

LIBRARY INSTRUCTION ROUND TABLE NEWS  
Conference Review      October 1979  
Volume 2, No. 2

## ***The Year in Review***

Dear LIRT members:

It was a real pleasure to see so many of you--and so many others--at the LIRT business and program meetings. Certainly Patricia Cross' speech was one of the highlights of the conference. If you did not get to hear her, do yourself a favor and get a copy of her speech to read.

This is my last official note to you, and it is by way of a brief, informal annual report. At the end of the 1978 ALA Conference, the LIRT Steering Committee met for the first time, and priorities for the year were quickly outlined. They were: (1) to have a quality 1979 conference program, (2) to set up mechanisms for communications with and among the membership, (3) to establish goals and objectives for approval by the membership, and (4) to begin to establish procedures and guidelines to ensure the coordination necessary to make LIRT a dynamic, productive organization. I am delighted to report that--thanks to the outstanding efforts of the members of the Steering Committee and those of the committee and task force members--all four priorities were accomplished.

The ALA program has already been commented on, and many thanks to Tim Richards and his committee for a job well done. Little will be said regarding the procedures, calendars and guidelines established, but everyone who has ever been involved in establishing a new nation-wide organization will be able to appreciate the complexities of this task in which all the members of the Steering Committee shared. Indeed, a great deal was accomplished, but a great deal more remains to be done.

The communications priority had several facets to its implementation. First, a very special note of appreciation goes to Linda Dougherty for almost single-handedly getting out the first four issues of the LIRT Newsletter. This turned out to be such a big undertaking, that two people will share the responsibilities for producing the newsletter in the years to come. Second, the Membership Committee under the able leadership of Randy Call was so enterprising that its responsibilities quickly were expanded to include public relations. It was the work of this committee and of the first liaison officer, Kathy Jordan, that saw to all the informational and publicity pieces that proved so useful to current and potential LIRT members. Finally, the business meeting and open house were also seen as ways to provide good and varied means of communications.

Continued on next page

## COORDINATOR'S LETTER TO THE MEMBERSHIP

Jon Lindgren provided the leadership for the planning efforts. The results of the Planning Task Force's activities, as amended and approved at the membership meeting, are reported elsewhere in this newsletter. It is my personal and strong belief that, once those activities are completed, the groundwork will have been successfully laid for major accomplishments in forwarding library instruction activities across the country.

Thanks are due to Betty Hacker and the members of the Continuing Education Task Force which she chaired. All of us at the membership meeting were impressed by the amount and quality of research which this group accomplished in such a short period of time, and we look forward to their suggestions for future action. Words of appreciation are also due to Elizabeth Kenney who served both as secretary and as chairperson of the Elections Committee, to Barbara Turman who served as treasurer, to Virginia Sherwood, past coordinator, and to Ben LoBue, ALA liaison.

It was a sometimes exhausting experience but always an honor to work with this group during the past year, and my best wishes for another successful year go to the new Steering Committee.

We, who are involved in library instruction, are confronted by a great challenge. A favorite passage from the Bible says: "Seek ye the truth, and the truth shall set you free." We are attempting to help people acquire the very skills that can assist them in this search. It is my hope that our efforts will be increasingly supported in the years to come by the pooling of our resources through the auspices of the ALA Library Instruction Round Table.

Patricia Senn Breivik  
1978/79 LIRT Coordinator

## LIRT OFFICERS FOR 1979-80

Jon Lindgren, LIRT Coordinator  
St. Lawrence University Library, Canton, New York

John C. Shirk, Vice-Coordinator, Coordinator Elect  
Houston Public Library, Houston, Texas

Barbara Feldstein, Secretary  
Newton Public Schools, Newton, Massachusetts

Lois Pausch, Treasurer  
University of Illinois, Library, Urbana-Champaign, Illinois

EDITORIAL NOTE: With this copy of the newsletter, the responsibility for it is divided between two people. If you have any news or views you'd like to share (reports of upcoming conferences or meetings, interesting teaching materials you've found, job announcements), please send these to:

Mignon Adams, LIRT Newsletter Editor  
Penfield Library  
SUNY/Oswego  
Oswego, New York 13126

If you have questions about your subscription or don't receive a copy, please write to:

Linda Dougherty, LIRT Newsletter Production Manager  
Chicago Public Library, Clearing Branch  
5643 W. 63rd Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60639

THE APPLE REMAINS. Attendees at the LIRT membership meeting overwhelmingly voted to retain the apple as its official logo, with a bite missing. All those looking for the apple of knowledge - LIRT's got it.

PRECONFERENCE AN OVERWHELMING SUCCESS, says Suzy Turner of Mississippi State, and other attendees, of the ACRL Bibliographic Instruction Section Preconference. Six workshops were available - teaching librarians to teach; the one-hour stand; organizing and managing a library instruction program; workbooks; course-related and integrated library instruction; library instruction for faculty and graduate students. The BIS Executive Board is currently working on plans to put the workshops on a traveling basis, available for regional or state meetings. More information should be forthcoming after ALA Midwinter.

Other BIS information... Its 1980 ALA program will concern relating teaching techniques to learning theory. Due to the success of the Dallas Preconference, a preconference is contemplated every two years. The proposed ACRL reorganization plan will, some members fear, leave instruction librarians out of ACRL's structure.

