

For Immediate Release
March 2000

ALA Public Programs
News Release
Contact:ALA Public Programs
312-280-5055
pgoodes@ala.org

Libraries selected for “Fast Forward” viewing/reading/discussion series

Twenty libraries (see attached) have been selected nationwide to participate in the pilot “Fast Forward: Science, Technology and the Communications Revolution” viewing, reading and discussion series. The project is organized by National Video Resources (NVR) in partnership with the American Library Association (ALA) Public Programs Office and funded by the National Science Foundation and the Albert P. Sloan Foundation.

“Fast Forward” uses documentary films to involve the public in a study of the impact of science and technology in the 20th century. The project encourages participants to examine the hopes and anxieties associated with revolutions in movement, communications and knowledge.

A total of 50 libraries will host programs in fall 2000 and spring 2001. The programs will take place over the course of six weeks and will be led by local university scholars with expertise in the history of science and technology. Discussion themes will cover such subjects as television, radio, movies, the telephone, the computer and the Internet.

- more -

Libraries selected for “Fast Forward” viewing/reading/discussion series – add one

Two-person teams of a library programmer and a local scholar will attend the first two-day national training workshop, April 15 and 16, in San Diego. Another group of librarians and scholars will participate in a second training workshop in October in Raleigh, N.C. In addition to sessions on planning and implementing the series, participants will discuss the effective use of film in public programming.

Grant funds will underwrite a package of videocassettes and related materials. In addition, participating libraries will receive the 12-volume Sloan Foundation Technology Book Series.

Project scholars are Neil Harris, Preston and Sterling Morton Professor of History, University of Chicago, and Robert Kargon, chairman of the Department of the History of Science at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md. Sally Mason-Robinson, NVR director of library projects, will direct the project.

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.

For more information, visit the ALA Public Programs Office or NVR Web sites – www.ala.org/publicprograms or www.nvr.org. Contact Pamela Goodes, ALA Public Programs Office, 312-280-5055. E-mail: pgoodes@ala.org, or Sally Mason-Robinson, NVR, at 312-491-0844. E-mail: sallymaro@aol.com.

FAST FORWARD – GROUP ONE SELECTED SITES

Burlingame (Calif.) Public Library

San Diego Public Library

Preston (Conn.) Public Library

Chenoa (Ill.) High School Media Center

Danville (Ill.) Public Library

Lisle (Ill.) Library District

Skokie (Ill.) Public Library

Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Public Library

Kirkwood (Mo.) Public Library

Ridgedale Area Library, Minnetonka, Minn.

Lewis and Clark Library, Helena, Mont.

Taos (N.M.) Public Library

State Library of North Carolina, Raleigh

Angelo State University, Preston Henderson Library, San Angelo, Texas

Texarkana (Texas) Public Library

Brigham City (Utah) Library

Utah Valley State College, Orem

Loudoun County Public Library, Leesburg, Va.

North Olympic Library System, Port Angeles, Wash.

Laramie (Wy.) County Library System