

1979 ALA Annual Conference

SUBCOMMITTEE ON LIBRARY SERVICE TO AMERICAN INDIAN PEOPLE

The Subcommittee Meetings were held on Sunday and Monday, June 24 and 25, 1979 at the Dallas Convention Center, Dallas, Texas.

ATTENDANCE

Virginia H. Mathews (Chair), Hamden, CT; Dr. James H. May, Sonoma State Coll. Lib., Rohnert Park, CA; Dr. Cheryl Metoyer-Duran, ULCA, Los Angeles, CA; Dr. Lotsee Smith, Texas Woman's Univ.-Denton; Bob Carmack, Univ. of SD-Vermillion; Earl Shumaker, Ohio Univ.-Athens; Charles Townley, PA State Univ.-Middletown; Raul Huerta, Rock Point Cmnty. Sch., Chinle, AZ; Merle Miller, Huntington Sch., Long Island, NY; Richard Heyser, Navajo Nation Lib. Sys., Window Rock, AZ; Norma McCallan, NM State Univ.-Santa Fe; Velma Salabiye, Stanford (CA) Univ.; Sally Roggia, Stanford (CA) Univ.; Marian Cochran, Navajo Nation Lib. Sys., Window Rock, AZ; Monteria Hightower, DC Pub. Lib.; Benjamin T. Wakashige, Univ. of NM; Nellie K. Buffalomeat, Tablequah, OK; Kit Wadsworth, Univ. of TX-Austin; J. Aubrey, The Newberry Lib., Chgo, IL; Margaret Kirkpatrick, Wichita (KS) Pub. Lib.; Tim Troy, Univ. of NM-Albuquerque; Joe Sabatini, Albuquerque Pub. Lib., Bob Shirley, Olympia, WA.

Introductions and Announcements

For the benefit of everyone attending meetings individual introductions were made. It was announced that Lotsee Smith has just received her doctrine.

Ms. Mathews state that her committee was a very vibrant and concerned subcommittee. This committee has accomplished many tasks through working with other organizations, thus eliminating duplication of efforts. She also stated that the subcommittee was looking for new committee people who are willing to devote their time to getting things done and who are able to attend all committee meetings.

The committee has identified three areas of major concern:

- (1) Improving library and information services for the off-reservation Indian population;
- (2) Technical Assistance Project
- (3) Packets of training and/or information materials about Indian libraries.

Non-Reservation Indian People

The committee has identified a great need to help existing libraries provide service to non-reservation Indian people. This is an area

that the committee has found practical on which to concentrate their efforts because it is felt that the Department of the Interior is in a position to work with the federally recognized tribes on reservations.

Technical Assistance Project

The committee has some funds to provide site visit technical assistance for both reservation and non-reservation library development. Three pilot site visits are already in the works. Ms. Mathews stated that she has heard about six or seven reservations requesting this service. She asked if any of the observers, who were Indian and with library degrees, would be interested in providing assistance to this project. The technical assistant would only stay at a site for not more than three or four days to make some preliminary suggestions to the library.

Technical Assistance - Chicago, IL

Dr. Metoyer-Duran reported that the Chicago Public Library has develop a proposal which involves library services to the Indian community. She will be visiting Chicago to meet with the CPL administration, members of the Indian community, and Jean E. Coleman in the fall of this year. Ms. Coleman cited two items which she thought were good about the proposal: (1) it got the Indian community aggressive enough to say what they do and do not want; to sit down with the administration to write the proposal; (2) the proposal calls for state financial support for the first two years then the project becomes an integral part of the CPL's financial responsibility.

Technical Assistance - Denver, CO

It was reported that the Indian center in Denver, Colorado had written a proposal requesting LSCA funds from the state. The proposal request was for \$76,000 of which only half of this amount was granted. The center was hesitant about doing the project with only half of the requested amount, but was later convinced to proceed. It was later learned that the director of the center had resigned and no appointment for a replacement has been made; consequently, the center has lost some of the LSCA funding for the project.

Technical Assistance - Flagstaff, AZ

Dr. May reported that he would be visiting Flagstaff the week of August 6th. He will be working with them on developing a survey instrument to find out what types of services are most needed. He will be sending out the needs assessment questionnaire developed to Dr. Metoyer-Duran.

Training and Information Materials

Another project the committee will be undertaking is the development of packets of both information and technical assistance materials. Types of packets needed are graphic and visual materials on what types of facilities are available; what type of people are manning these services; what kind of people are using these services, etc. Ms. Mathews developed this type of material for NIEA six years ago but it now needs to be updated. Training materials are also needed.

A small amount of funds have been provided by BIA but this money has to be spent by mid-September which is not enough time to develop new materials; therefore, existing materials have to be pulled together. The committee discussed the approach they would take in this area.

Updated audiovisual materials also need to be developed, preferably in time for the White House Conference in November. Kit Wadsworth (Univ. of Texas-Austin) volunteered to work on slide show.

A subcommittee consisting of Dr. Lotsee Smith and Ben Wakashige was established to think through what is needed in the way of training materials.

American Indian Libraries Newsletter.

There is a need for a more concerted effort to develop materials for the American Indian Libraries Newsletter. The Newsletter is unique now, especially, since the National Indian Education Association is practically powerless due to a lack of money and staff. In an effort to help editor Cheryl Metoyer, Raul Huerta and Benjamin Wakashige will scout out people to submitted articles and photographs for the newsletter.

Information Item

As background information, Ms. Mathews informed the committee that the Carter administration is very anxious to put BIA education into the new Department of Education. The tribes are against having it put in the Department because it is their feeling that they would lose their preference in hiring; would lose the nation-to-nation understanding that exists within BIA. It is now up to BIA to prove that it can improve Indian education.