that aren't, there's hope -- March brings the first day of Spring, and that always cheers up everyone.

Chris Chapman
Editor



Dear RILA Committee Chair:

If during the course of the coming year you have anything you would like to publicize in relation to your committee and its endeavors, feel free to call on the RILA PR Committee. We can help in several ways. We can create flyers, press releases and public service announcements from your raw data (be sure to include the name of a contact person, date of event if relevant, and the desired release date of the press release). Or, we can disseminate press releases, flyers and public service announcements created by you to library-related or other appropriate media. All PR efforts must be cleared by the RILA Executive Board (see attached sheet #1), and we can take care of this "approval" process for you. We will need, however, to have the promotional materials in advance to get EB approval: press releases at least 2 weeks in advance; radio or TV spots, etc. at least 6 weeks in advance.

If you have any questions, call or write to Tanya Trinkaus, RILA PR Committee Chair, R.I. Historical Society Library, 121 Hope Street, Providence, RI 02906. Telephone: 331-8575 or at home at 885-3958.

USE OF PUBLIC ACCESS PROGRAMMING BY
RHODE ISLAND LIBRARIES
by Elizabeth J. Breault

Cable television is a medium whose image is received via co-axial cable. Traditional television has a signal which is carried abroad the air waves and hence it is called broadcast television. Thirty years ago, in the early days of television, it was discovered that in many areas of the country television owners were unable to obtain good quality reception. Poor reception was primarily caused by tall buildings and geographical factors or obstructions such as mountains.¹

The first community antenna television (CATV) was devised by a Pennsylvania television dealer. He climbed to the top of a local mountain, erected a television antenna and connected the antenna by a co-axial cable to a television set. The antenna owner was then able to connect all the local community's television sets to his antenna. By charging a minimal monthly fee to the local homeowners, the first cable television company came into existence.² The programs available over cable were the usual local commercial broadcasts plus ones from large cities in the region.

Due to pressure by the broadcasting industry, cable television's growth was severely limited over the years by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). In 1972, new rules and guidelines were issued which allowed the rapid expansion of the cable industry.³

In 1975, the first satellite receiving station was established by Time, Inc. which began distributing non-commercial first-run movies over cable lines. Home Box Office (HBO) found an audience of millions of receivers willing to pay for their services. Other cable companies followed Time's lead and soon a host of cable companies had set up satellite receivers and cable became big business.⁴ Competition among cable companies grew increasingly fierce. In order to obtain

new franchises, cable companies were willing to offer communities many benefits. Channels for local use plus studios equipped with high quality equipment for public use became common concessions.⁵ Currently there are over 2,900 cable companies that also offer locally produced programs featuring community events.⁶

Local community programming is said to have developed in Ontario, Canada during the early 1950s. Various activities of local interest were filmed by amateur cameramen and shown over a spare channel. One program called "Peeping on the Town" featured a camera pointing at the downtown area showing the activities of the local residents as they went about their business. People found it a fascinating pasttime to sit comfortably at home and spy on their neighbors. One husband spotted his wife stepping out with his friend. Another program which began in Quebec was a low budget operation run by Edouard Dufresne, who was the solitary singer, announcer and comedian. Mr. Dufresne would disguise himself off camera while continuing to narrate his show and then reappear as another character. Local viewers thought the show had a multitude of talented actors producing the program.

The social unrest of the 1960s is believed to have facilitated the development of community programming. Commercial television was accused of being a mass medium that was not capable of covering local events and problems. In addition, commercial television was accused of contributing to the social isolation of the general public. People were no longer interested in political and social affairs. In an attempt to gain public support the cable companies, which were in the early stages of development, cleverly offered a few channels for local programming.⁷

Today, there are more than 4,200 cable companies operating

in the United States. Although not all areas of the country have access to cable, there are 10,200 communities serviced by cable. It is estimated that over 44 million people are tied into cable companies. Some cable companies have over 170,000 subscribers, others have fewer than 100. Pennsylvania leads the nation with 334 cable companies now in operation.

Cable television is able to offer its subscribers access to more than just the three leading broadcast networks. Most companies are able to offer a minimum of twenty different channels that include movies without commercials, continuous weather reports, sports coverage, news, and religious programs.

Definitions of Cable Terminology

There are three basic elements involved in any cable system: the headend, the distribution, and the subscriber terminal.⁸ The headend is where the cable company receives its signal and transmits its programs. Generally the headend is located next to the master antenna and receiver. Here signals from regular broadcast, microwave and satellite sources as well as cablecasts from local studios are received. The cable company transmits its programs over co-axial cable "downstream" to the subscribers.⁹ Co-axial cable is capable of carrying anywhere from twenty-eight to fifty-two separate programs simultaneously. If two cables are laid down or strung up at the same time, twice the number of channels are available. In 1981, Pittsburg offered seventy channels and Atlanta, ninety-five.¹⁰ Cable is also capable of carrying signals "upstream" or from the subscriber to the cable company. Two-way cable transmission allows the subscriber to break free of the passive role and actively participate in cable programs.

Cable can be both buried in the ground or strung on utility poles. In either case, it uses city streets and rights of way which require a permit to operate from the local municipality. This permit is known as the franchise. Before a franchise

is granted, public hearings are held and local organizations such as schools, clubs, and public libraries are allowed input into the franchising process. The franchise lays down the rules by which the cable company agrees to abide in order to obtain the community's cable market.

Often the community demands that a certain number of public access channels be left open for the use of the public. Community programs can be of two types: local origination or public access. Local originations are those programs, often local news shows, which are produced by the cable company. They sometimes can carry commercial advertisements.

Public access programs are produced by community persons using either their own or the cable company's equipment. These shows are non-commercial and cannot be produced by or for any profit-making organization. Although the cable company's employees may offer production advice, they generally do not involve themselves in the actual production of the programming.

Local programming is often called "narrowcasting." Unlike broadcasting which produces a limited number of programs for a large audience, local programming is able to produce many shows for smaller audiences.

