Past President's Report

Two years ago, when I learned that I was to be the President-elect of LIRT, I had little idea of what was in store for me or for LIRT, but I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to serve at such an important time in our round table's development. The first year was one of introspection, of redefinition, of planning, of redirection. It was dominated by a Long-Range Planning Preconference at Midwinter 1985 and the adoption of a new Mission Statement and Organizational Goals at our last Annual Meeting. This document plus its supporting objectives and activities have guided our work since its approval at our membership meeting last summer.

It was important to change the direction of LIRT after that necessary period of introspection, and it has been my goal this year to emphasize communication and outreach. 1985-86 has been a year of intense and outward-directed activity for LIRT.

Much of our organizational time and energy this year was consumed by the creation of the handbook and manual made possible by the first World Book/ALA Goals Award ever won by a round table. The ad hoc Goals Award Committee and a number of our standing committees worked throughout the year to produce the handbook and to prepare the preconference workshop and conference program which tested and critiqued the draft publication. The LIRT Library Instruction Planner Handbook represents over a year of work by a large number of members and friends of LIRT. It represents communication and outreach in the best sense; we have shared much of what we know about starting a program of library instruction with all who may be interested to learn.

During the Midwinter Conference, LIRT co-sponsored an Open Forum to explore the concepts of information literacy and of learning hierarchies which provide a breakdown of steps involved in seeking information. Our co-sponsor was the ALA standing committee on Instruction in the Use of Libraries; LIRT continues to work for the growth of this group as an effective advocate and co-ordinator of library instruction activities.

(Cont. on page 11)
"Life-Long Learning: Developing Programs in Library Use Instruction" was the topic of a two-day institute sponsored by LIRT for academic, school, public and special librarians. The institute was conducted by members of LIRT's ALA-World Book Goals Award Committee under the direction of May Brottman. The keynote address was given by Patricia Senn Breivik, Director of the Auraria Library.

John Tyson, Institute Coordinator said that 43 participants and 33 staff spent two days of intensive work developing plans for initiating and implementing library instruction programs for specific institutions and a model for training others interested in developing library instruction programs for their own libraries.

The Institute was based on the LIRT Library Instruction Planner Handbook. Evaluation of the handbook conducted during the pre-conference will be the basis for a revised handbook.

Recognition and thanks for their efforts are due to the following people: Lois Pausch, Mary Pagliero Popp, Barbara Ford-Foster and Robert Kuhner for the survey to determine librarian's needs.

Authors of the handbook include Julia Gelfand, Thelma Tate, Betsy Elkins, Mary Loes, Sandy Ready, Sharon Stewart, Marvin Wiggins, Cathy Sobol, Kathy Jordan, Mignon Adams, Kathleen Woods, Helen Burns, Marilyn Barr, Elizabeth Dailey, Fran Corcoran, Dianne Langlois, Emily Bergman, Susan Arrington, and Tobeylynn Birch.

Workers on the confernece included J. Randolph Call, Marilyn Segal, Louise Greenfield, Lorrie Logsdon, John Tyson, Dennis Clark Hamilton, Jitka Hurych, Debra Park and William Yount. Special thanks to Patricia Senn Breivik, consultant and pre-conference keynote speaker.

(Cont. on page 10)
LIRT Program at ALA

"You Can Do It: Creating an Action Plan for Library Instruction" was the theme of this year's LIRT Program in New York. Phylliss Rearden, Chair of the Program Committee, introduced the speaker, Mary George, Head of General Reference, Princeton University.

Ms. George opened her address by referring to the recently concluded LIRT pre-conference activities and objectives. At the pre-conference, participants critiqued the handbook that had been compiled during the past year. Ms. George briefly summarized some of the key issues of the pre-conference: What is the appropriate interplay across types of libraries in relation to library instruction? Is it appropriate for school librarians to create needs where they don't exist? What are the pros and cons of working with the establishment in planning programs? She said we now have a great opportunity to get involved with the current emphasis on improving educational quality in the United States.

