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April 1996

WEST VIRGINIA

LIBRARIES

Vol. 49 No. 2

April 1996

The Legislative Session

Joe Barnes, Chair, Legislative Committee

WVLA had ambitious legislative goals this year. We set out to secure new funding for information technology initiatives and a substantial increase in grants-in-aid for all the state's eligible public libraries, and we promoted legislation to guarantee faculty status for librarians in public colleges and universities. Our practical accomplishments were modest. The Legislature voted an added \$300,000 for grants-in-aid, bringing the per capita level for public library support to \$3.75 — another step toward the long-range goal of \$5.00 per capita. We were also successful in getting library services such as photocopying exempted from Consumer Sales Tax.

Major lobbying efforts sometimes do take time. During the 1996 session we once again raised the question of a dedicated revenue source for library services. As several key legislators have expressed "philosophic" differences with the concept (of dedicating ANY taxes) this is a hard sell. Persistence may eventually pay off, in this as with other issues, if WVLA returns each year with the same theme.

We were optimistic about the faculty status bill in January. Delegate Homer Ball, along with several co-sponsors, re-introduced a measure in the House, and Senator Thais Blatnik introduced a companion bill in the Senate. A large number of legislators told us they were in support of the measure, given the glaring inconsistencies in the way academic librarians are employed throughout the state, and the underlying injustices. But the faculty status bill was never placed on the Education Committee agenda or scheduled for hearing by the Higher Education Subcommittee. With the upcoming change in Administration, we are hopeful for next year.

Thanks are owed to our many friends in the Legislature; they are too numerous to mention by name. Thanks are also owed to many WVLA officers and members, both on and off the Legislative Committee, for their considerable efforts during the past session, and to Gene Tribett, our congenial and never-discouraged Legislative Consultant, for his skilled guidance. WVLA's message to Charleston, like the Buffalo Bills' is: "WE'LL BE BACK!"

Library Appreciation Day Dinner



Governor Caperton and WVLA President Jo Ann Calzonetti applaud Pierre Salinger at the Library Appreciation Day Dinner February 19.

(Photographer: Dennis Loudermilk, Library Commission)



Pierre Salinger autographs books for some of the 1100 library supporters who attended the Library Appreciation Day Dinner.

(Photographer: Dennis Loudermilk, Library Commission)

President's Column

No More Libraries?

Ann Calzonetti

I have become increasingly aware that there is a small but vocal group of influential individuals who advocate the destruction of libraries predicated on the notion that superior technological methods for the delivery of library materials and services are imminent.

Recently, for example, two WVU administrators, a departmental chair and a vice president, informed me that in NO MORE than ten years libraries as institutions would no longer exist! All library materials would be delivered to individuals in their home or office. Books would no longer be published because people no longer care to read books. When I mentioned that there are a few obstacles to this scenario like copyright, privacy, the absence of an adequate telecommunications infrastructure nationally, the absence of computers in most homes, the fact that people do care to read books, and most importantly the huge cost of such a vision, these objections were breezily dismissed as unsophisticated, retrograde, protectionist, in short "librarianish" views.

Compare these views with the comments of some WV legislators during the January 25th testimony of the Library Commission and WVLA to the WV House of Delegates Finance Committee. The Commission and the Association, on behalf of public libraries around the state, are asking for an additional, stable source of funding to underwrite the costs associated with creating the telecommunications infrastructure needed to connect all libraries to the Internet and to pay licensing fees for bibliographic and full text databases. Some of our legislators remarked that WEST VIRGINIA CANNOT AFFORD TO PROVIDE THESE SERVICES TO ITS CITIZENS.

These conflicting viewpoints, espoused by influential individuals make this an interesting time for librarians. Perhaps the appropriate word is schizophrenic. And I would add, dangerous. On the one hand librarians and libraries are dismissed as obsolete, retrograde. On the other hand librarians are told there are no public funds available when the request the funding necessary to ensure access to the new technologies for the general public.

Libraries have always had opponents, now we have more than ever. Many of our opponents would not even



identify themselves as such. It is rare to hear public figures and leaders speak aggressively against libraries. Our traditional opponents, those who vote against taxation and government services no matter the cause, are growing in numbers. But there is another, more dangerous group. This group comes from our support base (educators, professionals, etc.). Armed with their new technological infatuation, I believe they pose a much more serious threat. These are the people who think that libraries are irrelevant and marginal institutions that should and will be swept away in the coming utopia of the new age of information technology. These people also believe that librarians are resisting necessary technological and cultural change in a vain effort to maintain outmoded institutions and work practices.

Join this group with those who believe that the public sector cannot and should not pay for the new information technologies and we have a serious challenge to one of the basic assumptions of our profession. Librarians are to collect, organize, preserve and provide access to collections of materials and services for the purpose of advancing culture and learning for all citizens.

Computer and telecommunications technologies have already profoundly changed library operations and the promise for additional spectacular change is offered daily from both within and outside the library profession.

Librarians have been at the forefront in adopting technology appropriately to improve the effectiveness of our services. The development of the MARC record and the OCLC World Catalog were the result of pioneering work by librarians who early on saw the possibilities for using computer technology to improve methods of organizing library collections and sharing that work with each other and with the library user community. The combined success of these two efforts has improved the infrastructure for ALL libraries. Even the smallest library now benefits from shared electronic cataloging and the existence of the World Catalog at OCLC.

Online database searching, the fax machine, CD-ROM, and now the Internet are all technologies that librarians have enthusiastically integrated into library operations whenever it became clear that there was a reasonable tradeoff between cost and benefit for library users. Now is the time for increased activism by the library community. We must fight against the false vision that libraries and librarians will be replaced by an easy to use, essentially free, digital library in cyberspace. This vision is not based on any rational economic analysis of the creation and use of books, magazines, CD ROMs, videocassettes or other library materials and services. We must fight for the funds we need to continue to expand and add access to electronic medium to our existing range of library services.

WVLA Minutes

Summary
February 20, 1996

Seventeen members of the West Virginia Library Association attended the Executive Board meeting held on February 20 at the Holiday Inn in Charleston.

Members heard from Division and Committee chairs on the status of on-going projects and on plans for up coming meetings and workshops.

Motions acted upon included:

Approval of the minutes

Approval of WVLA committee appointments

WVLA support for a petition being circulated by ALA asking legislators on all levels to appropriate tax dollars to fund the cost of supplying Internet access to everyone.

(Copies of this petition will be mailed to all public and academic libraries and should be sent to Federal Relations Coordinator Betty Gunnoe to be presented during Legislative Day in May).

Approval of the 1996 Association budget

An increase in Conference exhibitors fees from \$300 to \$350

A letter to be sent to WVEMA thanking them for waiving their conference fees and offering to reciprocate at WVLA's Conference

The referral to the Constitution and By-Laws committee a possible dues increase at the lowest level

The endorsement of a proclamation congratulating the Illinois Library Association on reaching its Centennial year

To obtain a full copy of the minutes contact Myra Ziegler, Summers County Public Library, 201 Temple St, Hinton, WV 25951. 466-4490. Minutes may be accessed on the internet from Mountainnet and on the Putnam County Public Library's homepage.

New Members

Cathy Adkins
Hester Anglin
Kay Arnold
Mildred Bailey
Jo Ellen Browning
Ed Chesley
Terry Church
Cherie Davis
Marcia Fisher
Dana Gowings
Christy Grim
Anissa Harper

Helen Holly
Virginia Houchins
Jacquelyn Isaacs
Carolyn Leporini
Jean Machusak
Georgia McCartney-Burke
Donna McCoy
Kathleen Parker
Eve Rafferty
Margaret Sayre
Joanna Thompson
Barbara Tinker
Deborah Wells

Call for Nominations

The Nominating Committee is calling for nominees for the following WVLA offices:

First Vice-President/President-Elect
Second Vice-President

The deadline for nominations is April 30, 1995. Please send nominations to: Sharon Turner, Morgantown Public Library, 373 Spruce Street, Morgantown, WV 26505 Phone: 304-291-7427; Fax: 304-291-7437

The slate of officers will be printed in the June issue of *West Virginia Libraries*.

LIBRARIES

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Photographs submitted should be black and white. News, articles and correspondence should be sent to the Editors.

Subscriptions and changes of address should be sent to the Circulation Editors.

Copy Deadline:
15th of the month preceeding publication

Books

Those WVLA members who attended the Conference banquet in 1993 in Huntington were treated to the wonderfully funny stories presented by humorist Linda Pulliam. Now some of those stories and many more are available in her first book *A Chicken Named Ruth — A Collection of True, Amusing Tales* (Linda Pulliam, 863 Weaver Dairy Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27514, 1995, \$12.95). The characters in the book are real and it is so easy to relate to the stories because we have all met similar people or been in similar situations. That's the reason Pulliam's humor is so contagious — it's the recognition factor. We've been there too. A warm and funny read for teens through adult. (Submitted by Pamela Ford, Catalog Librarian, Marshall University).

Broadcasting the Local News by Lynn Boyd Hinds (Pennsylvania State University Press, 1995, \$40 Cloth, \$16.95 Paper) is a colorful history of one of the first television stations in America to offer local news programs. That station - KDKA TV - literally invented television news in Pittsburgh. Unlike many television stations in the United States, KDKA (which first went on the air in 1949 as WDTV) treated news seriously from day one. The author, a former Pittsburgh broadcaster herself, has interviewed the veterans of Pittsburgh broadcasting. The story they tell is the story of dozens of other stations across the country. In the process, they tell us much about the early history of television in America.



Is Your Llama a Librarian?

Cheryl Harshman

Bearing tidings of joy, Paco the llama visited the City-County Public Library in Moundsville last December. Paco (rhymes with taco) wore a red backpack festooned with holiday greenery. Children reached into the backpack for sweet surprises from Paco - candy canes and bookmarks. When not visitin libraries, Paco lives at the Good Zoo in Wheeling's Oglebay Park. Llamas are quiet and courteous library patrons - and of course very well read.

If you liked Linda's stories at the '93 WVLA Conference Banquet

You'll LOVE reading....

