

# EMPOWERMENT

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Newsletter of the American Library Association,  
Office for Library Outreach Services

## ALA and Bell Atlantic Award Grants for Family Literacy Projects

Twenty-six libraries in the Mid-Atlantic region, served by the Bell Atlantic Corporation, were awarded \$5,000 grants to develop or enhance library-based family literacy projects.

The Bell Atlantic/ALA Family Literacy Project, established in 1989 is funded by the Bell Atlantic Charitable Foundation and administered by the ALA's Office for Library Outreach Services (OLOS). The project encourages the cooperation of librarians, literacy providers, social services agencies, and Bell Atlantic corporate representatives in improving the reading skills of families within their local communities. The project is designed to create a network of libraries providing family literacy programs and to encourage the development of similar programs nationwide.

A diverse group of large urban libraries, small rural libraries, new programs, and existing projects received funding to establish one-year demonstration projects. Training was also provided for librarians, the cooperating agency personnel, and the Bell Atlantic representatives.

As part of the grant, ALA has established a Clearinghouse for sharing family literacy resources and project results with libraries in other communities, the general public, and the media. The Clearinghouse includes training materials and literacy publications. In addition, a manual describing the Bell Atlantic/ALA library-based family literacy projects will be published by ALA and should be available in Spring, 1991.

For additional information contact Margaret Monsour, Project Director, Bell Atlantic/ALA Family Literacy Project, c/o OLOS, 50 E. Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611. ◆

*Editor's note:* Descriptions of the Bell Atlantic/ALA Family Literacy Project grant recipients are included in this newsletter.

### In This Issue:

ALA Minority Fellow Announced	2
Bell Atlantic/ALA Family Literacy Grant Recipients	3
ALA Funding Available for Literacy (LITA)	6
UCLA's <i>Transition into Management</i> Program	7
Library Education Addressing Societal Needs	7

## Calvert Heads West Virginia Adult Literacy Coalition

Librarian Donna Calvert, Direct Services Consultant and Literacy Advisor for the West Virginia Library Commission, was elected chair of the West Virginia Adult Literacy Coalition (WVALC). Calvert, an active promoter of library involvement in literacy education, is the first librarian and first woman to head the state-wide literacy organization. Under Calvert's leadership, the WVALC recently revised its goals and bylaws; the Coalition's membership now includes all organizations and individuals concerned with adult literacy services in the state.

In the summer of 1990, the WVALC moved into a new office and now shares resources, the toll free number and staff, with Literacy Volunteers of West Virginia, Laubach Literacy Volunteers of West Virginia, and GED on TV. The shared office space provides a facility for all organizations concerned improving services for tutors and students.

For additional information about WVALC and library-based literacy programs in West Virginia, contact Donna Calvert, West Virginia Library Commission, Charleston, West Virginia 25305. ◆

### ALA Minority Fellow for 1990/91 Announced

Robin Kickingbird has been selected as the first American Library Association (ALA) Minority Fellow. The Fellowship program is designed to develop a cadre of minority librarian leaders by providing opportunities for minority librarians to gain an in-depth understanding of association management and national professional issues. The appointment begins September 1, 1990 and ends August 31, 1991.

Kickingbird, currently an archivist at the Oklahoma Historical Society, has worked with the Kiowa (Oklahoma), Chickasaw, and the Delaware tribal complexes advising on the preservation of tribal records and archives. She also has been a public service librarian in the Metropolitan Library System of Oklahoma City.

As part of the one-year fellowship appointment, Kickingbird will work at ALA Headquarters in Chicago in the Library Administration and Management Association (LAMA) offices. She also will work closely with the Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Associations (ASCLA).

"I plan to use the experience I gain in association management to build a Native American tribal library association," said Kickingbird. "I believe my personal involvement to organize existing tribal libraries and staff will serve as a catalyst to bring more native Americans into the ranks of professional libraries."

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*Robin Kickingbird*

Kickingbird received her bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma in Chickasha, and her master's degree and certificate of advanced study in library and information science from the University of Oklahoma, Norman.

