Planning for the '80s

Dear Colleagues:

I am pleased to be taking the helm of LIRT for the coming year, and I solicit your involvement. It probably goes without saying that whatever future successes LIRT may come to enjoy in improving both the quantity and quality of use which our patrons make of their libraries will be measured by our effectiveness in getting the membership involved actively in the pursuit of that overall goal.

This thought, banal as it may at first appear, was triggered by a recent editorial in one of our professional organs (I forget which one), in which the writer rehearsed a theme familiar to long-time participants and observers of the ALA scene: that ALA consists of a ponderous structure of committees which proliferate an unconscionable number of meetings whose agendas, bloated with trivia, spawn a furious amount of make-work, the results of which signify very little. This somewhat exaggerated recollection of the thrust of that editorial caused me to think again about what we are doing in LIRT, and it appears to me that for our size (third largest of the round tables, next to Government Documents and Junior Members) we maintain a structure of committees and task forces, including the two new ones, of modest size and scope. Probably this is but a function of our tender youth, I concluded, so what is the proper scope of LIRT?

Indeed, we may well respond by wondering if we are yet doing as much as we might. Surely all of us in the profession ponder frequently many different facets of LIRT's basic concern, all the way from the subtle complexities involved in getting even the most knowledgeable and library-wise of our patrons to exploit fully the library collections available, down to the fundamental problem of getting non-users to begin to recognize and explore the hitherto unseen potential for library use to enrich their lives. And just as surely, we all generate fresh insights on these matters that, taken as a whole and pursued with logical purpose, would constitute a clear vision of what user instruction is, and what it ought to be.

Clearly, much remains to be done. To put our situation into current perspective, look back, if you will, at reports of preparations as they were being made over the months leading up to the White House Conference on Library and Information Service; or, read now the accounts of the conference to see what role is projected for user instruction both by the library-oriented public and by the profession itself. You will find precious little evidence of concern for the instruction of users of libraries.

Continued on next page
This meditation leads us, then, back to the conclusion with which I began: that LIRT needs to involve its members actively in its work. A decent beginning would be for you to communicate your thoughts and concerns about library user instruction to the LIRT officers, to the appropriate committee and task force chairs, and to the membership at large (where appropriate) through the LIRT newsletter. Attend LIRT program meetings (ALA annual conference) and working meetings of committees and task forces. In short, get involved and make your views known. Cordially,

Jon Lindgren

LIRT OFFICERS 1979/80

Coordinator - Jon Lindgren, Assistant Librarian, St. Lawrence University Library, Canton, New York 13617

Vice-Coordinator/Coordinator Elect - John C. Shirk, Houston Public Library, Library Resources Center, 3102 Center Street, Houston, TX 77007

Secretary - Barbara Feldstein, 35 Indian Ridge Road, Newton Center, MA 02159

Treasurer - Lois Pausch, Original Cataloging Dept., University of Illinois Library, Urbana, IL 61801

Past Coordinator - Patricia S. Breivik, Director, Auraria Libraries, Lawrence at 11th Street, Denver, CO 80204

Newsletter Editor and Publications Committee Chair - Mignon Adams, Penfield Library, SUNY College at Oswego, Oswego, New York 13126

Conference (Program) Committee Chair - Cathy Axon, College Library, Suffolk University, 41 Temple Street, Boston, MA 02114

Elections Committee Chair - Ben LoBue, Reference Department, Library, University of Colorado at Boulder, Boulder, CO 80309

Liaison Committee Chair - Jean Koch, Commerce Library, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL 61801

Membership/Public Relations Committee Chair - Cerise Oberman-Srooka, College of Charleston Library, Charleston, SC 29401

Continuing Education Task Force Chair - Betty Hacker, Reference Department, Colorado State University Libraries, Fort Collins, CO 80521

National Programs Study Task Force Chair - Eileen Dubin, Assistant to Director, Northern Illinois University Libraries, DeKalb, IL 60115

Instructional Theory Task Force Chair - Ann Neville, Undergraduate Library, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX 78712

ALA Liaison to LIRT - Jeniece Guy, LIRT Liaison, ALA Headquarters, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611
Tentative Schedule of Meetings Concerned with Library Instruction,  
ALA Mid-Winter  

All meetings are in the Palmer House.  
(Check printed program for place and time changes.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Meetings and Groups</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday, January 20</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>ACRL BIS Continuing Education Committee - Room 1361</td>
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<td>9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>ACRL BIS Education for Bibliographic Instruction - Room 1361</td>
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<td>11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>ACRL BIS Conference Program Planning Committee - Room 1375</td>
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<td>ACRL BIS Education for Bibliographic Instruction Committee - Room 1361</td>
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<td>4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>ACRL BIS Cooperation Committee: Clearinghouse Subcommittee - Room 1369</td>
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<td>8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.</td>
<td>ACRL BIS Research Committee - Room 1369</td>
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<td><strong>Monday, January 21</strong></td>
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<td>8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>ACRL BIS Policy and Planning Committee - Room 1352</td>
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<td>Instruction in the Use of Libraries Committee - Room 1351-W</td>
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<td>9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>LIRT Program Planning Committee - Grand Ballroom, Table 26</td>
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<td>9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>ACRL BIS Cooperation Committee - Room 1363</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ACRL BIS Policy and Planning Committee - Room 1352</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>ACRL BIS Cooperation Committee - Room 1363</td>
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<td>2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>LIRT Instructional Theory Task Force - Room 1306</td>
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<td>8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.</td>
<td>LIRT National Programs Study Task Force - Grand Ballroom, Table 25</td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday, January 22</strong></td>
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<td>9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>ACRL BIS Executive Council - Room 1369</td>
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<td>ACRL BIS Nominating Committee - PDR 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>ACRL EBSS Bibliographic Instruction for Educators Committee - Room 1359</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>ACRL BIS Executive Committee - Room 1355</td>
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<td>4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>LIRT Executive Committee - Room 1318</td>
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<td>8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.</td>
<td>LIRT Executive Committee - Room 1318</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday, January 23</strong></td>
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<td>9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>LIRT Liaison Committee - Room 1357</td>
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Other committees which might be concerned with instruction:  
AASL Research Committee  
AASL Early Childhood Education Committee  
PLA AEPS Basic Education and Literacy Committee  
YASD Education Committee
The LIRT Elections Committee, chaired by Ben LoBue (University of Colorado at Boulder), is actively seeking prospective candidates for the spring election of LIRT officers. Elections will be held for the positions of:

1) Vice-Coordinator/Coordinator-Elect
2) Secretary
3) Treasurer

Terms of office are one year, except that of the Vice-Coordinator, who then assumes in successive years the posts of Coordinator and Past Coordinator. The LIRT Executive Board thus consists of five elected officers: Coordinator, Vice-Coordinator/Coordinator-Elect, Past Coordinator, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Since the strength and effectiveness of LIRT depends as much on the quality of its leadership as upon the active involvement of the membership in working toward fulfilling the goals of the organization, we therefore want to present the strongest slate of candidates possible. We urge all interested members to advance their candidacy for LIRT office by January 15, 1980, to:

Ben LoBue
Reference Department
Library
University of Colorado at Boulder
Boulder, CO 80309

Please list office preference and include a short biographical note. This year, candidates for election will be invited to submit statements for publication in the Spring issue of the LIRT Newsletter, to be mailed out just prior to distribution of the ballot from ALA headquarters.

In the past, nominees for each post have been selected from similar types of libraries (e.g., school, academic, public) in order to ensure balanced representation on the Executive Board, but this policy will be reviewed by the Steering Committee in January. Anyone with strong sentiments, pro or con, on this policy may wish to communicate their views to Ben LoBue or any other LIRT officer.

LIRT NATIONAL PROGRAMS STUDY TASK FORCE is to be chaired by Eileen Dubin, University Libraries, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115. Other members are Judy Drescher, Patricia Beilke, May Brottman, Sheryl Anspaugh, Zella Lewis, and Janet Gilligan. First meeting will be 9:30, Monday, January 31, at ALA Midwinter. Any comments or suggestions should go to Eileen Dubin.
LIRT INSTRUCTIONAL THEORY TASK FORCE is to be chaired by Ann Neville, Undergraduate Library, University of Texas, Austin, TX 78712. Other members are Boris Raymond, Laura Chodos, Suzanne Boles, Julia Miller, Ollye G. Davis, and John Lubans. The task force will be meeting for the first time at ALA Midwinter at 11:30, Monday, January 21. Send comments and suggestions to Ann Neville.

NON-USERS OF THE LIBRARY: What do we know about them? What should we know about them? Especially those who’ve been library-educated - college graduates, professionals, who do not use public libraries for their information needs. This topic will be the subject of LIRT's New York program, and it sounds so intriguing that LIRT has received a special allocation of $700 from ALA to cover the cost of the program.

Format will include two brief presentations: a marketing researcher, who will discuss what is known about library use and users in communities, and a librarian to respond. The meeting will then break up into small groups for discussion.

Leaders are needed for the discussion groups. If you're interested, and are willing to: attend a training session beforehand (the presentation is planned for Monday or Tuesday); and take notes during the discussion (for possible publication), please tell Cathy Axon, 221 Park Street, West Roxbury, MA 02132. The Program Committee is especially interested in having a mix of public, school, special, and academic librarians as discussion leaders.

NOTHING COULD BE FINER THAN TO BE IN CAROLINA on March 6-7 for the Third Southeastern Conference on Approaches to Bibliographic Instruction, hosted by the College of Charleston. Several areas of concern to bibliographic educators will be discussed: teaching the teachers (a workshop); a new approach to helping students develop research strategies; a revisionist look at the bibliographic education movement; and the role of the technical service librarian in bibliographic instruction. Limited to 150 registrants.

For more information:

Cerise Oberman-Soroka
Robert Scott Small Library
College of Charleston
Charleston, SC 29401

MULTI-MEDIA PACKAGES will be the theme of a two-day workshop sponsored by the Bibliographic Instruction Committee of the Library Association of The City University of New York (LACUNY). The workshop and exhibit of library use programs will be held at Baruch College in New York City on June 27-28, 1980, just before the ALA Annual Conference. Aimed at all librarians (school, college, university, public and special), the workshop will also involve media specialists and commercial publishers. For more information, contact Dr. Thomas Atkins, Baruch College Library, 17 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10010.

GOT MEDIA TO SHARE? The committee for the LACUNY workshop encourages all librarians and media specialists to submit proposals or completed presentations. Any media form is welcome: audio and video tapes, films and filmstrips, etc., etc., etc. Again, for more information contact Dr. Atkins at address in preceding paragraph.
UPCOMING....

March 6-7, 1980  SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE ON APPROACHES TO BIBLIOGRAPHIC INSTRUCTION, Charleston, South Carolina. Theme: "Library Instruction: Is there a role for the technical services librarian?"

April 19, 1980  TEACHING BIBLIOGRAPHIC RESEARCH SKILLS, Kenosha, Wi. University of Wisconsin-Parkside Library/Learning Ctr.

June 27-28, 1980  LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK Bibliographic Instruction Section, Baruch College, New York City, workshop and exhibit of library use programs.

LIRT NEWS
Linda Dougherty,
Clearing Branch CPL
5643 W. 63rd St.
Chicago, Il 60638

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED