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11-1985

## Bulletin of the Rhode Island Library Association v. 58, no. 1

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# Rhode Island Library Association Bulletin

Volume No. 58 No. 1

ISSN: 0146-8685

November 1985

## The Rhode Island Library Program: Next Steps

*by John A. Humphry and Fay Zipkowitz*

On October 1, 1960, John A. Humphry began his landmark study and recommendations for libraries and library services in Rhode Island. The resulting report was published by Brown University as a monograph entitled Library Cooperation.<sup>\*</sup> It is still well worth reading as it provided the basis for effective and far-sighted legislation enacted in 1964 which continues to serve us well. Mr. Humphry created the blueprint for The Department of State Library Services (DSL), the Rhode Island Interrelated Library Network, the regional centers, the special research centers, the various grant programs, and the development of graduate library education at the University of Rhode Island, to name just a few among many notable and thoughtful recommendations in his report.

In 1984, to mark the twentieth anniversary of the establishment of the Department of State Library Services, Fay Zipkowitz asked Mr. Humphry to come to the annual conference of the Rhode Island Library Association to take a look back on what has happened in Rhode Island library services as a result of his work, as well as to look at new directions for us in the future. The program included comments from Kay Moore and Knight Edwards who drafted the 1964 legislation and Jewel Drickamer who served as Deputy Director and later Director of DSL. The program was well attended and well received. It provided an appropriate recognition of the Department's first twenty years.

Mr. Humphry's comments particularly moved many of us to think about the future of library services in Rhode Island and we felt that his talk should be shared more widely. Fay Zipkowitz asked Mr. Humphry to edit the typescript which the staff of DSL prepared from a tape recording thoughtfully provided by Jean Nash of the West Warwick Public Library. This he graciously agreed to do, and the result is the following paper. Our thanks go to Mr. Humphry for his continued and very productive interest in Rhode Island libraries, and for preparing this article based on his remarks of November 20, 1984 in Newport.

\* \* \*

Thank you for inviting me to discuss with you some of the progress and also some of the problems that have emerged on the library scene since the publication of Library Cooperation in 1963.

I suggest we take note first of the progress with respect to the performance and services provided by the community libraries. In 1962 and 1963, only 28 of the 64 community libraries offered service for 15 or more hours per week. Based on statistics that Fay Zipkowitz, Director of the Department of State Library Services, and her staff have provided all community libraries in Rhode Island are now open at least 15 hours per week, and most of them many more hours.



In 1962 and 1963, only 10 of the 64 community libraries owned collections of at least 25,000 books - a figure at that time generally considered by the library profession a minimum for a library to offer service acceptable to its constituency. Today, there are fewer but stronger community libraries. Instead of the 64 community libraries which were in existence in 1963, there are now 48. Nearly 75% of these meet the requirement of 25,000 volumes. Many libraries have much larger collections.

Society's new directions and priorities are having implications for the provision of library and information services. As the statistics show, the library community of Rhode Island has been successfully responding and adapting to major changes in living patterns, the economy, demography, education, culture and politics. Better educated and informed people, regardless of place of residence, have greater expectations for libraries. Through library networks and systems, all types of information, books, and library materials can be provided to meet these expectations. Thus was born the Rhode Island Interrelated Library Network involving all types of libraries in a completely new and useful configuration of service. While statistics of interloan activities were scarce in 1962 and 1963, today they represent an important aspect of the library program. The same holds true for audio-visual and other non-book materials. These facts are further evidence of Rhode Island's commitment to progressive library service.

Conference speakers and articles in the library press have identified improvements in virtually all areas of librarianship and library service in Rhode Island. Certainly funding for libraries has advanced during the last twenty years; and resources in terms of library materials have been increased in quantity as well as quality. Several attractive library buildings have been constructed and the staffs are better qualified. The new technology is being applied to library procedures and methods. Rhode Island's libraries have much in place, including greater recognition of the mission of libraries, as they plan the next steps in advancing the program.

I analyzed and attempted to determine which "generation" of library and information service Rhode Island has reached to date. I consider the first generation to be libraries of one type operating independently of each other. The

second generation of library service is achieved when libraries decide to form a system to improve service and to attempt to achieve a goal no one library is in a position to reach alone. Rhode Island has moved beyond these first and second generations of library service. A third generation of library service is considered to be a cooperative system of libraries of several or even all types, often called a multi-type library system.