The ALA Minority Fellowship Advisory Board provides oversight for the program and is chaired by Maureen Sullivan, head of personnel services, Yale University Libraries, New

Haven, Conn. Other advisory board members are: Gloria J. Coles, director, Flint (Mich.) Public Library; Yolanda Cuesta, chief of library development services, California State Library; Robert D. Stueart, dean of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Simmons College, Boston, Mass.; Sibyl E. Moses, director, ALA Office for Library Outreach Services; Margaret Myers, director, ALA Office for Library Personnel Resources; Marla Powers-Gibson, ALA director of human resources; and Susan Roman, executive director, Association for Library Service to Children.

The ALA Minority Fellowship Program is coordinated by the Office for Library Outreach Services (OLOS). ●

#### Publication to Note:

Humes, Barbara A. and Carol Cameron. *Library Literacy Program: Analysis of Funded Projects, 1989*. Washington D.C.: U. S. Dept. of Education, OERI, August, 1990. 59p., tables.

Discusses developments in library involvement in literacy education based on a review 214 library-based literacy projects in 47 states. Name of library, location, project director, amount of grant, and a summary of activities are presented.

To request single copies of the publication, contact Library Programs, OERI, U.S. Department of Education, 555 New Jersey Avenue N.W., Washington D.C. 20208-5571. ●

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Editorial contributions, articles, news releases should be sent to OLOS, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.

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## Bell Atlantic/ALA Family Literacy Project Grant Recipients

The twenty-five library-based family literacy projects described below are funded by the Bell Atlantic/ALA Family Literacy Project. The project is administered by the ALA Office for Library Outreach Services (OLOS). OLOS promotes the provision of library services to the urban and rural poor and encourages libraries to develop services to meet the needs of non-readers. Librarians are encouraged to contact the Bell Atlantic/ALA Family Literacy Project participants for ideas on developing and implementing library-based family literacy projects. The projects are listed by state and, within each state listing, in alphabetical order by the name of the library.

### Delaware

#### Milton Library

Sussex County Dept. of Libraries  
109 E. Laurel Street  
Georgetown, DE 19947

**Program:** Project READS

The Milton Library is conducting three workshops, consisting of three classes each, to encourage parental involvement in reading related activities. Target audience includes single-parents, particularly ESL speakers. Twenty-four bookcases are being purchased and given to each participating family.

*Cooperating Agencies:* Casa San Francisco, a crisis intervention center to assist farm workers and low-income individuals, and READ-ALOUD Delaware.

**Contact:** Christel Shumate (302) 855-7890

#### Wilmington Library

10th and Market Sts.  
Wilmington, DE 19801

This project is strengthening an existing LVA program in the library. Two meetings per month are held in the library. One presentation is designed for parents, while children enjoy stories with the Children's staff; the second meeting includes an activity for parents and children together. The target group

is LVA students and families and includes low-income and single-parents with pre-school and elementary school age children.

*Cooperating Agencies:* Even Start, LVA, and READ-ALOUD Delaware  
**Contact:** David Burdash (302) 571-7402

### District of Columbia

#### Martin Luther King Memorial Library

901 G Street NW  
Washington, DC 20001

**Program:** Reading Partners

The Anacostia Branch Library is cooperating with the DC public schools' Even Start program and providing individual and shared learning opportunities for parents and children. Activities are held in the library and time is provided for shared activities with parents and child as well as individual activities for both groups. The target audience includes Even Start and Head Start participants and people who use community child-care services. Door-to-door recruitment is used.

*Cooperating Agencies:* PLAN, Inc., Even Start

**Contact:** Margaret Kemp (202) 727-1329

### Maryland

#### Broadway Lifelong Learning Branch

Enoch Pratt Free Library  
400 Cathedral Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201

Parents and pre-school children, ages 3-5, are sharing in learning activities including discussions and demonstration. The library is hosting two three-hour sessions where parents attend ABE class for one hour, join library staff and children for the second hour, and share individually with their children for the third hour. The Broadway Lifelong Learning Library (BILL) is an inter-generational learning facility that provides literacy activities, library services and programs, technical assistance, and consultation to individual and group literacy providers.

