

## ALA Public Programs

### News Release

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#### ALA to participate in science & technology national viewing and discussion series

The American Library Association (ALA) and National Video Resources (NVR) will partner on a national viewing and discussion series for libraries on the impact of science and technology in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. "Fast Forward: Science, Technology and the Communications Revolution" is funded by a grant to NVR from the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Public libraries throughout the country are eligible to apply to participate in the pilot phase of the project. A total of 50 public libraries will be selected. Twenty-five libraries will host programs in fall 2000 and another 25 in spring 2001. **The deadline for applications is January 14, 2000.**

"The success of NVR's first library-based film/discussion program 'From Rosie to Roosevelt: A Film History of Americans in WWII' underscores the drawing power of film and the public hunger for substantive discussion around resonant historical events and issues," said Tim Gunn, NVR executive director. "We expect 'Fast Forward' to be equally very well-attended and well-received."

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“Fast Forward” grant funds will underwrite a package of videocassettes and related materials that will encourage participants to examine the hopes and anxieties associated with this century’s revolutions in movement, communications and knowledge. The programs will take place over the course of six weeks and will be led by local university scholars with an expertise in the history of science and technology. Discussion themes will cover such subjects as television, radio, movies, the automobile, the telephone, the computer and the Internet.

Selected libraries will be invited to send two-person teams of a library programmer and a local scholar to one of two two-day national training workshops to be held in April and October 2000. In addition to sessions on planning and implementing the series, participants will discuss the effective use of film in public programming.

Project scholars are 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. Sally Mason-Robinson, director of library projects for NVR, will direct the project. The ALA Public Programs Office will provide promotion and administrative support.

NVR, based in New York City, was established by the Rockefeller Foundation in 1990 to increase public use and awareness of independent film and video. NVR became administratively independent of the Foundation in 1992. “Fast Forward” is the latest of NVR’s library projects. In a number of successful projects, including “From Rosie to Roosevelt,” NVR has worked to enhance and augment the use of media in libraries.

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Other NVR projects include the “Video Education for Librarians Project,” a one-week institute for library educators and academics titled “Video, CD-ROM and Beyond: Visual Media and the Library of the Future,” and “VideoForum,” a series of publications that include a list of curated films in specific subject areas, essays by experts in the field, and additional resources to encourage public programming using independent media.

For more information and an application, visit the ALA Public Programs Office or NVR Web sites – [www.ala.org/publicprograms](http://www.ala.org/publicprograms) or [www.nvr.org](http://www.nvr.org). Applications are also available from ALA Public Programs at 312-280-5055. E-mail: [pgoodes@ala.org](mailto:pgoodes@ala.org). Prospective applicants also may request a faxed application by calling NVR at 212-274-8080. E-mail: [nvrinfo@nvr.org](mailto:nvrinfo@nvr.org).