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FOOTNOTES

A First-Timer Reflects on ALA Annual Conference Experience

Melanie W. Strals

Reference and Government Documents Librarian, North Carolina Wesleyan College

I have wanted to attend an ALA conference ever since I started library school. Traveling to distant cities on a student's budget, though, has made that impossible, so I considered myself lucky when I found out that ALA's annual conference would be in Atlanta this year.

I am from Atlanta and arranged to stay with a friend while attending the conference, which made the trip affordable. Now that I've gone, I am so glad that I took the opportunity to attend.

Having the conference in Atlanta this year was particularly good timing. I graduated from library school in May and hoped to use the placement service to find a job. I found a job before the conference began,

but I decided to attend anyway. I figured that attending the conference would be a good way to start my professional career. Also, I wanted to be able to say that I had "been there, done that." I assumed that attending once during my career would be enough, but was I ever wrong.

I enjoyed my experience at ALA's annual conference more than I imagined I would. The opening session alone was worth the trip. Robert Hughes' rousing speech made me proud to be a librarian. On top of that, the sessions I attended taught me things that I hadn't learned in library school.

Just being around librarians from across the country gave me a sense of community and helped me get an idea of what's

going on in the real world of libraries, and I can't forget to say something about all the freebies. While my shoulders were killing me by the end of the first day as a result of carrying around bags of free stuff given away by the vendors, it was worth it. I got lots of posters, candy, and tote bags, enough to outfit a small army of librarians.

This year I attended ALA's annual conference because it was close by and affordable, and I wanted to go just once. By the end of the first day, though, I had already decided to scrape my pennies together to attend in Toronto next year. I realized that the conference is not something to do just

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NMRT President's Column

Joseph Yue
President, NMRT

What's neat about the New Members Round Table (NMRT)? Well, NMRT exists to offer new members many benefits, including a voice in ALA, ways to gain experience, and opportunities to make new friends. NMRT is your gateway to the larger organization. This year we are particularly interested in leadership development for our members through active participation in NMRT.

NMRT is an organization that gets things done. We are an innovative group. This year, many of you have decided to shape our future by serving on committees. In addition to committees that focus on awards, policy and planning, program and services, conference events and parties, we also have a few special committees that focus on recruiting alumni, revitaliz-

ing our new writers discussion list (NMRTWriter) and creating a community for support, as well as several other special committees. Additionally, we have formed two task forces at the board level to help coordinate our conference planning and to finish (hopefully) our strategic plan.

Many exciting projects will be undertaken, and all it takes for you to get involved is to show interest and devote at least an hour or two each week to committee work. We are dedicated to providing any member relevant learning opportunities, such as the opportunity to improve computer and writing skills. These learning opportunities often lead to a

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EBSCO/NMRT Scholarship Awarded

Marilyn Tsigotis
Chair, EBSCO/NMRT Scholarship Committee

The EBSCO/NMRT Scholarship Committee has awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to Roberta Louise Carswell-Panjwani. Roberta will be attending The University of Arizona's Information Resources and Library Science program. Her experiences have included being a freelance editor for an educational publisher, a teacher and a children's program coordinator at a public library. Congratulations to Roberta!

Do you have ideas?

The NMRT Membership Meeting and Program Committee would like to hear any ideas you have for Membership Meeting speakers and roundtable discussion topics.

This meeting is for you, so please do not hesitate to e-mail Shelly McCoy, committee chair, at smccoy@udel.edu with your ideas today!

A First-Timer Reflects

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once in a lifetime. I will always be able to learn from other librarians.

So until I know everything about libraries or until my retirement payments begin in 2044, I plan to attend ALA conferences as often as possible. Just like this year, I think each trip will be worth every dollar that I spend getting there.

What's Happening in State NMRTs?

Nebraska Library Association

Andrew B. Wertheimer
Chair, Nebraska Library Association New Members Round Table

The Nebraska Library Association (NLA) New Members Round Table (NMRT) is a small group, but it has had an active year. This year's innovations included several exciting programs at the annual NLA conference, including one in which Kayoko Murakami (University of Wisconsin-Madison) and Hiroki Takakuwa (Kyoto University, Japan) talked about their survey of Nebraska's public libraries and their Internet access.

