



LIBRARY INSTRUCTION ROUND TABLE NEWS

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PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This year LIRT marked with pride, its 10th anniversary! For the past ten years, LIRT has been a very productive round table. This has been due to energetic and enthusiastic volunteers, and an ever growing commitment to library instruction. Moreover, each year, LIRT has dealt with increasingly sophisticated and complex concerns and projects.

We have made significant progress in several areas during this year. The Continuing Education Committee completed the CE packet, a compilation of case studies in library instruction. LIRT's *Library Instruction Planner Handbook*, which was written in fulfillment of an ALA goal award, is now being sent to publishers. Progress toward eventual publication will be reported in our newsletter. The Computer Assisted Instruction Task Force has completed a listing of commercially available library instruction software. At its business meeting, the Affiliates Council, which now has several new members, voted to have an official Council meeting at each Annual Conference. The personal contact provided through these meetings will go a long way in helping us all to develop and pursue common goals.

Marilyn Barr

Free Library of Philadelphia

Past President's Report (cont)

One year ago, I came to this Presidency with the idea that our Round Table should truly represent all types of libraries. There was a lack of committee participation by public, school, and special library members. I wanted to balance our committees by increasing the numbers of these librarians. I felt that rather than a lack of interest - it was an inability to get to the conferences that accounted for limited involvement. LIRT decided to target selected regional areas around conference sites. Thelma Tate and I sent letters to LIRT members in San Francisco and New Orleans asking them to volunteer for committee work. We are both encouraged by the results.

There are several ways to participate in LIRT. You might serve on one of our several standing committees or task forces; or you might work with a state or regional organization to form a mutually beneficial affiliation. You will find here, as I have, a creative stimulation that can only come from direct and personal association with like minded and committed professionals.

As in every other field, library instruction is changing every day. These changes have to be recognized, understood, and incorporated in our daily work. To a large extent, professional associations provide a forum for the exchange of new ideas. The Library Instruction Round Table of the American Library Association wants your ideas and talents and, in return, our ideas and talents become yours.

Submitted,

Marilyn Barr

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Editor: Elizabeth Dailey
Onondaga County PL
White Branch Library
763 Butternut Street
Syracuse, N Y 13208

Contributions to be considered for inclusion in future issues should be sent to the Editor.

Send claims to Jeniece Guy
American Library Association
50 East Huron Street
Chicago, IL 60611

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HIT THEM WHERE THEY ARE...
LIBRARY INSTRUCTION ON THE SPOT

LIRT
ANNUAL
PROGRAM
1987

Jean Westcott, a management consultant, presented an informative talk on developing library graphics. Learning how to develop graphics is particularly important for bibliographic instruction librarians since 80% of all learning is visual. Ms. Westcott illustrated her advice with transparencies showing her creation of the LIRT logo for the 10th anniversary celebration. She advocated thinking with the pencil, i.e. sketch one's ideas. Also, symbols already available should be used. The case in point for the Library Instruction Round Table is the acronym LIRT, an apple, and books. Through examples she stressed the importance of integrating symbols by giving the proper importance to each. In some cases, carefully chosen words add to both the design and meaning of the final product. Ms. Westcott, gave encouragement to instruction librarians by indicating that one does not need artistic ability. What is important is a good clear idea. There are many excellent books available and one can also cull ideas for graphics from the Yellow Pages.

The second speaker, Alan Ritch from the University of California, Santa Cruz, gave an enlightening and entertaining presentation on instructing patrons in the use of the online catalog. Mr. Ritch cited examples from Melvyl, the University of California online system which uses online interaction with users through help screens.

Current characteristics of help screens include a standard shape, restricted font and color, and, at times, a screen that is filled with too much information. There are over 800 help screens on Melvyl. As with other systems the screens are constantly being updated and improved. In addition to relying on help screens, librarians have developed posters, flip charts, and provide library use instruction.

Karen Stabler
Tulane University

After the two speakers, five demonstrations were available for participants. On display were: SilverPlatter; ERIC (CD - ROM); Calico; CLSI; and BAIRS.

LIRT CELEBRATES TEN YEARS

Tobeylynn Birch

California School of Professional Psychology

On Sunday, June 28, 1987, the Library Instruction Round Table celebrated ten years of accomplishments with a continental breakfast reception preceding its program at the ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco. There were over three hundred participants, including a past president of ALA, founding members of LIRT, and past presidents and program chairs of LIRT. Following introductory remarks, LIRT President Marilyn Barr introduced the attending dignitaries and asked them to come to the podium to say a few words.