A Chicken Named Ruth

- a collection of true, amusing tales

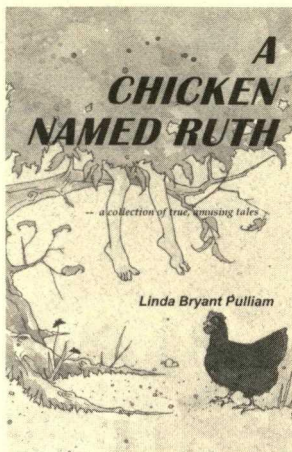
(no life altering plan - just 100 chuckle-worthy tales)

ISBN No. 1-886951-05-5

174 pps/

\$12.95 (includes S&H)

Linda Pulliam
863 Weaver Dairy Road
Chapel Hill, NC 27514



Questions? 919 942-7348

lpulliam@aol.com

<http://tfnet.ils.unc.edu/~pulliam/>

Seeking Outstanding Individuals

The Resolutions and Awards Committee invites you to nominate individuals who, by making a significant contribution to libraries and librarianship in West Virginia are eligible for one of three awards presented at the annual conference.

Certificate of Merit: for exceptional service to libraries and librarianship in West Virginia.

Dora Ruth Parks Award: for long and outstanding service to libraries and librarianship.

Literary Award: for an outstanding publication by a West Virginian, about West Virginia, or significant contribution to Appalachian literature.

Address questions and nomination to Myra Ziegler, Summers County Public Library, 201 Temple Street, Hinton, WV 25951 304-466-4490.

ALA Reaffirms Basic Commitments

Joe Barnes, ALA Councilor

In what was praised as an unusually efficient series of sessions, the national Council of the American Library Association took action on several pending matters during the San Antonio Midwinter Meeting in January. Some business related to controversies over conference site selection, or to adjustments in the Association's governance (don't look for ANY major changes, despite the time and money expended on self-studies). The Council's big decisions were in the arena of fundamental freedom of information issues.

The most significant is the new Access to Electronic Information, Services, and Networks: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights, drafted by the Intellectual Freedom Committee. The Interpretation speaks against economic barriers to electronic access, restates the user's rights to confidentiality and privacy, and, most importantly, urges no restrictions or denial of access "for expressing or receiving constitutionally protected speech." Based on that reaffirmation of First Amendment principles, the ALA's Office of Intellectual Freedom has announced preparations to make ALA the lead plaintiff in a court challenge of the "decency" provision in the Telecommunications Act of 1996, which unconstitutionally mandates prior restraint. On the local level, if your school or library is presently considering new policies to govern use of electronic resources, I urge you at least to look over the new Interpretation. It's posted on the ALA's home page (www.ala.org). If you need a printed copy, feel free to contact me.

Several measures before Council related to changes in the federal depository library system. In its eagerness to promote electronic dissemination of government information, Congress has pressured the GPO into adoption of a plan to go nearly all-electronic in two years. Professionals from the 1,400 depository libraries represented in GODORT secured Council approval of companion resolutions urging a model for a "New Universe" of federal information and access; improved funding for GPO; and—crucially—a more orderly transition to electronic formats in five to seven years. In bringing the prestige of the national organization to bear on this important issue depository librarians hope to gain valuable breathing space. Accelerated conversion to online and compact-disc distribution, while attractive to the technophiles, raises important equity and cost-shifting issues. In back of everyone's mind is also the simple truth that paper will continue to be the logical format of choice for many kinds of government information for the foreseeable future.

Council also heard several encouraging reports of progress in the implementation of "ALA Goal 2000." At the center of that program is the accumulation of a new Fund for America's Libraries, which was targeted to grow to \$4,000,000 the first year. Instead, the Fund has now received \$6,000,000, including large giFTs from corporate benefactors. The finding has made it possible to expand ALA's Washington office and

carry on the work of the new Office for Information Technology Policy. In this fashion, and in its attempt to speak out clearly on public policy affecting librarianship, the ALA is in fact becoming more relevant in ways demanded by its membership.

ALA personal members will play a vital role in moving the Association forward with their selection of at-large Council members, ALA President, and Divisional officers this spring. I urge you to take some time to acquaint yourself with the candidates' statements of philosophy and cast a dubious eye on anyone who believes the Association's business includes more than the promotion of libraries and librarianship and the defense of intellectual freedom.

Position Announcements

Library Operations Supervisor I Assistant Department Head - Children's \$28,459 - \$42,324

Supervises the main library Children's Floor, including 5 FTE employees. Participates in collection development, staff training and program development and presentation. Excellent benefits including 40 paid leave days annually, \$500 relocation allowance and some reimbursement for interview expenses. Requires ALA accredited MLS degree. Open until filled. Send resume, names and addresses of three references to:

Human Resources Manager Kanawha County Public Library 123 Capitol Street Charleston, WV 25301 304-343-4646

Library Director Mason County Library System \$25,000 - \$30,000 plus benefits

The Mason County Library System serves a population of 25,000 in one of West Virginia's most scenic counties. The system consists of the main library and three branches, and a book collection of over 50,000 volumes. An automation project is under way. Applicant must have an MLS from an ALA accredited program, at least three years experience, and the ability to lead staff and direct further advancement in programming, automation, and technology. Send resume and three professional references to:

Lois Shinn President Mason County Library Board 508 Viand Street Point Pleasant, WV 25550

Social Responsibility and Librarians Yvonne Farley, WV-SRRT

WV-SRRT - What is It?

The **West Virginia Social Responsibilities Round Table** was founded several years ago when the WVLA constitution was amended to allow roundtables to be formed by petitions from the members. Since that time the roundtable has maintained a steady but small (around 25) membership.

The WV-SRRT initiated the "Spring Fling" workshops in the early 1990s. They have presented workshops for librarians on materials for gays and lesbians in the library, women and anger, land ownership and taxation in West Virginia, electronic resources about AIDS, and the Columbus Quincentennial.

WV-SRRT is an affiliate of ALA's SRRT and has a representative on its steering committee. The purposes of a social responsibilities roundtable are:

- a) to provide a forum for the discussion of the responsibilities which librarians and libraries have in relation to important problems of social change which face institutions and librarians today;
- b) to provide for the exchange of information about library activities among all ALA/WVLA units with the goal of increasing understanding of current social problems;
- c) to act as a stimulus to ALA/WVLA and its various units in making libraries more responsive to current social needs;
- d) to present programs, arrange exhibits and carry out other appropriate activities.

Some of the issues which members in the roundtable say are important to them are: peace, labor, land ownership, minorities, gay/lesbian, poverty/economic, women, alternative library literature, environment, and the rights of disabled people.

Rick Wilson of the American Friends Service Committee's West Virginia Economic Justice Project (and former Assistant Director of Putnam County Library) currently chairs the roundtable. Gordon Simmons, who works at Taylor Books in Charleston and has been active in the West Virginia Literature Roundtable, is the chair-elect.

Alternative Resources

MSSRT Newsletter This newsletter, a source of alternative reviews, commentary, and networking info for library workers, is now on the WEB. Issued in print under the auspices of the Minnesota Library Association, the publication covers a variety of topics including economic justice, ethnic concerns, gay/lesbian culture, environmentalism, human rights, peace arts and labor. You can subscribe to this lively publication by making a donation (\$15.00 suggested) payable to MLA/MSRRT, c/o Chris Dodge/Jan deSirey, 4645 Columbus Ave., S, Minneapolis, MN 55407. URL: <http://www.cs.unca.edu/~davidson/msrtr/>

Alternative Literature: A Practical Guide for Librarians Chris Atton. Gower. 1996, 202p.

Making a strong case for the acquisition of materials currently all but ignored by libraries, Chris Atton's book is both important reading and a useful resource. British and American in scope, it is a thorough (if not exhaustive) treatment of the topic. Zines, independent

publishers, and Worldwide Web resources are all here: what they are, why they're important, where to find them, and how to treat them. The author includes brief bibliographic essays covering subject areas from anarchism to mail art, and addresses such theoretical issues as class bias in libraries and the importance of librarians participating in cultural networking...It is an important update to Danky and Shore's *Alternative Materials in Libraries* (Scarecrow, 1982). (Gower Publishing Co., Old Post Road, Brookfield, VT 05036, 802-276-3162; \$68.95 cloth, 0-566-07665-9) Review from MSSRT Newsletter, 2/96.

The Environmentalist's Guide to the Public Library

A 19 page booklet, produced by Libraries for the Future, includes an article on Dewey and LC organization of environmental material, suggestions for advocacy, as well as lists of related organizations and Internet resources. (521 Fifth Ave., Suite 1612, New York, NY 10175-1699; 212-682-7446; Iff@phantom.com).

Outposts: A Catalog of Rare and Disturbing Alternative Information Russ Kick. Carroll & Graf. 1995

Contains more than 700 reviews of zines, books, newsletters, and catalogs, plus a few videocassettes and CD-ROMs along with complete ordering information. Chapter headings include conspiracies, drugs, sex, cyberculture, merry mischief, the unexplained, etc. There is information about serial killers, the lost continent of Mu, extraterrestrial archeology, and the new smart drugs that are supposed to improve memory, etc. This is a much browsed book at Kanawha County Public Library by curious staff and public. (260 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10001, \$18.95. 0-7867-0202-8).

Social Responsibility Listservs

AFAS-L is a discussion list for African American Studies librarians. To subscribe, send the message `subscribe afas <your name>` to: listserv@kentvm.kent.edu

FEMINIST is a low traffic list moderated by the Feminist Task Force of ALA's Social Responsibility Round Table. To subscribe send: `subscribe feminist <your name>` to listserv@mitvma.mit.edu

GAY-LIBN, a busy and chatty lesbian/gay librarian's group, has been an expert for every question and discussion threads range as far afield as favorite films and "what am I wearing". To subscribe send: `subscribe GAY-LIBN <your name>` to listproc@usc.edu

PNEWS has been around since 1990. Membership on the list varies between 1200-1400. The list is moderated to keep disruption to a minimum and offending parties are cut off. The objective of the list is to provide cultural and intellectual space for progressive people to learn more about various perspectives, traditions, ideas, and alternatives to overcome all kinds of oppression. To subscribe send: `subscribe PNEWS-L <your name>` to listserv@SJUVM.STJOHN.EDU

PAIN-L includes a broad range of topics: the philosophical approach to dealing or coping with physical and emotional pain, the frustration many feel about what is perceived as a lack of responsiveness by others to that which causes pain, as well as inadequate and inaccessible medical care, and incorrect medical methodology. To subscribe send: `subscribe PAIN-L <your name>` to listserv@juvms.stjohns.edu

Looking Ahead

David Shau, Chair Government Documents Roundtable

The current focus of document librarians is the Federal Depository Library Program's (FDLP) plan to convert depository libraries to virtually all-electronic by the end of fiscal year 1998. The transition plan was printed in a special issue of *Administrative Notes*, the depository newsletter, Dec. 29, 1995. The Government Printing Office (GPO) has established a number of task forces to gather information. The reports are posted as soon as available and comments are solicited. The comments will be reviewed and a final report issued. The reports are looking into incentives for electronic publishing, costs and impact on public access of the electronic dissemination of congressional bills, and costs and impact of converting Dept. of Energy technical reports from microfiche to electronic format.

What will the impact be on service to patrons in the West Virginia depository libraries? A library that now selects less than 10% of the available items will have access to much more material, albeit in a different format. However, there are questions. One concerns those ready reference items such as the *CIA Factbook*, *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, and *Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance*. Will the electronic version of these titles be as easy to use and accessible as paper? This question has been explored on GovDoc-L, the Internet discussion list for documents librarians. A preliminary list of what must remain in paper has been compiled. The spring meeting of WVLA GODORT will discuss this question and the list in detail. Other questions include: will the electronic counterpart be so easy to use that the paper copy will be redundant; will items like Statistical Abstract be available in paper from private vendors?

Another concern is hardware. The FDLP has published its minimum hardware requirements. Given the budgetary realities of the nineties, can libraries meet these requirements? If the libraries do meet these minimum requirements, will they do it at the expense of the book budgets? And what about long-term storage and retrieval? Cass Hartnet from the Detroit Public Library fears a worse case scenario resulting in FOIA style arrangements where the information is legally available but requires time, money, and much effort on the part of the information seeker.

A major concern of those of us in public libraries is, to borrow a term from Lois Fundis of the Mary H. Weir Public Library, the amount of "handholding" necessary with patrons. We all have patrons who still long for the card catalog and are loathe to use the computer terminals. Much time is spent by public services staff instructing patrons how to use the online catalog. When we add the World Wide Web to the mix, even more time will be required. Will we be able to effectively educate the user on how to use the Internet or to navigate a government document CD without affecting service to other patrons?

Staff will have to be trained before patrons can be helped. It is difficult now to find time to do staff training. These great resources may be out there on the Net or CD but if the staff isn't well trained, efficient access will be severely limited.

In my personal opinion, some items just don't transfer to electronic. I gave a presentation with Majed Khader of Marshall University at the WVLA annual conference entitled "THIS IS a Government Document?" It highlighted items not generally perceived as documents. We showed hundreds of documents-magazines from the Defense Dept., brochures of practical information from the Dept. of Health, hardback books of photographs from the Center of Military History. Some of my favorite items are the Interior Department's brochures on national parks, seashores, monuments, etc. These colorful brochures clearly capture the areas. I am currently looking at a brochure on the Cumberland Island National Seashore in Georgia. It folds out to show a wind-swept dune and describes the saltwater marshes, maritime forests, beaches, and the human imprint, Plum Orchard Mansion, on the island. The other side has a detailed map and basic information about the island. While I could get the same information electronically, the essence of place transmitted by this small document could only occur with a paper copy. I hope that a balance is struck so certain items can remain paper and we can take best advantage of the technology to bring the most up-to-date and in-depth government information to our patrons.

We all look forward to the changes, hoping the needs and concerns of all libraries and librarians are taken into consideration.

Depository Libraries Inspected

Nine of the Federal Depository Libraries in West Virginia were inspected by the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) this winter and all nine were found to be in compliance with regulations. The depositories are evaluated on collection development, bibliographic control, maintenance of the collection, human resources, physical facilities, public service, and cooperative efforts.

On a personal note, this was my first inspection and I faced it with some trepidation. This was exacerbated when the original date was canceled because of the government shutdown in November. However, the inspection at Kanawha County Public Library went well as did the eight others. The only minor casualty of the process was Kevin Fredette, the regional depository librarian at WVU, whose car left him stranded on the interstate on his way to the inspections in Charleston. (see list page 8)

Federal Depository Library Program: West Virginia Depository Libraries May 1995

Athens

Concord College
J. Frank Marsh Library
304-384-5368
Virginia Rubinstein

Bluefield

Bluefield State College
Wendell S. Hardway Library
219 Rock Street Bluefield, WV 24701
304-327-4053
Clay G. Williams

Charleston

Kanawha County Public Library
123 Capitol Street Charleston, WV 25301
304-343-4646
David Schau

West Virginia Library Com.
Reference Library Cultural Center
Charleston, WV 25305
304-558-2045
Ma Lel Hsieh

West Virginia Supreme Court
Law Library
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Building 1, Room E-404
Charleston, WV 25305-0833
304-558-2607
Marjorie Price

Elkins

Davis and Elkins College
Booth Library
100 Campus Drive
Elkins, WV 26241
304-636-1900
Barbara Carroll

Fairmont

Fairmont State College Library,
Fairmont, WV 26554
304-367-4734
Ruth Ann Powell

Huntington

Marshall University
James E. Morrow Library
Huntington, WV 25755
304-696-2342
Majed Khader, Ph.D.