*Cooperating Agencies:* Office of Employment Development Learning Program

**Contact:** Rhea Lawson (301) 342-1539

#### Howard County Library

10375 Little Patuxent Parkway  
Elliott City, MD 21044

**Program:** Babywise and Project Literacy

Children's Services staff are developing kits (books, A-V, toys, activity sheets) to encourage reading readiness skills among Head Start children. Kits are used by parents and teachers. Transportation to the site is provided by Head Start; home visits are also included. The Mobile Resource Center offers testing at the Elliott City Head Start site for assistance with External High School Diploma or individual tutoring.

*Cooperating Agencies:* Head Start

**Contact:** Joyce Demmitt (301) 997-8000

## 4 Empowerment

*Bell Atlantic Grants cont.*

**Montgomery County Dept. of Public Libraries**  
99 Maryland Ave.  
Rockville, MD 20850

**Program:** Storycare, Peas-In-A Pod (PIP)

This project builds on an existing cooperative relationship between the Literacy Council of Montgomery County, Children's Resource Center, and the Housing Opportunities Commission. The project director is creating kits (books, cassette tapes, finger plays, activity sheets) that will be loaned to children who already participate in daycare centers for low-income pre-school children.

*Cooperating Agencies:* Literacy Council of Montgomery County, Housing Opportunities Commission

**Contact:** Saroj Ghoting (301) 949-3780

**Southern Maryland Regional Library Association**  
P. O. Box 459  
Charlotte Hall, MD 20622

**Program:** Mommy Read To Me

This project is an extension of an existing literacy program and provides reading materials for eleven libraries within a three county area.

*Cooperating Agencies:* Literacy Councils and Adult Education Programs of St. Mary's Calvert, and Charles counties, Tri-County Action/Head Start

**Contact:** Ellen Polhemus (301) 934-9442

### New Jersey

**South Brunswick Public Library**  
110 Kingston Lane  
Monmouth Junction, NJ 08852

**Program:** Books for Babies

This project, in conjunction with a hospital, distributes book packets to new mothers. Packets include coupons redeemable for free books at the library. Additional support

from the library includes workshops and training seminars for parents encouraging and teaching them how to establish a strong home environment where reading is encouraged.

*Cooperating Agencies:* LVA, St. Peter's Hospital

**Contact:** Lorraine Jackson (201) 821-8224

### Pennsylvania

**Beginning With Books Office  
Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh**  
4400 Forbes Ave.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

**Program:** Beginning With Books

This project strengthens the Read Together program. Volunteers are recruited to read one-to-one to children while the parents of the children receive literacy tutoring from the Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council. Children receive three gift books during the year. The Project seeks to increase the parents' frequency of reading to children by creating a training module for literacy tutors that encourages the use of children's books with parents.

*Cooperating Agencies:* Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council

**Contact:** Betty Segal (412) 731-1717

**Bethlehem Area Public Library**  
11 West Church Street  
Bethlehem, PA 18018

**Program:** Illiteracy Repair and Prevention

This project enhances an existing literacy program by having added a component that provides twelve storytelling sessions for tutors. Half of each session is devoted to library storytelling for children of the adults enrolled in the literacy program. The other half of the program includes training in the art of storytelling. Each tutor received a curriculum and children's books. Tutors then train adults enrolled in the literacy program some storytelling techniques that the parents can share with their children.

*Cooperating Agencies:* Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce, Laubach Literacy Action and LVA

**Contact:** Karen Gartner (215) 867-3761

**Free Library Of Philadelphia**  
Logan Square  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

**Program:** Reader Development Program

The library is conducting a film and book discussion series for adult learners and their families. Each branch of the library conducts a four-part series that examines the theme of courage. Outstanding children's literature is the basis for the series. Films made from books are shown to family members, and adult learners and their tutors participate in the book discussions led by library staff. During the book discussion, children's librarians tell stories to the children using the same books.

*Cooperating Agencies:* Center for Literacy, Mayor's Commission on Literacy

**Contact:** Vickie Collins (215) 686-5346

**Indiana Free Library**  
845 Philadelphia Street  
Indiana, PA 15701

The library is conducting a tutor training program in which volunteers are taught storytelling techniques and how to help parents learn to read with their children. After being trained, tutors meet with both parents and pre-schoolers once a week for 12 weeks. The 12 week course is repeated 3 times a year. Parents work with tutors one-on-one; storytelling volunteers conduct storytime with the children. Each week parents learn to read one easy-reading book and during the last 15 minutes of class they read to their children.

*Cooperating Agencies:* Armstrong-Indiana Intermediate Unit (ARIN) Adult Learning Center

**Contact:** Rachel Braine (412) 465-8841

**Lebanon Community Library**  
125 North 7th Street  
Lebanon, PA 17042

This project is enhancing an existing program where teachers, volunteer tutors, parents, relatives, and daycare providers are taught storytelling, literacy socialization, and reading techniques. The Hispanic Task Force is assisting with the recruitment of Spanish-speaking individuals.

*Cooperating Agencies:* Literacy Council, Lebanon Adult Education Center, Head Start

**Contact:** Patricia Kline (717) 273-7624

**Schlow Memorial Library**  
100 East Beaver Ave.  
State College, PA 16801

This project is enhancing an existing program by enrolling 25 additional families in the project. Twenty-five volunteer tutors have been recruited and will be trained to work with the families. Training for library staff and Mid-State Literacy Council staff includes sensitivity to the needs of families and an orientation to the services provided by the library.

*Cooperating Agencies:* Mid-State Literacy Council, Institute for Study of Adult Literacy

**Contact:** Elizabeth Allen (814) 237-6237

## Virginia

**Fauquier County Public Library**  
2 Court House Square  
Warrentown, VA 22186

**Program:** Raising Readers

This project has expanded existing collections and programs of the library and LVA. Book collections are available in the library and tutoring offices. Quarterly orientation programs about the library are held for students in the program. Two family literacy tutors are being trained to

incorporate family literacy into the regular Tutor Training program. Family Reading and Game Night is being offered bi-monthly.

*Cooperating Agencies:* LVA

**Contact:** Sharon Hanlon (703) 347-8757

**Newport News Public Library System**

2400 Washington Ave.  
Newport News, VA 23607

Parent skills classes and literacy training sessions, developed in cooperation with ABE in the public schools and the Peninsula Literacy Council, are offered to parents. Children attend storytimes concurrently; the project is located in the library.

*Cooperating Agencies:* Newport News Public Schools, Peninsula Literacy Council

**Contact:** Pat Berry (804) 247-8677

**Radford Public Library**

30 First Street  
Radford, VA 24141

This is a program based in a rural community and is designed to encourage adult new readers to read to pre-school children. A workshop series administered by the library includes conducting storytimes and maintaining collections of books on tape. LVA conducts workshops to train tutors to facilitate the parent workshops.

*Cooperating Agencies:* LVA, Head Start

**Contact:** Mary Ratliff (703) 731-3608 or (703) 731-9524

**Rockbridge Regional Library**

138 So. Main Street  
Lexington, VA 24450

A pilot project in a rural community that includes sixteen hours of parenting classes at the library. Transportation and babysitting are provided. The whole language approach to learning incorporates language development and reading skills for parents and their children.

*Cooperating Agencies:* ABE of Rockbridge, LVA

**Contact:** Elaine Bezzanson (703) 463-4324

**Sherwood Regional Branch Fairfax County Public Library**  
2501 Sherwood Hall Lane  
Alexandria, VA 22306

**Program:** New Readers On The Block

This is a mentor program between 100 "at risk" children in the Sherwood region and community and library staff volunteers. Children work with literacy volunteers and the volunteers meet weekly with the child and parent. Second and third grade students are identified and brought into the program through referrals from ESL and reading teachers in the six area elementary schools.

*Cooperating Agencies:* Fairfax County Public Schools, Mt. Vernon Mental Health, United Community Ministries

**Contact:** Margaret Cope (703) 765-3645

**Washington County Public Library**  
Oak Hill and Valley Streets  
Abingdon, VA 24210

This program is located in the Appalachian mountains of rural southeast Virginia. It is an extension of the Highlands Educational Literacy Project (H.E.L.P.) and includes literacy classes for parents of children enrolled in the Head Start program. The project incorporates the Audi-Graphic Reading Method and is developing group and one-on-one training sessions.

*Cooperating Agencies:* Head Start, Washington County Office on Youth

**Contact:** Anne Tipton (703) 628-2971

## 6 Empowerment

### West Virginia

**Cabell County Public Library**  
455 Ninth Street Plaza  
Huntington, WV 25701

**Program:** LIFT (Literacy Involves Families Working Together)

A new program that offers twelve Head Start parents a series of eight workshops. Parents are paid a stipend to attend each of the workshops. Various community representatives (university faculty member, school district reading supervisor, book store manager) present workshops held at different locations in the community.

*Cooperating Agencies:* Head Start, Tri-State Literacy Council

**Contact:** Judy Rule (304) 523-9451

**City-County Public Library**  
700 Fifth Street  
Moundsville, WV 26041

This program is cooperating with existing Head Start programs in two counties. The focus of the project includes training tutors to work with parents and children; individual tutoring for parents; and the purchase of adult literacy materials and children's literature for use in family literacy instruction. Librarians are visiting Head Start sites weekly and developing reading readiness activities for parents.

*Cooperating Agencies:* Head Start, LVA

**Contact:** Patricia Lawson (304) 845-6911

**Elkins-Randolph Public Library**  
416 Davis Ave.  
Elkins, WV 26241

This extension of an existing family literacy program, includes summer story times at the Women's Aid in Crisis center, a domestic violence shelter. Appalachian children's literature is used during reading activities for parents and their children.

*Cooperating Agencies:* LVA

**Contact:** Judith Seaman (304) 636-9195

**Marion County Library**  
321 Monroe Street  
Fairmont, WV 26554

**Program:** My Mom and Me

This is an extension of an existing project. Parents with their pre-school children attend classes three days a week, two hours per day. Parents receive job training and career counseling instruction while children attend storytimes. In addition, the librarians teach library skills to participants and advise literacy project staff in the selection of ma-

terials for children. They also provide training for parents to become volunteer aides during the children's story hour.

*Cooperating Agencies:* North Central WV Opportunities Industrialization Center

**Contact:** Thelma Ford (304) 366-1210

**Monroe County Library**  
P. O. Box 558  
Union, WV 24983

**Peterstown Public Library**  
P. O. Box 698  
Peterstown, WV 24963

**Program:** Read My LIPPS (The Library Literacy Project for Parents)

This project is an extension of Read My LIPPS which provides tutoring for rural, low-income parents of school age or preschool children. "Catch the Fun at Your Local Library" kits (free books, pencils, bookmarks) are assembled by the library staff. Coupons for the packets are distributed through programs such as Head Start, and parents come to library to redeem the coupons. Free transportation and childcare are provided.

*Cooperating Agencies:* Montgomery County Schools, WV Human Services, LVA

**Contact:** Judith Azulay (304) 772-3038 or (304) 753-9568

### ALA Funding Available for Literacy Projects:

#### LITA and IBM Announce Grant Program to Help Libraries Enhance Literacy Programs

The Library and Information Technology Association (LITA), a division of the American Library Association, in conjunction with IBM, is sponsoring the "PALS in Libraries" grant program, to enhance literacy programs in public and community college libraries.

Public and community college libraries with established,

active literacy programs, are eligible to apply for 12 grants that will enable these libraries to incorporate IBM's Principle of the Alphabet Literacy System (PALS) into their existing literacy programs. More than \$320,000 in IBM software and equipment in total will be awarded to the 12 selected libraries. An advisory

committee organized by LITA and representing both kinds of libraries will select the recipients.

Jo-Ann Michalak, LITA President hopes, "the PALS-in-Libraries grant program will help enhance the image of literacy programs by assisting libraries to demonstrate the versatility of

(see LITA page 8)

## UCLA Program Encourages Minority Librarians to Move Up to Management

Ten minority librarians completed the first *Transition into Management* program at UCLA. The week-long program was designed to help entry-level librarians of various ethnic backgrounds overcome hidden barriers to advancement and move into middle management positions.