Because the Rhode Island library development program includes academic, research, and special libraries, it has also met the third generation level of service. Now the time has come to consider and plan for an even more advanced and sophisticated level which could include use of the newest technological devices and linkages to the information systems developed by many professional associations of chemists, physicists, psychologists, and physicians. It will also include access and linkages to the bibliographic utilities of the country. Telefacsimile transmission of the printed word and of information - some of it by satellite - is now affordable. Online bibliographic information is also available to assist in identifying, locating, and accessing all types of information. Such a network of libraries and information sources is often designated the fourth generation of library service.

The knowledge explosion, the ever-increasing acceptance of the value of education in general as well as the need for keeping up to date in fast-moving areas of information science are but two of the many compelling justifications for the maintenance, support, and advancement of library and information services. It is a generally accepted fact that systems and networks of libraries are the most viable way to meet the challenge. In these times, when demands on the public purse as well as on private and foundation funding are heavy, it is essential to have solid justification and to make requests of legislatures and other appropriating bodies with a united approach and an achievable blueprint of action. Networks and systems of libraries require expert managerial competence as well as political expertise.

What are the implications for planning library buildings as the profession advances into the storage of information through miniaturization, microfiche, and optical disks? Will the library building of the future change in character as the use of computers by staff and users



increases? As information is generated in print format as well as in all types of non-print format, preservation and conservation of these materials must become a high priority. Use of all materials must honor copyright laws which are becoming increasingly complex and difficult to administer and protect. Libraries may yet come - if they have not already done so - to setting a fee structure for access to certain types of material and information.

To sum up, library administrators and managers need to be well informed in such areas as collection development, collection management, publishing, and copyright matters. They must also be well versed in administration, organization, arbitration, negotiation, political strategy, and the current and emerging sophisticated computer and communications technology. At present, Europe, Australia, and many parts of Asia have made noteworthy advances in organizing library networks for the dissemination of information. The United States will become a node in the worldwide system of acquiring, organizing, and disseminating information, books and other library materials. Rhode Island wants to play its part in this exciting challenge of the future.

Before I make suggestions for the future of Rhode Island's library program, may I comment on three matters that they well merit further review and study:

1. There are fiscal, governance and other problems to be met in establishing, funding and managing library systems. To make legislative revisions in the organization and funding of systems requires considerable time, effort, patience and solid justification. The difficulty in securing funds through the legislative process provides challenging opportunities for library trustees and librarians to work together in planning for and solving organizational, jurisdictional, and fiscal problems.
2. It is unfortunate that the State does not foster cooperation or even formal and planned communication among the various agencies of state government that have responsibilities for library and/or information services. It is particularly unfortunate and disturbing since the State provides funds for library cooperation at local and regional levels.
3. Education for librarianship needs to be reviewed in the light of the new directions the library profession is pursuing if personnel is to be available to staff these networks of

libraries and other information sources.

As Rhode Island moves ahead with its library programs, as it builds on its successes - of which there are many - the library community will need to take such steps as follow:

1. Form a committee to prepare a proposal for another comprehensive assessment of the total library program in Rhode Island with recommendations to assure continued progress based on a defined set of goals.
2. Continue to keep the legislature and other appropriate agencies - state, regional and local - informed of the needs of the library program by presenting a unified approach.
3. Enlist lay, professional, civic and other groups which could assist in marketing and supporting the library program.
4. Seek guidance in how to fund the program through fair share formulas involving all levels of government, as well as the private sector.
5. Keep a user-oriented approach in formulating plans for service.
6. Identify new directions for education in library and information service.

\*John A. Humphry, Library Cooperation: The Brown University Study of Univeristy - School - Community Library Coordination in the State of Rhode Island, Providence, Brown University Press, 1963.

## people

**ELIZABETH FUTAS**, Assistant Professor at Emory University's Division of Library & Information Management, was recently appointed Director of URI's Graduate School of Library and Information Studies and will assume her post in January.

**ELLEN SPILKA**, formerly Coordinator of the Northern Interrelated Library System, was recently named Director of the Pawtucket Public Library.

**MICHELE MALS** was appointed Director of the Central Falls Public Library in June.



**TANYA TRINKAUS** is the new Bibliographic Control Librarian at Roger Williams College. She had been Head of Technical Services at the Rhode Island Historical Society Library.

**KATHRYN PAGE**, Coordinator of the Principal Public Library, and **GINNY MCKEE**, Chief of Children's Services, joined the staff of the Providence Public Library this Spring; more recent appointments at PPL are **KAROL BARTLETT**, librarian in the Periodicals Department, and **CAROL D. SHOLLER**, Director of Development/Public Affairs Office.