Use of free access channels by public librarians

Today, most public libraries realize that a library has a responsibility to the community which funds it. The delivery of information is one of the library's functions in addition to its role as a cultural institution. Most libraries, utilizing only conventional services, reach approximately twenty-five per cent of the population. This is not a very impressive figure and many librarians have looked to cable television as a means both of expanding and improving the library's services.¹¹ These librarians "...recognize cable television and video as a legitimate way of bringing information and entertainment to clients who will perhaps never enter the library, who may not be print oriented, but who need information as much as those who already use libraries...".¹²

Nationwide, public libraries have produced programs

ranging from the ever popular story hour for children, sometimes using puppets and props and featuring picture books, film strips and other visual materials, to community forums on issues of interest and from taped ballet performances to in-service training for librarians, community information calendars, tapes of "visiting firemen", products of children's video clubs, and visual history, librarians have successfully tried many different formats which lend themselves to cable-casting.¹³

There has been an awakening of interest nationwide in cable television. Public libraries, through institutes and workshops, have informed themselves of the possibilities of local origination programming. Much information has appeared in library periodicals. Cable Libraries, which began publication in 1974, is a cable newsletter aimed at librarians.

Three free access channels are generally granted by the cable company in local franchises. One is governmental, one is educational and one is for public use. Libraries qualify for use of all three channels. Several libraries throughout the country have been granted the governmental channel for the production of programs. These libraries have constructed and equipped their own studios and employed trained staff to operate them. Other libraries provide support for public access programs by training community residents in the use of equipment and by sponsoring local programs on their public access library channel.¹⁴

Most librarians who are involved with video production for cable endorse it wholeheartedly and enthusiastically.¹⁵

They feel it rallies the local community support and intellectually expands horizons, and brings libraries into the real world of this part of the twentieth century.¹⁶

Cable Franchises in Rhode Island

There are ten franchise areas operated by cable companies in Rhode Island. Altogether, seventy-five per cent of the state's cities and towns are serviced by cable. When cable arrived in Rhode Island in the late 1970s, the state was divided into eleven cable areas. Rhode Island is the only state in the country to have state control of cable. Countrywide, cable companies obtain a franchise with the municipality in which they will be doing business. Franchises ordinarily run from ten to fifteen years. When the contract expires the municipality makes a decision to either renew the contract or switch to another company based on the past performance and services. In Rhode Island, the state Public Utilities Commission issues life-long certificates to operate, which results in a lack of local control over the cable companies. Cable companies in Rhode Island are a protected monopoly; only one company is allowed to service each area.

On a national level, most cable companies turn over three to five percent of their profits to the community they service. The community then has the option either to use the proceeds to support free access programs through public training and the purchase of equipment or to use the money for whatever is deemed suitable. In Rhode Island, the community receives no financial remuneration from the cable company. As a fee for permission to operate in the state, each company turns over one tenth of the \$135,000 needed to operate the Public Utilities Commission. As a result, Rhode Island cable companies make larger profits than their competitors in other states. Charges for residential service of cable within the state are among the highest in the nation and are the highest in New England.

When the franchises were first awarded in the late 1970s, it was determined that all cable companies operating within the state would make three public access channels available, one for government, one for education and one for the public. The companies agreed to provide studios and equipment to the community for taping of public access programs. It was also determined that each cable company would provide training in the use of the company's equipment to the public. No guidelines were given to regulate the extent of the training period.

In the few other New England states public access channels are highly regarded by both the cable companies and the viewers. In Rhode Island, church organizations account for most of the use of cable. The Diocese of Providence regularly uses the religious access channel to cablecast not only programs they have produced, but also those which they have purchased from other areas of the country. In Rhode Island the various companies differ in their support of public access programs. Cable TV of East Providence has been enormously supportive of the East Providence Public Library's efforts to utilize the company's local origination channel. On the opposite side of the issue, Times Mirror Cable which services East Greenwich, Warwick, West Warwick and Exeter County, has severely cut back its public access programming time to three hours per evening twice weekly for each of the three access channels. This is a special handicap to the area's religious organizations which naturally prefer cablecasting their programs on Sunday mornings.

Rhode Island CATV Corporation currently provides no services. When its access equipment was stolen several years ago, rather than prosecute the thieves, it filed a claim with its insurance company, Lloyds of London. The insurance carrier paid the claim and chose not to renew Rhode Island CATV's policy. Since then the company claims that it cannot afford to provide use of this equipment without the insurance policy, which the corporation avows it is unable to obtain. Currently, it

offers the use of its equipment to any community group, providing that group posts a five hundred dollar bond. Editing equipment is available one night per week. It must be kept in mind that not only does Rhode Island Cable service the largest number of cable customers in the state but that every hour of filming requires four to five hours of editing work. The Dioces of Providence purchased its own equipment, rather than use Rhode Island Cable's equipment.

Most of the cable companies operating in the state naturally find that the three public access channels which they are required to provide cut into their profits. These companies have assumed the position that all of the expense for the support of the access channels must be passed on to the customer. Public Utilities Commission (PUC) supports the cable companies' position in this matter. The PUC's attitude is not surprising when one realizes that fifty percent of Rhode Island CATV Corporation is owned by three people: a former governor, an attorney general and a judge. The cable industry in the state is closely tied to politics. The cable companies have a strong lobby nationally and on the state level. Most of the attorneys for the cable companies operating in Rhode Island are state legislators. Yet, despite the poor and in some cases non-existent public access service being provided only four complaints have been filed with the PUC in the past five years.¹⁷

Cable Programming in Rhode Island Libraries

The state's public libraries do not use access programming extensively. Only four communities are making a genuine effort to utilize the enormous potential that the free access channels offer. The libraries who have shown taped programs over the cable systems are Barrington, Coventry, East Providence, and Westerly.

Barrington

Full Channel Television cable company was awarded the Barrington franchise. It is tied into 7,000 households. The company began wiring the town in 1982, but it was not

until 1983 that the cable system was fully operational.

Barrington is the headquarters for the Island Interrelated Library System. This system includes twenty-five libraries located in Bristol and Newport Counties: ten public, three academic and twelve special libraries.¹⁸ The regional system is making use of the cable's community bulletin. Through cable, the system is able to distribute its monthly calendar of library events.

Several months ago, Howard Boksenbaum, Coordinator of the Island System, decided to begin filming a series of programs on the local origination channel. Five programs were taped at Full Channel Television's studio using the company's equipment. The five programs featured Mr. Boksenbaum interviewing patrons of the Barrington Library. One patron was featured on each half hour show. Mr. Boksenbaum selected patrons who were regular library users with some interesting background or hobby.

Although Mr. Boksenbaum claims that the programs, which are still being shown on the company's local origination channel, evoked some public interest, he feels that the tapes were poorly done. The cable company's staff has little experience in filming a program and their work, in a studio of the size of a "closet" resulted in unprofessional shows. The programs were arranged to break every fifteen minutes allowing the company to communicate with the cameraman, so when the appointed time arrived the director stood in the doorway waving his arms. The cameraman rather than turning his camera onto the interviewee, focused on Mr. Boksenbaum craning around to see what the director wanted. After the fifth program was taped, Mr. Boksenbaum gave up doing the programs, disappointed with the uncoordinated activities of the cable company. Generally some vital piece of equipment such as the lights would not be in the studio but in someone's car and the camera would be somewhere else. Another drawback of local access is that

the local cable company does not have automatic tape switching equipment, making it impossible to schedule programming.

Mr. Boksenbaum lays most of the blame on the inexperienced staff. He has found them most cooperative and eager to fill their local origination channel. He has plans to film and to cablecast more programs. One set will be similar to the series already taped, but each of these six programs will be done by a different library within the regional system. Each library will select one reference patron who has an interesting background. The reference librarian will interview the patron and determine how he/she has used the library in pursuing information relating to his/her interests. Four public libraries and two college libraries have signed up to film the programs. Mr. Boksenbaum hopes to tape one show a month.

Full Access Channel Television has taped a program featuring Newport Public Library's Chinese Collection. The collection consists of manuscripts and artifacts donated by a Newport resident born in China of missionary parents. The cable company has arranged for a narration to be provided by a local resident, a retired state department employee, who made many trips to mainland China over a number of years. Full Access Channel Television also has tentative plans to exchange their local access programs with other cable companies in the area, in particular with the Fall River Cable Company. In this way, more usage may be obtained from each program.

Mr. Boksenbaum believes that the local origination channel is a wonderful public relations tool for the regional system. He feels that a library working independently would probably have trouble justifying the expenditure of public funds on cable programs. However, on a regional level all the libraries in the system benefit from each single program produced. He does not think a library can justify the great expense of acquiring equipment and possibly setting up a studio when the cable company has all the necessary equipment accessible

to the public.

He believes the fact that Full Access Channel Television is just getting on its feet is a great asset to the libraries. Right now the company is anxious to please its customers and desperate to fill its local origination channel. Now is the time for the libraries to establish a good working relationship with the cable company.¹⁹

Coventry

The southern portion of Coventry was wired for cable in 1980. It was not until the beginning of this year that the northern portion of Coventry (where the library is located) was hooked into the local cable system. The Coventry Public Library, which serves a community of 28,000, first ventured into cable television by utilizing the local origination channel. In 1984, Virginia Carter, Director, applied for and received a grant from the Department of State Library Services to film eight segments of the library's literacy volunteer training program.

The literacy volunteers program was originated in Rhode Island by the Coventry Public Library in 1981. Under this program, volunteers from the community attend a regular series of lessons and must pass a test before being permitted to tutor a student. Although the library has a good number of volunteer tutors, there were more students by the end of the program than tutors. Ms. Carter thought that by taping the eight lesson segments for cablecasting, more tutors could view the segments than could take the regular training classes held at the library.

Five volunteers from the community offered to help tape the programs. One director, one switcher, one audio person, one floor manager and two cameramen were all volunteers who had taken the ten hour training required by the local cable company. They had no previous experience in taping for cablecasting. The cable company, although it was not very encouraging,

rendered some assistance in setting up the scene for the first filming. The first program turned out to be more professional looking than either the library staff or the cable company had expected. Seven of the hour long training programs were taped in the cable company's studio. The eighth one was taped at the Coventry library using portable equipment.

The programs were shown without commercials over the local origination channel at different times. The library has copies of the tapes and they plan on circulating them. In this way, any person who wants to become a tutor in the program can take the tapes home for viewing.

The library has plans to film some of the children's programs, story hours and the special Christmas puppet show. The puppet show is done by a professional puppeteer. The library will tape the programs only for circulation use. They realize the puppet show can not be cablecast without paying royalties to the puppeteer. They are also hesitant to become involved in a copyright suit by cablecasting their story hours. The library presents four story hours weekly plus one for two-year olds and their mothers. All of the story hours require preregistration. Due to the great interest in the programs, it is necessary to turn patrons away.

The library has been utilizing Times Mirror Cable's community bulletin board to reach many patrons. The attendance at the children's programs, although it has always been good, has greatly increased in the past four years. Ms. Gustafson, the library's assistant director attributes the increased interest to the community bulletin board advertisement.

At present, the Coventry Public Library has no definite plans for the further use of cable television. Some of their employees have completed the training provided by Times Mirror. They hope some day to be in a position to acquire their own video cameras, not for cablecasting the programs, but for filming the tapes for circulation.²⁰

East Providence

Roberta Cairns, Director of the East Providence Public Library, has more experience with taping programs for local origination than any other librarian in the state. She has established a good working relationship with the staff of Cable TV of East Providence. This local cable television station has been using portable equipment to tape programs at the East Providence library. So far eighteen programs have been taped and seventeen have been cablecast. The library's story hour has been taped and the program is shown three times a week, at various hours, over the local origination channel. Ms. Cairns also has done a series of shows in which she interviews the department head of the city of East Providence. On the programs she asks each person to explain the department's budget, why such an amount was needed and how the money was used by the department. If a raise has been requested, the department head explains why the extra funds are needed. Ms. Cairns feels this program, titled "Inside East Providence," has reached a large number of households. She cites passage of the city's budget, almost in its entirety decided by the city's voters, as evidence of the program's far reaching effects.

Ms. Cairns believes the public access channels are not receiving much use due mainly to the poor quality training the public receives from the cable companies. After receiving the required hours of lessons, people still feel uncomfortable using the equipment. The library staff has not volunteered to take the cable company's training. Unionization of the staff prevents the director from forcing them to take it. Instead of using the staff members, a group of people who belong to the Friends of the East Providence Library has volunteered to take the training classes and eventually tape all the Library's programs for cablecasting. At present, the library is suffering from overcrowded conditions that prohibit the storing of video equipment. Ms. Cairns hopes that the city voters will pass a bond issue next year that will not

only allow the expansion of the library, but also make room for a television studio.