We also featured a program commemorating the Centennial of the Nebraska Library Commission, featuring library historians Christine Pawley (University of Iowa), Andrew Wertheimer (University of Wisconsin-Madison), and the commission's Deputy Director, Nancy Busch.

Additionally, we sponsored a reception, where we presented our annual Houchen Bindery Beginning Professional Award and NMRT Mentor of the Year Award, which went to Karen Hein and Sally Payne. This spring, the NMRT cooperated with the NLA's two other roundtables to offer a combined spring meeting in the center of the state on the theme of "Technology @ Your Library." Several NMRT members

gave talks, which helped add to the event's success.

One innovation this year was "Conference Connections," a program that pairs new members with a mentor, thus allowing new members to learn the ropes of attending NLA annual conferences. We're also pleased to announce that our members will receive our newsletter, *Starting Line*, in the mail a few times per year rather than only picking them up at conferences thanks to efforts of editor, Kira Barnes. People interested in the NLA NMRT can log onto our web page (moderated by Allana Novotny) at <http://www.nol.org/home/NLA/NMRT/>. I'd like to thank our other current officers: Vice Chair Charity Martin, Past Chair Scott Childers, Treasurer Mary Ellen Ducey, Secretary Sally Gibson, and Awards Coordinator Trudy de Goede, as well as our incoming officers.

Footnotes plans to make What's Happening in State NMRTs a regular column. We invite all state NMRT chapters to submit a brief article describing a new or innovative concept/event. Please submit articles to Jennifer Knievel at jennifer.knievel@colorado.edu.

Participate in NMRT discussions
Become a resume reviewer
Volunteer for a committee
Enlist as an ALA or library school liason

NMRT needs YOU!

*Make the most of your membership and
get involved today!*

For more information, visit <http://www.ala.org/nmrt/>
or email Joseph Yue at joseph.yue@colorado.edu

Resume Review Service Enjoys Success

Laura Kortz

Research Literacy/ Weekend and Evening Librarian, Teachers College, Columbia University

- Volunteering ... was one of the best things I did at the annual conference.
- As a new member to the profession, it's great to be able to provide advice and encouragement to others who are also new.
- I enjoyed the experience — it was nice to get to talk to people who are in the same situation I'll be in about a year from now!
- I had a wonderful time ... I only wish that I had volunteered for another session.
- It was fun, and I'll do it again at Midwinter if I see the announcement in time to sign up!
- This is one of my favorite ALA activities!

Question: What are all these happy people talking about? What library function could possibly elicit such enthusiastic responses?

Answer: The Onsite Resume Reviewing Service at the ALA Placement Center at the ALA Annual Conference in Atlanta, also known as the New Members Round Table (NMRT) Comfort Station.

From the time it opened up on Friday, June

14 at approximately 1 p.m., the NMRT Comfort Station at the ALA Placement Center was bustling with reviewers, NMRT volunteers and job seekers who wanted their resumes reviewed by librarians with experience in hiring, search committees and human resources.

Over the four days we were open, 108 job seekers stopped by to meet with more than 30 resume reviewers. Job seekers included current library school students as well as more experienced librarians; they came from places as far away as Romania and Nepal.

As usual, the pool of reviewers was excellent and institutions represented included Harvard University, Phoenix University, New York University, The New York Public Library, Wayne State, NASA and Rand, the think-tank. Reviewers included university librarians, heads of departments, human resource directors, associate and assistant directors and the president of an ALA division.

My thanks to members of Resume Review Service committee, especially co-chairs

Rich Murray and Vanessa Burford, for making this possible. The following NMRT members are also owed many thanks: Ann Snoeyenbos, Ann Dykas, Beth Evans, Jennifer McCarty, Nanette Wargo, Jessica Placke, Genevieve Gallagher, Caroline Cason, Laurel Bliss, Mark Wendt, Valerie Byrd, Catherine Wong, Gaye Hinchcliff, Amanda Roberts and Smita Parkhe.

The Resume Review Service is a year-round service whereby NMRT members can have their resumes and cover letters critiqued by experienced librarians. For more information on the mail-in service, please contact Vanessa Burford at vburford@utsa.edu or take a look at <http://www.ala.org/nmrt/resrev.html>.

Resume reviewing is also available at the Midwinter and Annual conferences, in the ALA Placement Center. For more information on having your resume reviewed or volunteering at the Comfort Station or as a reviewer, please contact Laura Kortz at lk2002@columbia.edu. Remember, a successful job hunt begins with a great resume!

2002 ALA Student Chapter Award Winners Announced

The winner of the 2002 ALA Student Chapter of the Year Award is Clarion University of Pennsylvania's chapter. The ALA New Members Round Table (NMRT) presents the award. The runner-up for this year's award is the student chapter at the University of California, Los Angeles. The Clarion University ALA Student Chapter is recognized for outstanding programming efforts, excellence in communications with both on-campus and remote members, and unique fundraising techniques; additionally, the chapter nearly doubled their membership. A great deal of Clarion's success with programming stems from their strong record of community service, for which the ALA Student Chapter has won a Community Service Recognition Award to acknowledge their work with the community and the university. The group received a certificate and recognition at the NMRT Students to ALA Reception at annual conference in Atlanta.

This year's runner-up chapter is the University of California, Los Angeles, honored for outstanding work in membership promotion, communications, and programming. UCLA has also increased their chapter membership by 166%, due in great part to promotion of the group through student orientations and workshops.

The Student Chapter of the Year Award is presented in recognition of a chapter's outstanding contributions to ALA, its school, and the profession. The purpose of the award is to increase student involvement in ALA through student chapters and to recognize future leaders in the profession. Official ALA Student Chapters are organizations formed by ALA student members at schools offering ALA-accredited programs of library and information studies. This year's Award was co-sponsored by the ALA Membership Committee and the Student Chapter Outreach Committee of NMRT.

Archives Committee and Document Digitization Taskforce Begin New Phase

William W. Armstrong
Secretary, NMRT

As many of you may know from past Footnotes articles, the Archives Committee has been busy updating Archives policies to address the new electronic document realities being faced by the New Members Round Table (NMRT) and virtually every other organization.

At the same time, the Documents Digitization Taskforce has been hard at work digitizing older archives material, namely minutes of Executive Board meetings going back to 1978, and making them accessible to the NMRT membership via a web-based database, complete with complex search capabilities.

As of the annual conference in Atlanta in mid-June 2002, the Document Digitization Taskforce has been absorbed into the Archives Committee. The activities of both will continue, but under the broad umbrella of Archives being led by Sherise Kimura, co-chair from Archives and Anna Ferris, co-chair from the former Digitization Taskforce.

The task ahead, however, is a large one. The newly enhanced Archives Committee will now begin to tackle the broader domain of records management, inclusive of new and older, more traditionally archivable documents. This will initially involve gathering information on all types of documents produced in an official capacity by NMRT members. As a matter of fact, in this respect, Archives Committee members have already contacted many of the officers and committee chairs. The information thus gathered will aid in the setting up of retention schedules for the various types of documents produced, helping to determine what gets kept, for how long, and where.

Also incorporated into the guidelines emanating from this will be a schedule and instructions for the gathering or transmission of the documents by or to Archives. As this will include both new and older documents, the schedules will necessarily be a little more complicated for Archives than might otherwise be the case in a more traditional archive scenario.

*The newly enhanced
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The inclusion of our newer documents within the umbrella of Archives will enable the Archives Committee to offer full and easy access to all of NMRT's documents and publications from a central database. We hope to include such documents as Footnotes, Handbook, Reports, and others to which access is needed not only for older archives, but also to the newer current versions or issues. All of these, then, will need to be cataloged, to have records created in the database making them accessible and searchable. The Digitization side of the Archives Commit-

tee will concentrate on this portion of the work, while the Archives half focuses on the schedules and guidelines for maintaining these and all other documents, both as current records and eventually as archives.

And finally, a new site will also be created in cooperation with the Web Committee providing the patron interface for this one-stop-shopping for information.

So an enormous challenge lies ahead for the Committee as it treads new ground in the creating of policies for electronic archiving and records management and as it sets the specific guidelines that will enable a smooth flow of information, from the creation at the hands of NMRT members to the cataloging and access, preservation and maintenance facilitated by Archives.

The ultimate beneficiaries of this work will be the NMRT membership as it enjoys unprecedented access to both its past and its present, and thus, its future. We hope you will stay posted for new developments as this exciting work continues its progress and as the results are made available to you, the membership.

For additional information on the above project, please contact any of the following individuals:

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nmrtfootnotes@yahoo.com to sign up today!

NRMT Member Profile: Laura Kortz

Amanda Roberts
Member, Footnotes Committee



Educational Background

B.S. in Psychology
Brooklyn College
City University of New York

M.L.S. in Information and Library Studies
Rutgers University

Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Beta Mu

Professional History

If you've visited the New Members Round Table (NMRT) Comfort Station in the past year, you've probably met Laura Kortz, who coordinated the booth at both the midwinter conference in New Orleans and at annual in Atlanta. Laura has been an active member of the ALA since 2000. In addition to NMRT, she belongs to the Library Research Round Table (LRRT) and the Reference and User Services Association (RUSA), and she served on the Gale Award for Excellence in Reference and Adult Services Committee from 2000 to 2002. She is currently the co-chair of NMRT's Resume Review Service and a member of the Nominating Committee.

Since January 2001, Laura has worked as a Research Literacy/ Weekend and Evening Librarian at Teachers College at Columbia University in New York City. She enjoys her collection development responsibilities in the areas of clinical and counseling psychology, as well as social and industrial/organizational psychology.

She also enjoys working the reference desk and assisting "panicky and frustrated doctoral students."

Laura has worked in libraries in some capacity since 1994. In 1995, she worked as a Library Assistant in the Reference Department of the Brooklyn College Library. From 1996 to 2001, she worked at the New York Public Library as a Librarian Trainee, Assistant Web Coordinator, and Reference Librarian. She also completed fieldwork in the New York University Archives. "If you forced me to choose a favorite," says Laura, "I would say it was my very first experience at Brooklyn College ... I really enjoyed helping my peers navigate through the informational maze of City University Libraries."

Like many of us, Laura brings a variety of work experiences to our profession. She has worked as a merchandiser and salesperson, real estate agent, cashier, office assistant, and an administrative assistant for Brooklyn College's Center for Diversity and Multicultural Studies. All of her positions have one common thread — service. At one time, Laura wanted to pursue a career in psychology, but she discovered that she was able to find similar enjoyment in library work, which combines the "ability to help people, the ability to solve puzzles, and the ability to see how people think about information and research."

Laura has a variety of different interests and does not limit herself to one type of library. She has dreams of working in a news library, but she can also see herself managing a one-person library in a non-profit organization or working as director of a small college library. She believes that the most important issues facing librarianship are status and pay of librarians; privacy, confidentiality, free speech, and particularly the implications of the U.S. Patriot Act; continued emphasis on technology and digitization; and the intersection between librarians' skills and the skills of computer science professionals.

President's Column

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tangible product that members can include in their professional records.

We continue to utilize technology to our advantage and explore new avenues for technological growth. In addition to offering members-only content online, to continuing our electronic documents policy and system development, and to maintaining our volunteer database, we will have a regularly updated news section on the NMRT Web site (<http://www.ala.org/nmrt>). With so many exciting projects going on, check out the news section at least every two months. In addition to improvements on the Web site, we have planned a few focused discussions on various NMRT discussion lists. These focused discussions will tackle issues of common concern to us. More information will be available on our Web site (<http://www.ala.org/nmrt>).

It is not too late to volunteer for a committee or volunteer for liaison positions. If you prefer to take a smaller step, become active in your state association or your student chapter/organization. The NMRT-L discussion list is a great way for you to participate without the commitment of an appointment. NMRT-L distributes important announcements and offers opportunities for participation via focused discussions.

Do you have any suggestions? Please send them to me at joseph.yue@colorado.edu or call 303-492-8628. We are the future of ALA. Utilize NMRT to expand your window of opportunities.