Brooke Sheldon, ALA past president, began by saying that LIRT was one of the best things to happen to ALA in recent years. Mimi Dudley, one of the founders of LIRT, remembered the years of hard work to bring LIRT into existence. Sheila Laidlaw, another founder, agreed, adding that the good attendance at LIRT programs and the steady membership of LIRT have confirmed the founders' beliefs that a round table was necessary. John Lubans, concerned about the proliferation of units within ALA, suggested that ACRL-BIS and LIRT might merge to become something less than a division but more than a round table. Ms. Laidlaw rejoined that round tables are where we can come together and then go back to our divisions.

Past presidents of LIRT were also introduced and presented with certificates honoring their leadership over the past ten years. Patricia Breivik was excited by how much LIRT has accomplished in ten years,

acknowledging LIRT as the first round table to receive the World Book-ALA Goals Award. Lois Pausch remembered both the rewards and challenges of LIRT leadership. Janet Gilligan observed how LIRT's impact has spread overseas; in addition to herself, two other LIRT members are now in foreign service. May Brottman felt that the most important influence in all of her development as a school librarian has been the interaction in LIRT with academic and public librarians. Linda Dougherty appreciated the opportunity to celebrate but pointed out that LIRT is not resting on its laurels. The passion is still very much here, and LIRT members are very active. Mary Popp agreed that the past is nice to look at but we also need to look at the future. Marilyn Segal expressed her appreciation of the openness of LIRT, which allowed her to learn so much, to feel a sense of achievement, and to meet so many wonderful people.

Past chairs of LIRT's program committee also commented on their experiences in LIRT. John Tyson observed that his ten years in LIRT have been good, productive years. Mignon Adams feels that chairing an ALA program is an experience everyone should have...once. Randy Call remarked on the diversity within LIRT, and added that our diversity is our strength, contributing an enormous amount of vitality and creativity.

Jeniece Guy, ALA staff liaison for LIRT, concluded the reception by congratulating LIRT on its ten years of accomplishments.

LIRT THE FIRST TEN YEARS

In the 20th century, library instruction has re-emerged on a very nearly 20 year cycle. In the 70s, librarians in many kinds of libraries recognized that ALA ought to encourage and coordinate the many aspects of professional activity in instruction in the use of libraries. One group of librarians envisioned an organization that would promote cooperation and communication among librarians from all types of libraries, provide opportunities for formal and informal interaction, and suggest practical solutions to common problems.

With these aims in mind, a committee chaired by Virginia Sherwood (other members included Mimi Dudley, Sheila Laidlaw, Jon Lindgren, Ben LoBue, John Lubans, Sheryl Anspaugh, and Deanna Marcus) worked on the formation and establishment of the Library Instruction Round Table. The round table was officially approved by ALA Council at Midwinter 1977, with the first organizational meeting held at the Detroit Annual meeting in the summer of 1977. At that meeting, Sherwood was elected temporary coordinator (until the next regularly scheduled ALA election) and a draft of the constitution and bylaws was presented, discussed and approved. Goals for LIRT, the heart of the proposal for establishment, were incorporated into the constitution and included: provision of a forum for discussion of activities, programs and problems of instruction in the use of libraries; contribution to the education and training of librarians for library instruction; promotion of instruction in the use of libraries as an essential library service; and service as a channel of communication on instruction in the use of libraries. In the years following, LIRT leaders and members sought to implement these goals through provision of programs and projects aimed at making library instruction available to patrons in all types of libraries.

Lois Pausch

University of Illinois

Mary Popp

Indiana University

1978 was a year of firsts: Patricia Breivik was elected the first coordinator; the first newsletter was published; the first all-ALA list of meetings on library instruction was produced; and the first

membership meeting was held. The first issue of the newsletter solicited membership for committees and task forces. These included task forces on membership, the newsletter, and continuing education, and liaison and conference program planning committees. At the January 1979 Midwinter meeting these groups held their first organizational meetings. The Steering Committee began work on the formulation of a long-range plan that would be the basis for future growth and for the continuing effort to meet LIRT's goals.

The most important first in 1978-79 was the presentation of the first annual conference program, "The Role of Librarians in Lifelong Learning." This theme reflected LIRT's emphases on library instruction as an essential service, not restricted to any one level or type of library, and on learning as a lifelong process. Jon Lindgren, coordinator in 1979-80, set as the priority for that year clarification of the goals so that they would present achievable challenges to public, school, special, and academic librarians. The "Go Out for a Bite" program started, providing yet another way for librarians to discuss problems and suggest solutions. The first stirrings of an affiliates council were heard; this group was discussed as a channel of communication between the national organization and state, regional or local groups working in the area of library instruction. The second conference program was presented on "Who Didn't You Reach Today?: Marketing Strategies," reflecting the continuing necessity of selling library instruction as a vital library

service to library administrators, trustees, faculty, etc.

In May 1980, the coordinator-elect resigned. There being no provision in the constitution or bylaws to cover this situation, Lois Pausch, LIRT treasurer, was appointed to serve as coordinator in 1980-81. This appointment took effect with the approval of the Steering Committee.

LIRT consolidated some of the growth in both structure and programs of the previous two years during 1980-81 and a clearer organizational picture emerged. The Continuing Education Task Force became an ad hoc committee, and for the first time, a separate long-range planning committee was appointed to define the ways LIRT would reach its goals. The annual conference program was "The Missing Link: In Search of Library Literacy," another step in providing a solid foundation on which to help librarians build successful library instruction programs.

1981-82 brought an emphasis on communication and external activities. Under the guidance of Janet Gilligan, and after her resignation to take a job abroad, of May Brottman, president through 1983, LIRT began to reach out. To better understand the composition of the membership and to provide a mechanism for member input, a membership survey was conducted. Also this year, the Continuing Education Committee became a standing committee and an ad hoc Research Committee was formed. The Annual Conference theme was "Computers! Libraries! Learning! Innovative Approaches to Using the Computer in Library Instruction Activities."

LIRT: The First Ten Years (cont)

During 1982-83, Brottman oversaw the development of a new recruitment brochure and the establishment of a standing Research Committee. LIRT's first publication outside of the newsletter appeared with the title "Developing Learning Skills through Library Services K-12," and the first internal organization handbook was written and distributed to committee chairs. The membership approved a permanent affiliates structure. "Getting It Together: The Librarian and Curricular Reform" was the program; it emphasized strategies for integrating library instruction into the classroom.

Publication was the keynote for 1983-84 during the presidency of Linda Dougherty. The Research Committee prepared a report of the results of a survey on the use of computers in library instruction. *It Really Works*, a book describing successful programs, instruction courses, workshops and leaders was completed by the Continuing Education Committee. The LIRT Affiliates Council held its first meetings. The conference program, "Getting the Most for the Least: Producing Professional Looking Audio-Visuals as Economically as Possible," provided practical ideas and suggestions for instruction utilizing various kinds of media.

LIRT re-examined its goals in 1984-85 under the leadership of Mary Popp and adopted a new statement of mission with six concrete goals, including increasing the awareness of library instruction as an essential service and playing an active role in the development of

ALA policy promoting library instruction; helping practitioners develop, improve, and promote library instruction by providing information, skills and tools; broadening the base of membership involvement in the activities of LIRT by attracting active members from all types of libraries; providing opportunities in which librarians from all types of libraries can share ideas about library instruction; and developing and recommending standards for training professionals involved with library instruction. The organizational purpose was restated: LIRT is "to advocate library instruction as a means of developing competent library and information use for lifelong learning." At the same time, LIRT reaffirmed its commitment to representing all types of libraries. The 1985 conference program, "Giving Them What They Need: Assessment Techniques for Library Instruction," responded to member requests for information and assistance in this area.

In 1985 LIRT became the first round table to be awarded a World Book/ALA Goals Award for a 14-month project, under the direction of May Brottman. This project was to prepare a handbook, training manual, and a preconference institute on "Developing Programs in Library Use Instruction for Lifelong Learning."