Roberta Cairns has a strong conviction in the positive benefits resulting from the library's use of cable television. She readily admits filming a program is a time consuming enterprise. Unfortunately, her duties as Director of the library prevent her from spending more time working with cable. She would like to participate personally in the development of the library's community programming services.²¹

Westerly

Westerly, which is located at the extreme southwestern corner of the state, is served by Westerly Cable TV, Inc. This cable company provides only one channel which serves as both local origination and public access. Two local origination programs involving the library have been filmed by the cable company. The first forty minute program featured the library and the park which adjoins the building. This program was shown as part of the library's annual fundraising event. The park was left to the library together with funds for its maintenance. The residents of Westerly take pride in the park and the library administration makes considerable efforts to keep it attractive. The second program was sponsored, but not produced by the library. Titled "Old Time Boxing in Westerly" it was entirely written and filmed by a local boxing buff. The program was shown over the local origination access channel.

Westerly was the largest producer of granite in the country during the nineteenth century. According to Mr. David Panceira, Library Director, two-thirds of the three hundred monuments at Gettysburg are constructed of Westerly granite. Currently, Mr. Panceira is accumulating tools, photographs and other documents relating to Westerly's history in the production of granite. He hopes eventually to put together a film dealing with the discovery and opening of a wildcat granite quarry in the town.

Starting in 1985, Mr. Panceira plans to provide full taping of all of Westerly's civic activities plus local sporting events. He hopes to train someone on the staff to operate the library's video camera so that all library programs will be taped. In addition, he has plans to produce a series of horticultural films similar to "Crockett's Victory Garden."

These films would deal with various aspects of gardening. Mr. Panceira claims there is a great interest, communitywide, in gardening. The gardening tapes would be allowed to circulate, but not be shown over cable. Mr. Panceira feels that although he might consider using the granite program on the cable company's access channel, he thinks the films of town and library events would be of little interest to Westerly's viewers today. He is more interested in recording these activities for archival purposes, although copies will be made available at the circulation desk. In twenty or thirty years tapes of parades and high school sporting events will have historical interest for viewers.

Mr. Panceira sees the loaning of locally produced video tapes as more beneficial to the library and community than the cablecasting of the same tapes, since few people view the access channel. Up to this point, the local cable company has not devoted much attention to their access channel. Programs are not regularly scheduled, and if a viewer happens to catch a program, it is by chance. The library advertises its programs on cable's community bulletin board, but Mr. Panceira feels this is only marginally effective. Most programs produced by librarians tend to be of the "talking heads" format, which are boring to the viewer. The public is not likely to willingly view the programs that are amateurishly produced, when they can choose from a multitude of other channels that feature slick professional productions.

For the future, Mr. Panceira believes cable will have little impact on public libraries. Vital public access programs

occur in small disadvantaged communities where people share a common insecurity due to cultural or ethnic differences. Public access programming is not likely to appeal to the residents of his community because Westerly's residents are of the upper economic and social stratum and have no need to feel insecure about their position in the mainstream of American life.²²

Analysis of Cable Use by Rhode Island Libraries

These few interviews demonstrate that many of the aspirations and doubts of cable programming that are being heard across the nation are also being echoed in Rhode Island libraries. Some librarians, such as Roberta Cairns and Howard Boksenbaum, feel that cable is a unique resource for any community. It allows their library to reach people who are not print-oriented. Young children can be counted in this large segment of the population as well as the handicapped and educationally disadvantaged.

This group of librarians views the public library's role in society today basically as a supplier of information and recreation. Both of these roles can be supplied through a number of different mediums. Books are the more traditional medium utilized by libraries. Cable is just as valid a medium. One of the difficulties presented by cable programming is gauging the effectiveness of the programs. It is far easier to keep account of the number of times a book circulates than to determine how many people view a program each time it is cablecast.

This can partly account for the reluctance of the Coventry and Westerly libraries to cablecast their programs. Neither of these libraries has definite plans to utilize cable programming in the future. Yet, both libraries are interested in circulating copies of the video tapes of local programs.

Time can be measured in terms of money, and a great deal of time must be invested in the scripting, staging, filming and editing of any original programming. These are decisions

OFFICIAL BALLOT

NUCLEAR FREEZE RESOLUTION

FOR _____

As a member of RILA, I am voting for the Nuclear Freeze Resolution as stated in the text of the petition.

AGAINST _____

As a member of RILA, I am voting against the Nuclear Freeze Resolution as stated in the text of the petition.

THIS BALLOT MUST BE SIGNED BY THE VOTING MEMBER IN ORDER TO VALIDATE THE VOTE.

Please return all ballots NO LATER THAN MARCH 31, 1985 to:

Connie Lachowicz

RE: RESOLUTION

South Kingstown Public Library

603 Kingstown Road

Peace Dale, RI 02883

that each library must make before it becomes involved in cable programming.

Does the library expect to receive any tangible benefit from its utilization of cable television? Is the dissemination of educational or recreational programs sufficient recompense for the institution? These are all valid questions and it is not surprising that they are cropping up in Rhode Island libraries. Even those librarians whose cable programs have met with success are hesitant to congratulate themselves. Most of the state's librarians seem to have a wait-and-see attitude about cable programming. Unfortunately, this cautious attitude may be all that is needed to insure the loss of public access programming in the state.

The Future of Public Access in Rhode Island

The future of library utilization of public access programming in this state does not look very promising. A recent survey conducted by the Department of State Library Services shows that twenty-five librarians in the state have taken the training courses offered by the local cable companies. Pawtucket and Central Falls each have four librarians with training. Cranston has three, plus two administrators who have taken the special training offered by Cox Cable for administrators of municipal agencies. Yet none of the libraries has produced a single cable program.²³

There is also dissatisfaction with the cable companies' training programs. For example, there are complaints of lessons being cancelled and when they are held they consist of photocopied handouts. Rhode Island Cable has promised advanced courses which they have never held. People completing their training at Cox Cable have waited over a year for their identification cards without which they cannot use the company's equipment.

