HIGHLIGHTS OF SRRT ACTION COUNCIL BUSINESS,
ALA ANNUAL 1991

RESOLUTION ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST MARGINAL USERS

WHEREAS, Libraries increasingly face the challenge of latchkey children's use and a growing number of homeless people with no place to go, and

WHEREAS, The marginal users of the library are sometimes subject to discrimination in other settings because of ethnic origin and other criteria, and the American Library Association has taken a strong stand against a wide variety of discriminatory practices, and

WHEREAS, The American Library Association has taken strong stands on free access to information, and literacy programs, opposing government intimidation of free expression, and invasion of citizen privacy; Therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the American Library Association support access to information and deplore any discriminatory efforts to remove persons who have committed no personal endangerments, legal misdemeanors or crimes from the premises, and urge all libraries to develop detailed policy statements and training programs to support the right of access.

(Submitted by Elizabeth Morrisset; passed unanimously by Action Council June 29, 1991; to be submitted to ALA membership)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SRRT Action Council will be willing to consider a resolution condemning censorship and/or the closure of libraries in any country if that resolution comes to SRRT with the appropriate documentation.

Action Council endorsed an ALA resolution requesting legislative action which would make public librarians serving low-income communities eligible for the same loan reduction programs as teachers and school librarians.

Mattie Nelson, the new director of the ALA Office for Library Outreach Services (OLOS) (SRRT's liaison with ALA), was introduced to Action Council.

Action Council unanimously passed a motion to accept Kansas SRRT as an affiliate member.

The following Action Council meeting schedule was approved:

Annual:
Sat. 9:30-11:00 AM  Action Council
Sun. 6:00- 7:30 PM Membership
Mon. 2:00- 5:30 PM  Action Council

Midwinter:
Sat. 9:30-11:00 AM  Action Council
Mon. 2:00- 5:30 PM  Action Council

Sherre Dryden of Vanderbilt University was elected as SRRT Coordinator. Stephen Stillwell, Jr. was declared
Secretary by acclamation, and Cynthia Johanson agreed to continue as Treasurer. Stephen Stillwell will remain as Recruitment/Membership chair until Midwinter.

ACTION COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS

The following SRRT members have been elected to Action Council: 3 year terms: Denise Botlo, Sherre Dryden, Deb Gilchrist, Steve Murden. 1 year terms: Al Kagan, Teresa Tobin.

NEW SRRT NEWSLETTER EDITOR APPOINTED

Tom Wilding has been appointed by SRRT Action Council to replace outgoing SRRT Newsletter editor Chris Sokol. Tom's first issue will be December 1991. Please send material for the next issue to: Tom Wilding, Room 14S-216, Massachusetts Institute of Technology Library, Cambridge, MA 02139. (617)253-5653 (voice) (617)253-1690 (Fax). e-mail: wilding@mitvma (Bitnet) tlwildin@Athenu@mitvma. mit.edu (Internet)

GREY PEACE LITERATURE

SRRT members Stephen J. Stillwell, Jr., coordinator of the SRRT Peace Information Exchange Task Force, and Elizabeth Sibley have been appointed to the Advisory Committee of the "Grey Literature" in Peace, Security, and International Relations Project of ACCESS: A Security Information Service. This project, partially funded by the United States Institute of Peace, is an attempt to capture, preserve, and disseminate the intellectual information that is informally published by university research centers and think-tanks in the form of working, staff, or discussion papers. It is felt that this work is important to all scholars in the field but that it unfortunately only reaches a very few. Joining Stephen on the Advisory Committee are Stephen Atkins, Nicole Ball, Richard Dean Burns, Robert W. Howe, and Richard Kaplan. For more information contact: Stephen J. Stillwell, Jr., J.F.K. School of Government, Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard University, 79 John F. Kennedy St., Cambridge, MA 02138.

ACRL ADOPTS RACIAL AND ETHNIC DIVERSITY RESOLUTION

The Association of College and Research Libraries of ALA has adopted a racial and ethnic diversity resolution which includes "supporting efforts to attract, retain, and advance underrepresented racial and ethnic groups to the library profession in general and to academic libraries specifically; supporting educational efforts to heighten racial sensitivity, and assist library staff and institutions in recognizing and handling the issues related to equality and diversity, and reflecting this commitment in the association's organization, strategic plans, standards, programs, and activities." ACRL's new standing committee on Racial and Ethnic Diversity is chaired by Susana Hinojosa, University of California, Berkeley.

Africa INFORMATION Afrique

The news agency Africa INFORMATION Afrique, begun three years ago, provides southern African news and information to libraries and information centers, and research and community organizations. AIA consists of more than twenty journalists, mostly African and more than half of them women. AIA services include: Southern Africa Online, distributed via an electronic mail, computer network, or fax; Southern Africa Chronicle, containing selected articles from Southern African Online and published in either print or electronic form every other week; and the AIA Research Service. Contact: AIA South Africa (011)-3397932, P.O. Box 32434, Braamfontein, South Africa.

