

NMRT

Footnotes

## November 2004, Volume 34 No. 2

### [Message from Sally Gibson, NMRT President](#)

Sally Gibson, the New Members Round Table (NMRT) President for 2004-2005, updates NMRT members on important information about the hotel block for Boston and upcoming scholarship opportunities.

### [All about Boston](#)

Michelle Baildon, Joleen Westerdale and the NMRT Orientation Committee tell you all about where to eat, stay and visit in Boston.

### [International Librarianship](#)

Read interviews and profiles on some of our membership who are (or were in the past) international librarians.

### [Banishing Pigeonhole Paranoia](#)

Gretel Stock-Kupperman shines a light on the old librarian's tale that says, "once a cataloger, always a cataloger."

## Articles

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- [NMRT Midwinter Discussion Forum Report](#) - by the NMRT Midwinter Discussion Forum Committee

## Regular Features

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Message from Sally Gibson, NMRT President, 2004-2005

By Sally Gibson, NMRT President

The New Members Roundtable is an organization run by its members and those members have been very active. As President, I have enjoyed observing the programs and events taking shape. I realize that active members play a large role in determining the overall success of NMRT and I truly appreciate your efforts. It is a pleasure to work with such an enthusiastic group.

The online discussion of *Getting Things Done When You are Not in Charge* by Geoffrey Bellman has been fantastic. I am really pleased with the number of people who participated and the insights provided. The Midwinter Discussion Forum committee did an outstanding job of monitoring the discussion and asking thought provoking questions.

The PowerPoint presentation from the 3M/NMRT Social in Orlando will be shown during the New Librarians Symposium in Adelaide, Australia, which is taking place December 3rd-4th 2004. There is a session featuring international librarians. I would like to thank Martha Bace for updating the presentation and sending it to Australia.

Plans and events are gearing up for the Midwinter Meeting in Boston from January 14th-19th 2005. The Colonnade Boston Hotel has a block of NMRT rooms and the Meet & Greet will be held there Friday night. The NMRT Orientation, the All Committee meeting, and the Social will be held Saturday. Sunday morning is the Executive Board meeting. Complete details will be available on the NMRT webpage closer to the conference and posted on NMRT-L. I hope you will be able to take advantage of the outstanding NMRT events at the Midwinter Meeting.

If you are interested in attending the 2005 Annual Conference in Chicago then consider applying for the 3M/NMRT Professional Development Grant or the Shirley Olofson Award. Information is available on the NMRT website under [Apply for Funds](#). **The application for the 3M/NMRT Grant is due December 15, 2004 and the Shirley Olofson Award is due January 1, 2005.**

Nominations are being sought for elected officers. If you are interested in increasing your NMRT involvement then consider running for Secretary, Director, or Councilor. Previous officers are willing to answer any questions that you have about the position and its expectations.

If you have questions or ideas, please feel free to contact me at [sallyg@creighton.edu](mailto:sallyg@creighton.edu). I am looking

forward to seeing many of you in Boston.

Sally

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3M/NMRT Professional Development Grant Committee Invites Applications  
Deadline: December 15, 2004

Have you always wanted to attend an ALA Conference, but are not sure where to get the funds? 3M Library Systems continues its partnership with ALA's New Members Round Table (NMRT) in sponsoring the annual Professional Development Grant program. The grant provides funding to cover the cost of registration fees, airfare, lodging and some incidental expenses for 3 individuals to attend the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago, IL, in June 2005. You must be a current personal member of both ALA and NMRT to apply.

The application deadline is December 15, 2004. The selection of grant recipients will take place at the ALA Midwinter meeting in January 2005.

To apply for the grant or for more information, go to the New Members Round Table website at <http://www.ala.org/ala/nmrt/applyforfunds/3mawardinformation.htm>, or contact:

Jeannette Ho  
Chair, 3M/NMRT Professional Development Grant Committee  
Texas A&M University Libraries  
5000 TAMU  
College Station, TX 77843-5000  
Phone: (979) 845-5438  
Fax: (979) 862-1166  
[jaho@tamu.edu](mailto:jaho@tamu.edu)

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BOSTON: Now that you're here, what will you do?

By Joleen Westerdale

Geographically, Boston is a small city which is divided into several discrete neighborhoods. You can explore the history and heritage of each of these [neighborhoods](#) via the public transportation system (known as the MBTA). In fact, the T (as it is known locally), is the oldest subway system in the country! At \$1.25 per trip, it's your best bet for getting in and around the city because, even on a good day, driving in Boston is an extreme sport, with roads that are difficult to navigate and frequently-inclement weather. Ride the T and enjoy the chic shopping districts, discover history, eat, drink and dance the night away, all without having to fight for a parking spot! For further information about the T, visit <http://www.mbta.com>.

After a long day of trudging through the convention center from exhibits to meetings and back, you deserve to have some fun. The Hynes Convention Center is conveniently located on Boylston Street, in the heart of the city. Depending on your budget, there are plenty of fun places to visit in the vicinity of the convention center - and plenty more to do in the neighborhoods beyond.

### **Shopping:**

If shopping's your thing, you'll find many opportunities to do so. From the posh shoppes along Charles Street to the World Famous Filene's Basement in Downtown Crossing, to the Garment District in Kendall Square, there is something to please every kind of shopper. Conveniently located near the Hynes Convention Center is the entrance to [Newbury Street](#) at Massachusetts Avenue. At this end, you'll find stores catering to the younger, hip crowd. Urban Outfitters, [Allston Beat](#), [Virgin Megastore](#), and [Newbury Comics](#) (which is as well-known for Movies, CDs, and records as it is comic books), are just a few examples of stores you will find here. Further down, Newbury becomes even more trendy and upscale with boutiques and salons featuring notable names as Armani, Burberry and Chanel, as you make your way towards Boston Common. Along your walk, be sure to sample an ice cream cone from [JP Licks](#) or warm yourself on a cold afternoon with a glass of warm milk with honey, from the Trident Bookseller & Café. Also located near the convention center, and attached by a maze of catwalks, is the [Mall at Copley Place](#) and the [Shops at the Prudential Center](#). Both are home to upscale and trendy stores.

If you have more time for shopping, take the Orange line (from Back Bay Station near the Boston Public Library and Prudential Center) to [Downtown Crossing](#), where you'll find the World Famous [Filene's Basement](#). This is the location where brides line up for a one-day bargain blitz on designer wedding dresses. It's a spring ritual and it's mad fun. On a typical day, there is plenty of discounted designer

merchandise available. This area of Boston can be a bit confusing, however, so make sure you bring a [map](#).

Besides Filene's, there are a number of other fantastic shopping venues, including [H&M](#), [DSW Shoe Warehouse](#) (three floors of shoes!!!), [Macy's](#) and other fine shops and boutiques. From Downtown Crossing, you're just around the corner from Chinatown, where you'll not only find fabulous Asian cuisine of all varieties, but also interesting tschochke shops and a number of fabric stores.

Heading to Cambridge on the Red Line? Then you must be going to visit [Harvard University](#) and [Harvard Square](#). Of course, you probably didn't come here for the shopping, but rather to walk across Harvard Yard and see the historic sites. But, once you've done that, stop into Out of Town News and pick up a newspaper from your home town. And be sure to pop into The Garage to warm up. There, you will be greeted by coffee shops, records stores, funky clothing and jewelry stores. Exit along Mt. Auburn Street, and you'll see plenty of fun stores to peruse. While in the square, be sure to check out [Schoenhof's](#) for foreign books, the [Harvard COOP](#) (pronounced coop, as in chicken coop) for just about anything, [The Grolier Poetry Bookshop](#) (6 Plympton Street, at Massachusetts Avenue) for a lyrical fix, and the [Harvard Bookstore](#) (1256 Massachusetts Avenue), to mention a few. Step around the corner from Mt. Auburn and JFK Streets to Brattle Square, and enjoy an authentic Turkish Coffee at Café Algiers just before a film at the [Brattle Theater](#).

On your ride home, why not stop at Kendall Square/MIT? It's on the Red Line, inbound from Harvard. [The Garment District](#) has a fabulous selection of used and vintage clothing; for a real bargain, shop their Dollar-A-Pound, where you can scavenge for goodies and pay by the pound.

### **Pubs n Clubs:**

Whether you prefer your potables in the upscale atmosphere of a martini bar or in a dank basement of a dive bar, you'll find there are plenty of places to imbibe in Boston. Here are a few of my favorites. Most are within walking distance of the convention center and hotels, or are otherwise easily accessible by the T.

Whiskey's (885 Boylston) is across the street from the convention center. Crossroads (495 Beacon Street at Massachusetts Avenue) is walking distance from Boylston Street. In the Kenmore Square/Fenway neighborhood, you'll find [Cornwall's](#) (654 Beacon Street) and [Boston Beer Works](#) (61 Brookline Avenue). Also not far from the convention center and the NMRT hotel block at the [Colonnade](#), is the Squealin Pig (143 Smith Street at Huntington Avenue); take the Green Line E-train and enjoy a beer and a Mars Bar Toasty.

If you'd rather dance and drink, or just dance, check out these clubs. Along Landsdowne Street, behind Fenway's notorious Green Monster, you'll find a row of nightclubs, including [Avalon](#), Axis, and [Bill's Bar](#).

Do you prefer a more gothic vibe? Then you should definitely check out [ManRay](#) in Central Square, Cambridge. Or, if you prefer sophisticated, live jazz, visit [Wally's Café Jazz Club](#) on Massachusetts Avenue.

### **Culture:**

No visit to the Hub is complete without sampling some of our culture and history. Artistically inclined? Spend an afternoon visiting an Art Museum. The [MFA](#) and [Isabella Stuart Gardner Museum](#). Both are located in the near-by Fenway Neighborhood. Take the Green Line E-train or the #39 bus outbound to the Museum stop. The train stops right near the MFA, and from here, it's only a short walk to the Gardner via the Fens. Indulge your interest of contemporary arts at the [ICA](#); at 955 Boylston Street, it's just a short walk from the convention center. Do you want to see an art-house film? Stop by the [Harvard Film Archive](#) in [Harvard Square](#). See what's playing at [www.harvardfilmarchive.org](http://www.harvardfilmarchive.org). And what is art without science? Find out at the [Museum of Science](#).

As one of the oldest cities in the U.S., Boston also has lots of history and history museums. Explore the city and discover the distinctive architecture of Beacon Hill, Back Bay and Roxbury and Paul Revere's odd, old house in the North End. Be sure to visit Boston Common and the Public Gardens, which are lovely in winter; see Old Ironsides, walk through the crowds at Faneuil (pronounced Fannel) Hall and Quincy (pronounced Quin-zee) Market. If it's not too cold, walk the [Freedom Trail](#). Stop in at the [Museum of African American History](#). Or, drop in and say hello to your friends at the [Boston Public Library](#), where you can also view murals by John Singer Sargent. There are many, many historic and cultural excursions to take; these are but a few ideas. For even more ideas, visit <http://www.bostonusa.com>, and click visitors.

### **Off-Beat Tourist:**

Step off the beaten path and explore some of Boston's stranger tourist destinations.

[Museum of Bad Art](#), with its collection of not-so-fine art, will make you laugh until you cry. It's not readily accessible by the T, but if you have a friend who has a car, it's worth the trip to Dedham. If you wear a lot of black and devour poetry like chocolate, or even if you don't, visit [Forest Hills Cemetery](#). This one's for you, Elena! Located in the [Jamaica Plain](#) neighborhood, which is home to some famous, dearly-departed residents including e.e. cummings and Eugene O'Neil. Take the Orange Line to the last stop - Forest Hills.

To see a good drag-show, stop by [Jacques Cabaret](#) in the South End. A good time will be had by all. And finally, visit the [Zeitgeist Gallery](#) in Inman Square, Cambridge, and see works by local and some not-so-local artists.

Intrepid librarian, please note: this is but a sample of what you can do in the city of Boston. Blaze your own trail and find your own Bostonian adventure. Enjoy your visit!



**Other links of interest:**

[www.boston.com](http://www.boston.com)

[www.bostonphoenix.com](http://www.bostonphoenix.com)

[www.cambridge-usa.org](http://www.cambridge-usa.org)

[www.boston-online.com](http://www.boston-online.com)

[www.bostonusa.com](http://www.bostonusa.com)

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## Cheap Eats in Boston

By Michelle Baildon

Unless you're from New York or San Francisco, you'll probably think that Boston is an expensive city. But don't despair, gourmands, because cheap eats abound. (All those broke students have to eat somewhere, too.)

### **The Prudential Center**

No need to stray far from the Hynes Convention Center to find a tasty and affordable meal. In fact, you don't even need to go outside, with plenty of options in "the Shops at Prudential Center," an upscale-mall attached to the Hynes. Its excellent food court will banish from your mind all associations with Sbarro's and Taco Bell. Standouts include [Gourmet India](#) (on the weekend, try such regional specialties as chaat, bhel puri, and dosas); [Pizzeria Regina](#), an outpost of the famed North End eatery; [Qdoba Mexican Grill](#), with a varied menu of burritos and other typical Tex-Mex fare; [Paradise Bakery](#), which serves well-made sandwiches and desserts; [Boston Chowda Co.](#), specializing in chowders and bisques; and [Flamers](#), with freshly grilled burgers and chicken. Probably the most popular spot is the latest addition, a Krispy Kreme.

### **Back Bay: Boylston and Newbury Streets**

The convention center is located in the chic Back Bay neighborhood, where inexpensive restaurants are nestled among boutiques and galleries. Right across the street from the Hynes, [Whiskey's Smokehouse](#) (885 Boylston St. at Gloucester St., 262-5551) offers an affordable selection of BBQ and burgers, not to mention an impressive array of beers and whiskey (and check out their fantastic weekend brunch). Another solid option is The Pour House (909 Boylston St., 236-1767), which serves pub-style food.

Back Bay is dotted with Thai restaurants, and you can't go wrong at any of them, but the top choice also happens to be the closest to the Hynes. The dishes on the separate Authentic Thai Menu se [Chilli Duck](#) (829 Boylston St., 236-5208) apart from the competition.

Just past Massachusetts Avenue, several eateries cater to Berklee School of Music students. [Crazy Dough's](#) (1124 Boylston St., 266-5656) lives up to its name by offering the nacho pizza, the potato-bacon-cheddar pizza, and the barbecue chicken pizza, in addition to more traditional pies. Purists might

prefer Little Stevie's (1114 Boylston St., 266-5576), one of the only Boston pizzerias that can hold its own with New York's. Join the bubble tea craze at [Cassava Boba Lounge](#) (1076 Boylston St., 266.5397), whose international offerings also include crepes, panini, s'mores, and shaved ice. The lounge has wireless internet access.

Other tasty options await just beyond Boylston Street. Very good Middle Eastern and American cuisine is offered at Café Jaffa (48 Gloucester St., 536-0230). Or warm up at Men-tei (66 Hereford St., 425-0066), where the specialty is Japanese noodle soup. It comes fresh and in giant portions.

Steps away from the Hynes is Newbury Street, the Back Bay's main drag, boasting a surprising number of reasonably priced restaurants. Steve's Restaurant (316 Newbury St., 267-1817) serves tasty Greek favorites, along with diner fare. Wisteria House (264 Newbury St., 536-8866) is not your typical Chinese restaurant, offering Taiwanese specialties, plus sushi. The only American outpost of a gourmet U.K. pizza chain, [Croma](#) (269 Newbury St., 247-3200) serves inventive pies in a spacious, stylish setting. For pizza in a less gleaming locale, try the enormous and delicious slices at scruffy Newbury House of Pizza (225 Newbury St., 536-9451). A bit farther off, but worth the walk, is the Back Bay location of the popular Vietnamese chain, Pho Pasteur (119 Newbury St., 262-8200).

On Massachusetts Avenue, just beyond Newbury Street, Island Hopper (91 Massachusetts Ave., 266-1618) presents good Pan-Asian cuisine in an airy, contemporary space. A few doors down at vibrant Bhindi Bazaar (95 Massachusetts Ave., 450-0660), the menu includes balti and other regional dishes rarely seen in the U.S., along with stalwart curries and breads.

## **Back Bay: Near Copley**

The Hynes Convention Center is attached to not just one, but two, posh malls. If you want to venture farther afield, but just can't take that bitter Boston cold, cross the skybridge from the Prudential Center to Copley Place Mall. Cut through the mall to Dartmouth Street and avoid frostbite.

Surely you won't miss visiting the landmark Boston Public Library in Copley Square. While you're there, take a break at the [Map Room Café](#) (700 Boylston St. at Dartmouth St., 536-5660) for soup, salads, sandwiches, pastries, and snacks.

Head down Dartmouth Street past Back Bay Station to find out that healthy fast-food is not an oxymoron. For low-fat - yet tasty burgers, sandwiches, and shakes - visit [B. Good](#) (131 Dartmouth St., 424-5252). Cut through Back Bay Station to Clarendon Street and head to Stanhope Street. Skip Hard Rock Café and enjoy the brick-oven pizzas at [Bertucci's](#) (43 Stanhope St., 247-6161) instead. They give chains a good name.

## **South End**

The South End manages to be simultaneously quaint and hip. The neighborhood enjoys a variety

unusual to many parts of Boston: It's the center of the city's gay community, home to immigrant families, and, as gentrification continues, a magnet for well-off professionals. Between its hot spots and inexpensive international eateries, the South End is one of the city's best dining destinations.

The northern edge of the South End, Columbus Avenue, is just a half-block away from the Dartmouth Street exit at Copley Place. Just around the corner, you'll find Tim's Bar and Grill (329 Columbus Ave., 437-6898). Yes, the place looks a little . . . gritty, but don't let that scare you away — they grill Boston's finest burgers, at bargain prices. For a trendier dining experience, head to Delux Café (100 Chandler St., 338-5258). Are tables so sought-after because of its retro-cool ambiance or because it's the size of a shoebox? Probably a bit of both. You'll be surprised at the low prices for their imaginative and flavorful dishes.

Lighter afternoon fare can be had just across Columbus at Nashoba Brook Bakery (288 Columbus Ave., 236-0777), known for its creative sandwiches. Appleton Bakery Café (123 Appleton St., 859-8222) is a similar lunch-time alternative, offering sandwiches, pastries, and prepared foods. There are oddly few diners in Boston, but Charlie's Sandwich Shop (429 Columbus Ave., 536-7669) is a fine example. Its all-day breakfasts (try the turkey hash) pack the crowds in.

Brave the elements and wander farther into the South End for some of Boston's hard-to-find cuisines. Long-time neighborhood favorite [Addis Red Sea](#) (544 Tremont St., 426-8727) attracts flocks of diners for authentic Ethiopian food. It's one of only a few moderately-priced restaurants on the South End's most happening strip. Just past Tremont Street, where Dartmouth turns into West Dedham Street, homey [Botucatu](#) (57 West Dedham St., 247-9249) serves Peruvian and Brazilian food (plus a few Mexican standbys for the less adventurous). Expect to relax a while — the service is leisurely. Hearty Cuban dishes are dirt-cheap at Miami Café (68 Aguadilla St., 859-8105), just off a less-hip part of Tremont Street. [Bob the Chef's](#), a Boston institution, is the place to go for Southern food. The restaurant features live jazz Thursday through Saturday nights and during Sunday brunch.

## **Symphony**

The area near Symphony Hall (at the intersection of Huntington and Massachusetts Aves.) offers a few affordable alternatives. Moby Dick (269 Huntington Ave., 236-5511) serves up tasty Persian dishes, fast. On Westland Avenue, behind Symphony Hall, the Malaysian restaurant Tiger Lily (8 Westland Ave., 267-8881) offers well-spiced fare.

Most of your mall and airport favorites can be found in Boston. But before you set foot in Au Bon Pain, Chilli's, or the Cheesecake Factory, remember: You can always eat that at home. With the quality and variety of affordable restaurants in this town, why not forgo the familiar? Explore Boston instead, and enjoy the local flavor.

## Brunch Spots

Brunch is a good time to try high-end restaurants at more reasonable prices.

## Back Bay

### [Stephanie's on Newbury](#)

190 Newbury St. (at Exeter Street)  
236-0990

### [Sonsie](#)

327 Newbury St. (at Massachusetts Ave.)  
351-2500

## South End

### [Aquitaine](#)

569 Tremont St. (at Clarendon St.)  
424-8577  
(try the \$9.95 Saturday prix-fixe brunch)

Garden of Eden  
571 Tremont St. (at Clarendon St.)  
247-8377

Metropolis  
584 Tremont St. (at Upton St.)  
247-2931

Mike's City Diner  
1714 Washington St. (at Massachusetts Ave.)  
267-9393

## Ice Cream, Coffee, and Desserts

### Ice Cream

J.P. Licks  
236-1666  
352 Newbury St. (at Massachusetts Ave.)

Back Bay

Picco

## Grocery Stores

Deluca's Back Bay Market  
239 Newbury St. (at Fairfield St.)  
262-5990

Narutomi Japanese Grocery Store  
349 Newbury St. (between Massachusetts Ave. and Hereford St.)  
437-1939

Shaw's  
53 Huntington Ave. (across the street from the Prudential Saks Fifth Ave.)  
262-4688

Trader Joe's  
899 Boylston St. (across the street from the Hynes Convention Center)  
262-6505

Whole Foods  
15 Westland Ave. (near Symphony Hall)  
375-1010

## Splurges

### Mexican

#### [Casa Romero](#)

30 Gloucester St.  
(entrance in an alleyway between Newbury St. and Commonwealth Ave.)  
536-4341

### New American/Mediterranean

The Butcher Shop  
52 Tremont St. (at Clarendon St.)  
423-4800

### Nuevo Latino

#### [Bombo](#)

35 Stanhope St. (at Clarendon St.)  
236-6363  
(They offer a prix-fixe menu for \$30 after 5:30pm Monday through

513 Tremont St. (at Berkeley St.)  
927-0066  
South End

### **Pastries**

#### [Finale](#)

423-3184  
1 Columbus Ave. (at Park Place)  
Back Bay

#### [Flour Bakery and Cafe](#)

267-4300  
1597 Washington St.  
South End

### **Coffee**

Espresso Royale Caffè  
859-9515  
286 Newbury St.  
Back Bay

859-7080  
44 Gainsborough St.  
Symphony

Francesca's Espresso Bar  
482-9026  
564 Tremont St.  
South End

Torrefazione Italia  
424-0951  
85 Newbury St. (between  
Clarendon and Berkeley St.)  
Back Bay

If You Insist, Starbucks Near the  
Hynes Convention Center  
\* has wireless internet access

Barnes & Noble, Prudential Center  
(there are two: one near the  
entrance and one inside)

Thursday.)

### **Seafood**

Jasper White's  
50 Dalton St. (at Boylston St.)  
867-9955

#### [Legal Sea Foods](#)

Prudential Center (near the Boylston  
St. exit)  
266-6800  
and  
Copley Place (second floor)  
266-7775

### **Spanish**

#### [Tapeo](#)

266 Newbury St. (at Gloucester St.)  
267-4799

Marriott Boston/Copley Mall  
Entrance  
(across the skybridge from  
Prudential to Copley; the lines are  
often long)

Westin Hotel Copley\*  
(go through Copley Place and turn  
left towards the Westin; it's across  
the skybridge between the mall and  
the hotel)

350 Newbury Street\*  
(at Massachusetts Ave.)

755 Boylston Street\*  
(between Exeter and Fairfield St.)

441 Stuart Street\*  
(entrance on Dartmouth St., across  
from Copley Place)

147-151 Massachusetts Avenue\*  
(at Havland St.)

165 Newbury Street  
(between Exeter and Dartmouth St.)

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Braverman Award for 2005

by Alison Lewis

Dear friends and colleagues --

I'm pleased to announce a call for submissions for the 2005 Braverman Award, given to the best library/information science student essay concerning some aspect of the social responsibilities of librarians, libraries, or librarianship. The essay contest is sponsored by the Progressive Librarians Guild.

The winning entrant will have his/her essay published in Progressive Librarian, receive a \$300 stipend toward attending the ALA annual meeting in Chicago, and will be presented with an award at the annual PLG. **Deadline for submissions is Feb. 15, 2005.** Complete guidelines are available on the [PLG website](#).

Please help us get the word out about this exciting opportunity! Forward this message to appropriate listservs or to students and library educators you may know.

Thanks!

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## 10 Ways to Conference on the Cheap

By the 2005 NMRT Orientation Committee

The NMRT Orientation Committee sponsors an orientation program at each ALA conference. The orientation always takes place on Saturday morning, and it is a good way for librarians to get introduced to ALA and NMRT, get information on becoming involved in the organization, and get tips on how to make the most of their conference experience. Librarians attending the orientation program not only have the opportunity to hear from ALA leaders; they also can meet other new conference attendees, find out what to do in the conference city, and vie for door prizes. It is not a program to miss!

This year the Orientation Committee has also put together some tips to help librarians attend that first conference. It can often be very expensive to attend an ALA conference, and in lean times such as these librarians cannot always count on employer subsidies to help ease the conference costs. So here are our top ten ways to conference on the cheap:

### **Registration**

#### **1. Take advantage of early bird registration.**

You can always save money by registering early for ALA conferences. ALA has three types of conference registrations: early bird, advanced, and on-site. Early bird registration is the cheapest, and it can save you around \$35 over advanced registration prices. The trick to taking advantage of this great deal is registering in time. For example, early bird registration for January's Midwinter meeting closed in early October, so you have to be on your toes to catch the deal. Early bird registration for the June 2005 Annual conference will likely take place in February 2005.

#### **2. Look for conference scholarships.**

Scholarships are always a good option for new conference attendees. NMRT and 3M sponsor professional development grants to help new librarians attend ALA Annual conferences. Some state and local library associations also sponsor new librarians to attend national conferences, so check with your local library associations about what funds they have available.

### **Transportation**

### **3. Explore airport transportation options:**

Check out transportation between airport and hotel in advance. To curb expenses, you may find an airport shuttle service will get you to your hotel cheaper than a taxi will. If you book your shuttle ticket in advance, not only can you save time when you land, you can often save several dollars off a roundtrip ticket price.

Don't be afraid to talk to strangers. Often there will be other librarians on your flight, and they will be heading to the same area you are. If there are two or more people traveling together it is often cheaper, and faster, to take a cab rather than use an airport shuttle service.

And don't forget public transportation! It can be a cheap and relatively easy way to get to your hotel. In Boston you can take a free shuttle bus provided by the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) from all Logan Airport terminals to the airport T (subway) station on the blue line. For subway maps and schedule information visit the MBTA website, <http://www.mbta.com/>.

### **4. Consider purchasing subway/bus passes early.**

Travel on the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA or T) can cost \$1.25 per subway use, and bus fares can run anywhere from \$0.90 to \$1.55 or more. Multiple usages can add up. Purchasing a 1 day, 3 day, or 7 day visitor pass (\$7.50, \$18.00, or \$35.00) allows for unlimited travel on all subway lines, local and cross-town buses, and even inner harbor ferries and can be cheaper than cab fare.

If you do plan on getting around Boston using MBTA, check out their trip planner site, [http://trip.mbta.com/cgi-bin/itin\\_page\\_dhtml.pl](http://trip.mbta.com/cgi-bin/itin_page_dhtml.pl). You can type in your location and destination information and receive route information, and you can download schedule and route information to your Palm or Pocket PC, <http://www.secondkiss.com/mbta/>.

## **Housing**

### **5. Avoid staying in conference hotels.**

You may think this sounds counter-intuitive because you will be forced to find your own transportation to and from the convention center, instead of taking the nice shuttle buses, if you do not stay at a conference hotel. But you will probably be able to find a cheaper deal at a non-conference hotel that is very near one of the conference hotels. Then you can just walk a block or so to the conference hotel and catch your shuttle from there. You can find these near-the-conference-hotel hotels by asking frugal coworkers and searching the Web. Hotels.com has a service that will let you search for hotels near an address, a boon for the bargain hunting conventioneer.

And don't forget the non-hotel options offered by ALA. Often ALA will offer cheap housing at a local

college dormitory during the annual conference.

## **6. Check out online hotel deals.**

There are great hotel deals to be had on the Internet! Sites like Expedia and Hotels.com can be a bargain-hunting conventioneer's best friend. For the more adventurous, there are also sites like Priceline.com that will let you bid on a hotel room. The NMRT Orientation Committee has heard from several librarians who have braved this service that it was well worth it. These librarians managed to book rooms in conference hotels at well-below conference rates!

## **7. Look for hotels with meal deals.**

A great way to save money at a conference is to take advantage of meal deals that come free with your hotel room. Many hotels offer a free continental breakfast, so take advantage of it when you can. Also, some hotel rooms have refrigerators, or even microwaves, which can be great for storing beverages and items for light meals or snacks.

You might also consider asking for an upgrade to a room on your hotel's concierge floor. For a little extra per night, you and your roommate can take advantage of the complimentary breakfast, snacks, and evening cocktails or desserts offered on this floor. If both of you make use of it, the extra money you have spent may be worth it. The upgrade price for the concierge floor varies from hotel to hotel, so be sure to find out exactly how much you will be paying before going for the upgrade.

## **8. Check out local hostels.**

Youth hostels, those old friends from your college days, can also be a good housing option for the bargain conventioneer. Hostelling International's Boston Hostel is located within very easy walking distance (approx. 2 blocks) from the Hynes Convention Center on 12 Hemenway St., Boston, MA 02115. Their web address is <http://www.bostonhostel.org/>. Most hostel accommodations are dormitory style, but private rooms are available for \$69-\$99 for members (\$3 more for non-members).

## **Food**

### **9. Never eat in the convention center.**

Any seasoned conventioneer will tell you that the food prices in the convention center are outrageous. (\$9 for a dried-out turkey sandwich!) And the lines can be very long, so be kind to yourself and your wallet-- pack snacks. Even if you do not want to bring them from home you can make a quick trip to a store once you have arrived. Stuffing your conference bag with bottled water and snacks such as granola bars, trail mix, dried fruit, and other quick portable items makes for a great pick-me-up while you are running between meetings.

## **10. Accept vendor invitations.**

As the conference approaches you may notice that you are getting quite a few invitations to vendor-sponsored lunches, cocktail hours, and dinners. If you are interested in what the vendor has to offer, take advantage of these invitations! For the cost of your time and attentiveness, these vendors are offering you free food, and that is a great way to save money at a conference. The networking opportunities at these events are just a bonus!

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## NMRT Midwinter Discussion Forum Report

By the NMRT Midwinter Discussion Forum Committee

The NMRT Midwinter Discussion Forum Committee tried out a new format for the annual discussion this year. As a part of this year's NMRT Presidential Theme *Ladders to Leadership*, we hosted a 5 week online (10/4-11/5) discussion on NMRT-L based on the book *Getting Things Done When You Are Not In Charge* by Geoffrey Bellman (published in 2001 by Berrett-Koehler). We selected this book from a bibliography prepared by the Self-Study and Resource Allocation Committee because we thought it would be useful to those who are currently in supervisory positions, as well as those who may be in the future. Many people followed and contributed to the discussion, in spite of a week of technical difficulties at ALA that resulted in no messages going to or from the listserv! We had many positive comments about the online discussion, such as these:

I think it's great. I won't be able to attend Midwinter this year, and so having the discussion online allows for me to participate. (Katie Dunneback 10/04/04)

I feel that this [online discussion] offers the chance to network with librarians I would not meet in any other way and to do something different. ... It will be nice to participate in a seminar based on book that will be reminiscent of an actual class, with extended contact with others in the group. ... With an online seminar, we will have a better chance to develop our thoughts more fully, which may lead to different kinds of ideas than you would get in a face-to-face session. [June Power 10/04/04]

I just wanted to say that this online book discussion is a great idea. I hope that we can do this several times a year!! [Tanzi Merritt 10/11/04]

Oh man! I really needed this today ... [Denise Sharpe 10/15/04]

Thank you to NMRT for sponsoring this discussion. [Beth Gaffett Tengwall 10/15/04]

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## Getting Around Boston

By Michelle Baildon

Boston is a very walkable city, but there are some places that are just too distant to reach on foot. (And of course, once winter sets in, the distance deemed "walkable" shortens considerably!) Taxis charge extortionate rates, though they might be worth it for large enough groups. But for the most part, for a low fare the [Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority](#) (MBTA) should be able to get you the places you want to go.

### **Subway-a. k. a. "The T"**

A token costs \$1.25 and can be purchased at booths or at token dispensers (which, absurdly enough, accept only cash). Somewhat steeply priced passes are also available (one day for \$7.50, three days for \$18.00, and seven days for \$35.00).

The T is broken into four color-coded lines: green, orange, red, and blue. Because there's no such thing as "uptown" and "downtown" in Boston, trains run in either the "inbound" or "outbound" direction. "Inbound" trains run towards the center of the city (i.e., towards the Park Street, Downtown Crossing, Government Center, or State stops). "Outbound" trains run towards the end of lines.

### **The Green Line**

Let's start with closest and most confusing line. The Green Line runs from North Station in Boston to Copley and then splits into four separate lines that run west towards outlying neighborhoods and the suburbs. Make sure you get on the right line!

### **Going Inbound**

\* The Science Park and Lechmere stops are currently served by shuttle bus rather than train. You can catch the shuttle bus at street level at the Government Center, Haymarket, North Station, Science Park, and Lechmere stops. Free subway transfers are available at Government Center, Haymarket and North Station.

\* The inbound Green Line can take you to Boston Common and the Public Garden, the Theater District, Chinatown, Beacon Hill, Faneuil Hall and Quincy Market, and the North End. The Science Museum and Cambridgeside Galleria mall can be reached by the Green Line shuttle bus.

\* If you're going inbound, use the Hynes/ICA stop instead of Prudential because trains go by much more frequently.

## **Going Outbound**

\* The various outbound Green Lines can take you to Fenway Park (yay Sox!), Boston University, and the Museum of Fine Arts and Isabella Stewart Gardiner Museum, as well as the Brookline, Newton, and Allston/Brighton neighborhoods.

\* Note that going outbound, the E line splits off at Copley, but the B, C, and D don't split off until Kenmore.

\* Kenmore is the last underground stop for the B, C, and D. Prudential is the last underground stop for the E. Be warned: the B, C, and E run along city streets, and stoplights can make your trip painfully slow.

\* Use the Hynes/ICA stop for outbound B, C, and D.

\* The only reason to use the Prudential stop is to go outbound on the E (though you probably should be on the #39 bus anyway).

## **The Orange Line**

The Back Bay and Massachusetts Avenue stops are within walking distance of the convention center. On weekends, the Orange Lines runs fairly seldom, but once you get on the train, it can get you to a lot of interesting places quickly.

\* The Theater District, Chinatown, Downtown Crossing shopping area, Faneuil Hall and Quincy Market, the waterfront, and the North End can all be reached on the inbound Orange Line (towards Oak Grove).

## **The Red Line**

This line supposedly got its color from the school colors of the two Cambridge academic heavyweights it serves, MIT and Harvard.

\* To reach the Red Line, take the Green Line inbound to Park and change lines.

\* From there, the inbound Red Line (towards Braintree or Mattapan) will take you to South Station and the JFK Library and Museum.

\* The outbound Red Line heads to Cambridge, stopping at Kendall/MIT, Central Square, Harvard Square, and Porter Square. It also stops at Davis Square in Somerville, a fun neighborhood near Tufts University.

## **The Blue Line**

\* To reach the Blue Line, take the Green Line inbound to Government Center and change lines.

\* The outbound Blue Line goes to the New England Aquarium and Logan Airport.

## Buses

Buses cost \$.90 (exact change only; T tokens also accepted). There are a few frequent buses near the Hynes Convention Center that can get you to popular destinations faster or more conveniently than the T.

The #39 bus offers a good alternative to the infrequent and often crowded Green Line E. It picks up on Huntington Ave. at Belvidere St. (on the edge of the Christian Science complex, across the street from the Prudential mall). It runs west on Huntington past Symphony Hall and Northeastern University to the Museum of Fine Arts and the Isabella Stewart Gardiner Museum and through Jamaica Plain.

The #1 bus goes up Massachusetts Ave. to Cambridge, cutting time and distance off the T journey, which entails a line transfer and a ride all the way into downtown Boston and then back out again. It picks up on Massachusetts Ave. and Newbury St. (right by the Virgin Megastore). After making a scenic crossing over the Harvard Bridge, the bus stops at MIT, Central Square, and Harvard Square.

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## NMRT Announces Hotel Block for Chicago Annual Conference

- NMRT will have a hotel block at ALA Annual in Chicago.
- Details will be announced on NMRT-L in early January.
- If anyone has questions, they should contact Bill Jenkins, [wcj1@cornell.edu](mailto:wcj1@cornell.edu).

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## De Internationale Bibliotheacarissen Onder Ons: The International Librarians Among Us

By Dawn Lowe-Wincentsen

Some times we forget that there are other places besides home. Sure, we all think about traveling to some exotic locale, or touring a world full of history, but do we stop and think about the people there? Do we wonder what their everyday lives are like? When the tour guide gets off the bus, does she go home and relax, put her feet up and read? When the ticket agent gets done for the day, does he stop by the local library and pick up a movie for the night?

I worked with a girl from the island of Crete for a while. She once described the library there to me: it was an old man's house that he opened up once a week (or less sometimes), and you could go there and read the books, but were not able to borrow them. She was amazed at the flexibility and the resources available at the university library where we were.

At Annual in Orlando this year I staffed the NMRT booth with a woman from Jamaica. It was her first conference. Maybe if we get to know some of those people around us who do not share our origins, we can better understand the world outside our own doors. The following are some short introductions some of the librarians in NMRT that come from places outside our homes. From Estonia to Brazil, Alberta to India.



Amy Cassidy is a Librarian at the Seattle Public Library. She is originally from Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. She became a librarian so she could spend every day in a place she loves - the library. In her free time she likes spending time with her significant other, reading, cooking, and listening to music.

Jennifer-Lynn Draper is originally from Ontario, Canada, where she still resides. She works as a librarian at the Ottawa Public Library and as a researcher for IFLA's Public Library Committee. Jennifer became a librarian because she loves helping people, interacting with them, and sharing the gift of reading with them. She



Kadri Kallikorm-Rhodes is currently working on her MLIS at Rutgers in New Jersey, but is originally from Estonia in Northern Europe, near Finland. Kadri is pursuing librarianship not only for her love of books, but also because of her interest in the information aspects of diplomacy that she developed while in the Estonian Foreign Service. Kadri is also very active in her local chapters of SLA.

also likes organizing things. Outside of her jobs, she does volunteer work and Belly Dances.

Ihsia Hu was featured in the last issue of Footnotes in the regular feature of NMRT board Members. She is currently the Secretary of NMRT, and a cataloger at the National Library of Medicine. She found comfort in the large Chinese language collection at the University of Hawaii, while getting her undergraduate in zoology and decided to stay on to get her masters degree in library and information. Ihsia is originally from Taiwan, and has also lived in China.



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### International Interviews: Sarah Benson and Mohan Ramaswamy

Sarah Benson is originally from Canada and spent four years in American libraries (in Boston), before returning to Canada last year, where she currently works as a Librarian in a Specialised College. We asked Sarah how coming from Canada has influenced her views of America and/or American libraries. She answered, "Hmmm... Every country has its prejudices about other places... I certainly had a vague image of the US being populated by uneducated xenophobics who carry guns everywhere. This is nonsense, of course, and I wasn't really that much of a nitwit. But politically the US is very different from Canada: I think we're always looking for grey areas [in Canada], and in the US things tend to be black-or-white. This influences the dialogue which takes place over big issues. Also, we're the mousy younger sister with low self-esteem, and the US - definitely isn't." She adds, "As for American libraries, I knew that the US values its libraries more than Canada does - puts a lot more money into them, for example, and there are more, and more specialized libraries in the US. I think Americans are (quite rightly) proud of their library heritage, and it shows (though I must say [that] Canad[ian libraries] tend to pay better."

When asked why she wanted to become a librarian, Sarah responds, "Love and value of knowledge and its preservation (that's my stand-tall-and-proud answer, but it's honest, really!)" and adds that she enjoys "seeking and finding things," that she loves books, and she "also like[s] the prospect of delving into many different subjects without having to commit to one topic forever, as well as enjoying working with and helping people." Sarah was an actor for a while, and says that she also briefly considered staying in academia. Her favorite general quote is, "Never trust a bishop," but that her favorite "literary" quote is Spider Robinson's remark, which she paraphrases, "Librarians are the secret masters of the world. They control information. Don't ever piss one off." She also adds, "Oh, [I] also [like]: 'Ignorance is not bliss.'"

~~~~~

Mohan Ramaswamy, an Assistant Professor at Kansas State University Libraries, has worked in American libraries for more than four years, having come to the US from India. Mohan tells us that he wanted to become a librarian based on experiences that he first had in India. "When I worked as a faculty of entomology in an agricultural university in India, I was in-charge of a campus library. I contributed for a 'selective dissemination of information' (SDI) service and collaborated with many agricultural libraries. Down the road, I realized that [I] loved to work with information seekers much more than I did with insects! Also, I was amazed by the information explosion and decided to help scientific community with their info needs."

Mohan says that, in terms of how coming from India has influenced his way of viewing America and/or American libraries, "I have realized many facts about America and American people after coming here."

For example, I believed the myth that Americans are liberal, but now I see America is so divided that part of Americans are conservatives. Before landing here, I had never imagined that religion would play a vital role in American institutions and politics. I really experience and enjoy the inclusiveness of American people, which I was somewhat skeptical before coming here."

Aside from his vocation as an information specialist, Mohan says that he loves music. "I love to listen to music and sing." When asked if he has a favorite quote, he responds, "Save the time of the user" - Ranganathan's 4th Law of Librarianship.

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## Profile of an International Librarian: Laura Kortz

Laura Kortz, NMRT Director of Member Services, was born in Porto Alegre, Brazil (Porto Alegre is the capital Brazil's southernmost state, Rio Grande do Sul) She and her Brazilian-born parents moved to the US when Laura was 7, then moved back to Brazil when she was 14. She has been in the US now for a total of 32 years, which seems like a really long time to her. Now a resident of New York City, she works as a Virtual services Librarian at the New Jersey City University in Jersey City, NJ, where one of her main responsibilities is to participate in QandA NJ, New Jersey's 24/7 collaborative online reference service.



Like most of us in the profession, Laura came to librarianship from another career area. She came to librarianship from psychology, where she recalls, I was working as a research assistant for a psychology professor and as part of my work for her, I had to do a lot of library research. Until then I had pretty much avoided the library. I was kind of scared of it, actually. But over time I began to really enjoy research. I also thought the librarians were really nice and helpful. So I started working in my undergraduate library as a reference assistant, and I loved it. In addition to enjoying helping people with research and seeing how different people think their ways through the research process, Laura remarks, It's interesting to me to see how people understand libraries and how they're organized. I also enjoy having a broad view of all the disciplines rather than just a narrow focus.

When asked how coming from another country may have influenced her view of America or American libraries, Laura answers, I think coming from a different country, speaking a different language, and having to learn English as a child of seven really influenced me in a lot of ways. I think I'm more open to different viewpoints for instance, because I know the American way isn't the only way. Two of my mom's best friends were librarians, so I think that had some influence on me as well. But I think if I had not come to this country I might not have become a librarian because, in Brazil, libraries are even more under-funded than they are here! There just isn't the same sort of commitment [there] that there is [here] to public libraries. When I go to Brazil, and I go every other year, I'm always amazed at how few libraries there are ) and how little people use them. On the other hand, I've heard that there's a lot of interesting research coming out of Brazilian LIS departments, so maybe this will change in time. Overall, having the experience of another country is a positive and broadening thing, I think.

When she isn't doing work-related things, Laura is still busy learning new things, as she is currently working towards a second master's in Counseling Psychology, keeping her pretty busy. In the little spare time I have, I like to walk, hang out with friends and watch ER and Nightline.

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## NMRT Mentoring Committee Announces Pilot Program

By Samantha Schmehl Hines  
Co Chair, NMRT Mentoring Committee

Have you been a librarian for 5 years or less? Do you sometimes feel you have professional questions to ask and no one to direct them to? Do you find yourself wondering, in the midst of hardcore budget season, or in that massive collection development strategy meeting...

What the heck are they talking about??

Or, have you been a librarian for 5 years or more? Do you have a handle on all those librarian-y questions that come up from day to day? Do you find yourself wondering who you can impart all this hard-fought knowledge to?

In that case, we have just the person!

Here is your chance to help us pilot a great new resource from NMRT, to meet a new librarian ally, and to collaborate on learning the ins and outs of librarianship!

The NMRT Mentoring Committee is piloting a new program this year that focuses on more long term mentoring. We will pair up 10 "newbie librarians" with 10 "seasoned vets" as part of a 6-month mentoring program. If you are interested in finding a mentee and in charting new territory with our pilot program, please read all the details and fine print below.

This pilot version of the career mentoring program will last from ALA Midwinter 2005 in January to ALA Annual 2005 in June. Conference attendance is not required. Applications are due November 19th, 2004, with the goal of notifying the matching pairs by the first week in January, 2005. This will allow for any pairs that have the opportunity to meet at Midwinter to do so.

Each pair will have a member of the NMRT Mentoring Committee assigned to them. This committee member will notify the mentor and mentee of their pairing, and send them monthly discussion topics via email. Mentors and mentees are of course free to discuss whatever they want, whenever and however they would like. These topics are merely guidelines. The committee member will also serve as a troubleshooter if any problems come up.



It is important to remember that this is a pilot project - we will try to make everything go as smoothly as possible, but the unforeseen will likely arise. Please feel free to send us any and all questions, comments, criticisms and accolades that may occur to you.

## **Participant Guidelines:**

### **Mentors:**

We encourage mentors from all types of libraries, in all positions, to apply for the career mentoring program. We ask that mentors be ALA members, be employed in a professional position for at least five years, and be willing to correspond either via email or phone with their mentee at least twice a month. Mentors will be expected to initiate contact with the mentee at the start of the program with an introductory email. If there are ever any administrative questions, mentors will have access to an NMRT Mentoring Committee member to help troubleshoot. At the end of the program, mentors will be asked to give feedback to the Committee to help determine if and how the program should continue. Mentors will receive a letter recognizing their service in this program for their files upon request.

### **Mentees:**

We welcome mentees from all types of libraries and in all positions, to apply for the career mentoring program. We ask that mentees be members of ALA, be employed in a professional position for 0-5 years, and be willing to correspond via email or phone with their mentor at least twice a month. Mentors will be expected to introduce themselves to you initially via email at the start of the program, at which point mentees will respond with an introduction of their own. If there are ever any administrative questions, mentees will have access to an NMRT Mentoring Committee member to help troubleshoot. At the end of the program, mentees will be asked to give feedback to the Committee to help determine if and how the program should continue.

Apply today to be part of this exciting new project! The form can be found online at <http://www.ala.org/ala/nmrt/comm/careerMentoringApplication.htm>

If you have any questions, please contact us at [NMRT\\_Mentoring@yahoo.com](mailto:NMRT_Mentoring@yahoo.com).

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Boston: Neighborhood Picks

By Michelle Baildon

Hopefully you'll find time to venture beyond Back Bay to Boston's many other charming neighborhoods. When you're there, eat well for less at these bargain spots.

### **Beacon Hill**

Figs [part of the Todd English empire]  
42 Charles St.  
742-3447  
Pizza

Paramount  
<http://www.paramountboston.com>  
44 Charles St.  
720-1152  
(Diner/Brunch)

### **Chinatown**

Buddha's Delight  
3 Beach St.  
451-2395  
(Vegetarian)

Chau Chow City Restaurant  
81 Essex St.  
338-8158  
(Dim Sum)

Peach Farm  
4 Tyler St.  
482-1116  
(Seafood)

### **North End**

Ernesto's Pizza  
69 Salem St.  
523-1373  
(Pizza)

Il Panino Express  
264-266 Hanover St  
720-5720  
(Italian/Sandwiches)

Modern Pastry  
<http://www.modernpastryshop.com>  
257 Hanover St.  
523-3783  
(Dessert)

Monica's Trattoria  
<http://www.monicasfoods.com/trattoria.htm>  
67 Prince St.  
720-5472  
(Italian)

### **Harvard Square (Cambridge)**

Felipe's Taqueria  
83 Mt Auburn St.  
354-9944

Taiwan Café  
34 Oxford St  
426-8181  
(Taiwanese)

### **Downtown Crossing**

Chacarero  
426 Washington St.  
542-0392  
(Takeout Chilean Sandwiches)

Milk Street Cafe  
50 Milk St.  
542-3663  
(American-Healthy)

### **Fenway**

Buteco  
130 Jersey St .  
247-9508  
(Brazilian)

Brown Sugar  
129 Jersey St.  
266-2928  
(Thai)

El Pelón  
<http://www.elpelon.com>  
92 Peterborough St.  
262-9090  
(Mexican)

(Mexican)

Herrell s  
15 Dunster St.  
497-2179  
(Ice Cream)

L. A. Burdick  
52 Brattle St.  
491-4340  
(Coffee/Dessert)

Mr. Bartley s Burger Cottage  
1246 Massachusetts Ave.  
354-6559  
(American)

Tamarind Bay  
75 Winthrop St.  
491-4525  
(Indian)

Toscanini s  
84 Massachusetts Ave.  
496-1556  
(Ice Cream)

### **Coolidge Corner (Brookline)**

Khao Sarn  
<http://www.khaosarn.com>  
250 Harvard St.  
566-7200  
(Thai)

Paris Creperie  
278 Harvard St.  
232-1700  
(French)

Rani  
<http://www.ranibistro.com>

1353 Beacon St.  
734-0400  
(Indian)

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Shirley Olofson Memorial Award Application

**Application deadline: January 1, 2005**

National conferences are the perfect opportunity for members new to ALA to meet other librarians, get a feel for new directions in librarianship, and form links with librarians throughout the country and the world.

For members of the ALA New Members Round Table, there is a way to get funding! Apply for the Shirley Olofson Memorial Award (online at <http://www.ala.org/ala/nmrt/applyforfunds/shirleyolofson.htm>) and you may be eligible for a \$1000 check, to be awarded at ALA Annual in Chicago 2005, to help defray the cost of attendance. If you aren't a member, it's super easy to add membership to NMRT to your ALA membership online. Just go to [www.ala.org](http://www.ala.org) and login to add NMRT to your membership, regardless of when you are up for renewal.

Shirley Olofson was a former president of the New Members Round Table, who died during her term of office. This award was founded in her honor to help new members of ALA grow and flourish as librarians.

The fine print:

Applicants must-

- 1) be members of ALA and NMRT
- 2) be active within the library profession
- 3) show promise or activity in the area of professional development
- 4) have valid financial need
- 5) have attended no more than five ALA annual conferences

Go to <http://www.ala.org/ala/nmrt/applyforfunds/shirleyolofson.htm> to find out more or to apply.

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Banishing Pigeonhole Paranoia: traversing between the many types of librarianship

By Gretel Stock-Kupperman

Over the course of my experience in the library profession, I have met librarians engaged in a wide variety of jobs in the field. As I discussed my recent career move from a special library to academia with my colleagues, almost all expressed a mixture of surprise and envy, stating that they were a specific kind of librarian, and wouldn't ever be able to make such a change. Even students who had yet to start their career agonized over what area of librarianship to enter, since once they chose, they believed that was their path for the entirety of their career. These comments led me to examine this trend of Pigeonhole Paranoia in librarianship and offer some suggestions on how to overcome it.

### **Current Opinions**

The current opinions on changing branches of librarianship expressed to me by fellow professionals can be summed up by three statements:

- Once a \_\_\_\_\_ librarian, always a \_\_\_\_\_ librarian.
- I didn't take \_\_\_\_\_ class (or have \_\_\_\_\_ experience) so I can't be a \_\_\_\_\_ librarian.
- My skills won't transfer because \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are different parts of librarianship.

Each of these statements is a different twist on the same fear: I'm not trained to do this, or I haven't done this, therefore, I won't be able to. The different types of librarianship can seem very different from across the fence, so it can be difficult to see the similarities and see how far the librarian skill-set can stretch. While there are certainly barriers to entry to each part of the field, they can be overcome with the right attitude and only a few additional skills.

### **Similarities Between Types of Librarianship**

The first step in banishing pigeonholing is understanding the similarities between librarianship's many types. While the places we work have different names (library, information center, knowledge management team), different missions (education, business, information distribution) and different practices (library instruction, lending library, research collection), the following things are the same:

- All have users/patrons/clients who request a service.
- All provide information resources of some kind.

- All deal with vendors.
- All manage collections of knowledge, whether physical materials, electronic resources, or intellectual capital.
- All have space, whether physical or virtual.

As a special librarian who moved into academia, these similarities hit home in real life. To my colleagues who ask what the difference between academic librarianship and special librarianship is, I respond, I'm still dealing with information, people, places and materials. I juggle as many tennis balls, they just aren't flaming anymore. There are some differences, but my skills in collection building, research, reference and organization apply in many of the same ways at my current position as they did in my corporate librarian job.

## **Differences**

There are some differences in the branches of librarianship that can affect a desire to change career paths. It is always easier to change between a type of librarianship (from special to public) as opposed to changing specializations (from reference to cataloging). In some cases, specialized knowledge or degrees may be non-negotiable. While there are always exceptions, scientific, legal and medical organizations generally require a bachelors, or previous experience in a related field. This is the most striking and stringent example of such requirements, but others do exist. Being aware of these requirements beforehand is critical when thinking about a change.

The two most significant and related differences are the different levels of demand on a librarian's time and compensation. While the pay is very good, a position in a corporate library may require long deadline-focused days. A public librarian receives less compensation, but may have better holidays and time off. Each part of librarianship has its tradeoff, as do all careers. Before undertaking a move, be sure you know what you want from all aspects of a library job, including pay, time off, and lifestyle associated with the position.

## **Breaking the Mold and Bridging the Gap**

When I started library school, I decided in the first term to focus my studies on business librarianship. My volunteer work with the MBA school's student-run consulting firm helped cement my experience in that part of the field. However, I sought out an assistantship at the Undergraduate library and took traditional library classes to have a well-rounded education. That experience, and thinking broadly about my skills, helped me cross the gap between my first job in business and my current position in academia. This was one way to break the mold, but there are others:

- Think of your skills in broad terms: All reference librarians have great research skills, which can help a patron find a book, a business report, or an archival manuscript.
- If you lack specialized expertise, go out and get it: In most cases, your new employer will train you in the tools that the organization uses to conduct business. However, if there is a skill

required by many or all libraries in an area of the field, you can go about acquiring it. By volunteering or renewing your professional skills through workshops and classes, you can build experience in areas in which you are lacking.

- Frame your experience in the language of the library you'd like to move to: Take the time to speak to practitioners in the field you want to enter, and read their publications. Interlibrary Loan in your current library may be Information Delivery in the one you want to enter. Knowing the terminology will make you more appealing to your target field.
- Look outside of the library world: Many MLS-holders find exciting and fulfilling careers outside of a traditional library setting. A professional colleague of mine has left and returned to libraries twice, returning with an enhanced skill set and a greater appreciation of everything librarianship has to offer. From information technology to fund-raising, the skills of an MLS degree can apply to positions in many organizations.
- Start small: Smaller libraries and organizations provide you with the opportunity to expose yourself to a variety of areas of the field. A smaller setting will let you test drive an area you're interested in to find out if it's really how you want to spend your working life. Larger organizations can be more compartmentalized, and offer less chances for career exploration.
- Be confident in your abilities - sell yourself to the position, and don't limit yourself at the outset: Changing branches of librarianship is all about marketing yourself to each position individually. I applied to a large bank, a not-for-profit organization and an academic library with three different resumes listing my experience in different ways. I received phone calls and interviews for each position. Put your best face forward, and let an employer know why you are a good fit for a position. A fresh set of experiences can be attractive to an employer, as variety brings strength to any organization.

One of the most attractive features of librarianship is the variety of career choices you have. The basic skill set applies to numerous settings, all of which are fulfilling in a different way. While specializing in one area of the field through coursework, professional development, and job experience is important for career growth, skills learned in one branch of librarianship can be applied to another. Think broadly, think positively, and be creative, and you'll break free from your Pigeonhole Paranoia.

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An International Student's Perspective

By Songphan Choemprayong

### **Education**

B.S.I.S. (Honors) Information Studies, Suranaree University of Technology, 2000

M.L.I.S., University of Pittsburgh, Expected: December 2004

### **Biographical Sketch**

My name is Songphan Choemprayong. I originally came from Thailand. I am currently an MLIS student at School of Information Sciences, University of Pittsburgh (Pitt), PA. I first came to Pitt in Fall 2003 and expect to graduate this upcoming December. I also work as a part-time Research Associate at the Sara Fine Institute for Interpersonal Behavior and Technology at the University of Pittsburgh.

Prior to coming to the United States, I worked for a year at Shinawatra University as an Information Scientist. I was responsible for technical and systematical issues in the library, including integrated library system (ILS) administration, library website development, and RFID implementation. I also worked with the Collection Development Department on electronic resources management.

As an intern while earning my bachelor degree, I worked in the Northern School for Blind under the Patronage of Her Majesty the Queen in Chiang Mai, Thailand. At the school, I gained new knowledge and experience, which I could not gain from library schools. With limited resources, serving diverse and distinct user needs and requirements was challenging, while at the same time rewarding. Besides working in the library, I also assisted in other departments, including Administration and Academic Support, developing the Management Information System (MIS) of the school.

When I chose Information Studies for my bachelor degree, I had no idea what it was about. Like many people, I entered the profession for the basic reason that I love books and reading. However, attending Pitt and SUT, both great information schools, has broadened my perspective and encouraged me to answer why I want to be a librarian. I am now aware of the greatest responsibilities and contributions of the profession toward individuals and societies. I also enjoy working as a librarian because it challenges me in the way that it requires multitasking abilities. Moreover, the constantly changing and developing theory and practices urge me to be active in the profession. Libraries are also wonderful places where I can fully use my creativity to help people to be informed.

My short-term goal is working as a coordinator to build a strong library and information network in Thailand to extend accessibility, in particular for underserved and outreach groups. My ultimate goal is

teaching. I want to share my ability and experience from studying abroad with other people in the profession, which is a powerful approach to developing the field. Furthermore, I fully agree with the notion that teaching is the best way to learn.

Besides being a librarian, I am a Thai classical musician. I have played Thai classical music since I was in elementary school. I play a string instrument called Saw (fiddle). I am currently playing with a small band composed of other Thai students from the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University. We play occasionally for some events. My other hobbies are fitness, swimming, and racquetball.

"Making today the best" is my favorite Thai quote. The meaning behind the quote is that you can change nothing in the past. The future is coming, but you can do nothing about it. Thus, your actions for today are the most important. Just concentrating on the present will fix your past and improve your future.

The United States is one of the most powerful countries influencing global information transfer. Moreover, the development of science and technology has significantly progressed in this country. As a Thai student, the United States appears to be a leading country in information management. American libraries are highly-focused and well-developed. Technology has been merged into practices intelligently and strategically. The profession is strong in terms of practical and ethical issues. In particular, library and information networks in the States have been expressively-initiated and well-maintained, providing great accessibility. Definitely, many leaders in the field are American.

Furthermore, through my experiences, libraries in Thailand have played less roles in communities and societies than in developed countries. There are a number of obstacles, especially cultural and traditional issues, hindering the development of library and information science in Thailand. Therefore, I sought an opportunity to study in the US. I can apply my knowledge and experiences to develop libraries in my beloved home country.

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## Resume Review Service Offers On-Site Assistance

Whether you are applying for your first job or looking for a new one, you'll need an edge over the competition. An error-free resume and cover letter that sell your skills and experience are necessary in order to get that all important interview.

The Resume Review Service can help! Librarians with experience in hiring, human resources, and search committees will be available to review your resume and/or cover letter at the Midwinter Meeting in Boston. Reviewers names, library types, and specializations will be posted on our website in early January. To make an appointment, visit the Resume Review Service located in the ALA Placement Center during the Midwinter Meeting. Remember to bring your Resume and Cover Letter! For more information, visit <http://www.geocities.com/nmrtrrs/>

### Location:

ALA Placement Center (see website for exact location)

### Hours:

Friday 1 pm - 5 pm

Saturday 9 am - 5 pm

Sunday 9 am - 5 pm

Monday 9 am - 1 pm

(Appointments are 30 minutes. Last appointment is 30 minutes before closing)

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NMRT Member Profile: Susanne Sacchetti  
By Nanette Wargo Donohue

NMRT member Susanne Sacchetti has a very full schedule. In addition to working as a library specialist at the William Spangler Library at the Atlantic Cape Community College, she is taking classes towards her MLS through Drexel University's online program, which she will complete in May of 2005. Susanne is using her first hand knowledge of the needs and concerns of distance education students to help other students and student chapters by serving on NMRT's Student and Student Chapter Outreach Committee.



Susanne discovered that librarianship was a perfect fit during her last semester as an undergraduate. As part of her Literature senior seminar, she had to write a thirty-page paper that required a significant amount of research - a process she enjoyed. I visited several libraries, including the New York Public Library, and was inspired by these visits, Susanne says. I not only got an A out of the class, but found my calling.

Susanne's original post-graduation plan was to become either a high school English teacher or a grade school teacher, and many of her jobs were leading her towards this path. She has worked as a substitute teacher and a child-care provider in a before-and-after school program, as well as a one-on-one aide for a disabled child. Susanne also worked in retail and in restaurants -- in her own words, a little bit of everything.

Susanne first heard about NMRT in one of the first classes she took towards her MLS, which she started at Rowan University. My professor told us about various associations, including the ALA, and encouraged us to join and get involved. I looked at the website and did a lot of reading on the importance of professional associations and what they have to offer, she says. Her education background also steered her towards professional involvement: I also felt the need to be involved, coming from the education profession, where association involvement is also important. She feels her involvement with NMRT has been beneficial to her early career, mainly by giving her opportunities to collaborate with others in the profession and to contribute to the profession and the association as a whole.

In addition to NMRT, Susanne is a member of the AASL and ACRL, and she serves as an officer and

the online student liaison for Drexel's ALA Student Chapter. She's also a member of the New Jersey Library Association.

As far as current issues facing libraries and librarianship, Susanne feels that diversity -- including racial, cultural, and age diversity -- and funding are particularly critical issues. I think today, more than ever, we need to be active advocates for our profession, she says. We need to show people what we are doing, how libraries are changing, and the many things that libraries now have to offer. I think it's especially important to do this to draw support from our communities and from our politicians.

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Experience in NMRT is Beneficial! An Interview with Priscilla K. Shontz, former NMRT President

By the NMRT Nominating Committee

### **1. Why did you run for NMRT board?**

From the beginning, my experience in NMRT had been enjoyable and challenging. I was given opportunities to participate actively and discovered how much I enjoyed that level of involvement. I met wonderful new friends and developed new skills, and while doing that I gained confidence to take on more responsibility. I also became really invested in NMRT's mission and wanted to help others have as great an experience in NMRT as I was having.

### **2. Was your term on the Board what you expected, responsibility- and time-wise? If not, how was it different from your expectations?**

My case may not be typical, but I'd say that anyone considering running for board - especially President - should expect to spend a great deal of time working on NMRT business. I've known Presidents who spent too little time on it (the "in name only" type of leader), and I think I probably went to the other extreme because I enjoyed NMRT so much. That said, the time and responsibility commitments were what I expected. I was fortunate to have jobs at the time which supported that commitment (with time, supplies, etc). During certain times of the year, NMRT can consume a lot of your time, for example, when the Vice-President is making committee appointments for the following year, or when the President is preparing for conference board meetings, etc. But at other times you may go for months without a lot of major time-consuming projects.

### **3. What benefits did you get from serving on the board? Short-term? Long-term?**

I learned a lot of new skills, developed more confidence, learned more about ALA and professional organizations in general, and made a lot of contacts with people in the library field. Short-term, I got some other committee appointments outside of NMRT, learned more about running meetings, was offered more speaking and writing opportunities, and was invited to participate in ALA meetings to present NMRT's perspectives. Long-term, I developed a lot of helpful work and communication skills, made a lot of lasting friends and built a lot of helpful contacts, and gained a passion for helping new librarians manage careers (which led to my current specialization, books and a website).

### **4. What real world, transferable skills did you learn or hone while serving on the NMRT Board?**

Probably more than I realize ) public speaking, running a meeting, professional writing, interpersonal communication, budget management, marketing and public relations, event planning, mentoring, leadership, politicking, organizational skills, project management, time management, advocacy.

### **5. What advice would you give to some considering running for an office?**

In most cases, I'd say go for it! My NMRT involvement was definitely one of the highlights of my professional career. But do think about why you want to run, and whether you can commit the time and energy to your role on the board. It's very difficult for other officers and committee chairs if you, as a board member, do not (or can not) carry your weight or don't communicate with others. On the other hand, everyone is a volunteer, so everyone understands that you do this in your spare time. Have fun with it—it's a fantastic way to meet a lot of people inside and outside of NMRT, to learn new skills, to help other new ALA members, and to help NMRT keep growing and improving!

### **6. What advice would you give to a new elected officer?**

I think I'd probably encourage you to focus on two things: organization and communication. You need to be organized to keep track of the people you supervise and the various projects you manage. Set up files, email distribution lists, etc.—anything to help you organize and streamline the work during the hectic times. Communication, I think, is even more important, because you're working with people you can't see (except perhaps at conferences). Introduce yourself to the people you supervise as soon as you can. Encourage them to do the same to the people they supervise. Keep in touch—I so often heard complaints from new NMRT members who wanted to be active but they never heard from their committee chair or supervising officer. A little bit of touching base and encouraging or praising someone's work goes a long way in keeping them excited about being involved in NMRT (and they may go on to run for the board someday too!). Also, keep in touch with your supervising officer—let him or her know what you are doing and don't be afraid to ask questions. You're all new at this. And have fun!

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## Tips & Tricks: Committee Members as the Heart of NMRT

by Terri Holtze, *NMRT Footnotes* Assistant Editor

According to the NMRT Handbook, Goal #1 of the New Members Round Table is to provide opportunities for involvement and/or training for professional association committee experiences. This training includes familiarizing the member with the basics of committee work, the ALA committee reporting schedule, and parliamentary rules. By providing this training, NMRT gives its members the experience necessary to receive committee appointments on other professional committees. So our Tips & Tricks column for this issue is focusing on how to get the most from your NMRT committee work.

### **Get on a committee!**

Step one in getting the most out of your NMRT membership is to get on a committee. According to Anna Ferris, Chair of the Archives Committee, "A good committee member is someone who volunteers because they feel they can make a difference." And conversely, "A bad committee member is someone who is only interested in adding a committee name to his/her [curriculum vitae]." So find a committee that you can really commit to. If you don't know what committees are available or what they do, check out the committee descriptions in [Section 4 of the NMRT Handbook](#). When you've decided which committee(s) you're interested in joining, fill out the [Committee Volunteer Form](#). Sally Gibson, NMRT President, will respond to your request.

### **Join the listserv!**

Joining the NMRT-L listserv is a great way to keep current with what's going on in the organization. It is the primary way that NMRT members communicate to the group at large. To subscribe to NMRT-L, send a message to: [listproc@ala.org](mailto:listproc@ala.org). Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message type: subscribe nmrt-l Firstname Lastname. Do not include a signature file or any other text.

### **Get active!**

A survey of current committee chairs yielded some good advice for committee members. Michelle Fossum, SASCO Co-Chair, advised that members be proactive and "constantly test how their committee can best reach its goals and objectives." Stephanie DeClue, Handbook Committee Chair, points out that when a committee member shows "a recurring willingness to take on added responsibility and go the extra mile, I'm going to sit up and take notice of that." And getting the chair to sit up and take notice is a really good idea because the sitting chairs often choose or recommend people as their replacements.

### **Virtual membership.**

In the best of times it can be prohibitively expensive for new librarians or students to make it to



conferences. In tough financial times, it can seem impossible. Don't lose heart! You can still be involved in NMRT committees as a virtual member. This is defined as a member who actively participates in committee work and communicates with the group online rather than by attending conferences. All of the chairs that responded to the survey indicated that they rely heavily on their virtual members. Fossum stated that a lot of the work occurs outside of the Annual Conference. While the chairs agreed on the value of virtual members, they also agreed that attending conferences is valuable as well. As Aaron Dobbs puts it, "The only part lacking for a virtual member is the camaraderie at conferences (which can be a big part of the whole experience)."

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## Tips & Tricks: International Librarian Exchange

By Terri L. Holtze

Many of the articles in this issue have been devoted to our international membership in NMRT. If you're interested in learning about different cultures and international approaches to librarianship maybe you should do some research up close and personal. No, I'm not saying you should call up one of our international librarians for a date. I'm saying maybe it's time for you to be the international librarian!

Still interested? Then let me introduce you to an ALA committee you need to know about: the IRRT International Exchanges Committee. IRRT is the International Relations Round Table and the International Exchanges Committee is charged with collecting and disseminating information about opportunities for librarians to participate in study visits or exchange programs. The committee's website is available at <http://www.ala.org/ala/irrt/irrtcommittees/irrtintlexc/international.htm> and provides information on: 1) international opportunities and funding sources, 2) foundations and organizations supporting international exchanges and/or short-term travel, 3) preparing for international travel and exchanges, 4) international employment opportunities, and 5) an international job exchange bibliography.

One of the opportunities listed is the [Swiss-American Librarian Exchange Opportunity](#) co-sponsored by the Swiss Library Association and the ALA International Relations Office. These two organizations make it possible for librarians from Swiss and American libraries to do an exchange at three different levels: 1) Professional visit, 2) Professional training period, or 3) Professional immersion. As you might guess each of these levels involves a different length of time commitment: from a short visit to the one year range for the professional immersion. One of the key concepts behind this exchange and many other exchange opportunities is that the librarian's institution needs to provide support in some fashion. This could range from providing insurance for the traveling librarian to paying for all expenses, but one of the basic assumptions is that each of the librarians' home institutions would continue to pay the librarians' regular salaries. Another basic assumption is that both librarians will be welcomed at the foreign library under equal terms.

Once you've found an international exchange opportunity and received permission from your institution, there are still a lot of issues to be resolved. The IRRT International Exchanges Committee provides a very [helpful list of questions](#) that can help you plan for your trip. One question, for which you will want to get an answer as early as possible, is "Will I need a visa or work permit?" Another question you may need to consider is "Will special language training be available?" A third question would be, "Are there any

organizations that can help defray the costs of the trip? The IRRT site supplies links to foundations that fund international exchange opportunities. Additionally, you might want to check in some of your trusty reference books. For example, The Foundation Directory includes entries for international exchange and multiple library types in its subject index to foundations which endow grants to individuals or organizations.

The opportunities are out there. Are you ready to discover them? If the answer is YES! then it s time for you to get out there and find your international adventure.

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