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ILA/ACRL Newsletter

vol. 6, no. 2, July 1996

Words from the President

by Bob Rose, UNI

1996 continues to be an extremely busy and exciting year for ILA/ACRL, with many projects and programs underway.

For those of you who didn't make it to the Spring conference at Buena Vista University - too bad. You missed an excellent conference. Jim Rettig provided a thought-provoking and entertaining address and the other presentations were equally good. Spring conferences are terrific opportunities to have one's mind stimulated and to meet with colleagues around the state. I encourage you to attend next year's conference in Iowa City.

Special note should be made of the superb job the Spring Conference Program Committee (Cynthia Dyer, John Goodin, Mary Anne Knefel, David Martin, Chris Neuhaus-Chair, and Kathy Wachel) did in planning and organizing the conference, under sometimes difficult conditions. Our thanks to Buena Vista University for hosting this event.

And speaking of spring conferences - we now have the sites set for 1997 and 1999, although we're still somewhat tentative about 1998. As mentioned, next year's conference will be at the University of Iowa - on April 25. The 1999 conference will be held at UNI although the specific date is not yet set. We are awaiting official word from the Nebraska ACRL chapter about having a joint conference in 1998 although the preliminary indications are that we will probably have a joint conference. This is a particularly exciting opportunity as it will allow us to put on an even bigger and better (if that's possible) spring conference than usual. Further details of the joint conference will be released as they become available.

The ILA/ACRL web site continues to grow and to contain more information of interest and use to our membership. The latest additions include photos of the spring conference, information about the Innovation Fair at ILA this fall, and a volunteer form. Remember - the organization's success depends on your involvement and support, so please consider volunteering for a committee assignment or running for one of our offices. Due to the work involved in developing and maintaining the Web site, the ILA/ACRL Executive Board has recommended that a standing committee be formed to oversee it or other future electronic information sources. To create a standing committee requires a change in the bylaws. An Ad Hoc Bylaws Revision Committee has been appointed consisting of Marianne Ryan-Chair, Barb Allen, and Bob Rose, to develop the charge for such a standing committee. Discussion of these changes will take place at the fall business meeting, and the revisions will be voted on in the fall ILA/ACRL election.

It is with regret that I announce Pam Kress of Loras College has resigned from her position as Member at Large due to a new position she has accepted - although she is still at Loras. Our thanks to Pam for the many contributions she has made to ILA/ACRL. Pam's resignation does mean that there will be one more office open than usual this year - to complete the final year of Pam's term.

Other major developments within ILA/ACRL include a new strategic plan, approved by the Executive Board at its May meeting. This new plan represents a great deal of work and should provide our organization with a firm foundation for its efforts in upcoming years. Look elsewhere in the newsletter for a special insert about a resource sharing grant ILA/ACRL will be sponsoring.

We have been asked by ACRL to name one of our members as an ACRL Chapter Government Relations Representative. This person would serve as part of a network to provide linkage between state and national governmental initiatives. Among other things, representatives are to serve as an information source, create an awareness of legislative and information policy issues at the local and regional level, and coordinate the work of the ACRL Government Relations Committee with the initiatives of ALA state chapters. If interested in becoming our representative, or if you want further information, please let me know.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the ILA Fall Conference where the featured speaker at the ILA/ACRL concurrent session will be Michael Gorman.

Volunteer Form for the Iowa Chapter of ACRL Committee/Officer Slots

The Nominating Committee has included a form in this newsletter, asking for volunteers for next year's committee workers and Chapter officer nominations. Please respond to this call for help in getting the business of our Chapter accomplished. The due date on the form is August 15, and if you lose this paper copy, just fill out the version on our Web page (<http://www.iowaacrl.org/iacrldir/iacrivol.html>) and send it to me either electronically or regular mail. Also note that there is an "extra" Executive Officer slot this fall. Pam Kress, the Member-at-Large elected last year, has resigned from the Executive Board (she moved from the Loras College Library into another area of Loras.) Although we'll miss Pam, we wish her well in her new position. If you've given some thought to running for office and then held back, this might be a very good year to give it a try.

As stated earlier, fill out volunteer/nomination forms and send to me at one of the addresses at the bottom of the form. Thank you. Mary McInroy, Chair, Nominating Committee.

New Strategic Plan

Enclosed with this newsletter you will find a copy of the revised Strategic Plan approved by the Executive Board at their May 1996 meeting. The new Strategic Plan is a revision of the original plan, approved in 1990, which takes into account the responses received from a survey sent out in 1995 to all librarians listed in the Iowa Academic and Research Libraries Directory, and to all of the people on the Newsletter mailing list. The new Strategic Plan also takes into account the newly revised strategic plans of the Iowa Library Association and the Association of College and Research Libraries since we cannot be in conflict with the plans of either association. The plan is a result of the efforts of the Strategic Planning Committee (Ad Hoc) consisting of: Leo Clougherty, Ed Goedeken, Mary Anne Knepfel and Dorothy Persson.