Marilyn Segal emphasized communication and outreach in her 1985-86 presidency. The Goals Award handbook and training manual--*The Library Instruction Planner*, and the Preconference Institute were completed and the

OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

LIRT: The First Ten Years

(cont)

results of months of hard work were shared with attendees at the 1986 conference program, "You Can Do It: Creating an Action Plan for Library Instruction." These projects and activities allowed librarians to begin at the beginning and to develop a plan for a library instruction program in a down-to-earth, pragmatic, step-by-step manner. LIRT also co-sponsored an open forum at the Midwinter meeting to explore the concept of information literacy. All LIRT committees worked to turn the newly adopted goals into projects to benefit LIRT members and a five-year plan was developed. A task force to study issues of computer-assisted instruction was appointed and asked to revise the 1984 survey and develop new projects. The Ad Hoc Affiliates Committee undertook a survey of local, state and regional library instruction groups.

Throughout the fabric of LIRT's many activities in the past ten years, there is one thread of continuity; that is, that librarians from all types of libraries in all types of institutions should come together to share ideas and provide inspiration for programs that lead to the development of literate information users. Together we begin our second decade.

PRESIDENT

Thelma H. Tate
Mabel Smith Douglass Library
Douglass College - Rutgers Univ.
Chapel Drive
New Brunswick, New Jersey
08903

VICE PRESIDENT/ PRESIDENT ELECT

Tobeylynn Birch
Director of the Library
California School of Professional
Psychology
2235 Beverly Boulevard
Los Angeles, California
90057

SECRETARY

Emilie C. White
Government Documents Librarian
Mississippi State University Libraries
Mississippi State, Mississippi
39762

TREASURER

Timothy Paul Grimes
Philosophy, Religion and Education
Department
Detroit Public Library
Detroit, Michigan
48202

AFFILIATES COMMITTEE (AD HOC) CO-CHAIRS

Louise Greenfield
University Library
University of Arizona
Tuscon, Arizona
85521

Abigail A. Loomis
General Reference Department
University Libraries
DeKalb, Illinois
60115

COMMITTEE CHAIRS (cont)

AFFILIATES COUNCIL

Sharon Mader
Information Retrieval Librarian
Memphis State University Libraries
Memphis, Tennessee
38152

CONFERENCE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Sharon Stewart
12-02 Williamsburg East
Tuscaloosa, Alabama
35404

CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS

Rae Haws
Park Library
Iowa State University
Ames, Iowa
50010

Eileen Liebeskind
Reference/Collection Development
Mabel Smith Douglass Library
Douglass College-Rutgers Univ.
New Brunswick, New Jersey
08903

ELECTIONS/NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Mary Pagliero Popp
Undergraduate Library Services
Library W121
Indiana University
Bloomington, Indiana
47405

LIAISON COMMITTEE

Charles Dintrone
Head, Government Publications
San Diego State University Library
San Diego, California
92182

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Tobeylynn Birch (see above)

ORGANIZATION AND BYLAWS

Marilyn Barr
730 S. Mt. Pleasant Rd.
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
19119

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

CHAIR/ LIRT News EDITOR

Elizabeth J. Dailey
White Branch Library
763 Butternut Street
Syracuse, New York
13208

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Emily Okada
Undergraduate Library
Indiana University
Bloomington, Indiana
47405

PUBLIC RELATIONS/MEMBERSHIP

Doris Miller
Founders Memorial Library
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, Illinois
60115

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Patricia Vanderberg
Reference Department/ Library
University of California -
Berkeley, California
94702

COMPUTER ASSISTED INSTRUCTION TASK FORCE

Robert A. Kuhner
Library Planning Officer
The City College
New York, New York
10025

HANDBOOK PUBLICATION TASK FORCE

J. Randolph Call
OCLC
6565 Frantz Road
Dublin, Ohio
43017

COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE NOTES

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Case Studies in Library Instruction was completed. Other projects included the annual annotated bibliography entitled "LIRT's Top Twenty" published in LIRT News; the subject bibliography distributed at the Annual Conference reflecting the LIRT program topic.

It Really Works: A Directory of Continuing Education Programs, Courses, Consultants, Speakers, Coordinators and Instructors, will be revised in the coming year.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM 1987

The committee planned and carried out the successful program "Hit Them Where They Are: Library Instruction on the Spot."

CONFERENCE PROGRAM 1988

The theme "A-LIRT! Teaching Exceptional Patrons" was selected. Library instruction for patrons who are disabled, patrons from different cultures and who speak different languages, and adult learners will be the program focus.

ELECTIONS/ NOMINATIONS

A program to identify a larger pool of possible candidates for office and to develop the leadership skills of officers, committee chairs and members was proposed. The committee will further develop and refine this proposal during 1987-88.

LIAISON COMMITTEE

Lists of library instruction related meetings during Midwinter and the Annual Conference were prepared and distributed. Committee members served as LIRT representatives/liaisons to many of these meetings.

LONG RANGE PLANNING

The committee addressed the issue of outreach to encourage a more active [LIRT] membership. A needs assessment of members will be undertaken to help guide LIRT's direction and set priorities for the coming decade. A list of ways LIRT can address the issues raised by the ALA President's report on "Equity at Issue" was compiled and can also serve as a guide for future activities.

ORGANIZATION AND BYLAWS

The process of updating, revising, and expanding the LIRT Organization Manual used by officers and committee chairs was begun and will continue during the coming year. Committee members will also develop a standard orientation for new LIRT officers and committee chairs.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/ MEMBERSHIP

The committee organized the popular BITES with LIRT held during the Annual Conference; organized and staffed the LIRT booth; and, produced a LIRT conference activities flyer. A proposal for the creation of an information packet to be sent to state and regional library organizations is being refined for submission in the coming year.

PUBLICATIONS

Four issues of the LIRT News were published in 1986-87. The committee also helped prepare Case Studies in Library Instruction for publication. A major goal for 1987-88 is to include in the LIRT News as many practical "tips" for library instruction as possible.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

The survey questionnaire "What are the Aims of User Education" was prepared; it will be implemented

Committee and Task Force Notes
(Cont)

during the coming year. Four bibliographies will be submitted for publication in the LIRT News as part of the on-going topical bibliographies project.

COMPUTER ASSISTED INSTRUCTION

A list of commercially available software for library instruction on all educational levels was completed. A project addressing the need for information on the evaluation of software, including a critique of the review media is underway. The task force hopes to broaden the scope of its charge to include the investigation and evaluation of software useful in the preparation/creation of CAI programs.

HANDBOOK PUBLICATION TASK FORCE

This task force was created to handle the publication process

for LIRT's Library Instruction Planner Handbook. Members conducted an extensive investigation of possible publishers and their submission requirements. Procedures for submission have been developed and will be implemented when the Handbook is in final form.

PUBLICATION/ PROMOTION TASK FORCE

A resource notebook of publication materials was compiled. Guidelines for LIRT publications and a final report on committee structure were submitted.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY TASK FORCE

The task force members planned anniversary activities including a continental breakfast reception at the Annual Conference and the compilation of a history of LIRT to be published in LIRT News.

Library Instruction Round Table
Invites You to go out for a

BITE with LIRT

in San Antonio

Yes!! I'd like to go out for a BITE with LIRT!!

My preference is:

_____ Dinner at 6:30 - Sunday, January 10, 1988

_____ Lunch at 12:30 - Monday, January 11, 1988

Name _____

Institution _____

Mailing Address _____

Are you a LIRT member? _____

Please send this form by December 11, 1987 to:

✻ Debbie Schaeffer ✻
Renne Library
Montana State University
Bozeman, Montana 59717



Here's your chance to talk informally with other librarians interested in library instruction. LIRT is organizing small groups for lunch and dinner at modestly priced restaurants during ALA Midwinter so that we can get to know each other and share ideas and experiences.

Return the reservation form below. You will be notified when and where to meet your group.

LIRT includes librarians from all types of libraries: academic, public, school, and special. You need not be a member of LIRT to participate.

CANDIDATE A-LIRT

Please take a moment to help the Election Committee Chair, Mary Pagliero Popp, fulfill the committee charge. We need names for our candidate pool. This year our rotational slate provides for a public librarian as Vice-President/ President Elect; an academic librarian as treasurer; and a school/ special librarian as secretary. The bylaws require candidates to have served at least one year on a LIRT committee or task force. Deadline for nomination: November 1, 1987. Please write or call Mary Popp, Undergraduate Library, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405 --phone # 812 335 9857.

NOMINEE
CONTACT ADDRESS & PHONE

NOMINATED BY
RECOMMENDED BECAUSE

LIBRARY INSTRUCTION ROUND TABLE NEWS

c/o Jeniece Guy

American Library Association

50 E. Huron Street

Chicago, IL 60611

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

0014750D 07 LIRT
Emily M. Okada
1003 Ralston Dr
Bloomington, IN 47401

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