Institute

West Virginia State College
Drain-Jordan Library
Institute, WV 25112
304-766-3116

Montgomery

West Virginia Institute of Tech.
Vining Library
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25136
304-442-3230
Joy Humphries

Morgantown

West Virginia University
Charles C. Wise, Jr. Library
P.O. Box 6069
Morgantown, WV 26506-6069
304 293-3051
Regional Depository
Christina Chang

Salem

Salem-Teikyo University
Benedum Library Salem, WV 26426
304-782-5232
Phyllis Freedman, Ph.D.

Shepherdstown

Shepherd College
Scarborough Library
Shepherdstown, WV 25443
304-876-2511, ext. 420
Ann W. Henriksson

Weirton

Mary H. Weir Public Library
3442 Main Street
Weirton, WV 26062-4590
304-797-8510
Lois A. Fundis

Wheeling

Wheeling Jesuit College
Hodges Library
316 Washington Avenue
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304-243-2226
Jocelyn Sheppard

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the sum of its parts.*

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Boca Raton, FL 33427-2348

Internet Policies for the Public Library

Danny McMillion

Chair, WVLA Intellectual Freedom Committee

During the week of February 19, you may have found many of the web sites shrouded in black and roaring this message, "WEB SITE BLACKED OUT IN PROTEST." They were protesting President Clinton's signing of a telecommunications bill which included language that could lead to censorship of the Internet.

Is there anyone alive who has not heard of the Internet? The Internet is a worldwide system of computer networks that allows computers everywhere to communicate with each other. The Internet began in 1969 when the Advanced Research Projects Agency of the U. S. Department of Defense initiated an experimental computer network which allowed scientists to talk to each other known as the ARPANET. ARPANET had only four computers in the beginning, three in California and one in Utah. During the 1980's the National Science Foundation developed NSFNET which allowed computer centers to talk to one another. From that inauspicious beginning grew the largest information network the world has ever known. Thousands of computer networks circling the globe are all connected together offering access to the world's libraries, scientists, schools, businesses and individuals.

As a librarian you are going to be bombarded with questions dealing with what children can access from the public library and demands that you keep from them "nasty" pictures and explicit language sites. As a provider of internet access to young people you should be prepared to respond to inaccurate perceptions of porn on the net. Many who read the July 3rd 1995 issue of *Time* feel that the internet really means cyberporn. *Time* reported that 83.5% of all images on the net were pornographic. Even though the editors did print a follow-up story two weeks later, the damage was done.

The Internet Advocate reported February 19 that "the right figure was brought to light by an experienced Internet user who recognized the difference between a USENET news group and the Internet as a whole." Reporter Brock Meeks pointed out in the July 4, 1995 issue of *Cyberwire Dispatch* that if, as the *Time* article reported, pornographic image files repre-

sent only about 3% of all messages on USENET groups and USENET itself represents only 11.5% of the traffic on the Internet, then pornographic images comprise merely one half of one percent (00.5%) of all Internet traffic.

As librarians we need to be informed of the facts and ready for detractors in the community who will challenge the use of Internet in public libraries. One of the best ways to be ready is to have a comprehensive Internet Policy in place before offering Internet access. If you have a home page which your computers will show when the computer is at rest, you may do as the Allen County Public Library in Ft. Wayne, Indiana and post the following message: "The Internet and its available resources contain a wide variety of material and opinions from varied points of view. In offering Internet access, library staff cannot control access points which often change rapidly and unpredictably. Users are hereby notified that they are responsible for the access points they reach. Parents of minor children must assume responsibility for their children's use of the Internet through the library's connection." If your computer does not support a home page, then you may elect to post disclaimer signs. However there is always room for a differing point of view. Cathy Chaparo of The Carnegie Public Library in Pittsburgh, PA, who creates that library's web pages, says: "This is my personal opinion, and not that of the library, but I frankly feel that disclaimers right at the beginning are glaring and offputting, as if we are afraid of what the public might find out there." If you are looking for an example of a library internet policy the Lawrence Public Library in Lawrence, Kansas has a very good one. A copy of this policy is available on the Internet via this address: <http://www.idir.net/~lpl/iag.html> Remember in Internet addresses case does count, and so do those little squiggles so enter the address exactly as it is shown above.

The North Suburban Library System offers the following advice and guidelines on developing an Internet policy for your library. "An Internet policy should not be thought of as a way to restrict access but as a way to help the public make the best use of the Internet." NSLS suggests that before a

library develops an Internet policy, the library staff should ask themselves the following:

1. Why is the library offering access to the Internet, and how does it fit in with the library's mission?

2. What is valuable about the Internet and what is the library's role in helping patrons take advantage of the Internet's value?

3. What phases and levels of access does the library want to offer? i.e. children's room, computer labs, public access to email, etc.

Library policy should cover broad issues such as what a library does with the Internet and why. Specific items such as how much time a patron may spend on the computer, charges for document printing, whether chat lines will be allowed, netiquette, handling harassment and hacking, etc. should be covered by procedures. Policies should be written broad enough that they will not have to be rewritten or amended very often. Procedures should be changed as often as needed. Technology, the knowledge of the librarians and the interests of patrons will dictate changes in procedures.

Librarians facing the challenge of introducing Internet to their communities should be: ready to respond to patron perceptions of porn on the net; able to promote positive examples of youth Internet use; developing an acceptable use policy; and establishing network connections with organizations committed to Electronic Freedom of Information.

Of course if there are any wimps out there in library land (and I don't believe it) here are some alternatives to providing free access. I don't recommend them, but the following software packages for limiting access to the Internet were listed in *The Internet Advocate*.

Surf Watch produces a type of software that blocks objectionable Internet sites. *Net Nanny* is another type of software that enables you to filter out words, phrases or sites that you deem unsuitable. *Cyber Patrol* claims to be the first and only Internet filter that works with all browsers.

You may not need any of the above if the government figures out a way, under the new communications bill that Mr. Clinton signed into law in mid February, to censor Internet for us.

People

Clay Williams, Government Documents and Associate Reference Librarian at Bluefield State College has accepted a position as Bibliographic Instruction Librarian at Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Michigan where he will hold faculty rank.

John McPeak is the new systems manager at SWVLAC (Southern West Virginia Library Automation Consortium) headquartered at the Raleigh County Public Library in Beckley. John, formerly of McDowell County was an electronics major in college, owned his own sound company, and attended nursing school. He has just completed the HP systems course in Rockland, MD.

Arn Winter, who has been Director of the Mason County Public Library for nine years, has been named Director of the Pike County Public Library District headquartered in Pikeville, KY. Arn was Director of the Wayne Co.(WV) Library for three years before moving to Point Pleasant.

Steve Christo, Audiovisual Librarian at Kanawha County Public Library, will be the Assistant Director at the Cabell County Public Library effective April 1.

Gordon Simmons, formerly of Trans-Allegheny Books is now employed at Taylor Books in Charleston.

Sarah Drennan of Charleston has been appointed by Governor Caperton as the ninth member of the West Virginia Library Commission.

Rockefeller Surfs the Net at Oak Hill (From an article by Kristin Jones in the Beckley Register-Herald, March 18, 1996)

Senator Jay Rockefeller spent part of Sunday afternoon surfing the Internet with local students at the Oak Hill Public Library. Rockefeller, D-W.Va., watched as several children showed him how they use the Net to learn more about such topics as reptiles or various desert tribes. One little girl opened up the Smithsonian Institute's page on the Net and took Rockefeller on a tour of various exhibits at the National Air and Space Museum on the World Wide Web.

As part of the recently passed Telecommunications Act of 1996, Rockefeller introduced an amendment providing a guarantee that schools, libraries and rural hospitals would have affordable access to cutting edge technology. ...

Oak Hill Library has two public access computers, and on any given day, after school, children crowd around the computer to learn how to use the Net.

Clarksburg Friends Dinner Features Author

John C. "Jack" Waugh, Civil War historian, will be the guest speaker for the annual Friends of the Clarksburg-Harrison Public Library Dinner, to be held April 26 at the Clarksburg Country Club.

Waugh's book, *The Class of 1846*, won the Fletcher Pratt Literary Award for the best non-fiction book on the Civil War for 1994. *The Class of 1846* emphasizes the lives of Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson and George Brinton McClellan.

Waugh began researching and writing the book in early 1989. He considers himself a historical reporter, believing that covering the past is not unlike covering a breaking news story in the present. The only difference is that all the sources are dead, and he greatly prefers it that way. Waugh has lived in West Virginia on two separate occasions. He lived in Mabie, near Elkins from 1979-1983 and in Clarksburg from 1989-1994.

In the process of writing the book, Waugh used the West Virginia University library extensively and relied on the services of the excellent interlibrary loan department at the Clarksburg-Harrison Public Library, headed by Charley Hively. He says he has not found a combination of resources in his particular field as good and as responsive before or since.

Friends president, Carolyn Wysong, encourages Friends, librarians, and the general public to attend what promises to be a very entertaining evening.

Nine Levies Pass

The following eight counties and one city passed excess levies this winter that included support for public libraries. In many cases the levy was passed by an overwhelming majority.

Fayette County Hampshire County Harrison County Nicholas County
Putnam County Ritchie County Roane County South Charleston Summers
County

Marlinton Delivers

From an Article by Richard Grimes in the Charleston Daily Mail, Feb. 8, 1996

The new slogan in Marlinton these days is "We deliver for you." but it isn't milk and groceries that they are delivering. Instead, it is milk cartons full of donated books.

The Marlinton Public Library was destroyed by the recent flood in Pocahontas County.... "Something like this might normally make people fold up and quit. But not in this case. The people in the Marlinton area are banding together to keep the library system going," said Fred Glazer of the West Virginia Library Commission....

Gibbs Kinderman, president of the Pocahontas County Library Board, decided the library would continue to offer books and quickly started a program call "We Deliver For You".

Through the cooperation of the Library Commission, Valley Bell Dairy United and a host of other people in the community, books are being hauled to the community in milk crates.

Glazer said the dairy is providing two crates of books to every teacher at Marlinton Elementary School, which doesn't have a library. The books will be

rotated through the first four grades. The dairy will pick up and rotate the crates of books each week.

Books will also be delivered to Pocahontas Memorial Hospital and to Pocahontas Continuous Care Center. ... Country stores have been asked to be temporary branch libraries. A supply of used hardback books and paperbacks has been placed in the stores, also to be rotated each week.

Glazer said it is about the best emergency book system he has ever seen. The program was put into effect only 11 days after the flood. Kinderman said books are being donated from the other two libraries in the county. Books also have been donated from as far away as Lexington, Va. "We never dreamed that people would be so generous in the way they have helped us," said Kinderman. "But it's working beautifully."

Area residents have raised about \$100,000 for a new library and are asking the state for \$432,000 to match for construction.

Read Aloud Conference Features Trelease

Jim Trelease, author of the *Read Aloud Handbook*, will speak at the Read Aloud West Virginia Conference May 4. The theme of the conference, to be held at the Charleston Civic Center, is "Let's Talk Books". Trelease's work has been instrumental in the success of Read Aloud West Virginia.

The program will begin with registration and a continental breakfast at 8:30 a.m. and conclude at 4:30 p.m. Trelease will address participants during lunch.

Twelve workshop topics will be offered through the day. Conference participants may choose to attend two in the morning and two in the afternoon. Topics will include: "Let's Talk Fiction" and "Let's Talk Non-fiction", each offered in two sections highlighting book

selection for children from birth to age 10 and for children 11 and older; "Let's Talk West Virginia Authors"; "Books that Beg for Bells and Whistles"; and "Children's Choices". the latter will feature a professor from West Virginia University and two librarians as well as several children who simply will talk about their favorite books. In addition, vendors will have numerous exhibits set up at the Civic Center. Cost of the conference is \$25 which includes breakfast and lunch.

For further information and registration forms, contact the Read Aloud West Virginia office in care of the West Virginia Education Fund, P.O. Box 3071, Charleston, WV 25331-3071 or call 304-342-7850.

West Virginia State Documents

- **The Boxes Have Arrived! Ann Henriksson**

We at Shepherd College have looked forward to the introduction of the state depository system for West Virginia. At last, we thought, we'd be able to receive all those annual reports, the *West Virginia Blue Book*, and other documents regularly. No more sending separate requests for each document. Collection development would be a cinch. All we needed to do was sit by and wait for the deliveries.

Early in January I spoke with Karen Goff, Director of the newly created West Virginia Publications Clearinghouse. She told me to expect a box a week during the legislative session. Most of the early documents would be legislative bills and journals. During the remainder of the year, we would receive boxes monthly.

The first box arrived. Most of the documents looked familiar. In fact, we already had some of them. Karen had anticipated duplicates. Not to worry, give them away — just don't send them back to Charleston! The familiar documents were quickly added to the collection. There were some odd single sheets, eg. press releases and solicitations for state bids. What to do with them? Let's wait until another box comes. Little piles of state documents appeared in cataloging.

The second box arrived. It was huge and contained legislative bills -by the hundreds. Putting them in order was the least of our worries. Where to store them was crucial. Suddenly, it looked as if being a State Documents Depository was not such a piece of cake.

All kinds of questions emerged — the who, what, and where questions along with the ever present how long, as in how long must we keep them? Some of these questions were answered with the receipt of the *Guidelines for Depository Libraries* which is modeled after the North Carolina state depository system. It provides language familiar to federal depository librarians with regard to processing, accessing, retaining, and superseding documents.

In the meantime, the boxes continue to arrive. We are storing new documents that are not immediately added to the general collection in boxes arranged by issuing agency. The small pile of unusual documents in cataloging is growing.

CALENDAR

APRIL National Poetry Month National Anxiety Month

- 11 Spring Fling, Flatwoods
- 14-20 National Library Week "Libraries Change Lives"
- 16 Library Commission Meeting, Charleston
- "Read Your Way There" Awards Luncheon, Charleston
- 30 Deadline for WVLA Nominations

MAY Better Sleep Month

- 2 LAMA Workshop, "Creating Alliances" St. Albans Public Library
- 4 Read Aloud West Virginia Conference, Charleston Civic Center
- 7 ALA Library Legislation Day, Washington, D.C.
- 15 Copy Deadline for June Issue of West Virginia Libraries
- 17 WVLA Academic Division Workshop, W. Va. State College, Institute

JUNE

- May 28 - June 1 First Session, Marshall Training Institute
- 3 - 6 Second Session, Marshall Training Institute



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