Looking Ahead to Conferences, Conferences, Conferences, Conferences

1996 ILA Fall Conference. Michael Gorman, Dean of Library Services at California State University at Fresno, will be the featured speaker at the ACRL Fall Conference at ILA. His talk will be on "Cataloguing, Chaos, and Cataloguing the Chaos." He tells us it will not be a technical talk on cataloguing, but a broader review of the central issues of organization and access. Robin Martin, Director of the Central College Library, will moderate the discussion to follow.

1997 ILA/ACRL Spring Conference. The date and place for our '97 conference have been set. The conference will be held on Friday, April 25, 1997 at the Iowa Memorial Union on the campus of the University of Iowa, Iowa City. No theme has been set at this time (suggestions for programs and/or speakers may be sent to Mary McInroy at the University of Iowa). But put this on your "decade-at-a-glance" and plan for an enlightening good time.

1997 National ACRL Conference. Dates for the National Conference are April 11- 14, 1997, in Nashville, Tennessee. Since the National Conference is relatively close for some of us in the state (a long day's drive) I hope our members will seriously consider attending. In addition, the new emphasis from national ACRL on increasing communication with and assistance to state Chapters should be reflected in the programs offered at the conference. Theme for the 1997 Conference is "Choosing our Futures," and you can read more about it in the ACRL National Conference Home Page at: <http://library.tufts.edu/www/mcdonald/acrlhome.html>.

1998 Possible Joint Conference with Nebraska ACRL Chapter. The joint spring conference with the Nebraska Chapter is slowly becoming a very real possibility. Several Nebraska members attended our conference in Buena Vista, including Chris Lebeau, my counterpart in the Nebraska organization. Iowa Chapter members present at Buena Vista were very supportive of the idea. Our chapter then sent a representative to the Nebraska conference in May, and she (Chris Kirby) reported that the Nebraska membership was favorable to the idea also, including holding the 1998 conference in Des Moines. And the last word I received from Chris Lebeau was that she

would be running it past her Executive Board to make their interest official. Tentative plans include having the conference last more than one day and holding it at Drake University. This joint conference will require some early planning and a larger level of coordination than usual, so I would ask the membership for some early volunteers to work at making this joint conference a reality. If you are interested in working on this possible 1998 joint conference with the Nebraska ACRL Chapter, please let Mary McInroy know (e-mail: mary-mcinroy@uiowa.edu). Other ways to reach me are in the Directory or on the volunteer form in this newsletter.)

Innovation Fair at ILA Conference in Waterloo!

The Conference Planning Committee is planning a second coming of the Innovation Fair for the last morning of the Iowa Library Association Conference in Waterloo this fall. It has been several years since the first Innovation Fair and it would be fun to see what new things our colleagues have been doing. Anything goes at this fair! The first 'Fair' included reports of special projects and new library programs for patrons, user education videos, information booths for ILA roundtables, and more. At the pace things change today, there must be many new things in those areas and others. We would love to hear about them! If you are interested in demonstrating or displaying something from your library, please contact one of the people below for an application. Space for the 'Fair' and the number of phone lines are limited so please apply early!

Jeanette Andrews, Southeastern Library Service, 4209 1/2 W. Locust, Davenport, IA 52804.
Phone 319-386-7848. e-mail: enavarre@netins.net

Leo Clougherty, Chemistry/Botany Library, University of Iowa Iowa City, IA 52242. Phone 319-335-3085. e-mail: leo-clougherty@uiowa.edu

Nancy Haigh, State Library of Iowa, East 12th and Grand, Des Moines, IA 50319. Phone 515-281-3384. e-mail: nhaigh@mail.lib.state.ia.us

Fall Conference Scholarships Available

The Chapter will again offer the Patricia Foley Memorial Scholarships to attend the ILA Fall Conference held this year in Waterloo, October 9-11. To apply for the scholarship please send a letter or email including your name, address, employer, whether you are currently enrolled in a library science program (if so where), present position, number of years in the position, any previous involvement with ILA/ACRL (meetings attended or committee service, etc.) and a statement giving your professional goals and explaining why you would like to receive the scholarship to: Leo Clougherty, Chemistry/Botany Library, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52242, leo-clougherty@uiowa.edu Preference is given to library science students and new members of the Chapter when the scholarships are awarded.

