Planning for the '80s

Dear Colleagues:

As usual, it was an exhilarating time at Midwinter ALA as the various committees and task forces of LIRT once again got together to talk and listen; for there are many ideas and questions, both great and small, to explore in carrying on the work of LIRT.

A catalog list, impressionistically recollected, of a few of the topics brought under both formal and informal discussion in Chicago would include nuts-and-bolts matters such as promotional materials, budgets, program meetings, elections, constitutional changes, committee charges, and meeting schedules. Broader discussions embraced such issues as: How can LIRT attract and involve new members? Are there ways we can actively involve the non-goer to conferences? What should our relationship be with state and regional chapters of LIRT? How can the newsletter best serve the needs of the LIRT membership? How can we disseminate the fine, important, and useful on-going work of such groups as our Liaison Committee? How can we evolve a mutually constructive relationship with the ALA Instruction in the Use of Libraries Committee? How does the concept of continuing education pertain to the work of LIRT, and does the proposed new centralization of C.E. in ALA best serve our needs in the long run? Can we begin to relate actively and beneficially with other units and sub-units of ALA who share (or may come to share) some goals and objectives with LIRT? Possibilities may include the American Association of School Librarians Early Childhood Education Committee, the Association for Library Service to Children Preschool Services and Parent Education Committee, the Association of College and Research Libraries Bibliographic Instruction Committee, the Public Library Association Alternative Education Programs Section, the Reference and Adult Services Division, the Young Adult Services Division, the Government Documents Round Table Education Task Force, the Library Research Round Table -- perhaps even the Freedom to Read Foundation. Is cooperative programming with one or more of these units at future summer conferences a prospect worth pursuing? In other words, are there ways that some of these groups and LIRT can work with and synergistically learn from each other?

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As we look at what is happening around us, we can occasionally glimpse some evidence of change taking place in broadening and strengthening the concept of the role of user education in all types of libraries. A brief news report in a recent issue of *Library Journal* (February 1, 1980, p. 350) begins, "The urgent concern that librarians today feel for the instruction of library users in library use was dramatized in Milwaukee by an all-day series of presentations on library instruction in elementary school, high school, undergraduate, and graduate schools---plus what public librarians should be teaching in this area."

This kind of news heartens everyone who believes that we can strengthen the connections between school, academic, and public library use and thereby lend substance to such catch-phrases as "life-long learning."

Cordially,

Jon Lindgren
LIRT Coordinator

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LIRT IN CHICAGO. . . Highlights of the Steering Committee Meeting, as reported by Barbara Feldstein:

... LIRT program this summer has been scheduled for Tuesday, June 24, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., with the membership meeting following.

... Revised constitution and by-laws were presented by Pat Breivik. The proposed revisions will appear in the June newsletter, to be voted on at the summer membership meeting.

... Samples of a new brochure and LIRT stationery were presented by Cerise Oberman-Seroka, as well as plans for a new-member packet. Look for these at the summer meeting.

... Mississippi Library Instruction Round Table requested (and received) state affiliation with LIRT.

... Outstanding programs in 12 states have been located and will be reported on in June, according to Eileen Dubin, National Programs Study Task Force Chair.
ALL OVER ALA goes the LIRT Liaison Committee to find out what's happening in instruction. Here are highlights from their report, prepared by Jean Koch, University of Illinois:

... 68 library schools responded to a survey conducted by ACRL/BIS Education for BI; 8 of the schools report that they offer courses in bibliographic instruction. These 8 will be further investigated.

... "Learning Theory in Action: Applications in Bibliographic Instruction" will be the topic of the BIS program at ALA in New York. Program will be on July 1, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

... Bibliographic Instruction: A Handbook has been prepared by BIS, and is available for $5.00 to ACRL members and $6.00 to nonmembers. Write (including payment): ACRL, 50 E. Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611.

... ED 175 468 is an ERIC document which lists librarians who are members of, or who have presented programs to discipline associations on bibliographic instruction. (Prepared by BIS Cooperation Committee.)

... Statistics for bibliographic instruction have been kept in a variety of ways. The BIS Research Committee hopes to develop a model form.

... The Instruction in the Use of Libraries Committee will continue to exist, and hopes to better coordinate BI efforts.

POSTGRADUATE (after June, 1976) school, public, academic, special librarians: the ACRL/BIS Education for BI Committee would like to hear from you. Specifically, they'd like to know: what are your current job responsibilities in bibliographic instruction? in what way, if any, did your library school program prepare you for these job responsibilities? what additional educational preparation would have been helpful? Please include your library school and date of graduation (the committee will keep your replies confidential in case your remarks aren't laudatory) and send to Barbara Schwartz, Undergraduate Library, University of Texas, Austin, TX 78712.

LIRT News is a quarterly publication of the Library Instruction Round Table of the American Library Association.
A GOOD GRAPHIC SYSTEM will serve library users via making their visits more efficient, effective, and pleasurable, says John Belt, professor of design at SUNY/Oswego. Mr. Belt, who has designed complete sign systems, has several suggestions for librarians from his viewpoint as a frequent library user. For example, one should observe people using the card catalog and note the ease or awkwardness of the traffic pattern of the users. Do they scan the file in a horizontal pattern (as he says he did for many years) before realizing the files are arranged in a vertical pattern? If so, placing alternate color identification cards will lead the eye in the desired direction. Can they orient themselves to the whole catalog from a distance, or must they walk up close and peer? If so, consider signs that will start people off in the right direction.

Other graphic suggestions from Mr. Belt:
- Identify objectives. What do you want a sign system to do?
- Identify problems. What kinds of directional questions are asked over and over?
- Study traffic flow. Are there well-defined traffic areas away from reading areas? Do unnecessary steps have to be taken? Could a blind user get around your library?
- Locate free or low-cost help. Many colleges have design departments that have faculty for consultation or advanced students who might be looking for a project or who might work on a low budget.
- Investigate transfer or vinyl adhesive letters (available at drafting supply centers, or large office or art supply stores). Requiring no talent, these letters are available up to 6 inches high and can give a professional look to your graphics.
- Consider the use of color coding service areas and information centers. Colored acetate (drafting or art supply stores) does not fade.
- Keep graphics in harmony with the architecture.

CHEMISTRY faculty and science librarians at the University of Richmond have implemented a four-year skills development program. Library units are an integral part of the laboratory section of basic chemistry courses, taught by library staff with grades assigned by laboratory instructors. For more information, contact Katherine R. Smith, UR/VISR Science Library, University of Richmond, VA 23173. (From Lifeline, Library Instruction Forum of the VLA, September, 1979)

BURN-OUT was one topic of a November 3 conference at the University of California at Irvine. Two psychiatric social workers discussed the symptoms of burn-out (a cold, uncaring attitude towards patrons, low morale, etc.) and measures to cope with it (establishing peer support groups, recognizing and dealing with a compulsion to be perfect, learning relocation techniques, and being self-assertive). Two librarians then discussed the effect of burn-out on librarians. More information, including a bibliography and a tape, are located at the Southern Depository of Instructional Materials, UCLA (213-825-2138). (From CCLI Newsletter, November, 1979)
DEADLINE for the June 1 LIRT Newsletter will be May 10. Send news of upcoming conferences, workshops, publications, or other interesting activities to Mignon Adams, Penfield Library, SUNY/Oswego, Oswego, NY 13126, by that date.

DESCEND UPON WASHINGTON for Library Legislative Day: April 15 has been set aside as one day for coordinated lobbying of Congress for library support. If you can't go, call or send a mailgram to your legislators that day.

TEACHING THE TEACHERS... a workshop on improving the classroom skills of librarians, May 29 and 30, University of North Carolina at Asheville, will focus on issues such as methods of increasing student motivation, presentation techniques, and test construction and interpretation - $20 registration. For more information, contact Dr. Marie Devine, Instructional Services Librarian, Ramsey Library, University of North Carolina at Asheville, Asheville, NC 28804.

YPCOMING IN YPSILANTI is the tenth annual conference on library orientation for academic libraries on May 8 and 9, 1980. Write for brochure: Project LOEX, Center for Educational Resources, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI 48197.

PASSAGES: LIBRARY INSTRUCTION FOR LIFELONG ENRICHMENT was the title of a conference held in November in Virginia. Proceedings are available for a $2.00 check made out to Virginia Library Association and mailed to Betty Kondayan, The University Library, Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA 24450.

A LIBRARY RESEARCH SERIES is announced by Westview Press; the series will consist of guides to introduce undergraduates to library research in specific subject areas (one is already available, on French literature). Prospective authors should contact Robert K. Baker, Public Services Librarian, Spokane Community College Library, North 1810 Green Street, Spokane, WA 99207, for guidelines.

BORDERS ON THE IMPOSSIBLE become possible. The Library Border Book, a collection of borders and headlines for use on library brochures, flyers, newsletters, annual reports, etc., is available from LEI, Inc., P.O. Box 687, Bloomfield, NJ 07003. According to the Library PR News, the borders can be used for offset, mimeograph, or photocopiers. A free brochure is available from LEI.
Volunteers to Service Exhibit Booth

The Membership/Public Relations Committee of the Library Instruction Round Table will be coordinating the operation of LIRT's exhibit booth at the ALA 1980 conference in New York. We need volunteers to service the exhibit booth, answer questions about LIRT's aims and objectives, and distribute LIRT membership information. This is an excellent opportunity for new members who would like to become more active in the Round Table.

The exhibit booth will open Saturday, June 28th and close Tuesday, July 1.
If you are interested in participating please send your name and days you will be attending the conference, by April 15th, to:

Suzy Turner
P.O. Box 4278
Mississippi State, MS 39762
(601)325-4225

Suzy will then contact you about time availability and specific scheduling.

Request for 1980 Conference Display Materials

The Membership/Public Relations Committee of the Library Instruction Round Table is soliciting instructional materials for the LIRT exhibit booth at the A.L.A. 1980 New York Conference. We welcome contributions from public, school, academic and special libraries. Instructional brochures, pamphlets, and pathfinders, workbooks, study guides, program announcements, orientation program aims and objectives, formal library skills course curricula, etc. - all these materials are requested. Please send your contribution by May 1 to:

Louise Greenfield
James Branch Cabell Library
Virginia Commonwealth University
901 Park Ave.
Richmond, VA 23284
(804)257-1101

Materials cannot be returned. We are also hoping to include several slide/tape presentations in our display. If you have a slide/tape show as part of your orientation program, please contact Louise Greenfield at the above address.
GO OUT FOR A BITE WITH LIRT

Here's your chance to talk informally with other librarians interested in instruction. LIRT is offering an opportunity to sign up for a lunch, dinner, or cocktail hour with a small group of instruction librarians who wish to exchange ideas and just get-to-know each other.

Send in the application form below, and you will be notified of where to meet for a trip to a moderately-priced restaurant with likeminded librarians. Each group will have a coordinator who will contact group members before ALA, make reservations at a restaurant, and arrange for a meeting place.

I'd like to GO OUT FOR A BITE IN THE BIG APPLE WITH LIRT

My first three preferences are:

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I'd be glad to be a group coordinator  □

Name ___________________________ Phone ___________________________
Institution ___________________________
Address ___________________________

Please send this form, by May 15, to: Judith Avery
Undergraduate Library
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan  48109
CANDIDATES A-LIRT: the candidates on the ballot you'll be receiving soon will be:

Vice Coordinator/Coordinator-Elect: Judith Drescher, Director, Champaign (IL) Public Library; Janet M. Gilliland, Assistant Reference Librarian, Colorado State University.

Secretary: Exir Brennan, Coordinator of Library Instruction, University of Alabama; Michael Collard, Graduate Assistant Librarian, University of Illinois; Linda Dougherty, Head, Clearing Branch of the Chicago Public Library.

Treasurer: Eileen Dubin, Director of Interlibrary Loan, Northern Illinois University; Sharon Lee Stewart, Library Instruction Librarian, University of Alabama.