FROM THE COORDINATOR

Dear SRRT members,

ALA’s Midwinter Meeting was a productive one for SRRT—on several fronts. First, important resolutions were passed on the following issues: use of chlorine-free paper, cataloging in publication for self-published works, outsourcing at LC’s American Memory Project, library services to homeless people, and outsourcing at the Hawaii State Public Library System. The resolutions are reprinted in this newsletter. Thanks are due to those who proposed these resolutions and presented them for SRRT consideration. A reminder: according to SRRT procedures for resolutions, individuals proposing resolutions are responsible for getting them to ALA Council (if that is the intention). If anyone needs a copy of this policy, or wants further information, please let me know.

General reaction to our new meeting format, especially the All Task Force/Action Council I combined meeting, was quite favorable. Suggestions included having the GLBTTF meet in the same room and asking for a less cavernous space. We have already requested a similar format for ALA Annual in San Francisco, so we can continue to assess how this works there.

A big topic of discussion at Action Council II was the SRRT Action Council listserv, which is at present open only to Action Council members. First, some background information. The list was established to facilitate communication between Action Council members between conferences. The list is housed at ALA; I am co-owner, along with an ALA staff member. Many Action Council members are concerned that a closed-subscription listserv seems exclusionary and would like an open-subscription listserv, so that all interested in SRRT could subscribe and post. Count me among those in favor. Alas, I could not be the listowner for a larger subscription listserv, due to local computer limitations. Sandy Berman proposed that SRRT approve the establishment of an open-subscription listserv, subject to finding another person to take my place as co-owner. So ... do we have a volunteer? Here’s your chance to be on the cutting edge of SRRT issues! If anyone is interested, let me know. I’d be happy to fill you in on what’s involved.

Other developments at ALA. We met and welcomed Satia Orange, the brand-new director of the Office for Literacy and Outreach Services (OLOS).

Lastly, it’s election and appointment time ...
ACTION COUNCIL

We have three vacancies on Action Council: the terms of Roland Hansen, Mark Martin, and Madeleine Tainton expire at the end of Annual in 1997. Mark Martin and Madeleine Tainton are running again, along with Elaine Harger, Toni Bissessar, and Carolyn Garnes.

NEWSLETTER OPPORTUNITIES

We need a volunteer to edit the SRRT Newsletter! It’s a three-year term and a great opportunity to do some good work getting the word out about SRRT. We will also need a new member for the newsletter’s Editorial Board. Here’s your chance to get more involved—let me know if you are interested in either position.

ALA COUNCIL

SRRT members are also running for ALA Council and thanks are due those leading the effort to get them elected. See the list of candidates in this issue.

—Wendy Thomas, SRRT Coordinator
wendy@radcliffe.edu

TASKFORCE AND AFFILIATE NEWS

ALTERNATIVES IN PRINT

PUBLICATIONS

The AIP Task Force has lots of projects in the works. First of all, it welcomed Counterpoise into the world at ALA Midwinter. Editor Charles Willett and other AIP task force members distributed 450 copies to Midwinter attendees. Beneath a great cover reprint of Sue Coe’s Farmer Johns, the issue is packed with over 100 reviews of alternative books, pamphlets, magazines (and zines), videos, and CD-ROMs. It also features review essays on the small press, Dollars and Sense, Michael Parenti, and the indigenous press of Australia. It’s got an excellent list of bibliographic tools and a publisher’s, author/title, and subject index. And all for only $25 (individual) or $35 (libraries). The next quarterly issue is due in April and the summer issue will be a special feature on alternative Internet resources. To subscribe, contact Counterpoise, 1716 SW Williston Road, Gainesville, FL 32608-4049; 352/335-2200 (phone) or willett@afn.org (e-mail).

The AIP Task Force will be authoring two books this spring, to be published by CRISES Press (1716 SW Williston Road, Gainesville, FL 32608-4049; 352-335-2200; willett@afn.org):

The Hawaii Outsourcing Scandal and What It Means to Libraries Everywhere. Readings and commentary about the 5 ½-year contract signed in 1996 between the Hawaii State Public Library System and Baker & Taylor, Inc. It will include excerpts from the contract; comments by Hawaii State Librarian Bart Kane, Hawaii librarians, library users, the press, politicians, and others; the text of legislation recently proposed in Hawaii that would cancel the contract; and an analysis of the implications of the Hawaii

Alternative Publishers of Books in North America, 3rd ed., revised and enlarged with a listing of new titles, compiled by Byron Anderson. This excellent directory will give name, address, ISBN, phone, fax, email, URL, previous names, editor, year founded, average number of books published each year, average press run, other materials produced, associations with, publication interests, distributors, and a narrative description of 130 significant non-profit presses. This is an essential tool for the general reference collection, and is sponsored by AIP/SRRT. ca. 120 pages, ISBN 0-9640119-5-6, pbk. $20.00. Due: April.

PROGRAMS FOR ALA/SAN FRANCISCO

The Task Force will also organize three presentations and a “Free Speech Buffet” this summer in San Francisco.

On Sunday, June 29, from 9:30 to 11 a.m., AIP is planning a panel with Michael Parenti and David Barsamian called “Watching the Left: What Librarians Need to Know.” Parenti’s most recent books are Against Empire (1995), Dirty Truths (1996), and Blackshirts and Reds (forthcoming: June 1997), all published by City Lights Books. David Barsamian is the founder of Alternative Radio in Boulder, Colorado. His interviews with radical intellectuals are rebroadcast by the shockingly few independent stations across the nation that accept progressive programming. Arrangements are being made for Parenti and Barsamian to spend some time at the AIP booth after the program to autograph books and talk with librarians.

From 2-4 p.m. on June 29th, the AIP Hawaii Working Group is planning a panel discussion: “Outsourcing Book Selection and Cataloging in Hawaii: A Critical Examination.” The panel includes Hawaii librarians who will give a first-hand account of the impact of this approach on access to diversity of viewpoints in a large public library system.

On Monday, June 30, from 9:30 to 11 a.m., Chris Dodge of Hennepin County Library and Cathy Camper of Minneapolis Public Library will present “Beyond the Valley of the Mega-Publishers: Dangerous Reviews.” This will be a practical session of oral reviews of non-mainstream materials covering everything from adult comics and small press books to zines and political tracts. Come for the reviews of independent videos, little magazines, and children’s books, and stay for the coolest lesbian and gay literature, ethnic newspapers, and mail order catalogs. Checklists will be provided.

FREE SPEECH BUFFET

On Monday evening, from 6-9 p.m., the AIP will sponsor its annual Free Speech Buffet. (The first of these pleasant events took place in San Francisco in 1992.) Local alternative publishers, editors, writers, and producers display and take orders for their materials. An opportunity for librarians to meet some of the men and women who publish alternative materials in the Bay area. Hors d’oeuvres with cash bar.

AIP BOOTH

AIP, CRISLES Press, and the Alternative Press Center cosponsored and staffed a successful, three-day exhibit at Midwinter of over 100 books and periodical titles from about 60 alternative presses. Hundreds of librarians, visitors, and other exhibitors stopped by to look at the materials, take sample copies of Counterpoise and other publications and catalogs, pick up SRRT brochures and streamers, and request
additional information. The Alternative Press Center handed out many copies of the latest issue of the *Alternative Press Index* and took orders for its excellent new directory of alternative periodicals, called *Annotations*. AIP will be sponsoring a booth for alternative materials again in San Francisco. Please plan to stop by.

AIP Task Force members met Saturday before the SRRT Action Council I meeting and discussed the upcoming events in San Francisco. In addition to the events already planned, it was suggested that the AIP might want to sponsor a field trip to the DataCenter in Oakland. Anyone interested in working on organizing this, please contact AIP coordinators Charles Willett or Peggy D'Adamo.

Members of the *Counterpoise* editorial board met early Sunday morning. Topics discussed included better identification and utilization of reviewers, expanded coverage to include children's and young adult materials, invitations to multicultural and other librarians' groups to work with us, marketing (see below), and a new "cyber-dimension" beginning with issue no. 3, which will review alternative sites on the World Wide Web. George Eberhart, associate editor of *American Libraries*, attended this meeting and took notes.

Several members of the Hawaii Working Group held a meeting early Monday morning that was also attended by George Eberhart (who again took notes), Eleanor Cook (editor of ACQNET, an ALCTS listserv), Barbara Winters of Wright State University Libraries (a strong proponent of outsourcing cataloging), and two young librarians (who were concerned about negative aspects of outsourcing). This was the first face-to-face discussion between HWG and proponents of outsourcing professional functions to private corporations.

**SRRT BOOTH**

SRRT has decided to ask each task force to staff the SRRT booth for one day in San Francisco. If you would like to volunteer an hour or two for AIP, please contact Charles Willett or Peggy D'Adamo.

**MARKETING COUNTERPOISE**

AIP members discussed a number of ways to promote *Counterpoise*. These included expanding the AIP web site and using it to promote *Counterpoise* (http://www.lib.lsu.edu/hum/altweb.html), promoting it to other ALA divisions, round tables, and sections via ALA listservs, and sending a copy to all major outsourcing vendors, inviting them to use it as a selection tool. Stephen Harris (notshr@lsuvsm.sncc.lsu.edu) and Peggy D'Adamo (mdadamo@welchlink.welch.jhu.edu) have volunteered to work on coordinating this effort. About 50 copies have been sent to review publications.

**PROMOTING THE ALTERNATIVE PRESS**

We also discussed the idea of developing a program or publication for alternative press publishers themselves on how to promote their publications. It would include information on how to sell books and periodicals to libraries, how to get a periodical indexed, how to get a new publication reviewed, how to work with libraries, subscription agencies, and outsourcing vendors. If you would like to contribute any information to this, please contact Peggy D'Adamo at mdadamo@welchlink.welch.jhu.edu.

**RESOLUTION**

AIP member Sandy Berman proposed an AIP-drafted resolution to the SRRT Action Council on outsourcing in Hawaii libraries. It passed unanimously.
NEW AIP CO-COORDINATOR

At this conference Peggy D’Adamo officially took up her new responsibilities as Task Force co-coordinator, representing AIP at SRRT Action Council meetings and taking charge of program planning and matters concerning libraries and librarians. This has freed co-coordinator Charles Willett to concentrate on Counterpoise, other AIP publications, the AIP booth, and matters concerning publishers and booksellers. Peggy works as a media librarian at the Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health. She has a long-standing interest in the alternative press and worked for many years as one of the editors of the Alternative Press Index.

—Peggy D’Adamo and Charles Willett, Coordinators

CORETTA SCOTT KING TASK FORCE

Walter Dean Myers and Jerry Pinkney are the 1997 winners of the Coretta Scott King Author Awards, which honor African American authors and illustrators of outstanding books for children and young adults that demonstrate sensitivity to the true worth and value of all people. The awards were announced at the American Library Association (ALA) 1997 Midwinter Meeting in Washington, D.C.

The authors will receive $1000 cash and a citation for the awards, which are presented by the Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT) of the ALA and the Coretta Scott King Task Force. The awards, administered by ALA’s Office for Literary Outreach Services, commemorate the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and honor Coretta Scott King for her courage and determination in continuing to work for brotherhood.

Myers won the award for SLAM!, published by Scholastic Press, the story of a 17-year-old boy’s struggle to apply the drive he has to win at basketball to other parts of his life.

Heather Caines, chair of the King Awards Jury, said the committee recognized the book for its “believable, well-drawn characters, authentic teen language, and masterful plotting.” “Myers created a compelling drama of an inner-city youth’s coming of age,” said Caines, of the New York Public Library.

Myers, the author of numerous other books for young people, has received the Coretta Scott King Award five times. In 1993, his book, Somewhere in the Darkness, was named a Newbery Honor Book by the ALA. He was born in Martinsburg, W. Va., and lives in New Jersey with his family.

Pinkney is a four-time winner of the King Illustrator Award. He has been named a Caldecott Honor Medalist by the ALA three times. His recent work, Minty: A Story of Young Harriet Tubman, published by Dial Books for Young Readers, is the story of the legendary slave who led countless others to freedom.

“With richly detailed watercolors, Pinkney uses color, composition, and perceptive characterization to recreate the cruelty of plantation life and foreshadow the courage that will shape Minty’s life,” Caines said.

A Philadelphia native, Pinkney has been an art professor at the University of Delaware and the State University of New York at Buffalo. He resides with his family in Croton-on-Hudson.

The King Jury named one Coretta Scott King Author Honor Book, which was Rebels Against Slavery: American Slave Revolts, by Patricia C. McKissack and Frederick L. McKissack, published by Scholastic, Inc. The selection jury noted that the book has helped young people remember brave individuals who fought for freedom and to honor their courage. The husband and wife authors reside in Nashville, Tennessee.
Three books were named King Illustrator Honor Books. *The Palm of My Heart: Poetry by African American Children*, illustrated by New Yorker Gregory Christie, was cited by the jury for its “distinctive and memorable illustrations that demonstrate pride and self-realization.” The book was edited by Davida Adedjouma and published by Lee and Low. *Running the Road to ABC*, illustrated by Reynold Ruffins, of Sag Harbor, N.Y., was cited for its illustrations that “complement the energetic text and lure the eye with their imaginative use of color, shape, line, perspective, and composition...” *Running the Road to ABC* was written by Denize Lauture and published by Simon and Schuster. Ruffin’s prior work, *Koi and the Kola Nuts*, was featured in *Time* magazine as one of the best children’s books of 1994.

*Neeny Coming, Neeny Going*, illustrated by Synthia Saint James, of Los Angeles, was cited for its “dramatic colorful illustrations that gracefully depict a delightful story of family ties.” James’ work has appeared on canvas, limited edition prints and posters, and on book covers. *Neeny Coming, Neeny Going* was written by Karen English and published by BridgeWater.

Other members of the Coretta Scott King Task Force ALA Awards Jury for 1996-97 are: Rita Auerbach, Manorhaven School, Port Washington, N.Y.; Task Force chair Carolyn L. Garnes, Atlanta-Fulton Public Library, Hilda Weeks Kuter, Sandburg School, Madison, Wisconsin.; Sandra Payne, New York Public Library; Deborah Taylor, Enoch Pratt Library, Baltimore; and Nancy Woodson, Ralph J. Bunch Middle School, Atlanta.

http://www.ala.org/news/cskaudaward.html

ENIRONMENT

NEW PUBLICATION

The Task Force on the Environment announces the publication of a new, electronic newsletter, *GreeNotes*. The Fall 1996 issue provides a highlight of Task Force activities and describes a wide variety of services, publications, and resources to facilitate a better understanding of the environment. *GreeNotes* is available from the World Wide Web, on the American Library Association web site.

*GreeNotes* can be accessed at:
http://www.ala.org/alaorg/rttables/srrt/greenotes/greenotes.html

The American Library Association (ALA) has a long-standing commitment to the environment. In 1990, ALA’s Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT) established the Task Force on the Environment (TFOE).

TFOE serves a critical function in keeping ALA, its members, and others interested in the environment and its natural resources, abreast of new data and information services, publications, products, and resources related to the environment.

The inaugural issue of *GreeNotes* provides a summary of the TFOE program on “Environmentally and Socially Responsible Business,” presented at the 1996 ALA Annual Meeting. The description of this program includes a link to a specialized information resource guide (including related web sites) on socially and environmentally responsible investing, prepared by Terry Link (Michigan State University), who coordinated this special TFOE program.
In his welcoming remarks, *GreeNotes* editor and TFOE chair, Fred Stoss, issues a call for librarians to send him a short note and describe what readers and their libraries are planning for Earth Day '97. He provides a brief list of Earth Day WWW Resources and a time line for planning your Earth Day '94 activities. A description of a TFOE program at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Washington, D.C. (February 14-20, 1997) is also found in this issue of *GreeNotes*.

You are invited to browse this new site, route it to colleagues, pass it along to appropriate listservs in library and environmental settings, contact the editors, and submit materials for future issues.

Future issues will be devoted to the topics of chemicals in our communities and environmental health, global warming and climate change, emerging environmental trends in the small business sector, and more. Book, database, web site, product, and services reviews are needed, in addition to news items and lengthier articles. Case studies and descriptions of environmental projects, programs, collections, and activities related to the environment are sought. Please consider contributing to *GreeNotes*.

TFOE is embarking on this new venture to further carry out its mission, launching a new information and communication tool for librarians and others interested in the environment and our natural resources. *GreeNotes* provides librarians and other information professionals, teachers, students, researchers, policy makers, officials, and managers, with resources to facilitate a better understanding of environmental issues and the information resources to enable their libraries and information centers to better meet the information needs of their users.

*GreeNotes* gives its readers up-to-date summaries of resources and services from government agencies, such as the U.S. EPA; the latest environmental information policy developments, including the continuing development of a National Library for the Environment under the proposed National Institute for the Environment (which was endorsed by TFOE in 1994).

*GreeNotes* will utilize the features of the electronic medium to enhance access to environmental information. Direct hypertext links to resources and services described will be provided. *GreeNotes* will feature descriptive "Notes" to assist in collection development, Internet resources, library programs, environmental opportunities for library students, current research interests, personal anecdotes, and resources for environmental and outdoor/nature education. This newsletter will also report on the activities and programs of TFOE, SRRT, and ALA.

As described in its statement of ownership, *GreeNotes* is a quarterly, electronic, online, interdisciplinary newsletter for current and general information related to the environment and natural resources. It encourages the exchange of information, resources, ideas, and strategies for a better understanding of our environment.

*GreeNotes* encourages communication among all parties interested in the quality of the environment and the protection and conservation of its natural resources. *GreeNotes* fosters the free distribution of information related to services, publications, and other resources for a broad perspective on the environment. There is no charge or subscription fee to receive *GreeNotes*. Membership in the American Library Association is encouraged, but is not a requirement to access the entire, full-text version of *GreeNotes*.

**TIAA-CREF**

Some of you may remember the movement almost a decade ago now, to encourage TIAA-CREF, the largest pension fund in the world, with more than
$180 billion in assets currently, to offer a “socially responsible” investment alternative. They have indeed done this, and now the “Social Choice Account” is the largest of its kind. Some members are trying to encourage them to take 5%-10% of the Social Choice Account and start a special fund in companies that are models of social and environmental responsibility. The investment criteria might include:

EMPLOYEES—worker safety, equitable salaries, family-friendly policies, union relations, etc.

CONSUMERS—product safety and quality, truthful advertising, no animal testing, etc.

COMMUNITIES—low-income housing, community development, etc.

ENVIRONMENT—recycling, energy conservation, pollution control, etc.

This would involve “positive investing” in mostly smaller companies, thus putting them in a stronger position to expand their operations.

http://www.manchester.edu/department/peace/njw/index.html

FEMINIST♀

ANNUAL BREAKFAST

The Feminist Author breakfast at the Annual Conference in San Francisco will be held on June 29 from 8:30 to 11 am. The theme of the breakfast is “The Patchwork Quilt of Feminism.” Speakers will be announced.

—Kristin Carlson
Co-Coordinator, Feminist Task Force
carlson@uic.edu

GAY, LESBIAN, AND BISEXUAL ∨

GLBTF BOOK AWARDS ANNOUNCED

Hood, written by Emma Donoghue and published by HarperCollins, was named the winner of the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Book Award for literature at the Midwinter Meeting of the American Library Association, held February 14-20 in Washington, D.C. The nonfiction award went to Geography of the Heart, written by Fenton Johnson and published by Scribner.

The awards are sponsored by the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Task Force of SRRT. A committee of 14 public, academic, and special librarians made the selections.

Set in Dublin, Ireland, Hood tells the story of a woman coming to terms with the sudden death of her lover. Geography of the Heart is a moving memoir chronicling the author’s relationship with his lover Larry Rose and Rose’s eventual death from AIDS.

“In both of these books, committee members were struck by the realistic portrayals of grief, loss, and survival. In this sense, the books resonated not only within the gay and lesbian experience, but also within the universal human experience,” said committee chair John C. DeSantis, assistant head of cataloging at Amherst College, Amherst, Massachusetts.

Finalists for the literature award are The Beauty of Men, by Andrew Holleran, published by Morrow; Funny Boy, by Shyam Selvadurai, published by Morrow; Toward Amnesia, by Sarah Van Arsdale, published by Riverhead Books; and Bailey’s Beads, by Terry Wolverton, published by Faber and Faber.

Finalists for the nonfiction award are Straight News: Gays, Lesbians and the News Media, by Edward Alwood, published by Columbia University Press;

The awards will be presented at the second annual Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Book Awards Breakfast, on June 30, at the 1997 Annual Conference of the American Library Association in San Francisco.

1997 BOOK AWARDS BREAKFAST

The second annual GLBTF Book Awards Breakfast will take place Monday, June 30, at 8:00 am. This year the event will be a served sit-down breakfast, rather than a buffet. The breakfast is a fundraising event to ensure the continuation of our book awards. In addition to the presentation of the awards to this year’s winners, Fenton Johnson and Emma Donoghue, we will feature guest speakers and prizes. Please reserve your place early, as we are expecting this San Francisco event to sell out. For more information, contact John DeSantis at jcdesantis@amherst.edu or Joseph Eagan at jeagan@epfl2.epflbalto.org. The cost of the breakfast is $30 per person. Please indicate whether you prefer a vegetarian option. Make checks payable to ALA/SRRT/GLBTF and send by June 2, 1997 to:

Roland C. Hansen
Readers’ Services Librarian
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Flaxman Library
37 S. Wabash
Chicago, IL 60603

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Nominations for the 1998 Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Book Award are now being accepted. The Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Book Award is presented to English-language works published in the year prior to the announcement date. All books published in December 1996 or the first eleven months of 1997 are eligible. The award, which consists of a commemorative plaque and a cash stipend, is announced in February and presented to the winning authors or editors at a breakfast during the ALA Annual Conference. The award is given in two categories: Literature and Nonfiction.

Nominations for the Book Award may be made by any individual not affiliated with the publisher of the book being nominated. Authors may not nominate their own works. A short statement (30-50 words) describing why the book is being nominated must accompany the nomination, and be submitted to the Committee Chair by November 30, 1997. Mail must be postmarked by the nomination deadline. Nominations will be accepted by regular and electronic mail, as well as by fax. Nominations may be sent to:

Faye A. Chadwell
Chair-Elect, GLBTF Book Award Committee
Collection Development
Knight Library
1299 University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403-1299

phone: 503/346-1819
fax: 503/346-3485
email: chadwelf@oregon.uoregon.edu
NEWSLETTER UPDATE

The GLBTF will resume publication of its newsletter beginning in April with the spring 1997 issue. To subscribe, all interested parties should send five dollars (US money) in check or money order made out to "GLBFT" and send it to the ALA/OLOS office with your name and address.

If you have items that would be of interest to GLBTF members/subscribers, please send them directly to:

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HUNGER, HOMELESSNESS & POVERTY

BOOK IN THE WORKS

Karen Venturella is in the process of compiling a book comprised of approximately 15 original essays on the topic of library service to the poor. This book project came out of an ALA/SRRT program called "Libraries and Poverty: What’s the Connection?" (ALA New York, July 1996) and will be published by McFarland Publishing, Inc. With the help and support of Sanford Berman, she has garnered three contributions to the book and commitments for about five others.

If you know about, or are involved with, a program you would like to see included, or have any other input or feedback, please email Karen at venturel@sjuvm.stjohns.edu or call 718-990-6076.

—Karen Venturella
Periodicals Librarian
St. John’s University Library
8000 Utopia Parkway
Jamaica, NY 11439
venturel@sjuvm.stjohns.edu
718-990-6076

RESOLUTION ON LIBRARY SERVICE
TO HOMELESS PEOPLE

WHEREAS the American Library Association supports free access to information (ALA Policy 50.3); and

WHEREAS the American Library Association has supported special services to specific groups, such as prisoners (ALA Policy 52.1), youth (ALA Policy 52.5), and poor people (ALA Policy 61); and

WHEREAS in the current economic and social climate of the United States, there are many and increasing numbers of persons (including children and youth) who have no fixed residence; therefore be it

RESOLVED that information referral programs for the special needs of homeless people be developed and maintained by libraries so that community resources beyond the library’s special services can be made known to this group of users, and that efforts be made to publicize this service through social agencies, bulletin boards, and the community grapevine.

PASSED BY SRRT ACTION COUNCIL, 2/15/97,
Washington DC
RESOLUTION ON THE "AMERICAN MEMORY PROJECT"

WHEREAS the Buy America Act mandates that federal agencies use American goods and services whenever possible in order to promote maximum employment and living wages in the United States; and

WHEREAS the American Library Association explicitly supports a "full employment policy" and "living minimum wage" (ALA Policy 61); and

WHEREAS the Library of Congress (LC) has contracted for the digitizing of American Memory Project work in Jamaica and the Philippines, in effect transferring American jobs to low-wage workers overseas; and

WHEREAS the Made in the USA Foundation, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Council 26, and the two AFSCME locals representing Library of Congress employees have filed suit against LC for violating the Buy America Act, charging that this outsourcing makes LC complicit in both depressing American wages and exploiting substandard wage rates abroad; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association firmly supports the Made in the USA Foundation/AFSCME lawsuit; and be it further

RESOLVED that SRRT urges the Library of Congress to speedily cancel all overseas digitizing work and in future only permit such work to be performed by American workers at living wages.

PASSED BY SRRT ACTION COUNCIL, 2/15/97, Washington DC

RESOLUTION ON CATALOGING-IN-PUBLICATION FOR SELF-PUBLISHED MATERIALS

WHEREAS the Library of Congress refuses to provide Cataloging-in-Publication (CIP) data for "books paid for or subsidized by individual authors: books published by a house which publishes only the works of one author"; and

WHEREAS such titles have become an important segment of the small press movement, covering a broad range of topics and disciplines; and

WHEREAS the absence of CIP entries unquestionably limits the distribution, sale, and processing of self-published works and so is unfair and discriminatory, blocking these materials from a greater readership and wider attention; and

WHEREAS this policy, if in effect in 1885, would have denied a CIP entry to Walt Whitman's Leaves of Grass; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association calls upon the Library of Congress to provide CIP data to all requesting publishers, regardless of size or number of authors.

PASSED BY SRRT ACTION COUNCIL, 2/15/97, Washington DC
FUNDRAISING FOR SRRT

At the ALA Midwinter Meeting, Steven Harris volunteered to start investigating funding sources for SRRT needs. He is going to try and get some help with grant writing from ALA and elsewhere. He has some knowledge of the programs and ideas that the task forces are working on, but if task force members have specific funding needs, they should contact Steven and he will try to help them find charitable donors.

—Steven Harris
phone: 504/388-2720
e-mail: notsrh@unix1.sncc.lsu.edu

REPORT FROM THE LITERACY ASSEMBLY

The ALA Literacy Assembly met in Washington at the Midwinter Meeting. During introductions, a fairly new series of publications prepared by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, directed at the adult new reader, were mentioned and passed around.

The books are well illustrated and cover a wide range of science topics, including health and general science. Information about them is probably available on the AAAS home page, or by mail (1200 New York Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20005).

There was a report on the Literacy in Libraries Across America program, an initiative funded by ALA and the Lila Wallace-Reader’s Digest Fund. The program is funded at the $4.0 million level and is a three-year program to strengthen library-based adult literacy programs.

Thirteen libraries in four states have been selected to participate in this program and will receive a total of $2.7 million to improve curricula and instruction for adult students, expand the use of computer technology related to literacy programs, and develop means to measure the gains of participant adults. The remainder of the funds will allow ALA to provide technical assistance, organize conferences for participants, and develop a telecommunications network.

Participating libraries are:

- Alameda County Public Library (Fremont CA)
- Brooklyn (NY) Public Library
- Greensboro Public Library (Greensboro NC)
- New York Public Library
- Oakland (CA) Public Library
- Onondaga Public Library (Syracuse NY)
- Queens (NY) Borough Public Library
- Redwood City Public Library (Redwood City CA)
- Richmond Public Library (Richmond CA)
- Robinson Township Public Library (Richmond IL)
- San Francisco (CA) Public Library
- Santa Clara (CA) County Public Library
- Waukegan Public Library (Waukegan IL)

Last year’s resolution by the Assembly, to ensure that literacy is treated as one of ALA’s highest priorities for fundraising, has only been supported by four ALA units so far, but SRRT was one of those.

—Tom Wilding
SRRT Liaison to the Literacy Assembly
RESOLUTION ON THE USE OF CHLORINE-FREE PAPERS

WHEREAS the American Library Association uses large amounts of paper in both its internal and publishing operations; and

WHEREAS the ALA has shown a commitment to environmental concerns by using recycled and acid-free paper; and

WHEREAS the use of chlorine for bleaching paper produces up to 1,000 chlorinated organic compounds (organochlorines), among which are dioxins, PCBs, and furans; and

WHEREAS many recent studies have found evidence of health hazards resulting from exposure to organochlorines; and

WHEREAS the International Joint Commission (a US-Canadian commission which monitors the health of the Great Lakes region) has concluded that the use of chlorine and its compounds should be avoided in manufacturing processes; and

WHEREAS studies have shown that elemental chlorine-free (ECF) papers can achieve high brightness (89-90% ISO) and high strength (burst, tear, tensile, and viscosity); therefore be it

RESOLVED that efforts be made by the American Library Association to acquire and use chlorine-free papers in its internal and publishing operations, and that, subsequent to switching to the use of chlorine-free papers, the ALA communicate this action to the library and publishing communities.

PASSED BY SRRT ACTION COUNCIL, 2/15/97, Washington DC

NEW DIRECTOR FOR OLOS

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Satia Marshall Orange as director to the Office for Literacy and Outreach Services. Currently, Ms. Orange is director of the Arthur R. Ashe, Jr. Foreign Policy Library, TransAfrica Forum, in Washington DC. At the TransAfrica Forum, she administers the operations, budget, collections, and programs and services, including community outreach programs, of the only African American library focusing on Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean, and the U.S. policies related to those regions.

Prior to joining TransAfrica Forum, Satia Orange was head of the Children's Department, Forsyth County Public Library in Winston-Salem (NC). She was also the founding director of the Preschool Child Care Center at the Winston Lake Family YMCA in Winston-Salem. Her broad background in services to children also includes extensive experience as a day care licensing specialist/supervisor for the Wisconsin Division of Community Services in Milwaukee, as well as a media specialist for the Campus Elementary School, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and teaching experience in both Milwaukee and Syracuse (NY).
Satia Orange is on the Board of Directors of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association and chaired the general program committee for the First National Conference of African American Librarians, sponsored by BCALA. She has been active in a wide range of other professional and civic organizations.

Ms. Orange has a Bachelor of Science degree in special education from the University of Illinois, Urbana, and a Masters in Library Science from Atlanta University.

Her appointment at ALA is effective Monday, February 10, 1997. She will be attending the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Washington DC, where she will meet with a number of OLOS-related committees, round tables, and caucuses.

The appointment of Satia Marshall Orange as director of OLOS follows a nationwide search. Members of the search committee were Edward Erazo (REFORMA), Dr. Sylverna V. Ford (BCALA), Jane Heiser (Literacy Assembly), Gloria Leonard (Council Committee on Minority Concerns), Dr. Loriene Roy (AILA), Carol Liu (OLOS Advisory Committee), Stephen J. Stillwell (SRRT), Kenneth A. Yamashita (APALA), Amy Seetoo (CALA), David Cohen (EMIERT), Coleen Sullivan (Director, OLPR), Dorothy Ragsdale (director, HR) and Mary Ghikas (AED ALA-Member Programs and Services). Kathleen de la Pena McCook is chair of the OLOS Advisory Committee. Edward Erazo chaired the search committee.

—Mary Ghikas
ALA Associate Executive Director
Member Programs and Services

EARL LEE BIRD GETS THE WORM

To the Editor:

The March St. Library Journal includes articles on the government suit against Baker & Taylor and the Hawaii outsourcing controversy.

The article on the lawsuit is fairly evenhanded (for LJ), though clearly sympathetic to B&T. It is hard, of course, for LJ to think in terms of being an advocate for libraries ... it tends to come as a sort of reluctant afterthought. There is, of course, no mention of B&T’s past history of double-dealing, and it suggests that individual librarians need not be overly concerned about this issue. There is also the suggestion that we should feel sorry for B&T, since this lawsuit (if successful) would almost certainly mean the collapse of B&T, with its assets being sold off to satisfy the judgment, which would be astronomical in its dollar amount. There is no mention of jail time, even though it might create sympathy for B&T execs, since the “criminal” nature of what (allegedly) happened must be played down. No one at LJ wants the reader to leave this article with a mental picture of B&T execs wearing striped outfits and banging on the bars with a tin cup.

Anyone with an interest in how journalists “slant” the news, should use this as a textbook example. How do you find a silver lining in a situation that is certainly a disaster for B&T? Other book jobbers, as much as they would like to see B&T fall, are concerned with their own image and how this fiasco will reflect on them. Some of them are pretty nervous, since a close comparison of their practices with B&T’s (which will happen during the trial) may reveal some of their own double-dealing. In a conversation with one vendor, I was told that “it’s almost impossible to tell anymore what category of discount a book should fall into.” This is the same tack being taken by B&T. Of course, it doesn’t take a rocket scientist to figure out that all you have to do is compare the price B&T paid for a book with the price they sold it for. But it looks like
B&T is going to use the O.J. defense (the DNA is contaminated! the police are corrupt!) to try to weasel out of this one.

The article on the Hawaii outsourcing controversy is a one-sided defense of Kane, et al., and does little to address the concerns of librarians. Again, *LJ* serves its corporate masters well. The idea that the contract can be “fixed” is, of course, moronic. No one has yet explained why we should trust B&T to guard the hen house ... No one questions why the libraries in Hawaii needed to be outsourced ... Kane and the Governor created “the problem” and then created “the solution”.... but was there really a problem that needed action this drastic?

—Earl Lee

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**RESOLUTION ON HAWAII STATE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM OUTSOURCING**

WHEREAS materials selection and cataloging are core elements of librarianship, ensuring that library resources are both appropriate and findable; and

WHEREAS commercial vendors, primarily motivated by profit making, cannot effectively select and catalog materials for library systems whose local staffs are much more knowledgeable about their own collections, user interests, material sources (including regional and alternative presses and groups), and access needs; and

WHEREAS the Hawaii State Public Library System (HSPLS) last year totally outsourced the selection and cataloging of library materials to a private vendor; and

WHEREAS such HSPLS outsourcing clearly weakens service to Hawaii library users, seriously demoralizes HSPLS staff, severely damages library collections, and impedes access to library resources; and

WHEREAS similar outsourcing of basic library functions is either underway or being seriously considered elsewhere; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association urges the Hawaii State Public Library System to immediately cancel its outsourcing contract and permit Hawaiian librarians to do the selection and cataloging that only they can do best; and be it further

RESOLVED that SRRT recommends that other libraries do not follow the “Hawaii Model” which demonstrably leads to wrecked, irrelevant, and inaccessible collections, as well as wastes both money and staff expertise.

PASSED BY SRRT ACTION COUNCIL, 2/15/97, Washington DC

SRRT Newsletter 15 March 1997
BY YOU, FOR YOU, OR IN SPITE OF YOU: OUTSOURCING AND THE DEMISE OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

by Marilyn Smithson

In May ... I represented the Librarians' Guild at a workshop ... sponsored by the Southern California Online Users Group ...

I was alarmed by the presentation of Bart Kane on outsourcing in a public library environment. Mr. Kane is director of the Hawaii State Public Library System, which has forty-nine libraries on six islands.

Like Los Angeles Public Library, his budget had been cut every year for a long time. But in 1995 there was a statewide budget crisis, and his department faced a budget cut of 25% and consequent layoffs of 18% of its staff. It was left to Mr. Kane to decide how the cuts were to be made.

Having recently conducted patron and employee surveys, Mr. Kane knew that patrons wanted more books, they wanted the library open more hours, and they needed help in finding information and in using the catalog and CD-ROM products.

Accepting the ideas of Michael Hammer on reengineering, Mr. Kane believed he could improve library service and prevent layoffs by focusing on what he considered the core function of all public libraries: customer service. So he outsourced or abolished all work that did not contribute to frontline service, which included cataloging and other technical services as well as materials selection, processing, and collection management. He also cut subscriptions to 1200 serials, relying on the CD-ROM products of Information Access Company to provide all journal literature.

Baker and Taylor now provide almost all library materials, selecting them with user profiles. Ameritech and Dynix provide technical services. Mr. Kane improved staffing of public desks by putting everyone whose job had been eliminated on public service desks.

Mr. Kane advocates what he terms a “Walmart Approach” to public services, in which the public is greeted by name when they come in, and, when leaving, they are asked if their needs have been met, and they are thanked for using the library. Great emphasis is placed on making libraries attractive. He hopes that eventually all staff will spend 99% of their workday working with the public instead of the standard 40-50%.

By making these changes, the Hawaii State Public Library System sustained cuts of 25% while avoiding layoffs, improved the popularity of the library, enhanced Mr. Kane’s reputation as a manager, and therefore reduced the probability of further cuts in funding to the library department.

Proud of his solution, Mr. Kane generalized his experience to that of other public libraries and warned: “In the public library world, without a customer service emphasis and without lower costs, half of the public libraries in the United States will be out of business within ten years.”

Mr. Kane’s remarks were so at odds with my experience as a reference librarian that I had to speak to him during a break. He was honest in admitting that his staff was currently spending only 40-50% of their time with the public, and that they resist his attempts to get them out with the public more than that. He said he doesn’t understand why, since when he was a public services librarian he enjoyed working at the reference desk and especially the after-school rush of students.

When I mentioned the problems of staff exhaustion and burnout, as well as (in the case of LAPL) almost never getting two days off together, Mr. Kane disagreed, saying that if there is adequate staffing, librarians can easily move from one frontline public service job to another, such as from the reference desk to

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bibliographic instruction to floor walker to greeter and so on.

Mr. Kane also admitted that his staff still have a lot of work to do behind the scenes, and that they complain about the off-desk work they no longer perform, such as materials selection. And while he spoke glowingly about high school students finding their three required articles from a CD-ROM product, he agreed that his collection approach could not supply demands for more in-depth information.

Mr. Kane emphasized, echoing the remarks of all the other speakers, that the outsourcing companies must be constantly monitored and kept on track, and that they have no loyalty or commitment to the libraries they serve.

I believe Mr. Kane is sincere in thinking that he has done well for the public and for staff under the worst possible economic conditions. At the same time, I believe he is dead wrong. And while I have not thought through the implications of the Hawaii State Public Library System model, I would like to share some of my immediate reactions to Mr. Kane’s remarks, which I will refer to as the “Walmart Approach” to library service.

1. The core competency of libraries and their staff—the reason why people come to libraries rather than department stores—is to access information as well as culture within works of literature. It is not customer service per se, but library service that the public wants from us.

People who use libraries are not coming in to be sold something; rather, they want answers to questions, they want unbiased information, and they want access to history and to the collected literature of humanity.

The public comes in with both easy and difficult questions. The same patron who uses the library for bestsellers is almost guaranteed to also come in with the excruciatingly difficult reference question of great personal importance.

2. Questions asked in public libraries cover more subject areas, languages, and levels of education and experience than in any other library setting. As Mr. Kane’s survey indicates, patrons want more, not fewer books. Except for the works of bestselling authors, user profiles do not work well for the heterogeneous population groups using public libraries.

So that it will be money well spent, collection selection must be patron informed. Those who select books must work at public service desks, so that they will realize the range and volume of materials required to meet demand. Those who work at public desks must help select the books, by identifying materials that will add to the information and cultural values of the collection and shore up weaknesses in subject areas. This does not negate the necessity of comparing collections with subject bibliographies as well as using publishing trade journals such as Publisher’s Weekly or Choice.

It also means that more, not fewer, principal librarians are needed in subject departments at Central Library to develop collections that have value to the public. We need at least one principal librarian in each subject department, as Central Library has had in the past. Moreover, the subject departments cannot be combined without harming library service, because the collection and the services must be geared to the subjects involved as well as to the needs of the clientele.

Librarians in branches must have opportunities to suggest new materials before they select them. To neglect the importance of the collection to frontline service is to betray the public trust.

3. Reference librarians take an individual patron’s information request as their focus for either finding the information or for providing guidance for the patron to search. The patron decides whether or not the information is what he or she needs and if and when
they have found enough information. The librarian modifies the services provided according to the patron’s responses in the reference interview. Unlike librarians, public access catalogs and CD-ROM products cannot yet focus on the individual’s query.

As Mr. Kane’s patron survey indicates, highly skilled reference librarians will continue to be needed in public libraries in the foreseeable future. Therefore their work must be supported by continuous education and by thoughtful collection development. User profiles such as those supplied by Baker and Taylor cannot begin to supply the information needed to answer reference questions.

Principal librarians must work at reference desks in order to judge the collection needs for reference materials as well as for the circulating materials. This is even more important when budgets must be cut. If materials selectors do not work at public desks, how can they gauge where cuts will hurt the least?

Being a patron and working at a reference desk both require considerable intellectual and emotional effort. Here the analogy with Walmart breaks down entirely. It can be very difficult to describe what it is that one doesn’t know to a bureaucrat behind a desk. And it often takes patience, persistence, and drudgery to follow the steps suggested by librarians to perform in-depth searching.

Similarly, it takes compassion, effort, and lots of skill to understand and respond appropriately to the various age, intellectual, cultural, language, and emotional levels and experiences of public library users. It also takes knowledge and skill to teach patrons how to find information for themselves and how to be critical information consumers. One cannot keep up the levels of empathy needed to provide quality public service eight hours a day. In fact, after spending only six hours on a busy desk with constant interruptions and equipment malfunctions, some staff members describe their attitude as misanthropic.

The “Walmart Approach” ignores all communication, reference, collection, cultural, and language issues, and therefore cannot improve the quality of library service.

5. The public catalog must provide access to the materials in the library. It must bring together materials on the same subject both in the catalog by subject headings and on the shelves for librarians and patrons to browse. The notion of a turn-key catalog created once for all libraries is erroneous. In-house cataloging makes the system serve all users of the library. The cataloging provided by outsourcers will not attempt to give books on the same subjects the same subject headings, nor will they give them call numbers similar to items already in the collection. One will have to hunt in many separate locations for books on the same subject, and type in many more subjects into the catalog to find information.

And when the catalog malfunctions, no one will be able to find information at all. It will not be possible to send patrons to the 540s for chemistry books. It will take longer for frontline staff to serve the public, and the public will be even more dependent on librarians to find information and walk to the different shelves with them.

6. Walmart does not waste shelf space on commodities that don’t move quickly and in high volume. When applied to public libraries, the “Walmart Approach” creates a throw-away collection of bestsellers that no one wants to read after six months or so. It fails to include a mechanism to select, maintain, and preserve materials that will meet the information and cultural needs of the people we serve, or to preserve in more or less permanent form the memory of the past and the present for those coming to the library in the future.

What the “Walmart Approach” does extremely successfully is to give a nice appearance to library service. It makes the public, who have lots of experience as customers, but often little experience in using libraries, feel comfortable and important. This is
admireable, but it needs to be modified in order to educate patrons in how to get the most out of library services. It is when patrons take the time to learn to use the catalog and other resources that they obtain the most return for their efforts. But if they do that, they may soon find the collection has been filled with irrelevant materials provided by a user profile.

Administrators who adopt the "Walmart Approach" may look good to their bosses, assuming that their bosses do not use libraries. But they betray the public library's purpose, and with it the public trust, in that many people have few other places to turn for information, literature, history, and ideas. In not taking the reference, collection development, cataloging, and archival functions of libraries seriously, the Walmart approach dooms public libraries and public librarians to failure.

—Marilyn Smithson
Librarian II, Science/Technology/Patents
Los Angeles City Central Library


ALA COUNCIL ELECTIONS, 1997

The Election Committee, which is comprised of Elaine Harger, Al Kagan, Michael Miller, and Rosemary Stevenson, is pleased to report that the following SRRT members have consented to be candidates for ALA Council on the SRRT slate for 1997.

Ismail Abdullahi
Ivan E. Calimano
Sylvia Curtis
Elaine Harger
Al Kagan

A campaign flyer is going to be produced and mailed to the following ALA groups: SRRT, ALA Black Caucus, REFORMA, Asian American and Pacific Island Librarians, Chinese American Librarians, American Indian Librarians, and EMIERT. A priority for next year is to seek out alliances with the various ethnic caucuses and encourage joint slates. One recommendation is that there be a cross endorsing of principles.

ALA ballot mailings begin April 4. Don't forget to vote!