



Social Responsibilities Round Table Newsletter ALA

Newsletter #43

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APRIL 1977



EDITORIAL

by Rick Speer

Eric Moon (ALA, Pres.-elect) lays some criticism on NCLIS in the 2/21/77 issue of LJ's Hotline. Moon questions the value of a national advisory group with only 3 of 14 members being professional librarians. "... librarians ought to be the major shapers of legislative recommendations, as ALA has been hitherto, not a token minority representation."

He also raises a very basic question, "How much influence can a commission, all of whose members were appointed by Richard Nixon or Gerald Ford, be expected to exert on the new Administration and a solidly Democratic Congress?"

With a sizable number of people from every area of librarianship questioning NCLIS's ability to represent their views and with a President-elect questioning NCLIS's value, now is a very good time to re-evaluate the entire idea of a national commission.

In what direction are library and info services headed? Whose needs are being met? Whose are being neglected? Is there any objective way to approach these questions?

We don't have the answers. But if ALA as a whole does not attempt to find them, we will all have been guilty of creating and institutionalizing another unwieldy monster.

It would be shameful if NCLIS became the leader in setting national library/information policy without a thorough evaluation by the library/information profession.

NCLIS marches on with a White House Conference on Library and Information Services planned for the fall on 1979. Watch for SRRT's "issue on issues" for our views on what Jim Dwyer, SRRT Clearinghouse member, has labeled the "White Wash Conference."

SRRT will have a booth, consisting of four tables, in the professional exhibit area. If you have any materials you would like to display and/or if you will be attending the conference and can help to staff the booth, please contact either Mary Biblo, Univ. of Chicago Laboratory Schools, 1362 E. 59th St., Chicago, IL 60637, or Avery Williams, Roosevelt Univ. Library, 430 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60605.

CONVENTIONAL RHETORIC

as compiled by Suzanne LeBarron and Jim Dwyer

".... benign neglect...seduced...ominous atmosphere...ragging question... veritable treasure hunt...story of national need...may shock some of you... stringent financial diet...so heartless...whether it's fuzzy or not depends on your point of view...horns of a dilemma...I'm out of order, but there's more than one way to break a rule..."

FIFTY WAYS TO KILL A MOTION

A report on ALA Council Sessions at the 1977 Midwinter Conference by Jim Dwyer
(with apologies to Paul Simon)
Take on a COPES Bill
Refer it to Council
It's part of your job, Bob,
Give it to JFC.
Try to amend it
Don't dare to defend it
Or maybe pretend it belongs in Committee.

Should libraries charge fees for services? Council considered two resolutions addressing this issue in the parliamentary sideshow of the year.

Document #11, submitted by SRRT member Zoia Horn, recommended that ALA "reaffirm the concept of access to information without charge to individuals in public libraries and tax-supported libraries, and ... that ALA go on public record against the charging of fees to individuals..."

First came a motion to table which was defeated 76 to 55. An amendment to refer the resolution to the Intellectual Freedom Committee became one to refer to an ad-hoc Committee of Council. Gerald Shields' motion asking for ten minutes of the whole Council's time for discussion was defeated in another retreat into the parliamentary maze. The previous amendment to refer to committee was then defeated and Dorothy Broderick called for a roll-call vote on the main motion, which resulted in a 96-36 (one abstention) defeat of free access to information.

Document #12, a study of the issue (the old Presidential Commission trick) was carried. Clara Jones will make a progress report to Council this summer at Detroit and all SRRT members are urged to let her know their views on the subject as soon as possible. (SEE article of SRRT's Conference program, "The Prostitution of Information:Fees for Service.")

Last summer, ALA membership passed the "Resolution on Racism and Sexism Awareness." It had been prepared by Brad Chambers of the Council on Interracial Books for Children and strongly endorsed by SRRT Action Council (see pg. 5 of the October, 1976, SRRT NEWSLETTER for the full text of the Resolution).

It now appears that certain elements of the Children's Services Division and the Intellectual Freedom Committee attempted to scuttle that resolution before and during Midwinter.

LIBRARIANS OF THE NIGHT

As a consequence of Council's shameful failure to endorse the Resolution on Free Access to Information, SRRT will be presenting a program entitled "The Prostitution of Information: Fees for Service" at the Detroit Conference.

It will be held Sunday, June 19, 4:30 to 6 p.m., and will include several speakers exploring various aspects of the problem. Street theater for publicity/entertainment/consciousness raising will be presented as well.