There are rumors that the number of subscribers to cable television is dropping throughout the state. This naturally puts the pinch on the cable companies' profits and makes them less willing to keep channels open for local programming.

They are also reluctant to purchase expensive equipment for public use, not to mention the employee time involved in the training lessons. Increased use of satellites makes it possible for the cable operator to offer more professionally produced programs and makes the three open channels look more and more tempting.

Due to the unfortunate manner in which the franchises were organized, there is little a single consumer or even a community can do to force the cable companies to comply with state regulations. Appealing to the Public Utilities Commission, the obvious route to take, would have no effect since the PUC sides with the cable companies. PUC commissioners are political appointees and the cable owners are politicians. A community would have to bring legal action against a cable operator in order to obtain satisfaction.

Rhode Island has never been a consumer-oriented state and it is not likely to become one in the foreseeable future. Due in part to its small geographical size, it is a politically dominated state. In Rhode Island, business means money and money means political clout.

If those communities which have not utilized the access channel would do so in the near future, the dim outlook on public access might change. According to state regulations a cable operator must provide public access channels, but if they are not being used then the operator has the right to take those channels back. If public libraries in the state would make the push to utilize community programming via cable before much more time passes, perhaps the trend away from access channels can be stopped.

There is hope for those organizations which had the foresight to take advantage of the public access channels when cable was just starting out in the state. These organizations, most of them churches or state health organizations, have established a vital rapport with the cable operators. It

is not likely that the cable companies will totally prohibit their using the access channels. They may cut back on the access hours. This has happened in many areas of the country. In those sections of the state that are just starting with cable, like Barrington, and eventually Newport, the public libraries have an excellent opportunity to establish a solid role of active community programs via the cable system.

Elizabeth J. Breault is a graduate student in Library Science at U.R.I.



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LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

by
Lauri Burke

Let me begin by thanking you for choosing me to represent the Rhode Island Library Association at the "Let's talk about it" Conference held in White Sulpher Springs, West Virginia on November 3-6, 1984. Attending this Conference was a wonderful experience during which I met fascinating people and learned a great deal in a very short period of time.

"Let's talk about it" is a reading discussion program held in public libraries that features lectures by local scholars. Patricia Bates began "Let's talk about it" on a grassroots level in Vermont in 1978. The program was successful beyond Pat's wildest imaginings, and 6 years later her format provided the framework for an American Library Association program funded by a one-and-a-quarter million dollar grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

In order to facilitate distribution of these funds through subgrants to a selected number of states across the country, NEH and ALA sponsored 3 major conferences. One in the West, one in the Midwest, and one in the East. All of the states were invited to send teams to participate in these conferences. The teams were to be composed of one scholar, a librarian representing the state library association, a librarian from the state library, and a representative from the state committee on the Humanities.

The team from Rhode Island included me, (Lauri Burke from the Barrington Public Library, representing the Library Association), Tom Roberts, Director of the Rhode Island Committee for the Humanities, Peggy Shea from the Rhode Island Department of State Library Services, and, David Stineback, a professor of English from the University of Rhode Island.

Once at the conference, the task of the various teams was to learn everything they could about "Let's talk about it" as a program, and to begin to formulate the subgrant that they would submit to the review committee.

Once we became involved in the conference activities the composition of the teams began to make sense. In our own case, the librarians lent their expertise in the field of literature and were helpful in the process of choosing possible host libraries for the discussion programs. The scholar contributed his very rich literary background, was able to connect the group with lectures for the series, and wrote the descriptive portions of the subgrant. The Humanities

council representative was also helpful in the area of literature. He provided aid in selecting scholars who had worked well in other humanities projects and contributed his expert assistance in helping to write and review the subgrant.

A number of pilot reading programs, already developed by members of the "Let's talk about it" Advisory Committee, were offered to conference participants for use in their grant proposals. State teams could opt to develop their own discussion programs, but this was not encouraged by the Conference organizers because the time between the conference and the subgrant deadline of December 17 was very short. It was emphasized that the pilot programs were "tried and true" and would almost certainly be successful; with one success, the State could then go on to do more "let's talk about it" programs using original themes.

Therefore, grants would not be awarded to states who have developed the most original thematic discussion programs, but to those who can convince the review committee that a "Let's talk about it" program will find support, and will work well in their state.

With our excellent interlibrary loan network, our rich and varied scholarly community, and our past history of successful statewide humanities programming in libraries (e.g. "A Lively Experiment!"), we feel that Rhode Island does stand an excellent chance of receiving money to implement the reading discussion series of our choice.

The series on which we chose to base our subgrant application is entitled "Working: Making a Living, Making a Life". It was developed by Joseph Parisi, acting editor of Poetry Magazine. The "Working" series includes the following titles:

Growing Up by Russell Baker,
Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller,
The Professor's House by Willa Cather,
Working by Studs Terkel, and
Confessions of an advertising man by David Ogilvy.

Our group felt that this series would be particularly effective in Rhode Island with its history of labor disputes and current economic depression. This concept is further explored by David Stineback in the body of the subgrant:

"At present Rhode Island has the most suppressed economy in New England; a recent bond issue to pioneer a new economic future for the state (the Greenhouse Compact) was resoundingly defeated by the public's deep-seated suspicion of economic engineers and managerial elite. The time is perfect for a

reexamination of what work means and what its benefits ought to entail--for labor, management, family. But the time is also right for drawing people together, in neutral locations like libraries, to discuss the human values that sometimes divide us unnecessarily. A reading discussion series can be a way, in other words, to capitalize on Rhode Island's differences of opinion and its economic perplexity."

If we are successful in our grant application, we can receive up to \$18,500 in grant money to implement the "Working" series in Rhode Island. Twelve Rhode Island libraries would then host these programs.

(As of this writing, 9 public libraries have already volunteered to do so.)

The series is designed so that discussions will be held at 2 week intervals -- the five book series will thus take 10 weeks to complete. Work-related films from the Rhode Island Library Film Cooperative (such as Modern Times, Saturday night and Sunday morning, His girl Friday, and, The Bicycle Thief) can be scheduled on alternate weeks during the series: In the subgrant, some money has been allocated to provide a series of short dramatic performances to supplement two of the lectures at each library. Money has also been allocated for a project coordinator's salary. (To our great delight, Debbie Brennan, former Director of the North Kingstown Public Library has agreed to take on this role.) Other monies have been earmarked for publicity, books, and the evaluation of the project.

Discussion leaders for the series will be volunteers from the communities of the host libraries. Prior to the implementation of "Let's talk about it" in Rhode Island they will need to be organized and trained. This will be the responsibility of the project coordinator. The entire project will be facilitated by Peggy Shea of the Rhode Island Department of State Library Services. If we are successful in our subgrant application, Rhode Island can look forward to a rich and exciting series of programs beginning in the first library in mid-August, and ending in the last one in mid-December of 1985.

If our grant application is not successful in the first round, we can resubmit it for a second time, as additional money has been allocated for this project. But even if our grant is not funded, I will feel that Rhode Island's attendance at the "Let's talk about it" conference was more than worthwhile. Through our participation, links have been strengthened between the scholarly community, the state humanities council, and the library world. And, at the conference itself, our contact with scholars, librarians and humanities council people from the length of the Eastern Seaboard was exciting and enriching. The "Let's talk about it" conference afforded a valuable opportunity to share ideas and strategies for humanities programming

with bright, innovative people whose special mission it is to bring the delights of adult learning to the greatest possible number of people. It has been genuinely exciting to be a small part of that supremely worthwhile effort.

Sincerely,

Lauri Burke

(Editor's Note: The Rhode Island grant application was successful, and has been funded with \$18,500 from the NEH. Congratulations!)



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ALA MIDWINTER REPORT

The 1985 American Library Association Midwinter Conference held in Washington, D.C. in January was filled as always with business and a little excitement. Rhode Island and chapters had some impact on the affairs of the Council.

The Minimum Salary resolution adopted by RILA in November was presented on the floor of Council. Discussion was lively, but very encouraging. The concept of a minimum salary seemed to be more than acceptable, but the actual number posed problems for many. New Jersey actually has a higher minimum salary (\$20,350), and then some areas felt \$17,500 was much too high for them. As a result, the resolution was referred to the Office of Library Personnel Resources (OLPR). That office will make recommendations at the Annual Conference regarding the minimum salary resolution. A side note to the minimum salary resolution is that compliments were paid to the RILA Personnel Committee on the quality of the resolution. Thanks for a job well done!

During Midwinter three members were elected to the Executive Board. When the slate was announced, there was no chapter representation on the slate or on the Board. Chapter councilors united on the floor and nominated Margo Crist from Massachusetts. Margo was elected to the Executive Board with an overwhelming majority. Chapters now have representation and a New Englander at that.

The other most important business conducted at Midwinter was the approval for ALA to engage in Strategic Long-range Planning (SLRP). The ALA is already involved in the preplanning phases; chapters will be involved so that there will be as much participation by members and nonmembers of ALA as possible.

Other items of business that took place were as follows:

- That members of ALA will be able to attend General Membership and Council meetings without paying registration fee for Conferences.
- That ALA encourage its members to promote International Youth Year with appropriate groups within the community.
- That ALA take a position against deregulation of the broadcast media and the repeal of the Fairness Doctrine including the Equal Time provision.

- That ALA urge libraries to make special efforts to make information available on the situation of the oppressed majority in South Africa...
- That ALA express its concern over the sudden degradation of the official Italian national bibliographic apparatus and urge the ministry to reconsider its decision...
- The the Endowment Trustees be invited to the Council at each Midwinter Meeting and Summer Conference of ALA. The report should summarize their investment activities and the performance of the funds, with reporting to commence at the 1985 Summer Conference.
- The council approved all resolutions from the Committee on Legislation which included:
 - a. Zero funding of library programs
 - b. Higher Education Act Reauthorization
 - c. U.S. Withdrawal from UNESCO
 - d. U.S. OMB's Circular A.76 and Federal Libraries
 - e. U.S. Department of Labor's Wage Determination registers and federal librarians
 - f. Formation of a coalition on government information
- The ALA supports fair demographic, age group, socioeconomic, ethnic and racial minority representation on governing boards of public libraries.
- The Council Committee on Minority Concerns request that the ALA Washington Office express our concerns to the Director, Office of Indian Education Programs about the impact that lowered standards will have upon library services and the educational excellence in BIA schools.
- That ALA go on record as opposing a Constitutional Amendment mandating English as the official language of the United States.
- AASL and ALA will continue dialog to resolve differences. Progress appears to have been made on this issue.

If you wish copies of any of the original resolutions, please contact me.

Submitted by
 Carol K. DiPrete
 ALA Councilor

NUCLEAR FREEZE RESOLUTION

In accordance with Article VII, Section 2, of the RILA Constitution, the membership may petition the Executive Board to place on a mail ballot an item of business for a vote of the entire membership. A petition has been received by the RILA Executive Board with the following text:

"Petition to the RILA Executive Board to allow for a mail ballot referendum on the following cause: To vote in support of or against the following resolution (i.e.: the nuclear arms race freeze):"

RESOLUTION

Whereas, the nuclear arms race threatens all life;

And whereas, the nuclear arms race is presently depriving the earth's peoples of their rights to food, good housing, good transportation systems, quality and affordable education, access to information, good medical care, and employment;

And whereas, the present national administration advocates spending \$222,000,000,000 over the next five years for new strategic nuclear weapon systems while at the same time advocating zero funding for federal public library programs;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Rhode Island Library Association calls upon the United States and the Soviet Union to adopt an immediate, mutual and verifiable freeze on the development, testing, production and deployment of new nuclear weapons and their delivery systems. This freeze should be followed as soon as possible with negotiations between all nations to reduce and ultimately eliminate the world-wide nuclear arsenal.

Be it also resolved that the Rhode Island Library Association asks library organizations everywhere to adopt similar resolutions recognizing that funding for libraries has been lessened as a result of the arms race and calling for a nuclear freeze.

"I as a member of RILA ask the RILA Executive Board to hold a mail ballot referendum of the membership on the above issue as soon as possible."

Signatories: Beth I. Perry, Jennifer S. Banks, Bruce E. Daniels, Anne T. Parent, Beverly A. Plouff, Marguerite E. Horn, Linda Walton, Roberta A. E. Cairns, Joan Ress Reeves, Roberta K. Kester, Olive W. Parsons, Anne Toll, E. B. Henry, Jr., Angela M. Hillard, Ralph C. Christon, Ruth Harmon, Beverly Lambert, Douglas M. McDonough, Sonita K. Cummings, Arthur P. Young, Margaret J. Keefe, Janice Sieburth, Jean L. Nash, Karen Taylor, Ann Crawford, Susan Shea, Sally Wilson, Dena M. Janson, Christine C. Love, Fay Zipkowitz, Jewel Drickamer, Chuck Moore, Christian King.

The Executive Board at its January 22, 1985, meeting agreed to comply with this request.

BACKGROUND: At the Annual Business Meeting held on November 15, 1983, a nuclear freeze resolution was defeated by the membership after a lengthy debate. The vote was 42 in favor of the resolution and 54 opposed. This same resolution was introduced at the 1984 Annual Business Meeting which was held on November 20, 1984. The resolution was passed by the membership with a vote of 40 in favor of the resolution, 31 opposed, and 2 abstentions.

The following statements were written by two RILA members and represent two different viewpoints. Both statements address the issue of whether RILA as a professional association should or should not support the nuclear freeze resolution.

Statement 1: The threat of nuclear war is of great concern to librarians. In our role as keepers of the storehouse of human ideas, knowledge and experience, we are responsible for continuing the threads of the past into the future. We also play a part in assisting our patrons to reach their full potential. How can people work toward self-fulfillment while fearing the end of our world as we know it?

These fears are particularly evident in letters to newspapers, the President and various organizations written by young people who do not know whether they should plan for the future. As a children's librarian, I must serve as an advocate for these young people. It is part of my responsibility as a librarian to see that they can grow and learn in a world that is safe and secure, that the ideas and knowledge handed to me can be handed on to them.

As professionals, we must stand up and express our commitment to the maintenance of the human record, to the lifelong learning of our patrons, and to the growth and development of our children. The Library Bill of Rights states that, 'Libraries should

cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.' Could there be a greater threat to free access to ideas than the destruction of our libraries or a greater threat to the free expression of ideas than the destruction of human life?"

Statement 2: "As important an issue to today's society as "a nuclear freeze" may be, a vote on a resolution in support of it should be an individual decision by every member of that association if it is to be truly representative.

The Rhode Island Library Association was asked to vote on a nuclear freeze resolution at its annual business meeting in November, 1984, on such short notice that the resolution was not listed on the printed agenda. Very few members knew of its inclusion on the agenda in advance and did not have the opportunity to be there to vote. With the resolution's passage the association would be announcing its support of the nuclear freeze on behalf of all its members (based on the vote at that meeting). That would be wrong. The leadership should see to it that every member has an opportunity to vote directly on the issue.

Several viewpoints were expressed at the meeting by those opposing the resolution. One view questioned the appropriateness of such an issue being addressed by the Rhode Island Library Association at all. Some felt that the RILA Executive Board has enough to do without diluting its efforts over issues such as this or similar concerns--a plethora of issues waiting in the wings. The question of whether resolutions on issues such as nuclear freeze, condemning U.S. involvement in El Salvador, drunk driving, abortion, death penalties, and others should be entertained by the association should be addressed by the membership soon. It is not necessary for the Rhode Island Library Association to take a stand on issues that may be a matter of individual conscience or morality. Other avenues of expression are open to all individuals on social issues. A better method of dealing with the question would be for individuals who felt strongly about an issue to create a group (such as "Librarians for a Nuclear Freeze") which could advertise its existence and recruit members through the RILA BULLETIN. A group such as this would be totally representative and could take whatever actions are desired. The Rhode Island Library Association is a group of individuals who hold widely-varying opinions on a wide range of topics except for one--their interest in libraries. This is certainly a subject which can keep us all together. We don't need other divisive issues.

(Editors Note: The mail ballot to complete and return is included as the center insert in this issue of the Bulletin.)



PEOPLE
IN THE NEWS

KATHRYN RYAN is the new Children's Librarian at the Lincoln Public Library. Kathryn has a background in education and has served in a variety of elementary and secondary schools in four states. She has also worked for three years as a library assistant in the reference department of the Fall River Library and as an instructor at Bristol Community College.

RENE LAFAYETTE, a member of the Board of Trustees at the Woonsocket Harris Public Library, was elected to the State General Assembly as Representative from House District 65.

Two staff members of the Woonsocket Harris Public Library have recently received their MLS degrees. LESLIE PAGE, head of the technical services department, received her degree from Simmons College. BOB BELLEROSE, who works in the reference department, received his degree from the University of Rhode Island.

TOM BRENNAN, Director of the Newport Historical Society Library, has accepted a position as Assistant Director/Head of Adult Services at Hudson Public Library, Hudson, Massachusetts. Tom will begin his new duties on March 4.

SHARON BROWN, Children's Librarian at the Cumberland Public Library, was recently appointed to the additional position of Assistant Director.

SUSAN SHEA was recently appointed Assistant Director/Reference Librarian at the East Greenwich Free Library. Prior to this position, Susan worked in the reference department of the Woonsocket Harris Public Library.

RUTH RAFUSE, a trustee at Lincoln Library, has decided to retire after twenty years of dedicated service to the library.

ROSA MINKINS, another dedicated trustee, is retiring from the Pawtucket Public Library Board after eleven years of service. She is also a retired professional librarian, having worked at the Pawtucket Public Library and West (now Shea) High School in Pawtucket.

MARGERY DUMAINE is the new Children's Librarian at East Providence-Weaver Memorial. Margery's previous experience includes work at the Jacob Edwards Library in Southbridge, Massachusetts, the Olneyville Branch of the Providence Public Library, and Knight Memorial Library.

MELODY BROWN, supervisor of Young Reader's Services at DSLS, was recently elected to the 1986 Caldecott Award Committee.

New Reference and Technical Services Librarian at North Providence Union Free Library is JOSEPH USCIO. Joe worked at the circulation desk and in the Catalog Department of the University of Rhode Island Library before joining the staff of North Providence.

FAY ZIPKOWITZ, Director of the DSLS, was recently elected Chairman of the Board of the Northeast Document Conservation Center.

