



Volume 8, Number 3
March 1986
ISSN 0270-6792

LIBRARY INSTRUCTION ROUND TABLE NEWS

Open Forum on Information Literacy

The Library Instruction Round Table co-sponsored an "Open Forum on Information Literacy" with the Instruction in the Use of Libraries Committee on Saturday afternoon, January 18, during the American Library Association Midwinter Conference in Chicago. A large group of approximately 70 librarians attended this unusually interesting forum.

After Marilyn Barr, Vice-President of LIRT, welcomed the group, Marilyn Mitchell of Aurora Library presented the ideas and tools that the forum participants would be dealing with and using during the forum. She indicated that a technique called "mind-mapping" would be used by the participants to pin-point and synthesize ideas about information literacy. Also, she cited two trends that she asked the group to consider in attempting to determine a working definition of information literacy: 1) building skills for lifelong learning; 2) the concept of the information society.

Dr. Patricia Breivik, the coordinator of the forum, began the session by asking participants if their institutions were either examining basic skills or considering a definition of information literacy. She expressed concern for the library's role in supporting information literacy and the fact that librarians have not been included or involved in the new push for improving education. She stressed that librarians should talk more about basic skills, rather than library instruction, when dealing with curriculum committees or school adminis-

INFORMATION LITERACY: A WORKING DEFINITION

I. General Definition

Information literacy is the ability to effectively locate, evaluate and communicate information for a given need.

II. Defining Characteristics

Information Literacy is:

*an integrated set of skills, knowledge and attitudes

skills

- How to locate information
- How to evaluate information located
- How to communicate information

knowledge

- Information tools
- Information resources

attitudes

- Persistence in research
- Willingness to redefine goals and repeat activities
- Attention to detail
- Caution in accepting printed word and single source of information

*time and labor intensive

*need-driven (it is a problem-solving activity)

*maintained through changes in technology and resources

*distinct but related to "literacy" and "computer literacy"

Information Literacy is not:

*(just) knowledge of resources

*library dependent (as sole source of information)

*(just) information finding (it is also communicating and evaluating)

OPEN FORUM ON INFORMATION LITERACY *continued*

trators.

After her introductory remarks, Dr. Breivik explained the mind-mapping technique she wanted the forum participants to utilize during the session. This mind-mapping technique, a non-linear method of getting ideas on paper, (discussed in *Use Both Sides of Your Brain* by Tony Buzan (New York: Dutton, 1983)) was then put to use. The participants, arranged in small groups at tables led by facilitators, "threw out" one-word ideas about information literacy. The facilitators, who had written the words "information literacy" in the middle of a large sheet of paper, then added, in non-linear fashion, the participants ideas about the characteristics of information literacy.

When the groups had completed their sheets, Dr. Breivik resumed her place at the microphone, and asked each group to present their best idea about what should be included in the definition of information literacy. Many characteristics were presented, and were then written up on large sheets posted on the wall. These included broad main topics such as users, resources, basic skills, economics, planning, etc., as well as many subtopics.

Dr. Breivik then passed out a hand-out (see page one) titled "Information Literacy: A Working Definition." The participant groups compared the definition characteristics of this document to the definition characteristics they had developed in their mind-mapping exercise.

Dr. Breivik then led a discussion about the information literacy problem and its relation to the library. Joan Fuscilla, a member of LIRT, posed some interesting questions to the group: Would librarians be taking over teaching faculty's jobs in providing education for information literacy? What is the relationship between information and knowledge? Should librarians be concerned about this?

The groups' ideas on the definition characteristics of information literacy as written on the mind-mapping sheets will be synthesized at a later date. Dr. Breivik concluded the forum by remarking on the need for librarians to consider information literacy in terms of competency, and the need for librarians to be interested and flexible in implementing an information literacy program at their institution.

A bibliography on information literacy which was passed out at the forum is reproduced on the next page.