Ideas for flyers and buttons to advertise the program will be welcome (send to this Newsletter).

In a letter to a potential speaker, Jim Dwyer gave an example of the problems of free access to information:

"Husky Oil Company has used computer searches to assist them in drilling operations in northern Wyoming. Environmental groups concerned about the ecological impact of willy-nilly drilling cannot afford such services and are barred from the sort of information they need in their struggle. Is this democracy? Do our tax-supported institutions exist only for the benefit of big business?"

It began when the Intellectual Freedom Committee of Children's Services Division asked ALA's IFC for a clarification of "the relationship to and the effect of the Resolution on the Library Bill of Rights." IFC quickly moved to rescind the Resolution by a vote of 8 to 2 with 1 abstention.

After the proposal to rescind got a chilly greeting from the ALA Executive Board, IFC decided to reconsider and rescinded the motion to rescind. IFC finally reported to Council that they will "work during the next four months ... to develop a compatible set of Association policies that reflect the clear consensus of the American Library Association against sexism and racism and our fundamental belief in Intellectual Freedom."

A SRRT representative to IFC is strongly suggested; volunteers should contact Barbara Ford and all interested members are urged to drop a line to IFC before they drop a bombshell on us.

Since its founding, SRRT has attempted to democratize ALA in general and Council in particular. Council dealt with four resolutions on this issue at Midwinter:

1. Document #13 limits Councilors to one other post, thus decentralizing power within the Association. Overworked Council members passed it with ease.

2. Previously, in order to run for Councilor-at-large by petition, one had to collect the signatures of 10 Councilors or 100 general members. The amended version of Document #14 gives everyone equal clout in power brokerage by requiring 25 signatures from either group.

3. One of the stipulations of Document #15 called for Council candidate to supply a statement of concerns in response to specific questions...prepared by a Council Committee." Potential grand inquisitors were stymied by the defeat of this measure.

4. Document #26 is an attempt to reintroduce Divisional representatives to Council while dropping an equal number of Councilor-at-large positions. The general membership will decide this at the Detroit Conference; needless to say, we suggest you vote against this proposal to erode the general membership's elective representation.

You'll soon be receiving election ballots from ALA if you are an ALA member.

It's vital that you vote only for people you know have your concerns and viewpoint. Last year SRRT was successful in electing some councilors because SRRT people bullet-voted. ALA electors are set up so that those with the most votes win. This means that even though you may vote for a certain number of candidates, if a candidate is not someone you really want, in effect, you are casting a vote against a SRRT-supportee candidate.

VOTE AMONG THE FOLLOWING CANDIDATES AND CAST YOUR VOTE FOR A SRRT PROGRAM:

Vice-prexy, president-elect: DOROTHY BRODERICK

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Council: | COOPER JORDAN |
| MUHAMMED AMAN | DIANE KADANOFF |
| HERB BIBLO | DOROTHEA MADDEN |
| MARY BIBLO | JOAN K. MARSHALL |
| KAY ANN CASSELL | EDWARD P. MILLER |
| MARY K. CHELTON | SCHUYLER MOTT |
| NINA T. COHEN | PATRICIA J. ROM |
| BARBARA CONROY | VIRGINIA SHERWOOD |
| LINDA D. CROVE | HERMAN TOTTEN |
| ELIZABETH DICKINSON | JOE TREYZ |
| MAURICE FREDMAN | ABERY WILLIAMS |
| JEWEL HARRIS | BARBARA J. WILLIAMS |
| CYNTHIA JENKINS | |



EDITORIAL

LINDA KATZ

LSCA AND THE COMMON GOOD

While SRRT struggles for influence in the near bankrupt ALA, we let the real dollars go flying by without comment.

What is the SRRT policy statement on the disbursement of some \$50 million from the Library Services and Construction Act?

We would like to suggest the following ideas, in hopes that they irritate you enough to write the NEWSLETTER your thoughts. Or maybe you'll agree with us and let your views be known to your Senators and Representatives in Congress.

In an LJ editorial (March 1, 1975, p. 425), John Berry urged that LSCA funds be distributed on a 25¢ (depending on what was available to distribute) per capita aid formula basis with 25% of the money going first to the state library agencies.

Under the present grant proposal funding system, Berry correctly submits that "to get a proposal approved, libraries have found that innovation and experimentation counted for more than priority needs" to the state agencies that justify their existence as the distributors of "grant

monies."

We think it might be more helpful to think of the money as tax funds, not grant funds, and seek equitable ways to distribute the money, especially to those communities most in need.

Berry says that rural libraries have gotten better than a fair share, to the detriment of urban and suburban libraries. Formulas, such as those used by the Revenue Sharing program, would help distribute tax dollars back to communities based on need and fair share.

We also think that the smallest and most inadequate libraries suffer because they do not have the public relations grant go-getters on their staffs. These librarians have neither the time nor the patience to deal with endless forms for a special project when they are struggling to keep the doors open at least five days a week.

ETHNICS AT MID-WINTER

From Carmine Diodati (Wakefield Library, 4100 Lowerre Place, Bronx, NY 10466)

THE ASIAN AMERICAN CAUCUS just completed a study on Asian American populations (library and readers) and materials at nine library centers. The four-page report will be discussed at the Detroit Conference. Chairman Leo C. Ho, Ann Arbor, Michigan, Director of the Learning Resource Center, Wash- ington Community College, 48106.

THE BLACK CAUCUS of ALA remains closed to non-blacks and no information was forthcoming from the Chairperson. A discussion on opening the meetings might be discussed at Detroit.

THE ITALIAN AMERICAN LIBRARIANS' CAUCUS recently completed a study of Italian immigration to the United States and a list of works on Italian Americans in ERIC. The caucus will sponsor Alphonse Trezza, Director of NCLIS, speaking on the "Ethnic Factor in Librarianship" and the White House Conference, and Ron DePaola, editor and founder of IAM magazine, on "Ethnic Readership in the United States." Chairperson: Carmine Diodati, 306 Washington Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11205.

THE JEWISH LIBRARIANS' CAUCUS is involved in an intense lobbying effort for the reform of the offensive and discriminatory treatment of Judaism and Jews in subject heading lists and classification schemes. They have also pressured Soviet officials to allow Jewish librarians to emigrate, monitors anti-Semitic materials on all levels and in all media, and is forming a children's book award. Theme for the Detroit conference meeting: Jewish Folklore.

Let the states keep 25% of the funds and 75% be distributed by per capita shares with the amounts determined by revenue-sharing formulas.

We further propose that the states form committees of LIBRARIANS picked by lot (not by their old buddies) to discuss uses for the 25%. Such things as communications devices between libraries should be top priorities: delivery services, union lists, automated circulation and interlibrary loan systems, professional problem-solving consultants who can help librarians raise local funds and pass local bonds, OCLC and TWX lines, jobs hotlines, and state library toll-free phone reference (information) backup services all sound like good projects to this editor.

Let the state librarians do case studies of the big libraries and show them wherein their rules and regulations have strangled services, and their staffs have become hostile to the local populations they are supposed to serve. Some libraries and librarians need a kick in the (expletive deleted) more than they need LSCA funds to help them "relate" to their communities.

Meanwhile, we say, here's where the action is -- let's talk about it, think about it, and ACT on it before the Congress passes the Lousy Same Cash Atrocity Bill, 1977-1981.

NOTE: a few words about Robert Wedgeworth, ALA Executive Director, and his statement (as reported in LJ, p. 683, March 15, 1977) that "all of us in the library community have been well served by this rather stringent financial diet from Washington."

This statement, and others that followed, are so far out of touch that it made this editor wonder whether Wedgeworth has ever had direct verbal contact with a public librarian. In this century.

It would be great fun to argue with his Archie Bunker/William F. Buckley amalgam of ideas, but the opposing point of view in this case is so obvious as to be best left ~~unwritten~~.

Case dismissed.

AFFILIATES

Born again

Anyone interested in re-forming, forming or re-vitalizing a local SRRT affiliate may write to Nancy B. D'Amico, Affiliates Liaison, Roger Williams College, Bristol, RI 02809.

You may make use of a mailing list of national SRRT members in your area to contact. You may request a particular zip code or geographic area listing from Ms. D'Amico.

Bay Area Chapter

THE ROAD TO ZAMORA: RURAL LIFE, RURAL VALUES AND RURAL LIBRARIES is an annotated bibliography compiled for the Task Force on Rural Libraries, Bay Area Chapter of SRRT, by Noel Peattie and Peter J. Shields.

The purpose of this short selected reading list is to guide librarians to a better view of rural values (including rural non-farm) in working with the 9% of Californians defined as rural by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, and the larger number who, wherever they may live, share those values.