CAROL HRYCIW-WING, Head of Technical Services at Rhode Island College, contributed a chapter entitled "Organization of Materials in Business Libraries" to Basic Business LibraryCore Resources, edited by Bernard Schlessinger (Oryx, 1983).

DIANNE ALBAUGH, who served as Coordinator of Circulation at Roger Williams College Library since August, has resigned to accept the position of Assistant Director of Jamestown Public Library.

SHIRLEY PAYNE has been named the new Director of the North Kingstown Free Library. Her previous position was Coordinator of Readers Services at North Kingstown. She will be replacing DEBORAH B. BRENNAN who is planning to continue in the library field as a free-lance consultant.

▽ ▽

RILA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS
Dates and Places - 1985
2 P.M. - 5 P.M.

January 22	Pawtucket Public Library
*February 26	East Providence City Hall, Room 306
March 26	Pawtucket Public Library
*April 23	East Providence City Hall, Room 306
May 28	South Kingstown Public Library/Peace Dale
*June 25	Brown University/Rockefeller Library
July 23	Roger Williams College/Bristol
August 27	South Kingstown Public Library/Peace Dale
*September 24	North Providence Union Free Library 1810 Mineral Spring Avenue
October 22	East Providence City Hall, Room 306
November 26	North Providence Union Free Library 1810 Mineral Spring Avenue
December 17	East Providence City Hall, Room 306

*Committee Chairs required to attend these Executive Board meetings.

A graphic of a bulletin board with a central rectangular sign and two side banners. The sign contains the text "BULLETIN BOARD".

BULLETIN BOARD

Sharon Brown is interested in starting a training course for Great Books discussion leaders. If anyone is interested in participating in the course, call Sharon at the Cumberland Public Library, 333-2552.

East Greenwich Free Library has recently organized a Friends of the Library group.

Two grants totaling \$29,358 have been awarded to the Northern Interrelated Library System by the Rhode Island Committee for the Humanities and the Massachusetts Foundation for Humanities and Public Policy. The funds will be used to produce a project dealing with the blackstone River in its entirety from Worcester to Pawtucket. The project will consist of six portable exhibits plus printed brochures, walking tours, booklists, and the text of exhibits. Project Director is Ellen Spilka, Coordinator of the Northern Interrelated Library System. Cooperating with the project is the Central Massachusetts Regional Library System, Worcester, Margo Crist, Director.

Mohr Library in Johnston and Lincoln Public Library have both received equipment grants from the Champlin Fund to join the CLAN network of CLSI libraries linked directly to the Providence Public Library.

Champlin Associates has also awarded \$30,000 to Harmony Library for its building fund. The proposed building is expected to cost \$276,400 with construction set to begin this winter.

East Smithfield Public Library has received \$25,000 from Champlin Associates for renovation of the school building that will be the new home for the library.

Woonsocket-Harris Library received a \$7,584 grant from Champlin Associates to purchase a laser composite terminal.

Work on the new North Providence Union Free Library is progressing well. The staff has been packing books into boxes for the move, finding temporary storage in the Pawtucket Public Library Bookmobile Garage until the new building is ready.

The New England Microcomputers Users Group (NEMICRO) will hold its Spring Meeting on March 12 at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Program topics include "Technical Aspects of Data Transfer and Protocol Considerations", presented by Charlie D. Hurt, Professor at the Simmons Graduate School of Library

and Information Science; "Draper Lab Project: Micro to Mainframe", presented by Cary Graham Browne, Head Librarian at Charles Stark Draper Laboratory; and "Digital Equipment Project: Micro to Mini", presented by Joy Benatar, Manager of Customized Research Services, Digital Equipment Corporation.

The American Library Association Nominating Committee is soliciting nominee suggestions for ALA Vice President/President Elect 1986-87 and ALA Councilor at Large 1986-90. If you wish to be considered for nomination or have a suggestion for a nominee, please contact Carol DiPrete, Roger Williams College Library, Bristol, Rhode Island 02809 (253-1040, x2063) for a "Nominee Suggestion Form". Forms are due April 1, 1985.



At the January 22, 1985 meeting of the RILA Executive Board, the following items were discussed and/or acted upon:

--The RILA President was appointed designated agent, in compliance with the new Rhode Island laws governing non-business corporations.

--Roberta Cairns was appointed RILA representative to the URI GSLIS Advisory Commission to replace Anne Parent who submitted her resignation.

--Lauri Burke reported on the Eastern Region "Let's Talk About It" workshop held in November.

--Peggy Shea reported on the 1984 RILA Conference. A total of 293 people attended. Plans are underway for the 1985 conference; program suggestions are welcome.

--The 1985 RILA Committee charges were endorsed.

--Carol DiPrete reported on ALA Midwinter. A detailed report will be included in the Bulletin.

--July Bell presented a report from NELA. Counterparts Day will take place on March 29 in Framingham. This is an opportunity for executive board members from each of the New England states to meet and exchange ideas.

--The Public Relations Committee was authorized to spend up to \$300. for bookmarks and/or posters related to the "Nation of Readers" theme of National Library Week.

--An ad hoc committee to study the feasibility of allowing sections within RILA was formed. Carol DiPrete and Judy Bell agreed to co-chair the committee.

JOBLINE

The Rhode Island Library Association has established a minimum recommended salary of \$17,500 for a full-time beginning librarian in 1985.

Massachusetts

LIBRARIAN: Technical services in corporate library. Designs, recommends, implements, and supervises the technical library service functions of acquisitions, classification, cataloging, and use of automated library systems. Assists with information services and managerial functions. Requirements: MLS and 5 years professional experience in an academic or special library with responsibilities in technical service areas of classification and cataloging. Familiarity with automated library systems including OCLC and experience with microcomputers. Contact: Pauline Smith (4-70), Codex Corporation, 20 Cabot Boulevard, Mansfield, MA 02048

Rhode Island

SUBSTITUTE SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALIST: Woonsocket Public School System. Must be certified as Teacher of Library Science by the R.I. Department of Education. Salary: \$40. per day. Application available from: Louis R. Leveillee, Coordinator of Media Services, 108 High Street, Woonsocket, R.I. 02895. (401) 762-4440.



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Past President

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