LIFELONG LEARNING AND LIBRARIES was the topic of the LIRT program at Dallas. Dr. K. Patricia Cross, noted for her writings on nontraditional students and adult education, spoke on the coming importance of the adult learning force. About one-third of the adult population, she said, actively participate each year in some form of organized instruction; over 80% of American adults carry out at least one learning project a year, a project that is self-directed. Libraries, according to Dr. Cross, are "the ultimate in self-paced instruction" and she sees libraries as playing an important role as the mean age of our population increases. Copies of Dr. Cross's speech are available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to ALA.

CONTACT ESTABLISHED WITH OTHER ALA GROUPS. Kathy Jordan of Northern Virginia Community College, chair of the Liaison Committee, reports that official communication has been established with the ALA Committee on Instruction in the Use of Libraries, ACRL Bibliographic Instruction Section and Community and Junior College Section's Instruction in Use Committee, and the Freedom to Read Foundations. Members of the Liaison Committee attended meetings of these groups at Dallas, and will continue to do so.

TECHNICAL SERVICES LIBRARIANS AND INSTRUCTION is the concern of a subcommittee of the LIRT Task Force on Continuing Education. Lois Pausch of the University of Illinois, chair of the subcommittee, reports that the Board of Directors endorsed the following resolution at its June 26 meeting:

Moved that the RTSD Board of Directors encourage the participation of Technical Services Librarians in library bibliographic instruction programs.

(The intent of the Board was that technical services librarians be encouraged - but certainly not forced - to contribute to library instruction.) The subcommittee is also involved in a literature search, and is developing a questionnaire on the involvement of technical services librarians in library instruction programs; the questionnaire will be sent to a representative sample of libraries.

"LET'S MAKE LIRT VISIBLE AT DALLAS" was the job taken on by the Membership/Public Relations Task Force, chaired by Randy Call - and they certainly succeeded. All around the Convention Center were spotted buttons with bright red apples. Also making LIRT visible was the list of instruction-related meetings (there were over 30, sponsored by diverse groups in ALA) put together by Lois Pausch and Jean Koch of the Liaison Committee.

THE LIRT PROGRAM COMMITTEE ASKS:

What type of program do you want to attend? The LIRT Program Committee is interested in any ideas for the ALA LIRT Program, June, 1980 in New York. Please send your topic ideas to:

Suzy Turner  
P.O. Box 5408  
Miss. State, MS 39762

NEW LIRT TASK FORCES FORMED. A Task Force on Instructional Theory study is charged with developing a theoretical base to relate library user education to societal and educational needs; and with developing goals and objectives as a framework for library user education. The National Program Study Task Force will examine programs and curricula as a first step towards formulating a national model and/or set of standards for library user education.

PUBLIC LIBRARIANS: Patricia Breivik is currently seeking information on library instruction programs in public libraries. People having information on such programs are requested to send it to her % Walton, 4320 Butler Circle, Boulder, Colorado 80303.

THE APPLE GOES TO THE BIG APPLE: ALA '80 ...

Plans for the LIRT Booth are being made by the Membership/Public Relations Committee. They're thinking about displaying A-V library instructional materials, and would like to know how you, LIRT members, feel about such a display, and if you have materials you could loan - video tapes and cassettes, slide shows, audio tapes, still photos, etc.

Send your ideas and suggestions (including the type and format of materials you can share) to:

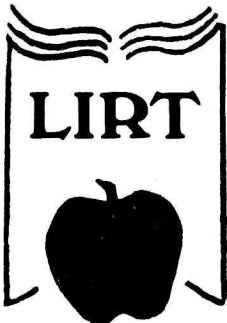
Randy Call  
OCLC, Inc.  
1125 Kinnear Road  
Columbus, Ohio 43212

THE OHIO SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA TEST has been developed by Dr. Anne M. Hyland. She examined area curriculum guides and national standards to determine the skills students are supposed to be learning, and then developed the test items to test these skills. Given to 3000 students in Ohio, the test has a table of norms for grades 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12. A specimen set of the test with descriptive material is available from Dr. Hyland for \$3.00; 30 copies of the reusable test booklet and instructions for \$15.00. Address: Dr. Anne M. Hyland, 236 E. Clearview, Worthington, Ohio 43085. Note: The test is copyrighted.

GAMES TO TEACH LIBRARY SKILLS to elementary school students are available from Learnco, Inc., Box L, Exeter, New Hampshire 03833. Compiled by Barbara Feldstein, there are sets on classifying and finding library materials, using the card catalog, and using the encyclopedia. Ten or more games are in each set.

OVER THERE, OVER THERE... A 1979 British publication, Current R & D Projects in User Education in the U.K., is now available from Ian Malley, British Library Information Officer for User Education, Library, Loughborough University of Technology, Loughborough LE 11 3TU, Leicestershire, United Kingdom. Price is \$10 U.S., and includes papers on the Travelling Workshops Experiment as well as user education in the construction industry and other areas.

WHAT RESOURCES DO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS USE in preparing independent study projects? This was the subject of a study conducted by Jacqueline C. Mancall of Drexel's School of Library and Information Science and reported on at an AASL meeting in Dallas. She examined the bibliographies of 270 student papers in 6 high schools, gave the students a questionnaire, and interviewed their librarians. Some of her findings: only half the students used journals; both journal and monograph references were surprisingly old (1965/66 were the median dates); 56% of the students used materials they had at home. Her suggestions for instruction included stressing the importance of current materials; interacting closely with teachers in assignment-making; making students aware of other journal indexes (especially since they often use other libraries).



LIRT NEWS  
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