**CAROLYN WILDER** became the first Children's Librarian to be hired at the East Greenwich Free Library and began her new job in September.

**BONNIE DUPREY** is Cross Mills Public Library's new Children's Program Coordinator for the school year. She succeeds **RICA ANDERSON**, who resigned after 13 years to pursue a full time teaching career.

**PAMELA BOSTON** is the new Children's Librarian who will be shared by five libraries in the Northern Region: Harmony, Burrillville, Johnston, Greenville, and North Smithfield.

**JANET ROBATAILLE**, formerly of Cranston Public Library, is now Children's Librarian at the Newport Public Library.

**MALA SCHUETZ**, Children's Librarian/Asst. Director at Middletown Public Library, was married on September 14th and is now **MALA DAVIS**.

**MELODY ALLEN**, Supervisor of Young Readers' Services, and **JEFFREY VALE**, Principal Library Computer Operator, both at the Department of State Library Services, were married on October 10th.

## bulletin board

- On Wednesday, September 11th, 30 librarians from 17 libraries met at the Kingston Free Library to participate in the first of five scheduled Reference Roundtables. Sponsored by the Principal Public Library, these meetings are intended to give library staff throughout the state an opportunity to share information about reference sources and techniques. At the inaugural meeting, biographical reference

sources were discussed. Upcoming meetings will focus on scientific sources, children's reference works, regional and Rhode Island reference materials and career and education guides. Contact Kathy Page at Providence Public Library for more information.

- The Rhode Island Library Film Cooperative recently announced that it would begin booking films and videocassetts one week in advance of show date. The improved service began August 1st and will continue on an experimental basis through the end of the year.

- Harmony Public Library expected completion of its new facility on November 1st and construction is in full swing on the quarter-million dollar addition to the Cross Mills Public Library in Charlestown.

- Literacy Volunteers of America is establishing a chapter in Rhode Island's East Bay area and the George Hail Free Library in Warren will be its home base.

- An annual seminar entitled "English Libraries and Librarianship" will be held May 18 - June 6, 1986 at Oxford University, England. It is conducted by the University of Oklahoma in cooperation with Oxford's Bodleian Library. Information about the seminar is available by writing University of Oklahoma, CLS-Library, 1700 Asp Avenue, Suite 226, Norman, OK 73037. (Interested persons should also contact Janina D'Abate at the North Scituate Public Library, who participated in the '85 Oxford Seminar and thoroughly enjoyed it.)

- On November 9th, the Willett Free Library in Saunderstown celebrated its 100th birthday.

- The membership is urged to submit nomination of trustees for the prestigious American Library Association Trustee citation. The award, administered by the ALTA is given annually to two trustees. Deadline for submission of nominations is December 1, 1985. Please contact Connie Lachowicz, RILA President, Peace Dale Library, 783-4085 for more information.

*Indexed in: Current Awareness  
Library Literature*

Z673R52 57-26438

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## RILA Executive Board and Committees

RILA will be presenting a Continuing Education Grant. The grant will be available for up to \$250.00 annually on a 50-50 matching basis.

Mary Ellen Hardiman, Treasurer announced that she put \$10,000 of RILA funds into a federally insured money market account on a no-fee basis.

Next year's RILA Conference will be held at the Providence Marriott Inn on November 2-4, 1986.

The Government Relations Committee, RILA President and Vice-President met October 4 with DSLS to discuss 1986 funding for libraries.

Plans are being developed for RILA to actively promote National Library Week in April.

The membership and mailing list for RILA has been completely updated. Any changes of address should be sent immediately to Charlotte Schoonover, Membership Chair. RILA plans to purchase a microcomputer in the near future so the membership information can be easily updated and printed out for different occasions.

The Intellectual Freedom Committee held its Gala Celebration to mark the end of Banned Books Week on September 18 at the Barrington Public Library. Popcorn was consumed while viewing A Birth of a Nation. Natalie Babbitt spoke on censorship issues which was followed by a lively discussion. Newport Public Library was chosen as the winner of the IFC's Banned Books Week competition. The prize consisted of two gift certificates from B. Dalton and Harold Book Store and was accepted by Mattie Gustafson. To round out the evening champagne was served along with the rest of the popcorn. The celebration was considered a great success by all who attended.

The RILA Legislator of the Year Award will be presented to both Representative Mary McMahan and Representative Lorraine Kane. A special legislative award will be presented to Senator John Chafee for his leadership and support of the LSCA refunding legislation.

The RILA Trustee of the Year Award will be

presented posthumously to Mr. Gerald Burns, Pawtucket Public Library. The award will be accepted by Mrs. Gerald Burns.

The 1986 Committee Chairpersons are as follows:

Conference - Debra Cohen, Co-Chair and vacancy.

Membership - John Fox Cory

Public Relations - Merrily Taylor

Trustee Affairs - Diana Andreoni

Government Relations - Jennifer Banks and Paul Campbell

Publications - Linda Walton

Budget and Finance - 1986 Treasurer

Intellectual Freedom - Janice Wood-Thomas and Steve Thompson

Nominating - Vacancy

Personnel - Vacancy

Anyone interested in filling the three vacancies should contact Roberta A.E. Cairns, East Providence Public Library, as soon as possible.

## calendar

**NOVEMBER 13th** - Reference Roundtable: The Sciences, Cumberland Public Library, 9:30 AM - 12 Noon.

**NOVEMBER 18th** - Young Adult Round Table: HI/LO Books, Portsmouth Free Library, 10 AM.

**NOVEMBER 18 - 24** is Children's Book Week

**NOVEMBER 20th** - Info/Ex: DSLS Survey Results, DSLS, 10 AM.

**NOVEMBER 26th** - RILA Executive Board meeting, North Providence Public Library, 2 PM.

**DECEMBER 4th** - Info/Ex: Cable & Videotaping in Libraries, Lincoln Public Library, 10 AM.

## president's message

When the new managing editor of the Bulletin called me a few weeks ago to discuss some changes in the format of the Bulletin, she very discreetly mentioned that the state association publications she and her committee had been reviewing all had a president's column. Not wanting the Bulletin to be one of the very few state association publications that did not follow this tradition, I agreed that a president's column was a fine idea - especially since my term of office is almost over and I would only have to write two columns. Good Luck Roberta!!

First of all, I hope you are all as delighted as I am to see the Bulletin back in publication again after a brief hiatus. Managing Editor, Linda Walton, and her very capable Publications Committee are to be commended for picking up the many loose ends, tying them together, and delivering to the membership a first-class publication. The new format is a welcome change and from what Linda tells me less expensive to print which is good news for RILA's budget. Incidentally, are you aware that this is the first change in format the Bulletin has had in ten years. I, for one, am looking forward to seeing what this energetic and enthusiastic new Bulletin staff has in store for us in future issues.

Shifting gears, I would now like to give a brief update on recent actions the Executive Board has taken. As of January 1986, RILA will establish a Continuing Education Fund to provide grants for work related continuing education opportunities. Initially \$250 will be appropriated for this fund. It is the Executive Board's goal to make the grant self-supporting via a yearly fund raiser at the Annual Conference. RILA members will also have an opportunity to contribute to this fund at membership renewal time.

In 1986, RILA will enter the world of automation by computerizing its membership list. This will provide RILA, at long last, with an up-to-date mailing list which right now is not possible. In the long run, automating the membership list will certainly save RILA money and time.

In closing the first RILA president's column ever, I just want to say that the Executive Board is always interested in hearing from you, the membership, as to how RILA can continue to improve its role in promoting libraries and librarianship in Rhode Island. FINI!

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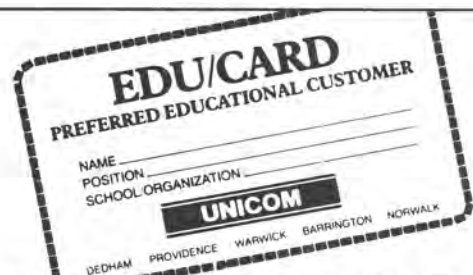
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## Rhode Island Rural Librarians Form Group

Librarians from around the state have formed a Rural Librarians Support Group which meets to discuss common problems and to exchange information. The group's purpose is to provide this exchange of information and to promote activities which benefit rural libraries. Connie Roe of Foster Public library and Catherine Hull of Clark Memorial Library (Carolina, RI) are co-chairs of the group, responsible for dispersing information through the Interlibrary Loan System to the rural librarians of the state. Catherine Hull serves also as Secretary.

Since February, 1985, the group has met every other month in rural libraries around the state. Librarians from any community of less than 10,000 are welcome at the meetings which are usually attended by representatives of at least ten rural libraries. Minutes from the meetings and other information are sent to all rural libraries requesting to be kept informed.

The Rhode Island Rural Librarians began meeting spontaneously out of a need to ease the isolation of their situations and to exchange information on issues of common interest. In the past few years, other rural librarians in the country have been organizing in such states as Michigan, New York, and Oregon. The National Commission on Libraries and Information Science has listed the needs of rural libraries as one of its high priorities. According to published statistics, small libraries in the public systems provide 40% of circulation nationally while receiving only 7.9% of available funds.

The Rural Librarians Group is planning to bring rural trustees together to discuss common problems and issues important to rural libraries. This meeting is scheduled for late September.

Issues of great interest to the group are: securing a living wage and suitable benefits, the education of Trustees and Town Councils, technology in rural libraries, providing the best in collections and programming with limited staff and budget, professional efficiency in the daily administration of their libraries, the serving of community needs, etc. A recent survey among members of the group indicated that salaries for part-time directors range from \$5,500 to \$10,300 for essentially the same hours worked. Only one of the group has retirement benefits. While almost all have job descriptions, only one has a contract and

two are denied the title of Director. Another general problem is the inadequacy of support staff and heavy dependence on volunteers. At least one rural library has no support staff. According to answers on the survey, there is good news in the building department. At least three rural libraries have new buildings (one for the first time in its 105-year history), and one is undergoing major renovations with new wings being added to the old building.

For further information, rural librarians in the Northern and Western systems should contact Connie Roe. In the Island and South County systems, please contact Catherine Hull.

## jobline

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

**Notice to Employers:** Due to changes in the publications schedule of the Bulletin, job notices will be more timely. Job notices received by the 15th of the month will appear in the following month's issue, which will be distributed by the first week of the month. Late notices will be included as space allows.

The Bulletin publishes only those notices received directly and does not search for job announcements in newspapers, journals or other sources.

Job notices will be accepted for Massachusetts and Connecticut as well as Rhode Island.

The following statement will appear in every Jobline: The Rhode Island Library Association has established a minimum recommended salary of \$17,500 for a full-time beginning librarian.



## editor's notebook

Hello, my name is Linda Walton, and I am the new Managing Editor of the Bulletin. My current position is Medical Librarian for Butler Hospital, and I have been the Editor of the RILA Legislative Newsletter for the past year. I hope that as Managing Editor of the Bulletin I will provide you with a newsletter that is both timely and interesting.

As you can see the Bulletin's format has changed. Although we have kept most of the same columns, we are adding the President's Message and encouraging Letters to the Editor. Features are to be shorter and specifically related to Rhode Island libraries/librarians.

The Bulletin will still be issued 10 times per year with the combined issues being January/February and July/August. The November and December issues for 1985 will be vol. 58 nos. 1-2. The January/February 1986 issue will begin vol. 59. I encourage all of you to submit information concerning your library or staff to the appropriate editor/manager. I would like to introduce the new Bulletin staff:

**FEATURE EDITOR:** Norman Desmarais, Acquisitions Librarian for Providence College. Articles should be of interest to the Rhode Island library community, and should be no longer than 4 double-spaced typed pages. Articles will be edited as needed, however, any changes made will be with the knowledge and consent of the author. If you would like to submit an article or suggest a topic you would like to see covered in the Bulletin contact Norman at 865-2241 or c/o Phillips Memorial Library, Acquisitions Department, Providence College, Providence, RI 02918.

**NEWS EDITOR:** Frank Iacono, Reference Librarian for DSLS. He will be coordinating the Calendar, People, and Bulletin Board. The deadline for submitting information to Frank for these columns is the 15th of the month. Frank will send forms to public and academic libraries in Rhode Island to solicit information. Others with items of interest should send them to him c/o DSLS, 95 Davis Street, Providence, RI 02908.

**JOBLINE MANAGER:** Sheila Carlson, Supervisor of Institutional Library Services for DSLS. All job announcements should be sent to Sheila by the 15th of the month to be published the first week of the following month. All late job notices will be placed in the Bulletin as space allows. I encourage you to use the Jobline by contacting Sheila at 277-2726 or c/o DSLS, 95 Davis Street, Providence, RI 02908.

**ADVERTISING MANAGER:** Deborah O'Hara, Librarian for Oliver Hazard Perry Middle School. Due to changes in the format of the Bulletin we are currently revising ad rates. As soon as this information is available it will be published in the Bulletin. All advertisements can be sent to Deborah at 157 Briarwood Avenue, Middletown, RI 02840 or 846-5438.

**TECHNICAL CO-EDITORS:** Debra Cohen and Veronica (Ronnie) Thomas. Both are employed at East Providence Public Library. Debra is the Information Services Librarian and Ronnie is the Technical Services Assistant. Any suggestions for layout can be directed to them at 434-2453 or c/o East Providence Public Library, 41 Grove Avenue, East Providence, RI 02914.

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