Board Meets in Eugene, Finalizes OLA Plans, Discusses Future Programs

Minutes of ACRL Board Meeting Friday February 12, 1993
Lane Community College
Present: C. Anderson (SOSC), S. Beasley (OSU), K. Faust (NW School of Law), J. Fortier (Marylhurst), D. Macnaughtan (LCC), V. Mitchell (Reed), S. Whyte (Linfield), J. Wright (PSU).

The meeting was brought to order promptly.

Budget report as received from Professional Administrative Services in Salem:
Menucha Conference Receipts
$6,194.79
Menucha Conference Expenses
$4,471.74
Current ACRL Account's Balance
$4,220.24

Jan reported on attending the Chapters Council Meeting in Denver at Midwinter. We discussed applying to the Initiative Fund to support an ACRL-sponsored event. There is some money left over from the Evan Farber I.1. Workshop (February 1992 at Willamette). We might apply for some initiative funds to help sponsor a subsequent library instruction workshop. Jan and Susan will work on this grant proposal is March 15th.

The ACRL-sponsored programs at OLA appear to be well in hand: Jan and her team will present a program about Marylhurst's new Information Power class. There will also be an ACRL event Wednesday night: tour of the U of O new library addition and talk by the new architect. The traditional ACRL breakfast will try a new format. There will be tables for interest groups. (see accompanying article) People continue to express support for these interest groups, so we hope to get something started at the breakfast.

There was some discussion of Menucha. Sarah Beasley and Susan Whyte will investigate a possible change in location. There is some question as to whether we have outgrown the facility at the breakout sessions and having more free time during the afternoon. A possible theme for Menucha '94: "Blurring lines and the myth of the primary clientele" - i.e., how effective is denying access as a means of resource preservation? We are looking for ideas, so please contact one of the board members if you are struck by total inspiration.

There are 176 people on the ACRL newsletter mailing list. Victoria Mitchell will start doing the newsletter after the March issue. Kudos to Sarah Beasley for the wonderful inspired job she has done all this time!

The change in bylaws was passed at Menucha by the general membership. So there will be two candidates for president next fall. In June a nominating committee will be appointed.

There was discussion of redoing a membership flyer. Sara Brownmiller did this in summer of 1991. We will discuss this further at the next board meeting.

Jan Fortier will find out about PacForest and the plans for the next fall's ACRL meeting.

The next board meeting will convene at noon in the OLA Conference headquarters on the mezzanine level on Thursday April 2, 1993.

This is the final time I will respectfully or otherwise submit these minutes. Don Macnaughtan of Lane Community College bravely volunteered to carry on.

Susan Whyte
Linfield College

Oregon Library Association Academic Division

In this Issue:
Menucha Survey . . . . p. 2
OLA Legislative Package . . . . . p. 5
OLA Conference . . . . . p. 6
OSSHE Colleges Automate. . . . . p. 4
PORTALS . . . . . . . . . . . p. 3
Results of Libraries and Computing Centers Survey

By Susan Whyte

Menucha 1992 centered on the relationship between academic libraries and campus computing centers. Prior to the actual event, the organizing committee developed and sent a survey to 80 academic libraries in Oregon and Washington. This unscientific survey written and analyzed by non-social scientists attempted to collect basic data about computing on college and university campuses in Oregon and Washington. Loretta Rielly, Kerr Library, Oregon State University, and Susan Barnes Whyte, Northrup Library, Linfield College, tallied the answers. We assume all responsibility for our lack of expertise but thought that some of you might be mildly interested in the responses.

Of the 80 surveys mailed, 39 libraries responded: 19 from Washington, 19 from Oregon and 1 whose location we could not determine. Of these respondents, 14 were two year institutions, 16 four-year; 12 had post-graduate programs. Fifteen were public, 11 were private and 13 did not respond to that part of the question. The following article is a brief synopsis of the responses. Anyone wishing to see more detail can contact Susan Whyte at Linfield College (503/472-4121) or swythe@linfield.edu.

The first part of the survey asked questions regarding the academic computing environment. The initial question asking who makes computer decisions on campuses, i.e., who has the final authority, elicited a wide variety of responses. Moreover, campuses use different titles/designations for similar functions, so it was difficult to draw a clear picture. However, one-third of the surveys indicated that decisions are made in a decentralized fashion by the work units involved (e.g., departments, college, etc.) and then subsequently approved by someone higher up in the administration. Ten schools (or 26%) indicated that the Director of Computing makes the decisions; 8 schools indicated that a campus committee made the decisions. Presidents or Vice-Presidents or Provosts at other campuses play a major role. Two schools have an Information Officer and at one school the library director has the ultimate authority.

