

MIDWINTER MEETING

OLSD ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Subcommittee on Library Service
for American Indian People
January 9, 1979, 2:00-4:00 P.M.
Shoreham Hotel, Parlor E-830
Washington, D.C.

FIRST SESSION

- Present: Virginia H. Mathews, Chairperson, Mary Huffer, James H. May, Edith M. Hart, Cheryl Metoyer-Duran, Eileen C. Shimizu.
- Absent: Bob D. Carmack, Lotsee Smith, Earl Shumaker, Charles Townley.
- Guests: Norma Richey McCallan, Monteria Hightower, Graham Sadler, David McDonald, Judi Smolin.
- Staff: Jean E. Coleman, Lois Ann Gregory

AMERICAN INDIAN LIBRARIES NEWSLETTER.

Chairperson Virginia H. Mathews opened meeting. She expressed the Committee's satisfaction regarding the success of the American Indian Libraries Newsletter. The newsletter subscription membership is approximately 1600. Jean E. Coleman presented problem of untraceable addresses especially those received from the National Indian Education Association (NIEA). The Chairperson stated that Mary Huffer's (Director, Libraries for the Department of Interior, Washington, D.C.) budget had been cut another \$100,000.00 on top of an early budget cut, and that this cut would have a substantial influence on the interests of this Committee. Mrs. Huffer is the head of all BIA libraries in terms of their development and planning. Ms. Mathews further stated than between Mrs. Huffer's cuts in budget and the very distinct turn in the society, generally, against outreach or or kinds of initiatory efforts, the Committee needed to keep a very keen eye on the opportunities and make sure that they do everything that can be done with this Committee. She indicated that the American Indian Libraries Newsletter is one viable source. It was hoped that this newsletter could remain, as long as possible, free of charge. Mrs. Duran cited a need for articles although her questionnaire is providing her with clearinghouse information on what is happening among Indians. Also, Ms. Coleman informed the Committee that the AILN subscription list is now on the ALA computer.

PRE-WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES ON OR NEAR RESERVATIONS.

James H. May expressed his enthusiasm with the results of the Pre-White House Conference on Library and Information Services on or Near Reservations. He stated that it was one of the most productive conferences he had ever attended in the library field. Everyone at the Conference, librarians and non-librarians, seem to be very interested in library service; they seem to know what was going on. One ideas that came out of the conference was to

develop materials; the need to have bibliographic control over materials that would not normally have this kind of control in other types of libraries. An example of this promotional materials on tribal enterprises. These types would normally be placed in vertical file but information really needs to be transferred from one reservation to another; need to be in the publishing business as a library because on one else will do it in many cases.

Jean Coleman commented that she was impressed with the structure of the conference. She was also impressed with the sophistication of the non-library people. She stated that the people were realistic toward the kinds of things they could really expected from the states; they were very disappointed in states; many of the states had failed them on all levels of service - not just library. The overall fee was that "we are here because we want and need libraries."

The Chair stated that although the OLSA Indian Committee was not an official sponsor of the White House Conference, it was officially represented by Jean E. Coleman. It was further point out that much of the expertise relied upon for this conference came from members of the OLSA Indian Committee.

The weak points of the conference as point out by Virginia Mathews were: inadequate discussion time; training; information overload; problem with semantics; and grandstanding.

The Pre-WHC developed ten resolutions which were addressed, for the most part, to the Federal government and the Department of the Interior. Four delegates were elected to attend the WHC in Washington, D.C. in the Fall of 1979. Dr. Cheryl Metoyer-Duran was elected as the librarian representative to the Conference. The runnersup were: Mary Alice Tsosie and Lotsee Smith. The lay people elected were: Chief Calvin Iassc (Choctaw); Dr. Joseph "Bud" Sahmaunt (Kiowa) and Forrest Cuch (Ute). There were also two Indian delegates elected from states - Anthony Genia (Minnesota) and Mary Nieball (Texas).

The three major items to be done now are: (1) to keep the awareness within USDI of the importance of implementing a plan for total upgrading of BIA libraries; (2) the implementation of the resolutions; and (3) the writing of the evaluation report.

RASD AMERICAN INDIAN MATERIALS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE

David McDonald, Chairperson, RASD American Indian Materials and Services Committee, asked the Committee if they could work together in order to avoid duplicating efforts. The Committee asked if the RASD Committee could evaluate some of the already developed materials. Mr. McDonald requested assistance in identifying people who are interested in serving on his committee. People who are Indian or who deal specifically with Indian populations. It was the consensus of the OLSA Committee to cooperate with the RASD committee and to invite them to meet with the committee in Dallas and at the next Midwinter Meeting. Mr. McDonald stated that he would like to explore with the RASD committee the prospect of having an OLSA/RASD "official" joint committee. Ms. Coleman commented that this prospect would have to be written into the RASD committee report to thier Board.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT

It was suggested by the Chairperson that an article be placed in the American Libraries regarding the project. The Committee is doing this project to be sure that its mission for development of services to urban Indian people is being fulfilling since much of its activity is concerned with rural and reservation populations. Ms. Coleman stated that a small amount of money had been granted, from the OLSD budget, to do the pilots.

IT WAS VOTED, that the Committee would explore the possibility of Chicago, IL and Denver, CO becoming the first two sites for the technical assistance project, and that Edith Hart would explore the possibility of Flagstaff, AZ becoming the third site for this project.

IT WAS VOTED, that an article be placed in the A L stating the Committee is doing the three pilots and invites others to request consultant services.

Members of the Committee who will be providing technical assistance to these proposal sites are: Jim May (Denver, CO); Cheryl Metoyer-Duran (Chicago), and Lotsee Smith or Mary Alice Tsosie (Flagstaff, AZ).

AMERICAN INDIAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Petition circulated and signed during Pre-White House Conference meeting in Denver, Colorado. Names on the petition being gathered by Janice Beaudin. Bennard Dallas is coordinating and formulating the Indian Library Association. Virginia Mathews suggested that the Indian Library Association should be provided liaison, services and coordination assistance through the ALA American Indian Committee.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:00 P.M.