*Transition into Management* is an arm of the California State Library's Expanded Minority Recruitment Scholarship Program, begun in 1988, to help ease the shortage of minorities in the field of library science. *Transition into Management* got its start after Dorothy J. Anderson, assistant dean of UCLA's Graduate School of Library and Information Science (GSLIS), envisioned the program and applied to the State Library for a grant for its implementation. "What we were looking for were minority librari-

ans who had been stuck at the entry level for too long a period of time even though they had the potential to become middle managers," Anderson said. "All of the people selected for the program have master's degrees in library science and have been in the field for at least three years." The 10 graduates of the *Transition into Management* program will be the recruiters, employers, and mentors of the future ethnic librarians who are needed to reduce the shortage of minorities in the field of librarianship.

The *Transition into Management* program opened with a talk on management basics by UCLA Associate University Librarian, Rita Scherrei, and a discussion of managers as people by Anderson and Cheryl Duran of UCLA-GSLIS.

Henry Der of the group Chinese for Affirmative Action made

presentations on racism and anger as barriers to management success, and Jerry Tello, special consultant on services to multicultural populations, discussed communication across cultures. Interview skills, resume writing and networking were also explored by Janice Burrows, director for library human resources at UC Berkeley.

The participants represented a good balance between the various ethnic groups: Asian Pacific, Hispanic, African American, and American Indian. The following librarians completed the program: Sandra Balderrama-Escobar, Lorretta Dunn, Joy Kim, Louise H. Parsons, Wei Chi Poon, Natalie Rencher, Gloria Rhodes, Ron Rodriguez, Velma Salabiye, and Angela Marie Smith. ◆

## Library Education Addressing Societal Needs:

### Queens College Offers Course in Multicultural Librarianship

The Queens College Graduate School of Library and Information Studies offers students the opportunity to study major issues relating to the nature and availability of library materials and services for minority groups. Among the topics included in the course entitled "Multicultural Librarianship: Services and Materials," are (a) the treatment of minority groups in library materials; (b) the production and acquisition of library resources intended for children, young people, and adults; and (c) cur-

rent, traditional, and innovative programs and services designed to more effectively serve ethnic populations. Resources and services are evaluated for the following ethnic and cultural groups: African Americans, Native Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans, Italian Americans, Jewish Americans, and Irish Americans. Each student is required to visit a library to examine and evaluate the services available to minority groups. For more information contact David Cohen, Professor, Queens Col-

lege, Graduate School of Library and Information Studies, 65-30 Kisen Blvd., Flushing, New York 11367 or write the Office for Library Outreach Services. ◆

The ALA Office for Library Outreach Services (OLOS) would appreciate information on library education courses that specifically focus on outreach services, library services targeting minority groups or services to low-income populations for its advisory services.

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## 8 Empowerment

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### *LITA/IBM Grant cont.*

literacy teaching tools available to meet the needs of their adult learners."

Proposals from libraries will be evaluated according to stated criteria, including the viability of proposed ideas to enhance their existing literacy programs through the use of PALS. The application deadline is November 1, 1990. The 12 grants will be awarded in December, 1990, and installation completed by January 1990.

For application forms, criteria and information contact the LITA Office, American Library Association, 50 E. Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611-2729, voice (312) 280-4270, fax (312) 440-9374. ◆

### **Publications to Note:**

American Jewish Congress. Task Force on the Unmet Needs of Low Income Households. *Less Suffering, Less Fear: Meeting The Human Needs of America in the 90's*. [New York: American Jewish Congress, 1990] 26p.

Discusses these unmet needs of low income populations in eleven urban areas: housing/homelessness, AFDC/home relief, health care, food, education, Head Start, and legal services. Compiled by the American Jewish Congress (AJC) to improve their understanding of the issues so that they could initiate public policy proposals to improve the lives of the needy. Copies of the pamphlet are available from the American Jewish Congress, 15 East 84th Street, New York, New York 10028 or (212) 879-4500.

Zweizig, Douglas L., Debra Wilcox Johnson, and Jane B. Robbins. *Evaluation of Adult Library Literacy Programs: A Structural Approach*. Chicago, American Library Association, 1990. 50p. \$6.00

A manual to assist libraries in evaluating the effectiveness of their adult literacy programs. Contents include: evaluating literacy programs, program description, literacy program measures (of collections, support services, instruction), and additional evaluation approaches. ◆

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