George said the main issues she wanted to highlight were the kind of content in a new library instruction program or in fine-tuning an existing program and appropriate selfishness in library instruction. She explained she is a theorist and likes to plan concepts of instructional programs. In discussing her ideas regarding content, she referred to her diagram of two models of content choice (figure 1).

Model B is applicable to any type of library. In this model, Box 4 includes the expertise, skills and concepts and other similar possibilities. She emphasized that we should be concerned with teaching the nature of tools, not the specific tools themselves. She stressed the idea being able to transfer knowledge about tools and strategies across place and time, for instance, from one type of library to another, or from discipline to discipline. In this context, George mentioned her four NASTIES of teaching library use in reference work: 1. Current, 2. Controversial, 3. Local, 4. Interdisciplinary.

Box 5 is a factor we usually know little about, but must find out as much as we can. Boxes 1 and 2 focus on events and people that make news, and then how this knowledge or data is created. George concluded the discussion on content by stressing that we should shift our focus from tools to sources and we must examine the content of what we teach along with our objective regularly.

The idea of appropriate selfishness reflects on a librarian's reasons for starting a library instruction program. What are your aims? Why are you doing this? Each person involved in library instruction should have a reason for doing it, according to George. A librarian should also think about how long he/she wants to do it before getting burned out, in order to have sufficient emotional capital and commitment.

After Mary George's inspirational address, May Brottman passed out material on the LIRT Handbook. She explained that the project had begun last July and is primarily for those just

(Cont. on page 11)
Officer and Committee Chairs

President
Marilyn Barr
730 S. Mt. Pleasant Rd.
Philadelphia, PA 19119
Phone: (215) 844-2036
(215) 468-4377

Vice-President/President-Elect
Thelma Tate
Rutgers University
Mable Smith Douglass Library
Douglass Campus
Chapel Dr.
New Brunswick, NJ 08903
Phone: (201) 932-9407

Secretary
Kathleen Woods
Municipal Information Library
Room 302, City Hall
Minneapolis, MN 55415
Phone: (612) 348-8139

Treasurer
Randy Call
6565 Frantz Rd.
Dublin, OH 43017
Phone: 1-800-848-5878

Affiliates Committee (ad hoc)
Carol Penka
Reference Department
300 Library
University of Illinois
1408 W. Gregory Dr.
Urbana, IL 61801
Phone: (217) 333-1900

Conference Program, 1987
Helen Burns
OWA/YA
Free Library of Philadelphia
Logan Square
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Phone: (215) 686-5355

Conference Program, 1987
Fran Corcoran, IMC Coordinator
Community Consolidate School District #62
Leon Smaage Admin. Center
777 Algonquin Rd.
Des Plaines, IL 60016
Phone: (312) 824-1136 ex. 318

Continuing Education
Rebecca Webb
Fine Arts Department
Salt Lake City Public Library
209 E. 5th South
Salt Lake City, UT 84111
Phone: (801) 363-5722 ex. 241

Elections/Nominations
Mary Pagliero Popp
Undergraduate Library
Indiana University
Bloomington, IN 47405
Phone: (812) 335-9857

Liaison
Charles Dintrone
Chair, Government Publications
San Diego State University
Library
San Diego, CA 92182-0511
Phone: (619) 265-4303

Long-Range Planning
Thelma Tate
Rutgers University
Mable Smith Douglass Library
Chapel Dr.
Douglass Campus
New Brunswick, NJ 08903
Phone: (201) 932-9407

Organization and By-laws
Marilyn Segal
6537 Dartbrook
Dallas, TX 75240
Phone: (214) 233-4314
Public Relations/Membership

Randall B. Hensley
User Education Librarian
Odegaard Library, DF-10
University of Washington
Seattle, WA 98195
Phone: (206) 543-2060

Publications

Catherine Doyle
Smith Library
Christopher Newport College
50 Shoe Ln.
Newport News, VA 23606
Phone: (804) 599-7134

Research

C. Paul Vincent
Director
Keene State College
Wallace E. Mason Library
229 Main St.
Keene, NH 03431
Phone: (603) 352-1909 ex. 235

LIRT Liaison (ALA)

Jeniece Guy
American Library Association
50 E. Huron St.
Chicago, IL 60611
Phone: (312) 944-6780

Correction

The six-step research strategy referred to in the June 1986 issue of LIRT News was developed by Eileen Dubin, Williams Rainey Harper College and May Brottman, Glenbrook High School, prior to the cooperative pilot study described in the column.

Volunteer!


MODELS FROM LIRT PROGRAM

SOURCES (TOOLS)

USER WITH QUESTION INFORMATION AS ANSWER

MODEL A

EVENTS PEOPLE

DATA NEW KNOWLEDGE BOX 1
CREATIVE ACTS

INFORMATION SOURCES BOX 2

LOCATION BOX 3 & TOOLS

USER WITH NEED BOX 5

MODEL B

LIRT News Deadlines

October 24, 1986
January 23, 1987
April 24, 1987
Committee Reports

Affiliate (ad hoc)

The committee reviewed the results of the survey to identify library instruction related groups and developed plans for follow-up. Criteria were designed for targeting 4 states for development of affiliates. A reception will be held for affiliates and the Steering Committee at Midwinter to share ideas.

Conference Program, 1986

A successful program featuring Mary George, of Princeton University, was developed. See the article this issue for further details.

Conference Program, 1987

The 1987 program is tentatively titled "Hit Them Where They Live". It will be on point-of-use instruction, and feature the on-line public catalog.

Continuing Education

The committee will be updating "It Really Works" this year and preparing a packet of case studies on library instruction for publication. The CE bibliography will also be produced for the LIRT News.

Elections/Nominations

The committee did preliminary work on the slate and planned ways to solicitate nominations from the membership.

Long-Range Planning

The revisions of the Mission Statement were finalized. LIRT's response to the Strategic Long-Range Plan was considered. The LIRT logo was reviewed again.

Organization and By-laws

The committee proposed four new task forces: Publications/Promotion, Handbook, Computer-Assisted Instruction, and a Tenth Anniversary Celebration Task Force. It will also study a proposal that the Treasurer's term be extended to two years and the addition of members-at-large to the Executive Board.

Public Relations/Membership

The committee reviewed more efficient committee assignments for next year, ways of targeting populations for recruitment, and the LIRT booth and the "Bite with LIRT" program.

Publications

The committee reviewed the success of its first publication "It
END USER SEARCHING OF ONLINE DATABASES

Compiled by Doris B. Dantin
Middleton Library, LSU
LIRT Research Committee

This is the conclusion of the bibliography begun in the June 1986 issue of the LIRT News.


An extensive list of guidelines for introducing patrons to doing their own online searches.


Comprehensive analysis of the end user program at the University of Ottawa using BRS/After Dark. Includes bibliography.


Reports on the problems that students encountered in the use of the end user service. Difficult areas included use of Boolean logic, questions concerning the scope of the databases, and excessive need for staff help.


Compares presearch counseling with the traditional search interview.


Analysis of the end user search program at Louisiana State University using Search Helper.


Results of an interview with a psychologist, an educator, an administrative assistant at a medical college, a chemist, and two labor lawyers. All of them were enthusiastic searchers and felt that they were getting good results.


Evaluation of microcomputer software packages that interface between users and bibliographic retrieval systems.

Report on an online searching for end user workshop given at Lehigh University for graduate students in education.


Bibliography of articles and conference papers published during 1981-84 on cost effectiveness, training and evaluating end user searching.


Describes the methods used at Drexel University to teach online searching to media specialists.


Discusses the design and implementation of CONIT, an experimental retrieval system, developed at MIT.


Evaluation of the use of CONIT as a cost-effective method of teaching online searching to end users.


Description of the program at Imperial Chemical Industries to teach personnel to do their own online searching.


Evaluation of the Individualized Instruction for Data Access system study that was conducted at Drexel University.


Discusses the difference between educating the information professional and training the end user. What does each need to know?

Discusses end user searching in a corporate setting. Does it enhance or diminish the role of the librarian in the information gathering process?


Analyzes both EASYNET I and EASYNET II and compares the advantages and disadvantages of each.


Survey of user satisfaction with free searches run by end users on Search Helper. Report on an experiment conducted at Carnegie Mellon Univ.


Explains the use of format databases for the novice searcher. Lists useful databases for books, journals, and reports.


Relates experiences in developing the end user program at the University of Maryland (Baltimore) using BRS/After Dark.


Reviews studies demonstrating how artificial intelligence techniques can be applied to the design and development of user-oriented online systems.


Analysis of the capabilities of Search Helper. Describes both the advantages and disadvantages of the system.


Describes workshop developed at Saint Xavier College to teach faculty how to do their own online searching on Dialog.

Discusses problems encountered when establishing an end user searching program such as: available software, patron education, and financing the project.


Study to evaluate end user reaction to online database searching. Experiment was conducted at University of Wisconsin-Stout.


Description of an end user training program designed to promote strong interest in searching among participants. Stress is on the development of effective search strategies.


Instruction in online searching was introduced into several courses at Stanford and San Jose State University. Article reports on successes and problems with the experiment.

COMMITTEE REPORTS (Cont.)

Really Works" and discussed the Continuing Education Committee's plans for a revision. Potential reorganization was also discussed.

Research

The committee will continuing providing bibliographies for the LIRT News on topics of interest. The committee will also be developing a survey to determine different perceptions of user education.

LIRT PRE-CONFERENCE (Cont.)

May Brottman was project director and Georgeanne Moore was administrative assistant. Both put in many long hours of work to make the pre-conference a success.

Additional information on the Institute and the LIRT Handbook may be obtained by writing Marilyn Barr, LIRT President, 730 S. Mt. Pleasant Rd., Philadelphia, PA 19119.

Elizabeth Dailey and Tobeylynn Birch
PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Cont.)

LIRT continued its own process of long-range planning in 1985-86; in addition, the Executive Committee proposed a number of objectives related to library instruction for inclusion in the ALA strategic Long-Range Plan. The ALA committee responded by adding several objectives related to our organizational interests.

The ad hoc Affiliates Committee tackled the difficult task of restructuring the Affiliates Council, an essential part of our goal to extend our services to librarians who cannot often attend national conferences. The committee has been conducting a survey to identify library instruction related groups and has developed plans for follow-up. Six state groups are expected to accept the LIRT offer of charter membership, and the Affiliates Council appears to be a viable organization with a bright future.

The agendas and projects of our standing committees reflected our commitment to our new long-range goals. In this newsletter you will find annual committee reports, which provide a look at the work of these groups, each of which has made important contributions to library instruction and to our round table during the past year. These reports are part of our attempt to communicate with you, and I urge you to write to me or to any other LIRT officer or committee chair with your comments and suggestions. LIRT is an open organization with many opportunities to participate; we invite your active involvement in our work, and we would be happy to share additional information about any of our projects which interest you.

Special thanks are due to all the 1985-86 officers--Marilyn Barr, Tobeylynn Birch, Carol Penka, and Mary Popp--to May Brottman, who initiated the ALA Goals Award proposal and who chaired the ad hoc committee, and to all the other members of the Steering Committee. Many of our committee members have also made important contributions during the past year, and I am grateful to them as well. I have had the privilege of serving with a talented, dedicated group of people who have given the time and have shared their knowledge and expertise. The workload has been enormous, but the accomplishments have been outstanding.

Marilyn Segal, Past President, LIRT

LIRT PROGRAM (Cont.) SEE PAGE 5 FOR MODEL

begining to do library instruction.

Participants from the pre-conference served as group leaders as the program broke up into small group discussions to share experiences.

Linda Richardson
CANDIDATE A LIRT!

If you would like to run for LIRT office or would like to nominate someone, please contact Mary Pagliero Popp, Undergraduate Library, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405. Phone (812) 335-9857.

RECOMMENDED BECAUSE:

The LIRT Elections Committee is responsible for producing a slate of at least two candidates for each office. This year our rotation of officers is School Librarian for Secretary and Academic Librarian for Treasurer. Candidates must be current LIRT members and have served at least one year on a committee or task force of the organization. Deadline for nominations is NOVEMBER 30, 1986.