Excluded from this bibliography are: environmental concerns; farmworkers, Third World and feminist groups except as they relate to the situations of rural Americans. Facts and figures, a feeling for values, and library experiences are the topics covered.

Write to Noel Peattie, Rt. 1, Box 216, Winters, CA 95694. Send 25¢ for mailing costs.



SHREVE UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF LIBRARY SCIENCE

MOND THE SRRT NEWSLETTER MARCH 9, 1977

TO: LINDA KATZ C/O WILFONG LIBRARY, 180 TOWN CENTER ROAD, KING OF PRUSSIA, PA 19406

FROM: JANE SPYKAC, PLACEMENT DIRECTOR

"How's the job market?" "It's easier to find a job in a school library or in a public library." "It's nervous about getting a job when I get through; how soon should I start looking?" These kinds of questions, which are frequent and urgent, reflect the current anxiety among graduate students about their job prospects. Equally urgent are the concerns of library school administrators about the job prospects of their students. They want to know if there have been too many, if access to areas, that is both a moral and practical concern. Can they keep enrolling so and keep the program going? It took time and money during the 60's and early 70's to build better departments, to improve curriculum and to turn out better information specialists. Must they other hand are they morally justified in encouraging students to continue to enroll if jobs are not easily available when they finish? These pressures are placing unusual demands on the placement services of library and information science graduate programs. Students are using placement offices more, and demanding more services from it. They ask for help with resumes and developing skills in interview situations, and other personal counseling assistance. Deans and administrators want better statistics on how successful is the placement of students and these statistics need to be more accurate in describing the kinds of jobs people are getting. And, more important, are the salaries staying consistently high or moving downward under pressure?

As a result of this about 30 placement directors gathered at a meeting. The first such, on Sunday January 29 at Mid-winter ALA in Washington. Because it was late in the fall when the meeting was conducted there was not sufficient time to set up an agenda or prepare special papers. Consequently, the discussion was wide ranging and reflected the current problems and concerns mentioned above. Nearly each person had come to identify his/her counterpart in other graduate programs and to begin to identify those tasks and areas which were most problematic in today's job market. Everyone at the meeting came away feeling that it could have lasted another year and that the surface was barely scratched. Everyone agreed that such a meeting should take place on a regular basis at least once a year, and it was hoped that the office of Library Personnel Resources would sponsor a meeting next year at midwinter with an agreed upon agenda presenting problems and possible solutions, with speakers in the morning and panel workshops in the afternoon. Whatever the format there was unanimous agreement that we should do it again, and with more planning. Some topics that were discussed included:

- 1) Ways to improve the yearly report on employment of new graduates throughout the country which appears in *Library Journal* in July, authored by Carol Lewman
- 2) Computerization of placement records to facilitate matching jobs with job seekers (both graduates and alumni)
- 3) Fees. Should we have them? If so, for what services? How much do we charge?

Suggestions from librarians in the field (those looking for jobs and those who hire librarians) would be welcome.

JPS/42-1

Dear Editor:

Your October 1976 issue carried a letter from Doris Lund Freeman in which she urged school librarians to conduct "honest appraisals" that would identify sexist materials for removal. She referred to a list of criteria for weeding texts and library materials. She suggested that the U.S. government supports her idea because a portion of the Civil Rights Act of 1972 asks that educational institutions "conduct a self-evaluation."

I doubt that the framers of the Civil Rights Act of 1972 ever imagined that they would be encouraging censorship. Furthermore, I suggest that we all could benefit by a reading of the ALA's Civil Policy on "Sexism, Racism, and Other Iam in Library Materials," which expands in part on Article 2 of our Library Bill of Rights, which reads in part "no library materials should be proscribed or removed from libraries because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval."

I have strong feelings that librarians should strive to add material to their collections that discourages stereotypes, and accurately portrays the expanding roles of both men and women; however, I would never be a party to any attempts to "weed" a collection using the system of "honest evaluation," the standards of which would change from one "weeder" to another. A book of "optional" oriented material that bluntly states that "boys are doctors; girls are nurses-boys are engineers; girls are waitresses" should be removed because it is downright inaccurate, but once again, ALA removed from the Library Bill of Rights the words "sound factual authority" when discussing "partisan...disapproval."

In order to convince the public and ourselves that we are united in concerns such as that of intellectual freedom, we must resist censorship from without and the type of weeding from within that allows us to censor under the pretext of using professional guidelines.

