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Aug 1997

WEST VIRGINIA

SPECIAL
COLLECTIONS

LIBRARIES

Vol. 50 No. 4

August 1997

David M. Price New Library Commission Director

David M. Price will become Executive Director of the WV Library Commission effective September 8. He was recommended to the Library Commission by the Search Committee after on-site interviews of the three finalists for the position June 12-14. He will be the fifth person to hold the post in the 68 year history of the Library Commission.

In his most recent position as Special Assistant, Assistant City Librarian at the San Francisco Public Library, Price was responsible for the overall management of the administrative and technological operations of the library system. The San Francisco system has a \$35.5 million budget, a 400,000 square foot Main Library, 26 branches, 2 bookmobiles, and a library for the blind. Price introduced and implemented budgeting methods to establish program costs and meet revenue projections in a revenue-constrained environment. He also established a staff development program.

Prior to the San Francisco post, Price was Director of the Sonoma County (CA) Library with a \$7 million operating budget and 150 employees; Assistant California State Librarian; Deputy City Manager of Aurora, CO; Director of the Aurora (CO) Public Library; and Assistant Director of Libraries at the Austin (TX) Public Library. He also taught a course in public and county library administration at the University of Denver Graduate School of Library and Information Sciences, and served as

President of the Colorado Library Association. While in Sonoma County, Price was elected Vice-President/President-Elect of the California Library Association completing his presidential year in 1996.



David M. Price

Price has extensive experience working with state and local government officials. While at the Sonoma County Library, he worked with the Office of Education developing educational technology, county-wide homework centers, and library support services. He also served on a committee to reform county civil service legislation, and as the United Way Chairman. As Assistant California State Librarian, he managed the passage of legislation

which led to a new 150,000 square foot annex building, installed an internal audit program to monitor state library grants and construction programs, and organized a legislative program to provide independent and specialized research to the legislature and the governor.

Price does not regard the comparatively small size of West Virginia and its Library Commission budget as drawbacks but as challenges. He says, "There is so much potential for exciting library development in the state that I am looking forward to being a part of it." He returned to West Virginia in mid-July to attend a Commission meeting, observe the LSTA town meeting at Beckley, meet with Commission department heads, and find a place to live.

He indicated that providing services and support that enable West Virginia's public libraries to build collections and provide access to them will be a primary objective of the Library Commission. According to Price, "The best collection, the most sophisticated library technology is useless if the person who needs it can't get to it because the library isn't open an adequate number of hours or there aren't enough well-trained staff members available for assistance."

Price is anticipating meeting with the state's librarians, support staff, trustees, and friends at the Annual Conference in October.

President's Column



Margie Price

Libraries Are Us

If "Libraries Are Us," then the 1997 Annual Conference definitely "are us" too. (Ouch! Will someone please revive all the English majors out there?)

Many details still have to be worked out, but on pages 6-7 in this issue you will find a preview of the programming for the Conference. The Executive Board, Conference Committee, and many interested Association members are working hard to put together a program that will have a little bit of something for everyone. You will soon be receiving your Conference Registration Packet with a more detailed schedule, hotel registration forms, and information about local attractions.

Did you fill out a Conference evaluation form last year? If you did, I assure you it was read by me and the rest of the Conference Committee. I think you will find that we have tried to accommodate as many programming requests as possible. Most of the negative comments on the evaluation forms were about the hotel and meeting rooms in Huntington; we expect a much better situation this year at the Days Inn in Flatwoods.

"Libraries Are Us" - that applies to the Conference Committee too. If you have ideas about conference programming or arrangements, PLEASE volunteer for next year's Committee. I know next year's President, Judy Duncan, will welcome your assistance.

Programming must be in place by October 1. Contact Margie Price at Bldg. 1, Room E-404, 1900 Kanawha Blvd., E., Charleston, WV, 25305-0833, or phone 304-558-2607, or e-mail pricem@wvnm.wvnet.edu.

Fairmont State College Notice of Vacancy Staff Librarian

Under general supervision from the Library director, this position includes responsibility for general reference work with some evening and weekend assignments and responsibility for oversight of the Library's electronic resources. Some teaching duties and other related duties as assigned. Salary \$1900 per month (pay grade 17).

Qualifications required include a Master's degree from an ALA accredited program plus a minimum of one year experience. Reference experience and a working knowledge of microcomputers, operating systems, CD-ROM, LAN, and Web technologies preferred. Experience with integrated library systems, preferably NOTIS, is highly desirable.

Send letter of interest and résumé to Human Resources Office, Fairmont State college, 224 Hardway Hall, Fairmont, WV 26554. Phone: (304) 367-4383.

Résumés will be accepted through August 1, 1997. Interviews by appointment only. EOE

WVLA Executive Board Meeting

June 6, 1997

Days Inn, Flatwoods

Eleven members of the WVLA Executive Board met at the Days Inn in Flatwoods on June 6, 1997 at 10 am.

Those present heard reports from representatives of the various committees and divisions and passed the following motions:

- Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting
 - Approval of payment of checks # 5418-5460.
 - Payment of the April and June honorarium to the editors of WV Libraries.
 - Approval of the following slate of officers: 1st VP/Pres.Elect, Betty Gunnoe, Myra Ziegler; 2nd VP, Monica Brooks, Rebecca Van Der Meer; Secretary, Linda Lindsey, Mary Strife; Treasurer, Kelly Funkhouser, Dave Childers
 - The donation of \$100 in memory of Nancy Williams to the library in Boone County where she was killed.
 - Acceptance of the proposal made at the last meeting by Peggy Bias and Jo Ann Calzonetti with regard to support services with the proposed change that the term "dbase" be replaced throughout with the term, "standard accessible format."
 - The advancement of funds to cover the travel expenses to West Virginia for the candidates to be interviewed for the Executive Secretary's position at the Library Commission. These monies are to be reimbursed by the Library Commission Foundation.
 - The donation of \$200 to the Freedom to Read Foundation
- The next meeting of the Executive Board will take place September 12 at Pipestem State Park.
- You can obtain a full copy of these minutes by writing Myra Ziegler, Secretary, WVLA, Summers County Public Library, 201 Temple Street, Hinton, WV 25951, or e-mail at zieglerm@wvlc.wvnet.edu.*

ALA Councilor's Report

Joe Barnes

Members of the American Library Association convened in record numbers for this year's Annual Conference in San Francisco. There were more than 23,000 registered participants.

Among the larger issues considered by ALA Council were financing of the Association's "Spectrum Initiative," and revising the ALA governing structure. In addition, the Council approved a \$37.3 million budget ceiling for 1998, questioned the Executive Board and its Search Committee about the recruitment of a new Executive Director, and approved resolutions defining the Association's position on pending issues at the federal level.

The Spectrum Initiative is ALA's major effort to increase minority participation in the profession. Following Council's approval, last year, of an effort to raise a \$1 million Minority Scholarship Endowment, the Executive Board directed ALA staff to draw up a program aimed at quickly enhancing the number of minorities entering library schools. The Spectrum Initiative calls for spending \$1.35 million in a three-year period for this purpose. The Initiative intends to award 50 scholarships per year, at \$5000 each, over three years. That cost would amount to \$750,000. Members of the Council raised questions about the appropriate size of the "overhead" costs of the project, some \$600,000. At least one trustee of the ALA Endowments, Bernard Margolis, expressed concern over the amount of money diverted from the ALA Future Fund and other existing endowments to pay for the project. (The special \$1 million Minority Scholarship Endowment has not been raised.) These reservations having been expressed, the Council passed a resolution "without objection" reaffirming the Association's commitment to minority recruitment, and supporting the Spectrum Initiative.

Council closely debated a proposal from its Constitution and Bylaws Committee to reduce the term of office for members of the Association's Executive Board and Council, and the Treasurer, from four years to three. This proposal emerged from the initiative, now several years past, to restructure the Association as a whole. The term reduction idea had been vetted earlier by both the Structural Revision Task Force and the Committee on Organization. The major argument for term reduction is that it should increase participation in ALA governance through faster turnover. (However, there is no provision for term limits!) Supporters also suggest that the four-year term is too burdensome for many office holders. Opponents, including this Councilor, feel that the reform represents needless tinkering ("if it's not broke, why fix it?"). Another objection heard is that it requires one or two years to thoroughly understand the complexity of these offices, and therefore four years is a reasonable term length. But Council voted in favor of the measure 77 to 73. The constitutional change must still be approved by vote of the membership. It will appear on the ballots mailed in Spring 1998. If the measure is approved, the ballot booklet will expand in the future so that members may choose up to 33 or 34 Councilors-at-large each year, rather than the present 25.

Another constitutional revision approved by Council will add six additional Councilors who will represent the Association's Round Tables.

Related to these constitutional issues and the future of ALA was a report from the Policy Monitoring Committee on accommodating the growing use of electronic communication within the Association. For example, do "electronic committee meetings" via listservs and e-mail satisfy constitutional requirements? One party in Council wants the ALA to move forward as rapidly as possible to facilitate meetings, reports, and discussions through the Internet. Others point to the theory that much of communication is nonverbal, and that face-to-face meetings are essential for a full exchange of points of view.

At Midwinter a controversy simmered over the possible recruitment of a non-librarian to replace Executive Director Elizabeth Martinez. Members of Council had been the first to learn (via Internet!) that the national search had subsequently ground to a halt. In San Francisco, we heard a more or less detailed report on the reasons for the failure of the recruitment effort, an announcement that Associate Director Mary Ghikas would serve in an "acting" capacity, and a pledge from the Executive Board that the renewed search would be restricted to holders of an M.L.S.

LIBRARIES

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LSTA Public Meeting Held

J.D. Waggoner
WVLC, Field Services

In order to involve as many people as possible in developing a five-year plan for spending Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds, the Library Commission hosted a series of six public meetings across West Virginia in June and July. Meetings were held in Flatwoods, Romney, Morgantown, Parkersburg, Beckley, and Huntington. Librarians and staff from all types of libraries, library users and non-users, trustees, friends, and government officials were encouraged to attend. Advertisements purchased in the local newspapers and memorandums sent to libraries and legislators announced the meetings.

The same format was followed at each of the six meetings. The first part focused on the differences between the Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) and LSTA, the requirements of the LSTA program, and the priorities for funding. The second half of the meeting was an open forum for the participants to make suggestions for funding. Trends soon became evident in the recommendations: technology, training, and programs were mentioned at every meeting.

In all discussions, the need for funding for technology was in the forefront. Most frequently mentioned topics were the need for funding for the maintenance costs on existing systems, funding for telecommunications costs, full-text databases, and additional staffing at the Library Commission for technology consulting and support.

Although a variety of training areas and formats were discussed, the prevailing feeling was that there is a great need for education and training in all fields of library service. The suggestion that librarians need to be trained to train the public in the use of information technology topped the list.

There was a wide assortment of requests for programs. Participants in all the meetings suggested that the Library Commission reserve some of the federal dollars for mini-grants. Programs for mini-grants included collection development, technology for disabled library users, and public awareness programs. Another suggestion was for a children's services consultant at the state level.

The recommendations from the meetings will be evaluated by the Library commission staff and plans for federal funds designed accordingly.

In Memoriam

Cathy Ann Blair, a member of the Marshall County Library Board, died at her home in Glen Dale April 24, 1997.

Dr. William J.L. Wallace, Kanawha County PL system board member since 1967, died April 26, 1997.

Communications Discounts Lawsuit Filed

(ALA News Release, July 1997)

The American Library Association has expressed strong opposition to a lawsuit filed by SBC Communications, Inc. to overturn a recent Federal Communications Commission ruling that mandates discounted telecommunications rates for libraries and schools.

SBC filed suit in the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Louis to overturn parts of the FCC's order on universal service, alleging that discount services for libraries and schools are a new tax.

Libraries and schools were designated as eligible for discounted telecommunications rates in the Snowe-Rockefeller-Kerrey-Exon amendment to the Telecommunications Act of 1995. The FCC ruling in May mandated discounts ranging from 20-90 percent for libraries in rural, high-cost and low-income communities.

ALA past president Mary R. Somerville noted that under the FCC ruling, the \$2.25 billion annual program for libraries and schools only funds telecommunications services and some communications equipment, not programs or training equipment as claimed by SBC. ALA will continue to monitor the lawsuit and intervene as necessary.

Youth Services Librarian Position

The Ohio County Public Library in Wheeling, WV is seeking a Youth Services Librarian to coordinate, plan, and develop services for both the Children's and Young Adult Departments. Duties include supervision and planning for Youth Services, collection development, programming, and outreach. Position is currently open and requires an ALA-accredited M.L.S. degree with an emphasis on children's and young adult services and literature.

The Ohio County Public Library is a 44,000 square foot facility that is currently in the process of creating a unique "cafe style" Young Adult Department along with a redecoration of the Children's Department. OCPL's 1996/97 budget totaled \$776,244 with \$138,324 budgeted for acquisitions.

The Youth Services Librarian position has a salary range of \$22,500 to \$25,000, depending on experience and qualifications. Interested candidates should apply to the Ohio County Public Library, ATT: Library Director, 52 16th Street, Wheeling, WV 26003. Fax: (304) 232-6848. Applicants should include a letter of interest, current resume, and the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of three professional references. Application review begins August 12, 1997, and will continue until the position is filled. EOE



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information \in-fer-'ma-shen\ n 1: the collection, classification, storage, retrieval, & dissemination of recorded knowledge treated both as a pure & as an applied science; 2: a dynamic, evolving human service profession which merges the disciplines of information, media, & library services, creating exciting 21st century career opportunities.

In response to numerous requests, the University of South Carolina will offer the Master of Library and Information Science degree in West Virginia to a second cohort of students beginning in January of 1998. Graduates of the 1992-1995 MLIS degree cohort in West Virginia have been highly successful in their careers. The demand for library and information professionals grows every day. With selective admission, a challenging curriculum, innovative use of technology, & accreditation by the American Library Association, the USC MLIS program is a national leader in the field.

The majority of the program's instruction will be conducted via live interactive televised classes transmitted to selected sites throughout the state. These classes will meet once each week, usually in the late afternoon, for two hours. Each course normally includes fifteen weekly class meetings and two weekend sessions. Faculty will travel to West Virginia for weekend classes at a central site, and electronic communication media, such as e-mail and listservs, will provide frequent contact among students and between faculty and students.

Tentative viewing sites for weekly classes are:

Cabell County Public Library, Huntington
Martinsburg-Berkeley County Public Library
Parkersburg-Wood County Public Library
Raleigh County Public Library, Beckley
Clarksburg-Harrison County Public Library
Mary H. Weir Public Library, Weirton
West Virginia University at Morgantown

South Charleston Public Library
Summersville Public Library
White Sulphur Springs Public Library
Glenville State College
Upshur County Public Library
Bluefield State College
(Other locations to be announced)

The College of Library and Information Science is widely recognized for its leadership and expertise in the delivery of courses through telecommunications technology. The College's televised instruction, begun in South Carolina in 1982, was expanded to cohorts of students in West Virginia and in Georgia in 1992, and in Maine in 1994. These endeavors have been highly successful and have helped to fill the growing need for library and information science professionals in these states.

The University of South Carolina's MLIS program is accredited by the American Library Association Committee on Accreditation and meets the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) standards for teacher education programs. The MLIS program in West Virginia has the approval of the University System of West Virginia and the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education and the support of the West Virginia Library Commission and West Virginia University.

Please call 800-277-2035 for further information and application materials, or visit our Home Page at <http://www.libsci.sc.edu>. We look forward to hearing from you.

LIBRARIES

1997 West Virginia Library Association Conference

Conference Programming Preliminary Schedule*

Thursday, October 16

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Conference Registration
Noon - 5:00 p.m.	Exhibits Open (Light Refreshments Available)
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	First General Session WVLA Business Meeting Speaker: Kaycee Hale, Motivation Expert
2:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Visit with Vendors (Beverages Available)
3:00 p.m. - 3:50 p.m.	Breakout Sessions
4:00 p.m. - 4:50 p.m.	Breakout Sessions
5:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Roundtable Business Meetings
<i>Dinner on your own</i>	
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Reception. Meet David Price, new Executive Secretary of the WV Library Commission

Friday, October 17

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Conference Registration
8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	WVLA Past Presidents' Breakfast (By invitation only)
8:30 a.m. - 9:20 a.m.	Breakout Sessions, including a session with Kaycee Hale
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Exhibits Open
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Visit with Vendors (Refreshments Available)
10:00 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.	Breakout Sessions
11:00 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.	Breakout Sessions, including (tentatively) author Richard Curry
Noon - 1:15 p.m.	Division Business Lunches (Box lunches to be taken to meeting rooms)
1:30 p.m. - 2:20 p.m.	Breakout Sessions, including (tentatively) Gordon Simmons' presentation of new WV books
2:30 p.m. - 3:20 p.m.	Breakout Sessions, including (tentatively) a panel discussion on Internet censorship; speakers will include ALA President Barbara J. Ford
3:15 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.	Refreshment Break
3:30 p.m. - 4:20 p.m.	Breakout Sessions
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	President's Reception. Meet ALA President Barbara J. Ford
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Second General Session and Awards Banquet

Saturday, October 18

8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Conference Registration
8:30 a.m. - 9:20 a.m.	Breakout Sessions
9:30 a.m. - 10:20 a.m.	Breakout Sessions
10:30 a.m. - 11:20 a.m.	Breakout Sessions
11:30 a.m. - 12:20 p.m.	Third General business Session - State of the Library Commission
12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Incoming and Outgoing Executive Board Luncheon

* Preliminary Schedule. For changes and updates, check WVLA's temporary website at: <http://cabell.lib.wv.us/wvla>

.....ARE US!!

October 16-18 Flatwoods, West Virginia

The following programs are in the works but have not yet been assigned a time on the schedule:

- Disaster preparedness (Academic Division)
- Security Issues (Public Division)
- Stress Management
- Christian/Religious Adult Fiction
- CD-ROMs (Automation Roundtable)
- A return visit by Phyllis Moore (remember the Piwash?)
- InfoMines
- HTML authoring
- State funding report
- Trustees Workshop (Friday)
- Developing a Serials Research Web Site
- Contemporary Children's Literature (Cheryl Harshman's at it again!)
- WV Historical Records (Special Libraries)
- Automation programming from Palinet

Conference Exhibitors

Preliminary List

- Book on Tape
- Follett Software Co.
- Library Design & equipment
- Access Systems
- SIRS, Inc.
- Newsbank Inc./Readex
- Chelsea House/Raintree Steck Vaughn
- 3M Safety & Security Division
- EBSCO Information Services
- Grolier Publishing Co.
- Renaissance Book Co.
- W.T. Cox Subscriptions
- Baker & Taylor
- Quality Books
- Marshall Cavendish
- Palinet
- McMillan Library Reference
- Winnebago Software
- VTLS
- Inspirational Book Distributors
- Nichols Advanced Technologies
- Penworthy
- The Library Corporation

Stump the Documents Librarian!

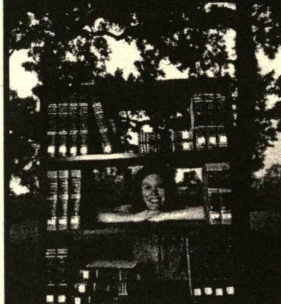
Now is your chance to have documents librarians find the answers to all kinds of government-related questions. Whether your queries concern local, state, national, or international issues, the WVLA Government Documents Roundtable (GODORT) is prepared to come through with complete answers.

This year's Government documents session at the annual Conference in Flatwoods will be based on input from WVLA members across the state. We invite you to submit any and all reference questions that you feel could be answered by government information.

Members of the WVLA GODORT will prepare answers to your queries using both print and electronic sources and tell you how they got them and give tips on successful searching.

Please send your questions to: Ann W. Henriksson, Scarborough Library, Shepherd College, Shepherdstown, WV 25443. E-mail: Awhenrik@shepherd.wvnet.edu. Phone: (304) 876-5412. Fax: (304)876-0731.

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AJJ

Anatomy of a Disaster

Danny McMillion
Director, Raleigh County PL

June 1-8 was Hell Week at the library. We closed for cleaning that week. By Friday evening the library was looking pretty spiffy. All that was needed was the carpet cleaned and the cleaners were coming on Saturday.

The carpet cleaners had just left when the janitor noticed a funny sound coming from a closet. A four-inch water main had broken and was dumping thousands of gallons of water a minute behind a concrete wall. We had inches of water in every room. I called a plumber, and then called the water company who said, "Sounds like you have a problem, but it is your problem. Call a plumber."

By that time the fire alarms were going off because water pressure to the sprinkler system had dropped. The plumber plunged through a secured door and the security alarm was screaming. The fire department arrived with bells clanging. Finding the key to the security system required a mad search through a box of keys.

The fire department captain called the water company to come cut off the main under the street. The plumber came rushing in telling me that the sump pump was overloaded. Water is six inches deep; what's a poor sump pump to do? I'm getting supplies, computers, telephone wires, books, financial records, up out of the water. I yell at the janitor to call the SWVLAC computer person to get over here fast.

The fire department guys were wonderful. They brought machines and sucked up the water. Lisa Brooks, the library secretary, notified the media of our emergency and people showed up with wet/dry vacs. At 2 a.m. the water was all out, the fans were going. The SWVLAC computer was down, but Hewlett Packard assured us that if the machine stayed down until it dried, it would be OK. The sump pump was working, the main was shut off. I went home.

I went back at 7 a.m. to check on things. In the night, the sump pump had quit working and everything was flooded again. It took fourteen long, hard hours to clean the mess up the second time. We hired a man to baby-sit the sump pump Sunday night.

The library's lawyer was not sure any of this was covered by insurance. We have no

idea when there will be water in the library again.

Sunday night after everyone left my assistant, Judy Prince, and I were sitting in the office going over the day's events, when I heard a watery, burbling sound. We searched the whole building, expecting an avalanche of mud and water each time we opened a door. We finally realized that the sound was coming from Judy's computer screen saver.

Update: The insurance did not pay the \$21,00 for the repair of the water pipes. Two weeks later, lightning hit the library knocking out power for 12 hours and trashing three bar code scanners. We still haven't got the bar code scanners back.

You know, I'm ready for a little dull and boring....



Two New Databases are Available on FirstSearch

OCLC Union Lists of Periodicals database shows holding for over 7 million journals and other covered items among OCLC member libraries. It can help you determine if a library holds a specific journal issue. The database is updated semiannually.

H.W. Wilson Select Full Text contains indexed and abstracted articles from over 430 periodicals, all with ASCII full-text on-line. The database is comprised of records from the following H.W. Wilson databases: *Readers' Guide Abstracts*, *Social Sciences Abstracts*, *Humanities Abstracts*, *General Science Abstracts*, and *Wilson Business Abstracts*. The dates of coverage begin January 1994 and continue to the present. Please note that each periodical can begin on a different month and year.

The Library Commission manages a pool of *FirstSearch* searches for the state's libraries. Any type of library - public, academic, school, or special - can become a part of the pool by signing an agreement stating that the library will reimburse the Commission for searches used. For the 1996-

97 subscription year, charges were 55 cents per search. Contact Karen Goff at the Commission for further information: phone (304) 558-2045, or e-mail goffk@wvlc.wvnet.edu.



Summer Reading in Full Swing

Suzette Lowe
Roane County PL

(Eds. Note: The following article, which appeared in the *Times Record/Roane Co. Reporter* June 26, 1997, is an example of summer reading activities in libraries all over West Virginia. It is used with permission.)

If you've been around 71 great kids, heard a great storyteller, played great games, then you've been to the summer reading program at Roane County Library.

On Thursday, June 19, we had our first program of "Spin a Yarn, Spin a Tale." Wanda Lou McInturff was our hostess and, as always, our resident storyteller. She held the kids who came in the palm of her hand. When I asked one little girl if she thought Wanda Lou was a wonderful teller of tales, her eyes got really big and she said, "Oh, yes!" That made my day.

Something else that made my day was seeing all the kids checking out hundreds of books and being excited about reading. We put out a special display of books. Within an hour, that display was practically empty.

For the third year, we've had foster grandmas help us with the program. Seeing the kids talking to them, and sometimes being hugged by them, is a pretty nice sight. Velma Pursley, Pauline Miller, and Faye Edgill are very important parts of our program.

Other important parts of our program - and without whose help we couldn't have the summer reading program - are all the businesses and individuals who have given us prizes and money. Our sincere appreciation goes out to all these supporters. We have over 130 registered for the program.

Caveat Lector; Let the Reader Beware; evaluating websites for library bookmarks.

Shirley A. Smith

The past six months have seen a phenomenal reorganization and fine-tuning of data on the Internet. Those who cry that the Internet is a hopeless jumble of information are those who probably haven't ever taken the time to learn basic reference/research techniques, and who would probably be lost in a library, too.

With organization comes evaluation - the same process librarians are accustomed to doing. Some libraries supply Internet directories on their home pages with bookmarks that consist of reviewed sites [SEE Berkeley Public Library at: <http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/InternetIndex> for an outstanding example.]

The ease of constructing Web documents results in information of a wide range of quality. Most print materials, books, periodicals, indices, and databases, come to the library already evaluated to a large extent. Internet materials, for the most part, have not gone through a review process, so evaluation is necessary. This process needs to be guided by a policy with stated criteria.

The basic book selection principles still apply: authorship, publishing body, point of view or bias, accuracy, timeliness. But in evaluating websites, one must also consider access, design, and content. The criteria for these, detailed below, are taken from Carolyn Caywood's article, "Library Selection Criteria for WWW Resources." [<http://ww6.pilot.infi.net/~carolyn/criteria.html>]

ACCESS

- Is the site still usable with an ASCII browser like Lynx?
- Is it written in standard html, or have proprietary extensions been used?
- Does it use standard multimedia formats?
- Do parts of it take too long to load?
- Is it usually possible to reach the site, or is it overloaded?
- Is it stable, or has the URL changed?
- Is it open to everyone on the Internet, or do parts require fees?
- If there is a charge, can the library pay on a subscription basis for multiple access points?
- Are any rules for use stated up front?

DESIGN

- Are the individual Web pages concise, or do you have to scroll forever?
- Do essential instructions appear *before* links and interactive portions?
- Do all the parts work?
- Is using the site intuitive, or are parts likely to be misunderstood?
- Can you find your way around and easily locate a particular page from any other page?
- Is the structure stable, or do features disappear between visits?
- Does it look and feel friendly?
- Is it conceptually exciting? Does it do more than can be done with print?
- Are interactions secured if they involve private information?
- If Java or ActiveX, extensions like frames, or plug-ins are employed, do they actually made the site easier to use? How do they affect users with older browsers?

CONTENT

- Is the scope clearly stated? Are its limits stated? Is the title informative? Does the content fit the scope?
- Are headings clear and descriptive, or do they use jargon meaningful only to the creator?
- Is text well-written with acceptable grammar and spelling? What is the quality of multimedia files?
- Is the content organized by the needs of the user, or does it reflect an internal hierarchy?
- Is it a dead end, or are there links to take you further?
- Are the content and the links clearly described and suitable to the expected audience?
- Is the content up-to-date? Are out-of-date links promptly corrected?
- Is the content amplified over time, or is one visit all it's worth?
- Is the origin of the content documented? Is it authoritative? Is it verifiable? Is it accurate?
- Is it clear who is responsible for the site?
- Are biases and opinions clearly identified? Is there any conflict of interest?
- Is the content unique, or readily available elsewhere? Has copyright been respected?
- Is there community interest in the content or the site itself? Are there reviews of the site?
- Is the amount of bandwidth commensurate with the usefulness of the content, or are graphics or multimedia included simply to show off?
- An example of a comprehensive Internet collection development policy from OCLC for their NetFirst database is available at <http://www.netfirst.ac.uk/mission.html>. It is interesting to note in their policy that personal home pages are not included.

For an extensive webography and bibliography on evaluating Internet resources, see Nicole Auer's excellent paper at <http://refserv.lib.vt.edu/libinst/critTHINK.HTM>. This current and inclusive resource, with links to cited works, also includes a list of pertinent listservs. Another resource that has links to evaluating search engines, URLs, subject lists, webpages, Internet citation guide, and annotated webography and bibliography is "Evaluating Information on the Internet" at <http://www.udmercy.edu/htmls/Academics/library/evaluati>.

NEWS

Commissioners Reappointed.

Governor Underwood reappointed the three Library Commissioners whose terms expired June 30, 1997. Duke Horstemeyer of Weirton (First Congressional District), Alan Gould of Huntington (Third Congressional District), and Charles Pace of Princeton (Third congressional District) were all reappointed to four year terms. At the July Commission meeting in Beckley, Duke Horstemeyer was elected Chair of the Commission for the coming year; Sarah Drennen was elected Vice-Chair.

\$1 Million Estate to Be Shared by Colleges.

The late Helen P. Elbin has left an estate of nearly \$1 million to be shared equally by West Liberty State College and Bethany College. Her husband, Dr. Paul N. Elbin, who died in 1985, was president of West Liberty State from 1935 until 1971. The library at West Liberty is named for him. An endowment fund has been formed to administer West Liberty's portion of the bequest. Interest earned from the gift will be used to enhance the college library, Bethany College has established a scholarship for religious education with its portion. The scholarship will be named for Mrs. Elbin's parents, Willis and Margaret Pierce.

Cabell Co. Library at the Race-track.

As part of its ongoing efforts to make the community aware of the library, the Cabell County library managed to get the library logo on a mini-cup race car driven by Shelly Morgan at the Ona Speedway. After several victories, the car unfortunately was pulled for safety reasons. That wasn't the end of Cabell's appearance at the Speedway though. The logo is now proudly displayed on a modified stock car driven by Gary Chapman. This is a great example of taking the library to the community.

Statistical Report on the Web.

The Library Commission's annual Statistical Report is now available on the Commission's home page (<http://www.wvlc.wvnet.org>). The report contains summaries of library support and use, a service and financial analyses of public libraries, and directories of the state's public, academic, and special libraries. Print copies were mailed to the public libraries and are available on request from the Commission.

Oglebay Institute Receives Rare Book.

Through the generosity of an Ohio Valley resident, Oglebay Institute Mansion Museum has received the original text of the second book ever published in Wheeling. The book, titled in part, *A Narrative of the Introduction and Progress of Christianity in Scotland before the Reformation...*, was printed in Wheeling in September 1809 by Alexander Armstrong. Armstrong also printed the first book ever printed in Wheeling two years previously. For more information, contact Holly McCluskey, curator of the Oglebay Institute Mansion Museum, at 304-242-7272.

Gates Foundation Website.

Microsoft founder, Bill Gates, and his wife have announced the formation of the Gates Library Foundation. The foundation will provide \$400 million in cash and software to public libraries in low-income communities to support Internet access and to provide support and training for librarians and library staff throughout the U.S. and Canada. For more information, see the foundation's website at <http://www.glf.org>, or contact Chris Hedrick, program director, at 425-882-1200 or e-mail: ubi@glf.org.

Budget Digest Released.

Details of the 1997 Legislative Digest were listed in an article in the July 4, 1997 *Charleston Gazette*. The approved digest allocates \$25.5 million to a variety of projects. Special library projects around the state were designated for \$500,000 of this money. A complete list of the projects is given in the article.

People

Charley Hively, poet-librarian at the Clarksburg-Harrison County PL, won First Prize in the Poetry Collections Division at the WV Writers Annual Writing Competition in June. The title of the winning collection is "Looking Into the Dark."

Ison White, Jr., in a note to the Terra Alta PL staff, thanked them for their very special surprise farewell on the occasion of his leaving the Board after 13 years of service. He complimented staff for their courtesy, friendliness, and knowledge.

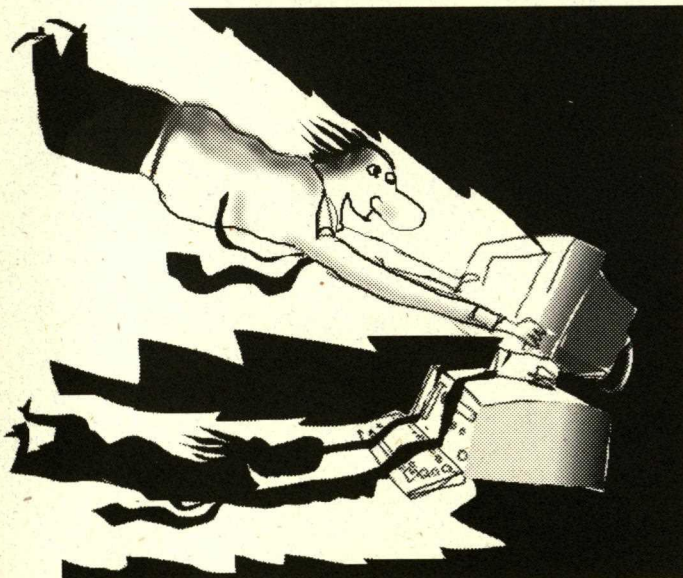
Dale Loy, Chair of the WVLA Trustee Division, was honored by the Cabell County PL in June as Volunteer of the Month. He has served on the Cabell board for 12 years. Loy believes that this is an exciting time for libraries given the advances in technology and information sources. "In the future," he predicts, "we won't recognize libraries as they exist today."

Ma Lei Hsieh, Documents Librarian at the Library Commission since 1988, resigned in June to accept a position, along with her husband, with Mitsubishi. They will live in Japan for a year before relocating to California. The WVLA Government Documents Roundtable honored Ma Lei with a resolution recognizing her contributions to document librarianship. GODORT and West Virginia will miss Ma Lei.

Roderick Lee is the new director of the Wyoming County Library System. A native of Murrells Inlet, SC, Lee assumed his new position June 2. Lee studied library management at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, and holds a Master's in Public Administration from Western Kentucky University. In an interview in the *Mullens Advocate*, Lee listed three important roles for a community library: a source for recreational reading; an information center where people can find what they need; and a link to the larger world.

Keith White of Chapmanville has been named director of the Logan Area Public Library. This unique school/public library is scheduled for opening before the beginning of the current school year. White has previous experience as a housing counselor, media consultant/system analyst at TV/radio stations, and office manager for the Logan County Commission.

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Calendar

AUGUST

- 1-7 Simplify Your Life Week
- 11 Library Commission Board Meeting, Charleston
- 21 WVLA Ballots Mailed to Members

SEPTEMBER

- Library Card sign-Up Month*
- 12 WVLA Executive Board Meeting, Pipestem
 - 15 Deadline for copy for October issue of *WV Libraries*
 - 16 WVLA Ballots Must be Received by Tellers
 - 27 Special Statewide election - Modern Investment Management Amendment

OCTOBER

- Medical Librarians Month*
- 2-5 National Storytelling Festival, Jonesborough, TN
 - 16-18 WVLA Annual Conference, Flatwoods "Libraries Are Us"

WVLA

October issue
will feature School Division
Issues and Activities



Eds.Note: Conference information and the unexpected, but welcome, addition of two full-page ads required us to postpone an "issue focus" on trustees. Space is being reserved in the October *West Virginia Libraries* for trustee issues and activities.

WVLA Membership Information

To become a member of the West Virginia Library Association, contact:

Betty Gunnoe, Martinsburg-Berkeley County Public Library, 101 W. King Street, Martinsburg, WV 25401.
Phone: 304--267-8933, or email: gunnoeb@mars.wvlc.wvnet.edu

WV Libraries

A Note from the Editors

WV Libraries welcomes suggestions for articles from librarians, support staff, trustees, and friends.

Articles may be submitted in writing, typewritten, by e-mail, or on computer disk. If submitting material on computer disk, please use 3 1/2" disk and save your file to disk as an *ASCII file* and submit a hard copy (printout) of the material on the disk.

Article Submission Schedule:

March 15 for April issue

May 15 for June issue

July 15 for August issue

September 15 for October issue

November 15 for December issue



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