LINK-UP THE THIRD WORLD


ADVERTISER-CENSORSHIP CLEARINGHOUSE

In These Times reports that the Center for the Study of Commercialism is collecting documented reports for its Advertiser-Censorship Clearinghouse, part of a foundation-supported study of corporate censorship in the media. The Center observes that
corporate censorship exists alongside government censorship in this country, in the form of advertising influence on magazines, newspapers and broadcasting. Contact: Advertiser-Censorship Clearinghouse, c/o Center for the Study of Commercialism, 1875 Connecticut Ave., Suite 300, Washington, D.C., 20009.

ALTERNATIVE PRESS CALL FOR HELP

Speaking of *In These Times*, a weekly publication containing news, analysis, and reviews dedicated to the notion that "social needs and rationality, not corporate profit and greed" are the basis of true American democracy: ITT has launched an emergency appeal for monetary contributions. It is the "only political publication--left, right or center--that does not have a wealthy publisher or foundation to write the big check when needed." ITT needs $67,500 more to reach its goal of $160,000 necessary to continue operations. Contributions (tax-deductible) may be sent to: Institute for Public Affairs, 2040 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL 60647.

ALA ARCHIVES

Do you have ALA material to donate to the archives? Committee correspondence, identified photographs, minutes, news clippings, programs, and reports are needed to fill gaps in the American Library Association Archives at the University of Illinois. Contact: Maynard Brichford, Archivist, University of Illinois, 19 Main Library, 1408 West Gregory Drive, Urbana, IL 61801, (217)333-0798.

MINORITY RECRUITMENT VIDEO

"Librarians for the Information Age," a 10-minute video narrated by Ossie Davis and targeted to recruit African-Americans to librarianship, is available for $35 (with proceeds to be used for financial aid) from: Dept. of Library Science, School of Library and Information Science, University of Pittsburgh, 135 N. Bellefield, Pittsburgh, PA 15260.

REVIEWS


Despite how incapacitating other social handicaps in our society can be, being poor is probably the most crippling of all. As policy analyst Harrell R. Rodgers conveys, the hardship becomes more critical when poverty is mixed with sexual, marital and racial factors.

The theme here is obviously social economics. Rodgers provides a sobering account of the various social and economic factors that have kept over half of female-headed households in poverty since 1959. He begins by historically outlining the steady increase in the poverty rate for single women and their children. He supports his outline with excellent demographic data, and it is the author's use of this statistical information found in neatly arranged and revised graphs and tables that really sets the tone for his book.

Eventually, the author begins to focus on the various organs responsible for social welfare in the United States and the European community. From his inspection of the American social welfare system, it is apparent that the author finds unquestionable flaws in the system. Rodgers expresses concern that the American welfare system may not only be inadequate in meeting the needs of the poor, but may in fact encourage welfare dependency by not providing real financial incentives.

The much renowned European social welfare systems are described and compared to the American system. Hopes of reform for the American system are communicated through the discussion of the Family Assistance Act of 1988. This bill offers improved provisions for child support, job training, and child care.

In addition to the detailed graphs and tables included in Poor Women, Poor Families, other features are concise summaries and conclusions at the end of each chapter, a list of references, and a subject/title index.

Rodgers and his research assistants have produced an impressive reference which describes the financial plight of poor women and their children. My concern for the publication is the author's ability and intent to keep the data current. Statistics like these become dated quickly and this is already the second edition of the book. Nonetheless, because of its
This new "earth-based magazine for kids" shows children "that Earth is the coolest, hippest planet to live on and teaches them what they can do to help keep it that way." Its colorful pages are loaded with pictures, games, and cartoons. Articles about "other Earthlings" (endangered animals) include a "save the animal kit." "Earth Patrol" tells of people working to save the Earth. Games ask kids to do such things as find "10 eco-awful things in this picture" or to help the dolphin find its way out of the drift net maze. "Earth Rangers" is a regular comic book adventure and also regularly include Native American stories and myths. In each issue, kids are encouraged to write letters about certain problems or to change some things they do. Articles and activities are aimed at different reading levels to allow a range of readers to enjoy the same issue. My child reviewers said: "I liked all of it really well because it was about saving the earth." "I liked the addresses so I can write letters." "What I liked about it was that it had good illustrations and good articles." This magazine introduces kids to environmental issues in an active, fun way and is highly recommended. Printed on recycled paper with non-toxic inks.