ILA/ACRL Spring Conference Reports

The Keynote Address

All On Board Bill Bowditch's Boat: a Metaphor for the InfoArk

by James Rettig, Assistant Dean of University Libraries for Reference and Information Services,
The College of William and Mary

Jim Rettig utilizes the metaphor of Bill Bowditch's boat to address the theme of the conference, "Virtually Here or Virtually Gone: the Changing Role of Academic Librarians." Bill Bowditch is that Iowa farmer who was featured on Charles Kuralt's show. Bowditch built a boat on his farm while in his sixties. When he had completed the boat he and his wife Mamie sold the farm and undertook a voyage around the world in this vessel. Thus we have one of the ways the metaphor fits, especially with those librarians midway or more into their careers.

Rettig begins by saying that our humanity was the reason he came from Virginia and we from throughout Iowa, Nebraska and other surrounding states to be in one place. Certainly the present technology would allow a televideo transmission to many scattered satellite downlink facilities.

He says we could become the evolutionary opposites of our forebears, who lacking external technology, committed everything to memory. The new leader of the electronic tribe would not be the one who knew the most, but the one who could execute the broadest range of technical functions. But, he continues, we should become more than just electronic tribal leaders; we should continue to be librarians applying those values we have developed over a century but now to the new technology.

Possibly the most important point in his presentation is the positive approach he suggests for the "end of geography" problem the online environment presents. Rettig, in paraphrasing Clifford Lynch of the University of California says, "He (Lynch) has pointed out how this is a challenge for higher education administrators since models do not exist for financing higher education in this new environment where information, course instruction and other services can be used by numerous institutions regardless of the place where the resources originate or are maintained." The way to handle this problem is to go with the flow and utilize the advantages it offers, such as the ability to retrieve information for one's users from anywhere. Along with this, ally and collaborate with all the groups necessary to make this new system work.

By the way, Jim Rettig may be reached on the Internet at <http://www.hwwilson.com/rettig.html> and his electronic column is called, "From H.W. Wilson: Jim Rettig on Reference". (Reported by Peter Hartford)

Morning Featured Presentation

Challenges to Libraries and Librarians in Eastern Europe

by Norma Hervey, Head Librarian, Preus Library, Luther College

Hervey began her talk by discussing several foundations, such as the Sabre Foundation, which run book donation programs for Eastern Europe. She noted that the December 1995 Budapest meeting of DEEP (Dialogue of Eastern European Partners) confirmed the need in Eastern Europe for all kinds of library materials.

Hervey's presentation, enhanced by numerous slides, focused on conditions at Palackeho University in Olomouc, Czech Republic, where she had spent a 1994/95 sabbatical teaching American history. According to Hervey, Palackeho University was founded in the 16th century. Its current Rector has a Ph.D in American Literature from an American University. Palackeho University is now in the process of constructing a new library assisted by funding from the Getty and Mellon Foundations and has one librarian working on this project. Hervey explained that she had initiated negotiations with Uncover to explore providing document delivery services to Eastern Europe.

Hervey described and illustrated with slides deplorable conditions in the present library, where books are unclassified and scattered about without any apparent logic to their arrangement. She also described students, many of whom spoke English, eager to learn and anxious to acquire suitable materials to assist them in their research. (Reported by Kathy Wachel)

Afternoon Contributed Paper Sessions:

Women's Studies and the Web: Supporting Interdisciplinary Interests

by Barb Weeg and Katherine Martin, University of Northern Iowa.

Both presenters brought to this session an interest in the Women's Studies Discipline and have worked to provide access to Women's Studies print, electronic, and Internet resources. Each has been involved with UNI's Women's Studies Advisory Board.

Much of their presentation related to library instruction they had done at UNI to people in the Graduate Women's Studies Research Methods course or that they and other UNI librarians had given in Internet sessions. They told of applying the Internet specifically to Women's Studies as they placed relevant selections on their local World Wide Web home page. They helped organize and cultivate a section of the Internet. In fact they gave each person in attendance a selected bibliography of web sites and print sources which they had chosen as germane to Women's Studies. (Reported by Peter Hartford)

Upward Evaluation: Boon or Bane?

by Tom Kessler and Sarah Mort, University of Northern Iowa

The formal process of upward evaluation ("rating the boss") has been used for some time as a tool for organizational improvement. UNI's Rod Library appointed a committee to consider its use in a library environment.

Though existing literature deals primarily with use of the process in business, a number of questions have general applicability. Who and what are to be evaluated, and by whom? Is the process anonymous? Who will see the evaluations? How will they be used? How are both supervisors and employees protected from unfair evaluation and their consequences? What are the collective-bargaining implications?

The survey instrument at UNI took these factors into account. A substantial majority of staff returned the surveys. Results showed that perceived advantages of upward evaluation were outweighed by the perceived disadvantages. The committee therefore recommended against initiating the upward-evaluation process in Rod Library, but suggested that improvement in organizational communication be effected through other means.

While the upward-evaluation process was not chosen by Rod Library, the committee report did indicate many of the factors that had been important to its success in other contexts. Among these were administrative and staff commitment, wide participation in developing the process, and a clear understanding of what the process was to accomplish. Success depends on mutual trust and respect, faith in the integrity of process, and high levels of self- confidence and emotional maturity among the participants. (Reported by Jeff Dodd)

The Library-Faculty Connection: Working with our Teaching Faculty

by Linda Scarth, Mount Mercy College and Daria Bossman, Morningside College

Much of the library literature on the need for library use instruction is concerned with the tension between librarians and teaching faculty. There are also examples of model instructional programs and collaborative efforts. A recent stream in the library literature involves the description, understanding and use of faculty culture in overcoming this tension. Using the work of Larry Hardesty as the starting point, the presenters summarized the content of library and teaching literature, described organizational culture, faculty, student and library cultures and some of the culture outcomes of each. They then addressed changing library and faculty culture and the needs of new faculty in working in both cultures effectively. They included a video interview with several faculty members which demonstrated the possibility of cultural change. It is hoped that pointing out where faculty and library cultures and literature have been speaking past one another will help librarians to work more productively with faculty in their own institutions. (Reported by Linda Scarth)

Virtual Community: Diversity and Ethnic Studies on the World Wide Web

by Susan Vega Garcia, Iowa State University

Many times we have heard that the Internet is a vast wilderness of unorganized and unevaluated information. Susan set out to stake out a bit of that wilderness and cultivate it. She chose the areas of diversity and ethnic studies. She did not try to include everything she could find on her Home Page dealing with ethnic studies or diversity; she was selective.

Her basic guidelines are the 1992 ones of the ALA Reference and Collection Development Committee. It is her belief that we should ask ourselves the same questions, whether we are collecting books or electronic resources.

Finally, Susan provided each attendee to this Paper Presentation with her internet address for this project so that people could utilize it and also share ideas and suggestions. The internet address is: <http://www.public.iastate.edu/~savega/divweb2.htm>. (Reported by Peter Hartford)

Windows 95 in an Academic Library

by David Corbly and John Wynstra, University of Northern Iowa

Windows 95 has proven more stable than the Windows 3.X/DOS combination and has a number of features, such as multitasking and enhanced network support, that make the new operating system a logical candidate for use in the library environment. On the other hand, Windows 95 does not work particularly well on older machines (pre 486) and there have been incompatibility problems with older application software, including some specialized library packages, and with some versions of Novell NetWare.

After considering both advantages and disadvantages, UNI decided to make the change to Windows 95. The speakers reported in some detail on the process used to ensure a smooth transition. One very important matter, training for both staff and patrons, was made a priority to ensure that first encounters with the new system did not turn into major sources of frustration.

The speakers, in considering their experience, advised those who wished to take the same route to make preparations carefully, to evaluate the plusses and minuses of the proposed system, and then review it all again. If the decision is to go, then the training aspects (including a fair amount of effort in convincing the unconvinced!) become paramount.

At the conclusion of the oral presentation, features of the Windows 95 system were demonstrated. (Reported by Jeff Dodd)

F I: Why? Implications of Format Integration for Libraries

by Selina Lin, University of Iowa

In March 1996, Library of Congress and major bibliographic utilities completed the final phase of Format Integration implementation which was started in 1991, thereby making data elements valid across all existing seven USMARC bibliographic formats. Selina's presentation covered the following areas:

1. Historical background of Format Integration - What is FI? Its implementation: When? Why? By Whom? 2. Major changes brought about as a result of FI. 3. Examples of FI application and need for further clarification. 4. Some unsettled controversy regarding seriality of different formats. 5. FIs implications for libraries and its impact on library staff. (Reported by Selina Lin)

Special Libraries Round Table

The Special Libraries Round Table held their summer workshop at Grinnell College on June 5th. Marie Harms from the State Library shared "Tips on Training Busy Business People." Her outstanding presentation included a discussion of adult learning principles and suggestions on how to design effective instruction for adult end users. Workshop attendees also enjoyed a group discussion on ways to market their libraries within their parent organizations. Each participant brought samples of their marketing materials which were passed around and discussed. Everyone left with some new ideas to try out in their own libraries. The third topic at the workshop was a follow-up to the copyright presentation at last fall's ILA conference. Taena Fowler and Judy Leavitt discussed practical alternatives for complying with the copyright law in a corporate library setting. (Reported by Taena Fowler)