--Pamela Engelbrecht and Linda Richardson

LIRT News is published quarterly (March, June, September, December) by the Library Instruction Round Table of the American Library Association. Copies are available only through annual ALA/LIRT membership; there is no single copy price. Contributions to be considered for inclusion in *LIRT News* should be sent to the Editor: Pamela Engelbrecht, General Reference Department, Newman Library, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061, or to the Assistant Editor: Catherine Doyle, Captain John Smith Library, Christopher Newport College, Newport News, VA 23606. Send claims to Jeniece Guy, American Library Association, 50 E. Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611.

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call for library instruction materials

to display at LIRT booth at ALA/NEW YORK

Workbooks - handouts - study guides - worksheets - videocassettes -
course syllabi - announcements and brochures - slide/tape programs -
evaluation instruments - posters from academic, public,
school and special libraries.

Share your ideas with other librarians. What's old hat to you may
inspire others. If you are able to provide audio-visual material,
please call or write Doris Miller as soon as possible.

A-V materials may be retrieved at the exhibit area after 12 noon on
July 1; no other materials can be guaranteed return.

Questions? write:

Doris Miller

Founders Memorial Library

Northern Illinois University

DeKalb, Illinois 60115

(815) 753-9853

Send materials to:

Sonia K. Long

54 Driscoll Avenue

Rockville Centre

New York 11570

VOLUNTEER FOR LIRT COMMITTEES!

The LIRT Committee Volunteer Form is reproduced again on the next two pages because we need more volunteers for LIRT committees for 1986-87. Committee assignments begin after the New York ALA Conference in July. Information on LIRT committees can be found in the Dec. 1985 issue of *LIRT News*. Current activities are reported on pages 7 and 8 of this issue.

(OVER PLEASE)

LIRT COMMITTEE VOLUNTEER FORM--page 2**EDUCATION (List institution, degree, date, subject major):****WORK EXPERIENCE (Attach extra pages, as necessary):****OFFICES HELD OR COMMITTEE SERVICE (Include dates):****LIRT****OTHER PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS****SIGNATURE** _____**DATE** _____**THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING TO WORK WITH LIRT!**

Please return the completed form to:

Deadline: April 15, 1986

Marilyn Barr
 LIRT President-Elect
 730 S. Mount Pleasant Rd.
 Philadelphia, PA 19119

LIRT REPORT

ALA GOAL AWARDS COMMITTEE

1)The rough draft of the handbook for creating library instruction programs in all types of libraries is complete.

2)The workshop subcommittee has developed the timetable for the two-day workshop.

3)The outline for the training manual has been written.

4)The subcommittee in charge of creating a workbook for designing an instruction program has been created and charged.

5)The participant selection committee has completed their planning and is actively seeking participants.

All-in-all we are on-target for all of our deadline dates.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM '86 COMMITTEE

The speaker for the program has not been finalized yet. The title of the program will be "You can do it: creating an action plan for library instruction." Emphasis will be on the librarian starting a program but not a listing of steps. The program will be directed at giving ammunition to those librarians wanting to start a new instruction program. The speaker will be followed by small group sessions by type of library. These sessions will critique the newly-developed handbook.

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Long Range Planning Committee reviewed and edited the final copy of the Proposed Mission and Goal Statement for LIRT. The copies were submitted to the committee chairs for approval. Each chair will review the goals to see how their committee work fits into the goals and then set up tasks and timetables for accomplishment of objectives.

CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The LIRT Continuing Education Committee met from 8-11 AM on 1-18-86 and from 2-5:30 PM on 1-19-86. The committee revised its plans for developing a CE packet. The packet, which will be used by librarians conducting CE workshops related to BI, will focus on technology and BI. It will consist of nine case studies dealing with the library instruction aspects of micro-computers, online catalogs, and end user database searching. It will be available for sale and for distribution to LIRT affiliates by the New York Annual Conference.

Other activities of the committee in the coming year are: updating the directory It Really Works; assisting in the evaluation of worksheets being developed for the two-day New York pre-conference; updating the annual selective bibliography of BI articles for the *LIRT News*; and compiling a one-page bibliography for the Program Committee on the theme of the LIRT Program in New York.

ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE

The Organization Committee has had an extremely busy conference. We are currently dealing with 1)a bylaws change to set up 3 committees: Publications and Promotion, Membership, Newsletter; based on the current PR/Membership and Publications Committee charges; 2)revision of the Organization Manual; 3)orientation of new officers; 4)development of Executive Board liaisons to standing committees, and representatives to Round Table Coordinating Committee.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The PR is prepared and coordination arranged for set up of LIRT booth during Annual Conference, the staffing of LIRT booth, soliciting material (print and AV) for booth, and arranging and publicizing 6 BITE with LIRT meals in NY.

Decision to target non-LIRT members in Conference area (PLA, AASL and SLA members) and send a pre-conference mailing by April 30 publicizing/inviting their attendance and participation (number of mailings to be determined by costs of lists, DP, postage...).

--continued on next page

LIRT REPORTS continued--PR/Membership Committee (continued)

Decision to prepare a column/article in each issue of *LIRT News* featuring a member of LIRT and his/her activities. Librarians from different types of libraries will be featured each time.

Decision to try to capitalize on individuals reached through BITE with LIRT meals and send a follow up mailing (names and addresses gotten at each meal and given to Chair).

Decision to have ALA DP prepare a program which will pull names of new LIRT members twice a year (March 1 and Sept. 1), have the names printed on labels and the LIRT new-member packet mailed to them. Process of mailing to be finalized once program is available.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

The Research Committee discussed updating the CAI user checklist which includes adding new institutions as well as updating information for each entry on the first checklist.

Two bibliographies are almost ready for publication in the *LIRT News*. Topics are "Signage" and "End User Instruction."

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

The committee continued to seek ways to distribute the tasks of newsletter production, with some success. The proposed bylaws change will split the responsibilities for the newsletter and publications. The chair continues to produce and handle requests for "It Really Works", which has sold more than 75 copies. An IBM-PC disk of the directory was turned over to the Continuing Education Committee for updating. A new person has been put in charge of the "Resource File", which will provide LIRT committees and members with information on publishing options (specifics to be published in future *LIRT News*).

Ad Hoc AFFILIATES COMMITTEE

The Ad Hoc Affiliates Committee is working on the revitalization of the Affiliates Council. A survey of states (library agencies, state library associations, and state school media associations) will be undertaken to determine what possible groups exist to be targeted for membership. In ad-

dition, all members of the current Council and the associations which have indicated an interest in membership will be contacted about services to be offered through the Council.

BIB BITS

Library instruction doesn't often make it as a topic in *Library Hotline*, but Publications Committee member Elizabeth Dailey noted these two items in the January 20, 1986 issue. Reproduction permission has been very kindly granted by the *Library Hotline* editor.

READYING HIGH SCHOOLERS TO USE THE COLLEGE LIBRARY

A Knoxville colloquium on "Teachers & Librarians: Partners in Learning" brought together high school and college librarians and teachers. It was sponsored by the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, the Knoxville City and County school systems, and the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges.

A videocassette of the proceedings is available; it records presentations on making effective use of library resources, discussion of bibliographic instruction, and information skills that high school students should acquire before going on to college. Order from LOEX Clearinghouse, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI 48917.

USER ED AT UC-SANTA CRUZ

The University of California-Santa Cruz gives high marks to Research Librarian Alan Ritch for the library introduction course he has developed. He puts on 75-minute orientation sessions that combine lecture and finding exercises.

But the unusual element is the exercises, which are each tailored to a specific core course. This, obviously, could counter the biggest obstacle to learning from library exercises: they are relevant to the work being done in an actual course.

Moreover, Ritch goes out of his way to make the finding exercises both specific and fun: "I try to find questions that will entertain the skeptical, reassure the intimidated, and satisfy the adventurous."

MEMBER à LIRT

Randall Hensley, Libraries Bibliographic Instruction Coordinator, has developed a unique program at his University of Washington BIBLIO LAB. In conjunction with the University of Washington Graduate School of Library Science, Randall offers a course for credit in library instruction for graduate library science students.

The year-long course is designed to teach current practices in bibliographic instruction through not only a formal course but also a practicum in which the graduate students teach as a part of the regular undergraduate library instruction program. The students receive two credits for this three-quarter course.

The students take a formal course in bibliographic instruction from Randall during the first quarter. During the second and third quarters, the students actually conduct library instruction sessions for undergraduates.

If you would like to learn more about this unique program, contact:

Randall Hensley
Odegaard Undergraduate Library
DF-10
University of Washington
Seattle, WA 98122
(206) 543-2060

Member à LIRT is a new column from the LIRT PR/Membership Committee. It will feature LIRT members and their special library instruction activities in academic, public, school, and special libraries. If you have a special project you'd like to share with us or if you know of someone else's activity that's interesting, send the information to: Judy Wagner, Schaumburg Township Public Library, 32 W. Library Lane, Schaumburg, IL 60194, (312) 885-3373.

UPCOMING EVENT

MALC, the annual Midwest Academic Library Conference, will be held May 28-29, 1986 at Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa. The theme of this year's meeting is "A Climate for Communication." Speakers representing a variety of academic libraries will examine communication within the library, between the library and its users, and between the library and the community. LuJean Cole, Community Investment Manager for Pioneer Hi-Bred International, will give the keynote address on the relationship between libraries and the business community. The registration fee is \$40 (includes two meals: dinner buffet Wed. May 28 and banquet Thurs. May 29). Housing is available in nearby ISU residence halls. For more information contact: John McNee, Parks Library, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011 (515) 294-4716.

LIRT ACTION EXCHANGE

AUDIO TAPE TOURS

The following response was received from Cynthia W. Swaine, Library Instruction Librarian, University Library, Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA 23508-8509, telephone (804) 440-4143.

... at Old Dominion University, we began using an audio tape tour of the library with Sony Walkman cassette players in the Fall of 1983. Since so many students come into the library already wearing headsets for their "personal listening pleasure," those taking the audio tour do not feel any embarrassment; wearing a personal cassette player is an "in" look.

We have had a very enthusiastic response to the audio tours. A course titled University Orientation now requires all 200-plus students to take the tour and a brief follow-up written exercise (designed by the instruction librarian) prior to a more formal classroom presentation on search strategy by a librarian. To accommodate an anticipated enrollment of 500 students in this course next fall, as well as the numerous other library users who choose to take the tour, we are presently considering the addition of more Walkmans to our current stockpile of four machines.

GROUP USER INSTRUCTION FOR ADULTS IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Carolyn Kirkendall, Director of the LOEX Clearinghouse (Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI 48197) sent a sample of a package on BI in public libraries which she loans to requestors when appropriate. The package includes a 28-item bibliography, which is available free from LOEX if you send a SASE. The package also includes

- a description of a library instruction course at Norfolk (VA) Public Library
- a course outline for Virginia Beach Public Library's Library Instruction for adults course
- descriptions of the user orientation programs at Tulsa City-County Library and Memphis Public Library, including sample publicity flyers
- many samples of printed library instruction from a variety of public libraries
- a reprint of Margaret Hendley's article "User Education: The Adult Patron in the Public Library" from the Winter 1984 RQ
- two more article reprints on library instruction in the public library

Carolyn also reports that she is (slowly) surveying public libraries on the extent of their library instruction activities, as requests for information come in.

Do YOU have a particular question you would like to pose to *LIRT News* readers? If so, please send it to the Editor (address on bottom of page 2) by the next deadline, which is APRIL 21 for the JUNE issue.