"Who makes decisions regarding computers in the library?" This, not to anyone's surprise, had 29 responses indicating that the Library/Media Center Director has this responsibility. Eight libraries indicated that the library staff plays a major role in consultation with the director; in two cases the assistant library director or systems librarian had the decision-making authority. One humorous response indicated that in theory the librarians make the decisions in consultation with the computer director on the campus but that person has absolutely no interest in the library.

The third question regarding institutional mainframes reflected a vast array of responses, far too numerous to delve into here. Suffice it to say that everyone is different. The fourth question asked about the predominant type of campus micro: 56% have PCs (62% if IBMs are included), 33% have Macs. 36% of respondents indicated that support is equal for both.

Twenty-two libraries have a campus-wide network, eight will have shortly, eight do not. Access to a campus-wide network is predominately for faculty (23), staff (22) and then students (12). (And what are we in business for anyway? Education, did anyone say?) Nineteen provide access to the campus system through the Internet, four more will do so soon. Fifteen have dial-in access, three more will soon.

Every campus has a computer lab: 13 are in the library and elsewhere on campus, 22 are not in the library; four have a computer lab only in the library. If a computer lab is in the library, the majority of the labs are not monitored by the library. There is an astonishing potpourri of software provided in the labs and many classes are in the labs. Twenty-six respondents have a user-support position for the computer lab.

The second part of the questionnaire was devoted to a description of the automated library environment. The first question asked if there was an automated system in the library. Twelve libraries have automated systems; eight are planning for one soon. Five libraries are not automated and indicated no immediate plans to do so. And, yes, we know that this only adds up to 25. Not everyone responded to all three parts of this question.

Sixteen libraries have integrated systems. The modules available vary widely - 24 have OPACs, 23 circulation systems, and the numbers drop dramatically after that: some with serials, some with acquisitions, some with cataloging, etc. Vendors proliferate: Innovative Interfaces: 8; Dynix: 5; InIndex: 4; Notis: 2; In-house systems: 2; and 13 individual responses. Twenty have dial-in access to the online catalog; 9 have
Internet access. Fourteen distribute the online catalog through the campus network.

Twenty-one libraries have their own automation department. Some found this to be an amusing question. One library indicated that the technical services librarian is also the systems librarian. Another school indicated that a reference librarian has assumed the system work. (Perhaps at small institutions this is more a question of who wants to do it or who has the natural inclination?) Most of the respondents did not answer the question regarding who runs the automation department. Hardware/software support/training is done by 24 libraries; 12 libraries have that done by computing services and 11 indicate that the vendors do it all.

Thirteen libraries indicated strong ties to administrative computing; eight have no ties; 9 have informal or limited ties. Many in this last category mentioned the importance of these ties no matter how informal.

The variety of responses and systems seems to indicate a general computing environment that is specific and unique to each and every campus. The knowledge level of the responses varies widely as well. One thing seems certain: computers are here to stay, and someone has to run them. Authority over and knowledge about these information systems, campus networks, library catalogs and databases and this entire burgeoning infrastructure on campuses is a paramount issue. It will be interesting to revisit this issue in five to ten years.

PORTALS - A Network of Libraries

by Millard F. Johnson

For more than a decade academic libraries have been falling behind in their race to keep up with the growth in publication of new information. Most of these libraries have experienced increases in their budgets at or below the increase in the cost of living. Unfortunately, the cost of acquiring the same proportion of the total information available that these libraries acquired in 1980 has grown much faster than the cost of living. Not only have the costs of printed materials, (particularly periodical publications) grown much faster than the cost of living, but each year sees an increase in the rate at which new publications are born. Add to this, a requirement to purchase information in new formats - such as on-line databases and information on CD-discs - and clearly libraries, and the users who depend on libraries for information to support research and education, are in an increasingly disadvantageous position.

In 1989 the Oregon State Legislature addressed the question: Is there sufficient opportunity for higher education in the Portland Metropolitan area to support continued economic and cultural growth? To answer this question, then Governor, Neil Goldshmidt, formed a Governor's Commission on Higher Education in the Portland Metropolitan Area. The commission concluded that the higher education infrastructure in and around Portland was insufficient to maintain acceptable cultural development and economic growth. Among its findings, the commission's report noted that Portland is one of only two metropolitan areas of the United States that do not have a "research library." The Governor's Commission recommended several remedial initiatives, among them a program to facilitate library cooperation. The library initiative was intended to achieve the equivalent of research library service in the Portland Metropolitan area. This initiative (PORTALS) attempts to combine the traditional goal of a large comprehensive collection of books and journals with the virtual library concept of a computing and telecommunications-based information resource.

ORIGINATION

The Governor's Commission enlisted the aid of the presidents of eight universities to help them collect information. The head librarians of these eight institutions met as a Council of Librarians and formulated a strategic plan which became the focus of legislative action that resulted in funding from the State of Oregon for PORTALS. Implementation of an electronic network and networked services began in parallel with planning for a formal structure and organization. A team of consultants has submitted a proposed structure and organization for PORTALS. This document, which has not yet been ratified by the executives of the institutions of higher education, includes criteria for membership.

NETWORK TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The first decision of the interim governance body (the Council of
Librarians) was that PORTALS must be an electronic network linking member institutions. The Council of Librarians approved a recommendation by the newly hired Director of Network Development that the INTERNET would be the telecommunications highway among institutions. The majority of PORTALS founding institutions were already members of INTERNET.

NETWORK SOFTWARE

Unfortunately, INTERNET, the information channel linking PORTALS institutions, is user-hostile in its native format. It is somewhat like a vast national freeway system—but a freeway with no direction signs. The second task of PORTALS was to implement a user-cordial interface that would allow users to identify what resources were available to them and to navigate the electronic network. After considering alternatives, CIX, the latest version of the Freepor software (the software underlying Cleveland FreeNet and other Freenets), was selected for the initial phase of PORTALS.

DATABASES

One of the objectives of PORTALS is to provide access to the catalogs of member libraries. Unfortunately, not all of the institutions involved in PORTALS have on-line catalogs. Those that do, do not all use the same catalog software. It is beyond the current state of the art to search multiple catalogs from different software vendors with the same search interface, and a union catalog is outside the scope of the initial implementation. It is, however, relatively simple to use the Freepor software to switch between institutional catalogs and search each using its native search interface.

Access to the periodical literature is accomplished by searching the periodical citation databases through the INTERNET. The first database selected was UnCover from the Colorado Alliance of Research Libraries (CARL). PORTALS also provides access to the MEDLINE and ERIC databases as part of membership to NorthWestNet. As of this writing (February 1993), PORTALS is in the process of selecting additional databases.

DOCUMENT DELIVERY

To facilitate delivery of documents, PORTALS elected to obtain ARIEL document delivery capability for member libraries. ARIEL, developed by the Research Libraries Group (RLG), consists of a computer, a laser scanner, a laser printer and compression software. The ARIEL station is a node on the INTERNET. It is functionally equivalent to FAX, but it is faster, it has no long distance communication charges and it produces much better quality output.

COOPERATIVE COLLEGIATE DEVELOPMENT

The major challenge of the next year for PORTALS participants is to develop a cooperative acquisitions program. The machine-readable catalog files of libraries in the Portland metropolitan area are being analyzed for strength and overlap. When this analysis is complete, member libraries will agree to minimize duplication and collect extensively in certain subject areas, thereby building the largest possible collection available to the users of all research libraries in the area.

CONCLUSION

We do not know the shape of the research library of the twenty-first century, but in PORTALS the libraries of the Portland metropolitan area have committed themselves to a vision. The vision implies that no library can be self-sufficient and that the most reasonable approach to a "research library" serving the full range of scholarly research needs is a cooperative agreement among libraries. Elements of cooperation include opening access to holdings of public and private institutions; cooperative collection building to avoid duplication and collect in areas of strength; networking electronic databases; and participating in a rapid electron document delivery system. The vision extends beyond local resources to the wealth of information becoming available on the INTERNET.

The strategic plan for PORTALS calls for more databases, a union catalog of member holdings and continually upgrading existing networked information systems, but it also calls for inclusion of non-bibliographic information and progress toward a true scholar's information environment.

PORTALS has been developed in response to a local challenge, but the problems that led to its creation are not local nor are the solutions employed.

OSSHE Colleges

Embark on Cooperative Automation Project

By Sue Burkholder

In spring 1991, the Legislature appropriated $500,000 to automate the four OSSHE libraries that did not have online catalogs—Eastern Oregon State College, Oregon Institute of Technology, Southern Oregon State College and Western Oregon State College. The Chancellor's office eventually supplemented this with another $500,000 to help the colleges achieve their goals. Even before the appropriation the four libraries had been cooperating
in planning future automation activities and had reviewed the automation systems at the OSSHE university libraries. We hoped both to reduce our costs and to

Western reports that they have already activated the gateway feature of the system and are giving their users access to library catalogs from the other OSSHE schools, Western library staff at all the libraries are excited about this library automation project, but we know this is only the first step we must take to bring our institutions into the coming age of electronic information. We look forward to cooperating with all the academic and other libraries in Oregon as we develop our electronic information services.

The 1993 Oregon Library Legislative Package

From an OLA brochure of the same name

Thomas Jefferson said that "A democratic society depends upon an informed and educated citizenry." The Oregon Library Association believes that libraries are one of the essential building blocks for a democracy.

In the 1990's, Oregon libraries face a challenge: How do we provide relevant services using
new technology while receiving fewer resources?

This changing environment prompted the 1991 Legislature to direct the Interim Education Committee to form a Library Services Workgroup. The committee was to explore and make recommendations on how libraries function; what services they should provide; how they are funded and future needs.

The 1993 Oregon Library Legislative Package is a product of the findings of the Oregon Library Services Workgroup.

Senate Bill 20 (Oregon LINK)

Today, no library can afford to maintain a collection of books and information to meet all the needs of its community. We must "link" our public, academic and State Library together to "share resources" if we are to provide quality library service to all Oregonians.

Senate Bill 20 is a first step. The bill does three things:

1. It directs the State Library to administer a system of resource sharing that would reimburse libraries for the cost of sharing their materials to other libraries and to lenders outside their district. The Oregon LINK system would include a statewide library card, interlibrary loans and reference centers. "Net lenders" (those who lend more of their materials than they borrow from other libraries) would be reimbursed for the net cost of their lending: mailing, staff time, etc.

2. The bill would fund the system with the $1.2 million federal Library Service and Construction Act (LCSA) grants that are now inappropriately used to fund state library services.

3. The State Library would replace funds lost from the LSCA grants by charging state agencies (including those agencies that are not funded by the General Fund) for library services.

Senate Bill 22 (Per Capita Funding Targeted to Children)

Currently, state aid to public libraries is distributed on a per capital basis. SB 22 would distribute these funds on a "per child" basis. This would not cause a substantial shift in resources to libraries, but it would allow the State Library to work with public libraries in focusing and promoting their efforts on learning-readiness for Oregon's pre-school children.

Oregon's public libraries are one of the state's most important resources in meeting the Oregon Benchmark that all children should arrive in school ready to learn. The state invests heavily into "Head Start", however, many children are not eligible for these services. Public libraries can be mobilized to fill the gap. We believe that by augmenting our services to Oregon's children we will also be building a base of even greater public support.

Senate Bill 23 (Oregon State Library Mandate)

Senate Bill 23 revises the State Library's mandate to reflect the needs and the realities of the 21st century. It reasserts the Library's mandate to help fund and assist local communities in organizing local library service in all regions of the state. However, it removes the current mandate for the state library to serve as a direct lender to citizens of the state who do not have local library service.

Although service as a lending library to Oregonians may have been an appropriate goal in 1905, it is no longer the most cost-effective way of achieving universal access to library services. Access is better achieved through the system of resource sharing (Oregon LINK) that is set in motion in SB 20.

Senate Bill 21 ("Free" Basic Library Service)

Oregon public libraries face mounting pressure to impose fees for library services. Local governments have begun to consider special fees for service such as annual fees to obtain a library card, fees for checking out books, fees for information referrals and even turnstile fees for entering the library.

SB 21 clarifies that public libraries shall provide "basic" library service free of charge to local citizens who support the library through taxes. Basic services include admission, reference service and circulation. This would not prevent a public library from imposing fees for special services such as photocopying, reserving books, interlibrary loans, etc.

---

**CONFERENCE NEWS**

**LET'S GET POLITICAL**

Ideals into Action: OLA 1993 Conference

There should be something for everyone at the 1993 Oregon Library Association Conference, March 31 - April 3, at the Eugene Hilton. The Conference theme emphasizes the need for unity and activism among those who work in libraries and those who use and support libraries. This year's strong program reflects the commitment to that theme.

Getting things off to a fast start will be keynote speaker Judith Krug, Intellectual Freedom Officer of the
American Library Association. She will be addressing some of the questions and concerns raised by controversial state ballot measures this past year as well as discussing their potential effects on libraries. Arthur Curley, Director of the Boston Public Library, will speak from personal experience on effective budgets in financially tight times. Mr. Curley will also be giving a workshop. State Representative, Margaret Carter (D-Dist.18) will be the featured speaker at Thursday night’s dinner, giving the political point of view on the current library situation. And just to help keep things in perspective, Jack Ohman, political cartoonist for the Oregonian will speak at Friday’s dinner. For Friday night entertainment, there will be the premiere of Dorothy Velasquez’ Samuel Beckett goes to Las Vegas. This is just a sample of what promises to be a varied and engaging conference program.

It is no secret that libraries face critical financial and social pressures. The 1993 Conference will indeed offer something for EVERYONE who is concerned about the future of libraries in Oregon. Make plans to attend - you will be informed, stimulated, entertained, and hopefully, inspired.

ACRL Programs at OLA

Wednesday, March 31
7:30 - 10:00 pm
The New Knight Library

Andrew Bonamici, U of O Library, and John Lawless, AIA (TBG Architects), will provide a first-hand account of the entire building process, including:
- preliminary needs assessment and project rationale
- user groups and participative design
- selecting the design team
- public relations before and during construction
- construction management
- service delivery while under construction
- moving in and “shaking down”

The presentation will be followed by a tour of this beautiful new facility. Dessert will be served following the tour. Transportation is available from the Hilton to the Library. It is not too late to register; call Deborah Carver (346-1892) or Sara Brownmiller (346-2368). Payment ($5.50) will be accepted at the event; just let Sara or Deborah know you plan to attend.

Thursday, April 1
8:45 - 10:15 am
Teaching “Information Power”

An exciting and innovative new course entitled “Information Power,” required of all undergraduate students, is being taught at Marylhurst College. Come hear the panel of instructors, Jan Fortier; Perri Parise; Cecilia Ranger; Dr. Sherman Severin, all of Marylhurst College; and Paul Gregorio, Portland State University/Portland Community College; discuss what they’re teaching.

OREGON NEWS

Statewide Collection Development Coordinator Named

The Statewide Collection Development Steering Committee chaired by Anne Billiter, Jackson County Library System, has hired Barbara McFadden Allen from Springfield, Illinois, to consult on the future planning and direction of cooperative collection management (CCM) among all types of libraries in Oregon. Barbara is the Networking Consultant and Coordinator of the Illinois Cooperative Collection Development Project. She has had extensive and successful experience in statewide cooperative collection efforts, and she is a skilled presenter and speaker. She states that, “In working with librarians, I’ve stressed four core aspects of CCM: local collection assessment; the collaborative development of collections based upon these assessments; shared bibliographic access to these collections; and responsive delivery systems which ensure the timely transfer of information among participating libraries.”

Barbara will be the presenter at a forum on Cooperative Collection Management at the OLA Conference in April. Mark your calendars.
for this opportunity to hear her presentation and give her your input. The forum will take place on Friday, April 2, from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

Linfield College
Caroline Coughlin, Director of the University Library at Drew University, will speak at Linfield College in McMinnville at 10 a.m., Friday, April 30. Her appearance is part of the Inauguration celebration of new Linfield College President Dr. Vivian A. Bull.

Dr. Coughlin is co-author of the new 4th edition of Lyle’s Administration of the College Library, the standard work on college librarianship which was first published in 1944. She holds the Ph.D. from Rutgers and was a UCLA Senior Fellow in 1988. Her topic is “Wishes, Lies, and Realities: Fifty Years of Academic Librarianship.”

The talk and discussion session is scheduled from 10 a.m. to noon and will take place on the McMinnville Campus. Afterwards, an informal luncheon is planned in Dillin Commons. All interested librarians are invited to attend and stay for lunch.

If you would like more information, call Lynn Chmelir, College Librarian: 503/472-4121 ext. 262.

Portland State University
Evie Crowell, Interlibrary Loan Librarian at Portland State University, was appointed to the State Advisory Council on Libraries by the Oregon State Library Board of Trustees at their meeting December 4. The Council advises the Board of Trustees concerning administration of LSCA funds and is also involved in the grant making process.

Editor's Note:
This is my last issue. Editing the newsletter has been a pleasure (really). Thanks to many "stringers" around the state who have graciously agreed to write articles on short notice and others who have remembered that some seemingly mundane event might be of interest to somebody and have sent announcements.

Victoria Mitchell, Reed College, is the new editor. Her address: Hauser Memorial Library, Reed College, 3203 SE Woodstock Blvd., Portland, OR 97202. Phone (503) 777-7272. E-mail: mitchell@reed.edu

Please send submissions for the June newsletter to Victoria by May 25.

Sarah Beasley