



LIBRARY INSTRUCTION ROUND TABLE NEWS
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In Search of the Missing Link

The LIRT program at the ALA Annual Conference will stress the importance of teaching library users the process of information seeking and finding -- library literacy -- for lifelong use and as part and parcel of one's ability to think critically. As such, library skills are not taught solely in isolation, but rather are integrated with one's learning other life skills and are taught in a continuum.

If this idea is to come about, cooperative links among librarians from all types of libraries will have to be forged.

What kinds of links presently exist between school and academic libraries? between school and public? between special and academic?

Should these links only be ones of communication, or should there be more formal ones?

Are library skills taught in a continuum, or do we reteach the same skills from cradle to grave? Are these skills truly integrated, or do we merely show the student how to get through a one-time paper?

In the next issue of the newsletter, we'd like to print some of your responses to the above questions. Please send your ideas (answers, if you've got some), sounds of agreement or discord, to the LIRT Newsletter, Editor Mignon Adams, Penfield Library, SUNY/Oswego, Oswego, NY 13126.

--DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER IS FEBRUARY 1ST--

FROM THE LIRT COORDINATOR

Welcome to the new year for LIRT. Although we are a relatively young organization, LIRT is a real success in the library world as shown by our standing as the third largest of the Round Tables in ALA and by the excellent response we have had to our programs at the annual meetings. These accomplishments are largely due to the dedication and commitment of our elected officers and committee/task force chairpersons and to the enthusiastic cooperation and efforts of our members.

This year our focus is on increasing the involvement of more school and public librarians in our work. LIRT seeks to carry forward the development of library user instruction in all types of libraries and to develop an awareness of the role of the library in an information intensive society. Our efforts are directed toward the goal of having library patrons who can more fully exploit the resources of the library and to recognition of the best methods for instructing those patrons in the use of their libraries. Each member, and potential member, has insights and ideas of the best way this can be done. The recognition of library use instruction as one of the most vital functions in library service can only be achieved through the participation of all of you in our work. We solicit your cooperation in these endeavors and ask that you communicate your thoughts and concerns about library instruction to any of the LIRT officers, to the appropriate committee or task force chairperson, or to the membership at large through this Newsletter (deadlines for future issues are February 1 and May 1). In this issue you will find a listing of the names and addresses of these people and we hope you will feel free to write to any (or all, if you prefer) of us.

One suggestion that I have for all of you. When you have finished with this issue of the Newsletter, pass it on to any of your colleagues who are interested in library instruction. In this way, you will be helping in our membership activity.

And, should you be interested in becoming more actively involved through membership on one of the committees or task forces, please send me your name,

address, and preferred activity. We will be happy to know that you wish to give of your time and effort to make LIRT a more active and responsive round table in the future.

Sincerely,

Lois Pausch
LIRT Coordinator

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Preliminary List of Library Instruction Activities
ALA Midwinter Meeting, Washington, D.C.

Friday, January 30
all day

Freedom to Read Foundation Meetings

Sunday, February 1

8:00-9:00 a.m.

ACRL BIS Preconference Planning Committee, 1981

9:30-11:00 a.m.

ACRL BIS Education for Bibliographic Instruction Committee

ACRL BIS Preconference Planning Committee, 1981

LIRT Program Committee

11:30-12:30 p.m.

ACRL BIS Education for Bibliographic Instruction Committee

ACRL BIS Preconference Planning Committee, 1981

LIRT Program Committee

2:00-4:00 p.m.

LIRT Executive Committee

Monday, February 2

9:00 a.m.

LIRT Elections Committee

LIRT Membership/Public Relations Task Force

9:30-11:00 a.m.

LIRT Elections Committee

LIRT Membership/Public Relations Task Force

11:30-12:30 p.m.

LIRT National Programs Study Task Force

LIRT National Programs Study Task Force

2:00-4:00 p.m.

ACRL BIS Preconference Planning Committee, 1981

ACRL BIS Program Planning Committee, 1981

LIRT Bylaws Committee

LIRT Continuing Education Committee

LIRT Instructional Theory Task Force

4:30-5:30 p.m.

LIRT Publications/Newsletter Committee

8:00-10:00 p.m.

LIRT Liaison Committee

Tuesday, February 3

9:30-11:00 a.m.

ACRL EBSS Bibliographic Instruction for Educators Committee

LIRT Steering Committee

11:30-12:30 p.m.

ACRL EBSS Bibliographic Instruction for Educators Committee

LIRT Steering Committee

2:00-4:00 p.m.

LIRT Executive Committee

4:30-5:30 p.m.

ACRL BIS Preconference Planning Committee, 1981

Wednesday, February 4

2:00-4:00 p.m.

Instruction in the Use of Libraries Committee

A complete list of library instruction activities listing room numbers will be available at the Midwinter meeting. The list is prepared by the LIRT Liaison Committee.

GRANTS: Last year's H.W. Wilson Library Staff Development Grant was made to Southern University in Louisiana for a five-day workshop for library staff to design a program to increase the awareness of beginning freshmen of available services and resources. The \$2500 grant is awarded annually to a library organization for a staff development program designed to further its goals and objectives. Application deadline is January 15, 1981; further information, application forms, and guidelines are available from Ann Cunniff, ALA Awards Committee Liaison, ALA, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.

YASD CALL FOR PAPERS. ALA's Young Adult Service Division is soliciting original unpublished research papers on materials and services for young adults. Topics in all areas of YA literature, library services, and informational needs (surely library instruction fits in here) will be considered. Proposals (up to 800 words) are due by December 15 and should be sent to Dr. Shirley Fitzgibbons, Chair, YASD Research Committee, Graduate Library School, University Library, Bloomington, IN 47401.

AND - ALSC CALLS ALSO for original unpublished research papers related to the improvement and extension of library service to children. Proposals (up to 500 words) are due by January 10, and should be sent to Nan Johnston, Chair, Assoc. for Library Service to Children Research Committee, Stark County District Library, 715 Market Avenue North, Canton, OH 44702.

OUTREACH WAS THE GOAL of the library staff at St. Lawrence College, Kingston, Ontario. For the past several years, they've offered a course for community residents, held when college was not in session. While the original idea was to help incoming students, they found that the class members were primarily townspeople, high school students, and college students from elsewhere. The four two-hour sessions cover library tools, Canadian government publications, and research methods. Publicity included a sprightly newspaper ad. For more information, contact Barbara Carr, Learning Resource Centre, St. Lawrence College, King and Portsmouth, Kingston, Ontario, Canada, K7L 5A6.

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A NEW STATE LIBRARY SKILLS K-6 CURRICULUM for New York, worked on since 1977, should be available after December 1. Planned on the basic premise that elementary librarians are teachers, it is divided into three parts. Part I is "local initiative," which outlines the conditions necessary for skills programs; part II, "school models," provides research units for subject matter; and part III, "academic framework," groups skills according to type - location, inquiry, reading, guidance, etc. Copies may be obtained from Lore Scurrah, Chief, Bureau of School Libraries, State Education Department, Albany, NY 12234.

A LIBRARY SKILLS TEST, designed for grades 7 - college freshman has been developed by the Illinois Library Association's IACRL Bibliographic Instruction Committee. Scholastic Testing Services (480 Meyer Road, Bensenville, IL 60106) has published the test, and is in the process of developing norms (which means that you can compare your students' scores with a large sample). For more information, write to Scholastic Testing Service, or Eileen Dubin, Northern Illinois University Libraries, DeKalb, IL 60115.

SAVE YOUR TRAVEL MONEY for the Second International Conference on User Education, July 7 - 10, 1981, at Keble College, Oxford. Speakers have been invited from the USA, GB, Ireland, Continental Europe, and Asia, and will cover user education in all types of libraries. More information and application forms can be obtained from writing: Second International Conference on User Education, P.O. Box 45, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE11 3UL, England.

ERIC is the title of a slide-tape program available from Media Retrieval Services, Pierce Library, University of Wisconsin-Stout, Menominee, Wisconsin 54751. 12 minutes long, it goes through the steps in using both RIE and CIJE. Of special note is the dramatic beginning which links ERIC with the space age. Also included are printed information and worksheets; these are similar to other ERIC packages you may have seen. The producers have made a good effort to make the program pertinent to any library. It may be purchased for \$55; you may preview for purchase, but expect to wait to be able to do so.

GAMES, TESTS, FILMSTRIPS, POSTERS, and other materials for teaching library skills to students K - College are described in a catalog available from Larlin Corporation, P.O. Box 1523, Marietta, GA 30061. Includes materials from a number of different producers.

830 ACADEMIC LIBRARIES WITH INSTRUCTION PROGRAMS were surveyed by LOEX in December, 1979. At 24% of them, library instruction was mandatory; 42% teach credit courses; 11% use workbooks; 52% use no evaluation methods, while 7% test; 39% say they are engaged in research.

SANDY READY has been appointed to serve as assistant editor of the LIRT Newsletter for 1980-81. Sandy is currently Coordinator of Instructional Services at Memorial Library, Mankato State University, Mankato, Minnesota. She has been a full time bibliographic instruction librarian at Mankato State since 1974. Sandy has an M.S. in Media, and a Specialist Degree in Curriculum and Instruction, both from Mankato State. Prior to becoming an academic librarian, she taught secondary English, speech and journalism.

EDUCATION FOR LIBRARY INSTRUCTION is alive and well at the University of Rhode Island's Graduate Library School, reports the New England ACRL Chapter's newsletter. A regional collection of BI materials (set up in cooperation with the New England B.I. Clearinghouse) will be housed there; a continuing education workshop was held on October 25; and an experimental course in BI is being offered this fall. What's happening at other library schools?

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED