

FAST FORWARD: Science, Technology and the Communications Revolution

GUIDELINES AND APPLICATION

Postmark deadline: January 14, 2000

A viewing, reading and discussion project for libraries from National Video Resources (NVR) in collaboration with the American Library Association (ALA) Public Programs Office and funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In what may have been his most quoted editorial, Henry Luce once labeled the 20th century as "The American Century." In some ways it is better described as "The Communications Century." Definitions of information, entertainment, and public opinion have been almost totally transformed as a result of serial shifts in the speed and form of travel and mass communications. Radio, motion pictures, television, computers, and the Internet are deeply imbedded within the patterns of daily life, as are those radical changes over physical movement made possible by the automobile.

The *Fast Forward* demonstration project offers 50 libraries the opportunity and resources to present a series of programs around these themes. The programs will consist of screenings of award-winning documentary films, supported by scholar-led discussion and extensive suggested reading lists.

Six individual sessions will include films and discussion of the automobile, telephone, radio, television, movies, and the enormous changes brought by computers and the Internet. Films under consideration include *Bigger, Better, Faster; Triumph of the Nerds*; and *Empire of the Air*.

Lead scholars for *Fast Forward* are Neil Harris, Preston and Sterling Morton Professor of History at the University of Chicago, and Robert Kargon, Chairman, Department of History of Science, Johns Hopkins University.

WHAT WILL THE 50 PARTICIPATING LIBRARIES RECEIVE?

Attendance by a two-person team—a library staff person and a local scholar—at a one-and-a-half day national training seminar to be held at two different times and locations (see Application Form).

Subsidized meals, one night's lodging and travel expenses up to \$200 per person to the training seminar.

A total of \$1,000 to pay honoraria for local scholars to present the series at the local library.

A full set of the videocassettes for the series that the library may keep for its circulating collection after the program.

Support print materials: a programmer's manual; a supply of participants' booklets, which include introductory essays and bibliographies for each program; and publicity materials, including posters, ad mats, and other promotional aids.

National publicity for the series as well as a list of potential local cosponsors.

WHAT WILL BE EXPECTED OF PARTICIPATING LIBRARIES?

A meeting place with video projection capability, or a VCR and monitor/s.
Staff time to plan and implement the series.
Endorsement by the library director or supervisor by signature on the application form.
A brief evaluation in writing at the conclusion of the project.
Local promotion of the series.
A commitment to bring quality programming to out-of-school adults.
Identification of a local partnership organizations such as local government or businesses.

WHAT WILL BE EXPECTED OF THE SCHOLAR?

Cooperation with the programmer in planning the library's individual series.
Introduction to six *Fast Forward* library programs and facilitating group discussions.
Attendance at the national training seminar.
Advanced degree in an appropriate discipline in the sciences or the history of science and technology, and experience in teaching the out-of-school adult.

WHAT WILL THE SELECTION COMMITTEE LOOK FOR IN CHOOSING THE 50 SITES?

A regional, geographic mix.
A mixture of urban, suburban and rural libraries experienced in library programming and those new to programming.
Targeted audiences and a good plan for reaching them.
Enthusiasm for using film as a basis for library programming.
Support from a state agency (state library, state library association or Center for the Book), library administration and the community. (A letter of support from any of these groups is encouraged.)

Final selection of the 50 libraries will be made by a committee of project staff and advisors, with the assistance of the American Library Association Public Programs Office.

LIBRARY SITE APPLICATION
POSTMARK DEADLINE: JANUARY 14, 2000

(Please print or type the following information. Submit the application and attachments in duplicates of four.)

Part I: Library Information

Name of Library:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

Phone/Fax:

Library homepage:

Size of library's service population:

ALA organizational number:

Part II: Library Coordinator Information

Name:

Title:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

Daytime Phone/Fax:

E-mail:

ALA member number:

Part III: Scholar

Name:

Title:

Place of Employment:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

E-mail:

Part IV: Statement

Please submit a typed statement (1 to 2 pages maximum in duplicates of four) addressing the following questions. The statement should be developed jointly with

the local scholar and be as specific as possible. Please attach vitas for the librarian and scholar in duplicates of four.

- Why should your library be a site for the project?
- What is the target audience you would like to reach with the series?
- What is your library's experience with public programming?
- How do you plan to publicize the series?
- What community partners do you plan to involve in the project?

Please attach any letters of support from community/library supporters for the series.

Part V: Training

Two training seminars will be held for *Fast Forward*. We will make an effort to ensure first choices, but cannot guarantee. Please indicate your preference of date and location:

___ April 2000 (West Coast workshop) ___ October 2000 (Midwest workshop)

Signature:
(Library Programmer)

Date:

Signature:
(Library Director or Supervisor)

Date:

Signature:
(Scholar)

Date:

Please submit your application and attachments in duplicates of four to: National Video Resources, 73 Spring St., Suite 606, New York, NY 10012. **Postmark deadline: January 14, 2000**

For further information or assistance call, National Video Resources (312) 491-0844. E-mail: sallymaro@aol.com. Or Pamela Goodes, ALA Public Programs, 312-280-5055. E-mail: pgoodes@ala.org.

Fast Forward is a project of National Video Resources and the National Science Foundation in collaboration with the American Library Association Public Programs Office.