--Diane Prorak, University of Idaho Library, Moscow, Idaho

P3: PLANET THREE. Editor, Randi Hacker. P3 Foundation. 10 issues per year. $18/year (discounts to teachers and schools). ISSN 1050-3536. Audience: ages 7-12. Publisher's address: P.O. Box 52, Montgomery, VT 05470.


The 75 articles selected and reprinted in volume 3 continue the excellent compilations of volumes 1 and 2. Articles from newspapers and magazines discussing "barriers that have been erected to threaten our access to information and our freedom of expression" are pulled together from many sources and organized into the following broad subject groups: Attacks on the right to know; Secrecy and suppression of information; Censorship by selective budgeting and regulation; dissent control; the press and the media; Propaganda, disinformation and misinformation; Overt censorship; Other hidden barriers and affirmations of our right to know.
Topics covered include the flag burning decision, censorship of abortion information, the Iran-contra affair, nuclear accident cover-ups, and media bias along with many, many other current topics of interest. An excellent introduction by Zola Horn outlines the issues and summarizes the broad subject organization. A good variety of publications and writers are represented (though the liberal publications—in which these topics are generally discussed—predominate). Library publications and libraries are well represented. In the back of the volume is a selected bibliography of additional readings and a list of organizations concerned with the "right to know."

A good addition to volume 3 is a cumulative author and subject index for volumes 1-3. This title is now perfect bound (volume 2 was spiral bound). The print quality still suffers a little in reproduction, but once again the content quality overrides this small defect. I recommend that libraries buy this and put it out in a browsing area where the public can begin to find out what they are missing!

--Diane Prorak, University of Idaho Library, Moscow, Idaho

ELECTRONIC ACTIVISM

To join ACTIV-L, the Activists Mailing List available on Bitnet and the Internet, send the one-line message "SUB ACTIV-L < your first and last name > to: LISTSERV@UMCVMB (Bitnet), or LISTSERV@UMCVMB.MISSOURI.EDU (Internet). You should receive a confirmation message within two days. If you have questions or problems contact: Rich Winkel, MATHRICH@UMCVMB.O"MSSOURI.EDU".

PUBLICATION NOTES

GREEN LIBRARY JOURNAL: ENVIRONMENTAL TOPICS IN THE INFORMATION WORLD. Published by the Green Library, a non-profit environmental organization in Berkeley, CA.

This new journal, forthcoming in January 1992, will provide information sources and publication reviews about conservation, environmental protection, ecologically-balanced regional development, natural resources management, and other environmental topics. GLJ will also include articles and reports about environmental issues in libraries, the publishing industry, and the information sciences. Submissions for the first issue will be accepted until September 15, 1991. For subscription or submission information contact: Maria A. Jankowska, Editor, Green Library Journal.

Reference Services Review, volume 19, no. 2, is devoted to information sources about AIDS. This special issue updates the 1987 thematic issue on the same topic. Selected articles include: "AIDS Information in Periodical Indexes: A Problem of Exclusion," "AIDS Data: Locating Statistics, Tables, Graphs, and Figures," and "AIDS Educational Comics."

Seven Locks Press has launched a not-for-profit company to distribute books and other publications produced by non-profit public interest organizations that are suitable for use in libraries as well as for sale in larger independent bookstores. Called Public Interest Publications, the new firm will distribute publications that have not previously been marketed to the trade. Many of these books garner media attention but have been difficult to obtain because the organizations lack an established trade presence. Contact: Seven Locks Press, P.O. Box 27, Cabin John, MD 20818.

The Encyclopedia of World Problems and Human Potential, (2nd ed., Saur, 1991, ISBN 3-598-10842-7) "attempts the unusual task of deliberately juxtaposing contradictory perceptions about many [13,000] specific world problems to which different groups attach importance...By presenting fundamentally incompatible viewpoints within the same context, users of the Encyclopedia are encouraged to discover new approaches to understanding and action." The conventional "mega-problems" of overpopulation, nuclear warfare, etc. are de-emphasized in favor of "less widely-acknowledged problems which are claimed to compose or sustain these mega-problems" such as incompetence, official corruption, apathy, food grain spoilage, child abuse, forced resettlement, and superstition.

Indigenous Thought, "a networking magazine to link counter-quincentenary activities," is a newspaper-format quarterly published by Agriculture and Human Values, 6802 S.W. 13th St., Gainesville, FL 32608.

The North American Congress on Latin America (NACLA) has published four special reports which "challenge the standard myths about the meaning of the arrival of Columbus in this hemisphere, and raise important issues relevant 500 years later." Each report
provides articles, photographs, and references. Themes of this series include: Inventing America, The Ecology of the Americas, Native Peoples of the Americas, and African Peoples of the Americas. Contact: NACLA, 475 Riverside Drive, Suite 454, New York, NY 10015.

Libros Sin Fronteras (P.O. Box 146873, San Francisco, CA 94114-6873) is a joint U.S.-Nicaraguan project designed to actively distribute Nicaraguan publications to libraries and bookstores in the U.S. and Canada. Its catalog describes nearly 600 books, magazines, cassettes, and video tapes.

Prisoner's Legal News, "working to extend democracy to all," is co-edited by Washington State prisoners Paul Wright and Ed Mead, and is published (monthly?) from P.O. Box 1684, Lake Worth, FL 33460. Selected articles from the 10-page June 1991 issue include: "Female Guards Can Pat Search Male Prisoners," "Prisoner with AIDS Care Found Lacking," "Still Not the Hilton," and "Human Rights in the U.S. Criminal Justice System." The editors made a special plea in this issue to promote institutional subscriptions, especially in libraries, to help cover costs and to make the publication available to a wider body of readers.

"Accurate Information vs. Propaganda: A Selective Bibliography on Aspects of Information Policy," (Feb. 1991) was compiled by, and is available from: Bill Hinchliff, The Community Bibliographer, 129 Felix St., Apt. 8, Santa Cruz, CA 95060.

World Perspectives is a monthly publication of People's News Service, a non-profit organization monitoring shortwave broadcasts from around the world. Its intention is "to present news and analysis from the perspectives of the world outside the USA and broaden the perspective of those dependent on US media." Annual subscriptions: individual, $19 ($9 for those below the poverty line); institutions, $23. Contact: People's News Service, P.O. Box 3074, Madison, WI 53704-0074.

More notes from the underground...Voices from the Underground: Insider Histories of the Vietnam Era Underground Press and Voices from the Underground: A Directory of Resources and Sources, both edited by Ken Wachsmberger, with forewords by Abe Peck, William M. Kunstler, and Sanford Berman, are forthcoming from Pierian Press. P.O. Box 1808, Ann Arbor, MI 48106.

Modern Radio Drama: Collecting, Creating, Restoring, Enjoying is a new magazine published quarterly by J. Steven Coleman, P.O. Box 12631, Berkeley, CA 94701. Subscriptions $10.

AUGUST 26: WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

Women in the U.S. won the right to vote on August 26, 1920, known as "Women's Equality Day." The National Women's History Project offers materials to use in displays or programs commemorating this day, through its 48 page multicultural Women's History Resources catalog. Send $1.00 to NWHP, 7738 Bell Road, Windsor, CA 95492.

RURAL ORGANIZING AND CULTURAL CENTER

The Rural Organizing and Cultural Center (ROCC) in Holmes County, Mississippi—the fourth poorest county in the U.S.—desperately needs books and library facilities (bookshelves, card catalogs, etc.) for their community. ROCC was formed six years ago to mobilize the county's population to fight for its rights to representation in government and for educational improvement. ROCC is run by local African-American citizens and has been successful in pressing for changes in these areas. Contact: ROCC, 103 Swinney...
MULTICULTURAL LIBRARIANSHIP AWARD

The Graduate School of Library and Information Studies at Queens College has announced establishment of the Professor David Cohen Multicultural award. It will go annually to a graduating student who has shown outstanding promise in the field of multicultural librarianship. For more information contact: Ron Cannava, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing, NY 11367.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Job title: Ethnic Services Librarian/Reference Librarian, The Evergreen State College
Requirements: MLS/ALA
Salary: Determined by creditable experience paid on faculty scale
Closing date: October 15, 1991
Contact: Faculty Hiring Coordinator, The Evergreen State College, Olympia, WA 98505

The SRRT Newsletter (ISSN 0749-1670) is published quarterly by the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association. It is sent to members of SRRT as part of their membership and is available to others on subscription for $10.00 per year. Subscription is open to both members and non-members of ALA. Correspondence and manuscripts may be sent to SRRT/ALA, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611, or directly to the new editor, Tom Wilding, at Room 14S-216, MIT Library, Cambridge, MA 02139 Phone:(617)253-5653. Views expressed herein are not necessarily those of ALA/SRRT. The editor reserves the right to edit submitted material as necessary.

Editor: Chris Sokol
Editorial Board: Elizabeth Morrissett
Linda Pierce
John Sheridan

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: OCTOBER 25

Please send submissions to the new editor, Tom Wilding (address on page 2).
To join SRRT or to subscribe to the Newsletter, please send the information requested below and a check made payable to ALA/SRRT to:

ALA/SRRT
50 East Huron St.
Chicago, IL 60611

Name:

Address:

City       State       Zip

$10.00 (ALA personal member)
$10.00 (Individual subscription, non-ALA member)
$20.00 (Institutions)

Task Force Interest:

Alternatives in Print
Civil Rights
Coretta Scott King
Environment
Feminist
Gay and Lesbian
Homeless
International Human Rights
Library Unions
Peace Information Exchange
Other: