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## PACK FOREST REPORT

by Jos Anemaet and Sarah Beasley

This year's ACRL Washington/Oregon Fall Conference was held October 17-18, 1991 at Pack Forest, Washington. At the first day's general meeting, several librarians reported on the status of automation in their libraries:

University of Washington has developed (using BRS software) a common interface for searching both their Geac OPAC as well as several tapeloaded indexes (such as ERIC and Medline). With IAIMS grant money, (Integrated Academic Information Management Systems — a grant program of the National Library of Medicine which provides funds for automating information access on campuses [information systems include but aren't limited to library databases]) U of W is developing WILU, a Mac-based graphical interface to their system.

Oregon State University has a large number of CD ROM databases running on a Local Area Network. OSU has gone with CD ROM's both due to the high cost of tapeloading and limitations of the present mainframe.

Gonzaga University is part of the new INLAN (Inland Northwest Library Automation Network) consortium which includes: Gonzaga, Whitworth College, University of Idaho, North Idaho Col-

lege and both the University of Idaho and Gonzaga's law libraries. The INLAN consortium has selected the CARL system for their shared OPAC. Gonzaga anticipates their OPAC will be up by early spring 1992.

The topic then shifted to distant learners. Peg Walther from City University in Seattle and Susan Whyte of Linfield College were the speakers whose remarks precipitated the conference's most heated discussions.

City University is only two years old. Most of its programs are offered off-site at locations throughout Washington, British Columbia, Oregon and California. This means that City University's students must use libraries wherever they can find them sometimes placing a burden (frequently invisible to university and college administrators) on host libraries.

Linfield College has similar distant learner programs. Much of the instruction for these courses (most of them in nursing and education) is offered via EdNet to students who do not have access to a college campus (much less to a college library). Linfield Library has worked out some agreements with library's in towns where their courses are offered, but the problem of providing adequate library support for distant learners remains.

At this point, the discussion about distant learners took off. One librarian from private college expressed frustration about entrepreneurial institutions burdening his library unfairly by depriving paying students

of books, journals or reference services. The concern is that institutions start programs without much thought as to how they will support the research/resource needs of their students. No provisions for bibliographic instruction are made; frequently no forewarning is given to host libraries that these students will be using the libraries and that they can expect and increase in the use of particular materials. State-supported institutions also were upset with the increased demand on their collections and services without any corresponding increase in funding. Some (such as University of Washington) have defined a primary clientele (U of W students and faculty) and have instituted a user fee for others. This practice however angers librarians who feel that the state-supported institutions are supported so that they will be a state resource and as such shouldn't limit their services. These discussions continued in the Friday morning break out session.

Peter Smith of Western Washington University in Bellingham gave a short but enthusiastic presentation about the Internet. He discussed the importance the NREN (National Research and Education Network) and its enabling legislation, the High Performance Computing Act. As an indication of how much traffic is on the networks currently, Smith cited the statistic that in a single month the equivalent of approximately 1.12 million pages of text went over NORTHWESTNET, the Northwest's node on the Internet. Smith had a Hypercard stack describing the Internet as well as several names of

files available from various listservers on the Internet. For further information contact Peter Smith, Online Services, Mabel Zoe Wilson Library, Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA 98225-5999; telephone (206) 676-3050; e-mail <psmith@henson.cc.wvu.edu>. (The brackets are not part of the e-mail address, don't include them if you send a message.)

Friday morning's session on accreditation and distance learning featured Dr. Robert Bowlin of the Northwest Accrediting Association. Bowlin believes this voluntary, non-regulated, "peer review" process is valuable because institutions generally follow the recommendations of review panels. Break out sessions following Bowlin's presentation generated more discussion about distant learners and accountability of institutions which offer programs for distant learners. There was a proposal for a WLA committee to draft recommendations for the library assessments performed by the Accrediting Association.

### Members meeting notes

The conference's 18 Oregon participants had a brief, friendly, productive members meeting in which the chapter bylaws and next year's Menucha conference were discussed.

There was a move to rewrite the chapter bylaws to address several situations.

1. Allow for more than one nominee for president.
2. Revise election procedures so that they reflect our current process of mail balloting.
3. Stipulate what to do when an elected board member is unable to serve.

The procedure that the members

agreed upon was that the board would revise the bylaws and bring the revisions to the membership for approval via a mail ballot. There was some feeling that this wouldn't happen before the Menucha 1992 conference.

The topic of the Menucha conference will address coordinating computer and library services on campuses. As our campuses become more automated, the distinctions between information systems may blur, the department where particular skills are taught or kinds of equipment maintained may change and who the primary provider of information service is may shift. The Menucha conference will bring speakers and provide an arena for discussing these changes.

Volunteers are needed for the local arrangements, entertainment, registration, program and budget committees. If you are interested in helping with the conference, please contact Karyle Butcher, ACRL/OR Chapter President, Kerr Library, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR 97331. Phone (503) 737-3411. E-mail <butcherk@ccmail.orst.edu>. (Don't include the brackets as part of the address.)

## BOARD NOTES

### *Fischer resigns*

In September, Karen Fischer resigned as ACRL/Oregon Chapter & Academic Division, OLA incoming President. Administrative changes at Central Oregon Community College have increased Karen's responsibilities this year, and she felt it would not be possible to serve as ACRL Chapter President and fulfill her professional obligations.

Currently, the chapter bylaws don't

address this situation. Karyle Butcher, now past president of the chapter and Jan Fortier, president-elect, have agreed to a co-presidency for the 1991/92 year. This will insure an ACRL presence at OLA Board meetings and take care of convening ACRL Board meetings.

One of the president's major responsibilities is the Menucha Conference. Our reservation for October 22 -23 has been secured. However, help with program planning and organizing for the conference is needed. If you are interested in helping, contact Karyle Butcher at Kerr Library, Oregon State University, (503) 737-3411.

### *New Board Members Elected*

An election and expired terms for various positions brought new members to the ACRL OR chapter board this fall. Three at-large members were elected as a result of the mail ballot sent in September: Janet Wright of Portland State University, Patty Cutright of Eastern Oregon State College and Kathy Faust of Northwestern School of Law. Each will serve a term of two years, from fall of 1991 to fall of 1993. Jan Marie Fortier is the president-elect and will assume the presidency in the fall of 1992. Sharon Walbridge replaces Dee Iltis as the board's State Library representative, and Connie Anderson of Southern Oregon State College replaces Roy Bennet of Western Oregon State College as the Oregon State System of Higher Education representative.

## CALENDAR

□ A preconference at the OLA/WLA joint meeting "Merging Lines—Technical Services, Public Services and the Online Catalog" is scheduled for April 8, 1992 from 9 am to 4 pm. Anne Lipow; formerly

of UC Berkeley, now an independent consultant; will be the presenter. The preconference will look catalog design and how patrons use catalogs; it will survey help sheets and instructional materials for using OPACS; it will discuss the merging of technical and public services particularly in light of the demands presented by OPACS. The preconference is co-sponsored by several library groups including ACRL Oregon Chapter, ACRL Washington Chapter, CLAMS (Washington's community college group) and Washington AARL (a reference interest group of WLA). Registration information will be available in the WLA/OLA joint conference registration materials. The cost of the preconference is \$40. and registration is limited to 60 participants.

□ ACRL/Oregon Bibliographic Instruction Special Interest Group will meet January 17, 1992 at 6:30 at Delilah's restaurant, 811 NW 21st in Portland. Susan Whyte has volunteered to be the coordinator for the interest group; if you have questions about the meeting or about the interest group, contact her at Linfield College Library, Linfield College, McMinnville, OR 97128; phone (503) 422-4121. Before the 6:30 meeting, those interested can join Janet Wright for a tour of PSU's new building. Meet Janet on the third floor of the PSU library at 5:00. If you have questions about the tour, contact Janet at Portland State University, P.O. Box 1151, Portland, OR 97207; phone (503) 4097.

## ACRL/Oregon Chapter Interest Groups looking for leadership

There has been much discussion in the past year about forming interest groups within the chapter. At the ACRL breakfast at the Ashland OLA

meeting, a special interest group sign-up sheet circulated. In the hope of seeing some of these interest groups get off the ground, that list is printed here. The groups need no official sanction to operate, only some willing person to step forward and initiate a meeting. Thus far only the BI group has scheduled a meeting. Feel free to contact the other people in your interest group, and if you schedule an event, let the newsletter editor know so the meeting can be publicized.

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## New Section of ACRL

Less than one year old, the Extended Campus Library Services Section is the youngest of the ACRL sections. This section is devoted to the support of those librarians who provide services and resources at locations removed from their institution's main academic campus. The Extended Campus Library Services Section is an outgrowth of the ACRL Extended Campus Library Services Discussion Group. In order to ex-

pand opportunities for programming, the ACRL Board was petitioned and it approved the formation of a new section during the 1990 Midwinter meetings. The section's first meetings occurred at the 1990 ALA Annual Conference. In addition to an Executive Committee, the section has functioning Bylaws, Planning and Program Committees.

Questions about the Section, its scope, and activities can be addressed to any of the current members of the Executive Committee:

Section chair Barton Lessin, Wayne State Universities Libraries, 5048 Gullen Mall, Detroit, MI 48202. (313) 577-4195.

Bylaws chair Joyce Rumery, Raymond H. Fogler Library, University of Maine, Orono, ME 04469. (207) 581-1660.

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Program chair Kathleen O'Connor, Crosby Library, Gonzaga University, Spokane, WA 99258. (509) 484-2831.

Member-at-large Mary Joyce Pickett, 327 Eighth Street, Downers Grove, IL 60616.

Discussion Group chair Virginia Witucke, Central Michigan University, Fairfax, VA. (703) 849-8248.

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#### NEWSLETTER ITEMS!!!!

Please send your items for the newsletter to Sarah Beasley, ACRL newsletter editor, Kerr Library, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR 97331. Deadline for the next newsletter is March 15, 1992.

## SIXTH NATIONAL CONFERENCE

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH  
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