**Expand your
professional
network. Get
involved in NMRT!**

NMRT President's Program 2002: "The Successful 21st Century Librarian"

Melody M. Allison

Chair, President's Program 2002

"Great program," "Changed my negative opinion of networking," "Do it every conference," and "More" were just a few of the many glowing comments made by attendees of the New Members Round Table (NMRT) President's Program: "The Successful 21st Century Librarian: Building Your Career" held on Saturday, June 15, 2002, from 1:30-3:30 p.m. in the Plaza Ballroom in the Westin Peachtree Plaza at Atlanta, Georgia.

The program began with presentation of the NMRT Shirley Olofson Award to Dru Henson-Hunt, Librarian at Loretto High School in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, on behalf of the NMRT Shirley Olofson Committee by committee chair, Chrissie Anderson Peters, Reference Librarian at Northeast State Technical Community College, Blountville, Tennessee.

The committee chose Henson-Hunt from approximately 40 applicants, all with exemplary resumes and reasons for applying as well as from all types of libraries.

In addition to her many professional activities, Henson-Hunt further demonstrates her commitment to the people in her area through numerous volunteer activities. As Peters states, "Her enthusiasm, even on paper, is contagious. What a treasure ... and wonderful representative from our organization to be named this year's Olofson Memorial Award Recipient!"

The program panel consisted of three speakers who focused on career advancement in the information age, including finding the perfect position, networking online and off, contributing to the profession through publication, and the creation of online resources.

Susan Scheiberg, Head of Acquisitions and Serials/Coordinator for Outreach and Cost-Center Services at RAND in Santa Monica, California, and owner/manager of the New Librarians Electronic Discussion List (NEWLIB-L) provided tips on

networking with newer librarians and its importance. Scheiberg related that senior colleagues should be helping junior colleagues, but this may not always be the case. She recommended that junior colleagues initiate invitations to senior colleagues for lunch and other social and professional events.

The program panel consisted of three speakers who focused on career advancement in the information age, including finding the perfect position.

To find networking opportunities, she suggested that new librarians find local library groups to network. National library groups — although not always widely known — may actually welcome new people.

NEWLIB-L is dedicated to providing a forum for networking and other new librarian issues. Giving business cards can leave a lasting impression, and impressions can be lasting in an online world. Scheiberg advises to always keep in mind that emails and other electronic communications may reach former, present, and future bosses.

Rachel Singer Gordon, Head of Computer Services at the Franklin Park Public Library in Illinois, is the Webmaster for Lisjobs.com, editor/publisher of the *Info Career Trends* electronic newsletter, and co-author of *The Information Professional's Guide to Career Development Online* (Information Today, 2002). Singer Gordon spoke about online promotion, getting known in the library

community, and publishing. Singer Gordon made a very bold, but experienced and encouraging, introductory statement, "Even a shy, quiet person can be successful."

There are numerous ways that one can painlessly self-promote in the online environment, and she gave many examples. The online environment can provide an excellent way to communicate, whether you are extroverted or introverted. The message is the medium. In an online environment, the quiet person can be heard as well as the flamboyant person.

An excellent way to get a foot in the publishing door is to do book reviews, annotated bibliographies, and Web sites. How? Start with a known topic, and be professional. Participating in these types of activities gets your name out there. Editors monitor lists, book reviews, etc. to find potential authors.

Once you are asked to do something, you want to make sure that you are asked again, so follow the editor's guidelines, stay on subject, keep it the right length, and keep the deadlines. Don't be afraid to do new things. Often, golden opportunities arise in which no one is interested, and such opportunities can become yours if you reach out.

Sarah Nesbeitt, Librarian and Assistant Professor, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, Illinois, compiler of *Library Job Postings on the Web* (<http://www.libraryjobpostings.org/>), and co-author of *The Information Professional's Guide to Career Development Online* (Information Today, 2002) spoke about job hunting and resume creation for today's librarian.

There is probably nothing more important to a librarian than getting a job — the right job. To increase the odds of doing this, several tips were provided on

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Indigo Girls Rock Scholarship Bash

Laurel Bliss
Yale University Arts Library

This year's Scholarship Bash featured the Indigo Girls, who are currently on tour promoting their latest CD, "Become You." Proceeds from the Bash help fund ALA scholarships for graduate students in Library and Information Studies. I've liked the Indigo Girls for many years now, and was thrilled at the idea of seeing them in concert for the first time. Plus, I happen to be friends with one of this year's scholarship winners, Brian McDonald, so I knew I had to go!

The concert was Sunday, June 16 at 9 p.m., in one of the ballrooms of the Hyatt Regency. The doors opened at 8 p.m., and I arrived at about 8:15, ticket in hand. Volunteers in snazzy yellow "Indigo Girls" t-shirts were stationed outside the ballroom doors, including New Members Round Table (NMRT) member Carla Robinson. They took my ticket, stamped my hand (which I smeared immediately), and gave me a cool battery-powered necklace that glowed blue. I was all set.

After a small detour in the back of the ballroom where I bought a concert t-shirt (a bargain at \$15), I went up front and grabbed a seat. Chatting with fellow librarians helped pass the time. At 9 p.m., the opening act started. I never did catch their name, but they had three main singers (one man, two women), a saxophone player, drummer, and a keyboardist who also sang.

Their job was to get the room rocking and they certainly succeeded. Their renditions of "Chain of Fools" and "Dancing Queen"

in particular made people boogie in the aisles.

ALA President John Berry came on stage after the opening act, and thanked everyone who helped make the Bash possible, including corporate sponsor ProQuest. Berry mentioned that the Indigo Girls were donating their time and that this was the biggest Bash ever. He then introduced Jane Saliers, mother of Indigo Girl Emily Saliers, and a librarian at the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library. Ms. Saliers received a standing ovation from the crowd and accepted a bouquet of flowers from Berry.

Finally it was time for the main event. The Indigo Girls played for about an hour and a half and performed many songs from their new CD. They didn't forget their past, however, and treated the audience to classic songs such as "Chickenman" and "Hammer and a Nail." Their performance of "Closer to Fine," with audience participation, brought the house down. What meant the most to me was their heartfelt comments about the importance of reading and of librarians. They seemed a bit surprised at the level of enthusiasm in the room, as many people stood throughout the entire performance clapping and screaming. Who knew librarians could have such a good time?

All in all, the Scholarship Bash was an incredible experience. I'm not sure how they could possibly top this year's performance, but if you are planning on attending the annual conference in Toronto, I heartily recommend going to the Bash.

President's Program

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the use of online resources. There are several Web sites that list librarian job advertisements (Nesbeitt's *Library Job Postings on the Web* and Singer-Gordon's Lisjobs.com are two great places to start). Job sites should be checked often to catch new prospects in a timely, and advantageous, way. Online sites can be

checked anytime and anywhere there is an online computer.

Getting your resume listed, and finding possible jobs for which to apply is just the beginning. You want to make sure that there is a fit between you and the organization. This can be done many times by researching the organization's background online. What is the organization's mission statement? What is the organization's management hierarchal

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To subscribe to NMRT-L, send an e-mail message to <listproc@ala.org>.

In the body of the message, type: subscribe nmrt-l Firstname Lastname (e.g. subscribe nmrt-l Jane Doe). Do not include a subject line or signature file.

There are also several other NMRT discussion lists available for members: NMRTWriter, NMRTBD, and NMRTSTUDL.

Several focused discussions are planned for various lists. Be a part of the action and participate in these discussions. Check the NMRT Web site (<http://www.ala.org/nmrt>) for more information.

structure? Are there details about other employees that can provide clues to their activities? Nesbeitt also suggested being professional at all times, in all endeavors, because what you submit online may be archived for posterity.

A question and answer session completed the program. All in all, attendees heard a great deal about how to build one's career in the 21st Century from this super-panel of very successful speakers.

**American Library Association/New
Members Round Table**

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Editorial policy

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The purpose of *Footnotes* is to disseminate information and news to NMRT members; to alert members of NMRT to developments of interest in ALA and in the library world; and to inform members of NMRT Board actions, state and regional events, and NMRT conference programs and committee activities.

News notices and articles to be considered for inclusion in *Footnotes* should be sent to :

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