Robert Freedman
Technical Processing Librarian
Smithsonian Public Library
Bethesda, PA 18083

Dear Bob,

Thanks for your thoughtful comments. I am afraid that SRRT is running into conflict with intellectual freedom. I am afraid that Dwyer's article on the Resolution against Racism and Sexism. It's probably the last group in ALA we must want to argue with now.

I suspect I had gone over on both sides (does not jump on me) there is a middle ground. A librarian does not need or purchase materials based on her own feelings, but rather does she let the library's collection look like 90% Main Kampf, and 10% Uncle Tom's Cabin. Unfortunately, as regards titles such as *Wingspreads* (Chilton's books), this is the situation a librarian finds herself in, and must need in order to achieve balance. We'd like to see more comments on SRRT and Intellectual Freedom.

HELP WANTED

Actors for street theater: "The Prostitution of Information". Contact Jim Dwyer.

Representative to Freedom to Read Foundation. A former SRRT observer called this group "A tight little circle that follows the party line." They need our observations and we need representation. Contact Barbara Ford.

Dear Ms. Katz:

SRRT-produced "see reference" cards-proposed by Lois Walsh in NEWSLETTER #11, p.8-would be nearly impossible to market efficiently, but even if economical, wouldn't really satisfy the genuine need for "up-to-date, nonpartisan" subject headings.

The two basic reasons are: 1) a sexist rubric like STATEMEN is not rendered any less sexist by cross-referencing it from "Politicians." The only way to eliminate the sexism in such cases is to MARKET, allowing the primary forms with non-sexist descriptors. In short, allowing STATEMENs an example-to remain an active, principal heading is tantamount to legitimizing and reinforcing it. In effect saying, "Politics and world affairs are men's business, not women's." 2) A "see" reference from "Homesteading" to AGRICULTURE will not necessarily nor directly lead the patron to the desired material. If a "homesteading" title does appear somewhere in the AGRICULTURE file, there's no guarantee-especially when there are so many AGRICULTURE cards to thumb through-that the interested person will find it. And when that title gets lost or withdrawn, it's comes an utterly frustrating "blind" reference.

The point is that perhaps the greatest weakness in current subject cataloging is the failure to promptly recognize new (or even old, but neglected) topics and innovative headings to represent them. The result is what's now a considerable corpus of homesteading literature is buried in a practically "buried" under the general catch-all AGRICULTURE, itself a category no more than remotely connected with the specific subject.

In terms of action, local libraries can: A) pressure LC to quickly introduce and use headings that reflect bona fide contemporary or long-unrecognized topic (like HOMESTEADING, RACE RELATIONS, BIRTH AND BLOOD, and MOTHERHOOD), stamp upward and archaic descriptors (e.g., transforming CHIEFTY TO CHILD ABUSE), and reform obsolete, defamatory rubrics like STATISONS, MOTIENTISTS, YELLOW PERIL, and JEWISH QUESTION. B) also do some or all of the above themselves, without waiting (maybe interminably) for LC to act.

In this last regard, there will soon be an additional, invaluable tool for libraries that want help in establishing modern, accurate, and equitable subject headings: the new Authority File. Starting in mid-March, Hennepin County Library will issue its Authority File in microfilm form (with a printed copy) to all libraries that early registrations for an at-cost \$75 fee. Single cumulative titles will go for \$7.50 apiece. Free samples are available.

This file contains 100,000 subject headings, added entries, subject headings, and cross references. Public (or "school") notes, "see also" references, and cataloger's notes appear under many entries. Because the Authority File lists MCAL catalog terms in one frequently updated listing, it should be sent to use-as a data-source than the CATALOGING BULLETIN.

Orders and payments should be sent to: The Secretary, Technical Services Division, Hennepin County Library, 700 University Avenue, Edina, MN 55426. Please make checks payable to "Hennepin County Library" for 390 annual subscriptions or \$7.50 for each single copy. For further information on the Authority File service, see the December 1976 MCAL CATALOGING BULLETIN or write Reed, Book Catalog Editing Section, at the above address.

Liz Dickinson
Sanford Bernum

P.S. Our cataloguing work at MEL has been financed by public funds, so we neither want nor expect "royalties." In fact, we're truly pleased to get "ripped off" what is, for other libraries to freely and heavily make use of the work we've produced.

(Are you listening , Sandy?)

Ms. Katz:

I hesitated in writing you concerning your terse response to the cross reference sample I sent to you, since I am white. (Ed note: The sample, as printed in the last NEWSLETTER, #42, p.3 was NEGARE-EDUCATION "see also" SEXISM.) Now that Ernest Rether has put into print the points I would have made to you, I forward them to you. (Ed. NOTE: A picture of Rether, a black man, is shown with his comments).

Wb. Woods

From the article... "Most of the 25 million Afro-Americans...prefer to be designated as Negroes, no matter who wishes to have the American public think otherwise."

Mr. Woods-You are right. The whole issue is a giant conspiracy by girls like me against professors like yourself...ED.

AFRICAN LIBERATION IN PRINT & SOUND: NEW FROM LSM, SWAPO

by Sanford Bernum
Head Cataloger
Hennepin Co. Library

Gjenstad, Ole: THE PEOPLE IN POWER: AN ACCOUNT FROM ANGOLA'S SECOND WAR OF NATIONAL LIBERATION. LSM Information Center, PO Box 2077, Oakland, CA 94604. 1976. \$1:50, paperbound.

Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola: FROM SLAVERY TO FREEDOM: A STORY FROM ANGOLA. LSM. \$.60, paperback. "MPLA comic book"

SWAPO. LSM. \$.75 paperbound. Special double issue of LSM NEWS. Extracts from revised SWAPO Constitution, 1976.

SWAPO POSTER CALENDAR, 1977. South West Africa People's Organization, 21/25 Tabernacle St. London E.C. 2, United Kingdom. \$1.50 (20% discount for orders of 10 or more copies). "In English, Spanish, French, and Arabic...23 x 16 inches. Full Colour."

A VITORIA E CERTA! LSM. \$5 & 50¢ postage. A disc featuring "music from the new Angola."

ACTION COUNCIL AT MIDWINTER: THE PAST MADE PRESENT

Coordinator Barbara Ford invited past coordinators and others to recapitulate the history of SRRT. Some of the accomplishments included changes in dues structure, opening of meetings to any who wished to observe, involving people in the business and problems of librarianship without going through the system's treadmill.

The early strength of SRRT was in its direct action projects and there seems to be a desire to go back to that more energetic style. The question about the specific role of Action Council elicited the answer that AC is a budgetary body (very important), drafts petitions, makes statements from the floor at ALA Council meetings, supports candidates running for election.

It was suggested that SRRT needs more press coverage, but the idea of a public relations representative did not seem attractive.

Money

After two years of budget deficits, last year's fiscal planning has given us solvency. Monies slated for the Task Force on Financial Crises and on Multi-Lingual Libraries were re-allocated since those two groups have been dropped; the first because the leader has resigned, and the second because no interest was shown by other SRRT members.

Resignations

It was announced that Joslyn Williams has resigned from SRRT Action Council.

Lillian L. Shapiro, Secretary of SRRT AC, has also resigned, and her duties will be taken over by Nancy D'Amico.

Ballot

Barbara Pruett, 3159 Queens Chapel Rd, #201, Mt. Rainier, Md. 20822, will take responsibility for preparing the ballot for the next election of Action Council members.

ALA in Detroit

Dorothy Broderick called for a "buddy system" to make library school students or graduates more welcome and comfortable if they attend ALA conferences.

Discussion was held on the advisability of having a suite in Detroit and the \$200 budgeted for it will have to be supplemented by funds paid by those who will sleep in the suite.

The following are brief reviews of journals, books, and other stuff.

Sourcebook

We have been running out of space in the last few issues and so can only give brief mention to some of the interesting things that pass our way. These are not intended as carefully considered critical reviews.

The "Longest surviving independent radical cultural quarterly, 'TOWARD REVOLUTIONARY ART, is worth a look by urban librarians. A mix of comics, sociology, art criticism, interviews, poetry, dance, media reviews and more is included in this piece of and look at pop culture. Subscriptions: \$5, individual; \$10 libraries; from TRA, PO Box 40909, San Francisco, CA 94140

Basic manual for community activists: NEIGHBORHOOD POWER, THE NEW LOCALISM, by David Morris and Karl Heas, Beacon Pn., Paprbk, \$3.95.

BRODERICK endorsed

Dorothy Broderick presented herself as a petition candidate for vice-president, president-elect of ALA and asked for the endorsement of Action Council. She has been an ALA member for 21 years, a member of SRRT, active in the Gay Task Force.

After some discussion, the vote to endorse was taken with a result of 6 in favor and 1 opposed. SRRT Action Council did indicate that it will ask Broderick to modify her position on returning divisional representation to ALA Council since that was a procedure which they had worked to eliminate in favor of ALA Councilors-at-large.

