ALA PUBLIC PROGRAMS OFFICE
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FAST FORWARD:
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND THE COMMUNICATIONS REVOLUTION

Fast Forward: Science, Technology and the Communications Revolution uses documentary films and texts to involve the public in a study of the impact of science and technology in the 20th century.

The program focuses on the rapid introduction of new communication technologies in the 20th century and on how major technological innovations have impacted on our work and home lives: radio, film, television, the computer and the internet. Participants will engage in discussion on how American society stimulated and encouraged technical change in communications and how these changes altered social, political, and economic patterns.

Fast Forward is organized by National Video Resources (NVR) in partnership with the American Library Association (ALA) Public Programs Office and funded by grants to NVR from the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation with additional support from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). It is the latest of NVR's library projects in an effort to enhance and augment the use of media in libraries.

The project is directed by Sally Mason-Robinson, director of library projects for NVR. Neil Harris, Preston and Sterling Morton Professor of History at the University of Chicago, and Robert Kargon, chairman of the Department of History of Science at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md., serve as lead project scholars.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE
Fast Forward will offer a total of 50 libraries a set series of curated films and accompanying written materials to present over the course of six weeks for programs in fall 2000 and spring 2001. The first 20 libraries have been selected (see attached list).The programs will be led by local university scholars with an expertise in the history of science and technology.

A typical two-hour program consists of introductory remarks by the scholar providing context for that week's subject, the presentation of the film (about one hour), and then the group discussion. In libraries with larger audiences, additional discussion leaders will be recruited to lead smaller groups, using questions developed by the scholar. In these cases, the scholar may move from group to group to answer questions and provide information. At the end of the session, the scholar will summarize the major points of the film and discussion and will direct participants toward suggested readings for the next session.

FAST FORWARD – GROUP TWO PILOT SITES

Athens (Ga.)-Clarke County Library
Baldwin Public Library, Birmingham, Mich.
Blake Library/Martin County Library System, Stuart, Fla.
Boulder (Colo.) Public Library
Brighton (Mich.) District Library
Gerritsen Beach Branch, Brooklyn (N.Y.) Public Library
Kings Bay Branch, Brooklyn (N.Y.) Public Library
Central Arkansas Library System, Little Rock
East Baton Rouge (La.) Parish Library
Howard County Library, Columbia, Md.
Iowa City Public Library
Jefferson Parish Public Library System, Metairie, La.
Kirn Memorial Library, Norfolk, Va.
Mahopac (N.Y.) Public Library
Maywood University Library, Scranton, Pa.
McDonald County Library, Pineville, Mo.
Mead Public Library, Sheboygan, Wis.
Monroe County Public Library, Bloomington, Ind.
Museum of Broadcast Communication, Chicago
Newport News (Va.) Public Library System
Oak Park (Ill.) Public Library
Oudens Memorial Library, Manchester, N.H.
L.E. R. Schimelpfenig Library, Plano, Texas
Poughkeepsie (N.Y.) Public Library
The Queens Borough Public Library, Jamaica, N.Y.
Racine (Wis.) Public Library
Sachem Public Library, Holbrook, N.Y.
Santa Cruz (Calif.) Public Libraries
Southwest Georgia Regional Library, Bainbridge, Ga.
Wilbraham (Mass.) Public Library