WHAT DID YOU DO AT ALA MIDWINTER?

Proving again that SRRT members are your basic overachievers, Rick Speer, SRRT Clearinghouse member, spent some fruitful hours helping the citizens of his community while he was attending ALA's Midwinter Conference.

Rick was putting together a brochure on flood information for his patrons in suburban Pittsburgh, who were facing the real possibilities of spring floods when the large rivers in the area began to thaw.

He therefore went to his Congressman's office (Rep. Doug Walgeren) in search of data. The Congressman turned the tables on Rick and instead began to question Rick on what he knew! It seems the Congressman had been too tied up with emergency gas legislation to be able to research the flood problem, and was deeply interested to get information, surprised as he was to have it come from a librarian.

Rick got set up in Walgeren's office with a WATS line and set out to track down leads he had already developed. After speaking to seven persons at the Pentagon, Rick was finally able to track down the source he needed from the Army Corps of Engineers, and found out that the Cincinnati office handled cleanup and flood plain management. The Water Resources Council and the Bureau of Reclamation turned out to be blind leads, but Rick struck gold (or water) with the Federal Insurance Administration. They have the specific flood plain maps which would show Rick's patrons who was eligible for flood plain insurance.

Another bad lead was the Soil Conservation Service, but the Department of Commerce, it turns out, is responsible for flood warnings. (Carter, are you listening?) Their agency, the National Weather Service has hot-line phone numbers which will help keep people informed.

Needless to say, the brochure was a great service to the community, and proved that librarians can deal with information.

The best part, however, is that Rick got to spend time briefing the Congressman's staff, and even got forty minutes with Walgeren. Time enough to bad-mouth both NCLIS and the new pricing policies of the Government Printing Office. You can't beat that.

From New Hogtown Press Catalog
12 Hart House Circle
Toronto, Ontario
Canada



Free mediography on family planning materials available from the Educational Materials Program, Carolina Population Center, Univ. of North Carolina, Univ. Square, Chapel Hill, NC 27514. Includes booklets, pamphlets, filmstrips, and learning packages, all produced by CPC.

CROSS-WORLD FOOD PUZZLE poster provides an interesting look at the world food crisis. By presenting facts, raising questions, suggesting local actions and identifying resources, the poster is well worth the \$1 even if it gets buried in the vertical file. Available from: Oxfam-American, 302 Columbus Ave., Boston, MA 02115.

THROUGH THE WALL: PRISON CORRESPONDENCE, initiated and selected by Ethel Shapiro-Bertolini, (Peace Pr., paprbk, \$5.95) is a must for anyone working with human beings. Although limited to correspondence with male prisoners, the writings provide a provocative look at correction and rehabilitation in America.

TASK FORCES '77

TASK FORCE ON ALTERNATIVES IN PRINT

AIP - International

Ethnic Materials Information Exchange Curriculum guides

Brian Larkin, Executive Director of the National Council for the Social Studies discussed the Position Statement-Ethnic Studies Curricular Guidelines recently drawn up by a committee of the Council. He felt that libraries should provide basic broad information about each ethnic group and have a positive attitude towards ethnicity. The pamphlet, CURRICULUM GUIDE FOR MULTIETHNIC EDUCATION is available for \$2 from the Council at 2030 M St., N.W., Wash. DC 20036.

ALA Conference Program

The program in June will be co-sponsored by OLSO and called "The Emerging American Identity, From Fragmentation to the New Pluralism." Speakers include leading American authors and the panel will be moderated by Irving Levine, Director, Institute on Pluralism and Group Identity. The audience will have one hour for questions. Time: Sunday, June 19, 1977, 2-4 pm.

EMIE News Exchange

Carren Driskell of the El Paso Public Library will do the next EMIE Bulletin. It will include reviews of materials and bibliographies; information about special collection and sources of materials; letters to the editor about what EMIE should be doing. Address all items for the Bulletin you wish to submit to David Cohen, Co-ordinator, 68-71 Bell Blvd., Bayside, NY 11346.

Ethnic Media List

Further thought and discussion will take place in Detroit on the idea of publishing a basic ethnic media collection list. With the success of ROOTS, it was felt that there will be even more interest by library patrons in their ethnic heritage, forbears, etc.

Publications

Followup on the '76 summer multiethnic workshop included distribution of an extensive English-Spanish bibliography by Carmen A. Driskell from El Paso Public Library, 501 North Oregon, El Paso, TX 79901. Copies are available to those interested. Books, non-print materials, periodicals, and an index of dealers and publishers of Spanish and bilingual materials are included.

Also, the tapes of the multiethnic workshop are ready from ALA. Apply for prices. David Cohen reported that two task force publications compiled by Beth Shapiro are available from OSLD, ATT. Jean Coleman for \$1.50 each plus \$06 for mailing. They are DIRECTORY OF ETHNIC PUBLISHERS AND RESOURCE ORGANIZATIONS and DIRECTORY OF ETHNIC STUDIES LIBRARIANS. Write to 50 E. Huron St., Chicago IL 60611.

Help

Leonard Wertheimer, an expert in developing multilingual or foreign language collections for communities with significant non-English speaking groups will answer your questions if you write to him. Address: 229 College St., Toronto M5T 1R4 CANADA.

All Together Now

The biggest story concerning ethnic interests and librarians is that for the first time in ALA history, all the groups committed to minority concerns met in Washington at Midwinter as an AD HOC COMMITTEE OF MINORITY CONCERNS to develop a common strategy to focus on the needs of ethnic groups. We understand that Jean Coleman of ALA was the organizer of this happy event.



The hard working Alternatives in Print Task Force are about to go international. Glice Publishers informed them that Bowker International has offered to distribute the new ALTERNATIVES IN PRINT worldwide and will probably advertise it with BOOKS IN PRINT. This new outlet will help the more than 1500 small presses listed in AIP reach a wider audience.

SRRT SPECIAL FOR AIP 77-78

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Make checks payable to GLICE PUBLICATIONS.
And mail to 330 Ellis St., San Francisco, CA 94102.

The new edition of ALTERNATIVES IN PRINT is available in hard cover for \$12.95 and in paper for \$8.95. SRRT members, however, may use the coupon

Those deserving the praise for this considerable SRRT achievement are Mimi Penchansky, Co-ordinator, Robert Baer, Sandy Berman, Victoria Brush, Jackie Eubanks, Dennis Lampkowski, Carolyn McBride, Bob Polishook, Elliot Shore, and Barbara Zang.

TASK FORCE ON WOMEN

Gail Sheehy to speak

SRRT's Task Force on Women will have their program meeting on Sunday, June 19th from 2 - 4 p.m. They have arranged for Gail Sheehy (author of PASSAGES) to speak.

Diane Gordon Kadanooff, 25 Grotto Ave., Providence, RI 02906 is the new SRRT WTF co-ordinator. Her phone number is 401-274-9567.

TASK FORCE ON GAY LIBERATION

Gay Material for Teens

The Task Force on Gay Liberation were asked in 1976 to be consultants to the Media Selection and Usage Committee of ALA's Young Adult Services Division, to help prepare a mediagraphic essay of gay materials, print and A-V for teenagers. The committee doing this work includes Barbara Gittings, Clare Ackroyd, Dorothy Broderick, John Cunningham, Frances Hanckel, Susan James, and Keith Kamm.

Send suggestions if you wish to Barbara Gittings, Box 2383, Phila., PA 19103.

Gay Book Award

Last year, a committee was set up to devise more formal procedures for the Gay Book Award than had formerly been used. The committee's final guidelines are available from Frances Hanckel, Temporary chairperson, 501 S. 44th St., Phila., PA 19104.

Key elements of the Guidelines are: purpose: to recognize and honor books of exceptional merit relating to gay experience; eligibility: books which are substantial contributions to the gay literature, whether fiction, non-fiction, or biography; nominations: may be made by any individual and must include statement of reasons for recommendation for the Gay Book Award, and should be in writing and in the hands of the GBA Committee no later than the end of Midwinter Meeting; decision: after Midwinter a master list of nominee books will be issued to the GBA Committee members who will read all nominee books and make the decision.

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Barbara J. Ford - Coordinator
University of Illinois Library
at Chicago Circle
Box 8198
Chicago, Ill.

Elizabeth Morrissett - Task Forces Coordinator
University of Colorado
Bromley Library
1100 Fourteenth Street
Denver, Colorado 80202

Minne Motz - Conference Program
815 West 181 St.
New York, NY 10033

Mary Biblo - Assistant to coordinator
University of Chicago
Laboratory Schools
1362 East 59th Street
Chicago, Ill. 60637

Nancy D'Amico - Affiliates liaison
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