

1980 ALA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Office for Library Service to the Disadvantaged

Subcommittee on Library Service for American Indian People

Subcommittee Meeting held on Tuesday, July 1, 1980, 9:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M., Waldorf-Astoria, Basildon Room, New York, NY.

Present: Virginia H. Mathews (Chair); James H. May; Mary Alice Reszetar; Sally Roggia.

Absent: Cheryl A. Metoyer-Duran; Edith Matthews Hart, Mary A. Huffer; Mary Nieball; Velma S. Salabiye; Eileen Concannon Shimizu; Lotsee Smith.

Guests: Fred Danes; Sheldon Lawrence; Lawrence D'Urso; J.S. Aubrey; Eileen Mahoney; Sherry Ann Hokanson; Peggy Geoghan; David P. Roth; Richard Heyser.

Staff: Jean E. Coleman and Christine Lin.

MINUTES

AILA CONSTITUTION  
AND BYLAWS

IT WAS VOTED, to approve the revised draft of the AILA Constitution and Bylaws for distribution to recipients of the American Indian Libraries Newsletter for their approval or comments.

There were three pro tem officers appointed for 1980/1. They are: President, Sally Roggia (Navajo); Vice-President, James H. May (Cherokee); Secretary/Treasurer, Virginia H. Mathews (Osage).

TECHNICAL  
ASSISTANCE PROJECT

Jim May reported to the Committee on his trip to Flagstaff, Arizona. (Annex I)

Jean E. Coleman gave background information on the Chicago project. She stated that the project was originated between the American Indian community and the Chicago Public Library with funding coming from a LSCA grant from the State of Illinois for a two-year period. Lawrence A. D'Urso has been appointed director of the Native American Information/Referral Center at the Chicago Public Library (Annex II)

Virginia Mathews reported that the Denver Public Library (starting 1-80) has a full-time librarian at its Indian center. She is on loan from the central library. Two areas of concentrated support will be pre-school and adult literacy.

Two proposed sites for visits this fall are Wichita, Kansas and Minneapolis, Minnesota. Plans have not been finalized.

AMERICAN INDIAN  
LIBRARIES NEWS-  
LETTER

The Newsletter has received both national and international attention from people interested in library service for Indian people. The Newsletter is being distributed to approximately 1,347 persons. It is hoped that the Newsletter can remain free of charge. OLSD is currently

AMERICAN INDIAN  
LIBRARIES NEWS-  
LETTER (cont.)

paying an estimated \$5,300 for the printing and dissemination and an additional sum for the technical assistance project. It has been decided that the press run of the Newsletter be cut from 2,500 to 2,000 to save money. Bulk and third-class mailings were also discussed but it was decided that first class proved to be the best way.

Requests have been received for information on materials by and about Indians. A relationship is being developed between a review committee at Columbia University and the editor of the Newsletter so that a consistent column can be added containing this source of information. Other reviewing sources are being sought.

A decision was needed on how often the Newsletter should be published and how many pages should each issue contain.

IT WAS VOTED, that the Newsletter be budgeted to be published 3 times per year; consisting of six pages; and with a press run of 2,000 copies per issue.

It was also recommended that part of the membership dues of the newly formed American Indian Library Association be set aside for the production and distribution of the Newsletter.

San Francisco Program

The Subcommittee will have a three-hour time slot at the San Francisco Conference. Jean Coleman suggested that it be a combined Indian Association and Subcommittee meeting with a possible one-hour program at the end. The projected time slot is Monday, June 29 from 2:00 to 5:30 p.m. A committee was formed to workout details. Committee consists of Sally Roggia and Cheryl Metoyer. Sheldon Lawrence (Arizona State Library) was also suggested.

NATIONAL INDIAN  
OMNIBUS LIBRARY  
BILL

Mathews stated that sections of the Omnibus bill had been incorporated into the National Library and Information Services Act, S.2859 which was submitted by Senator Jacob K. Javits and others.

A careful watch has been made to ensure that the exact wording was used in the Javits bill and any other documents using this resolution.

Peggy Geoghan (Assistant to Director of Library and Information Services, \*\* U.S. Department of the Interior) has been trying to track down what has happened to the task force recommendations on Minimum Standards for Indian School Libraries. She noted that the document has been completely rewritten. She told the Subcommittee to look at the August issues of the Federal Register because this was suppose to come out for comments and that comments needed.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at approximately 12:30 P.M.

\*\*Peggy Geoghan represented Mary Huffer and voted as her proxy.

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION  
OFFICE OF LIBRARY SERVICE TO THE DISADVANTAGED  
PROGRAM OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO URBAN INDIANS

VISIT TO FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA

BY DR. JAMES H. MAY

DECEMBER 2-5, 1979

PRELIMINARY REPORT

February 26, 1980

## Introduction

This is a report of a visit to the Flagstaff/Coconino County Public Library and the Native Americans for Community Action (NACA) in Flagstaff, Arizona as part of the American Library Association's program of technical assistance to urban Indians. This visit took place on December 2nd through 5th, 1979 and included a half-day visit with members of the staff of the Arizona Library Extension Service in Tempe. In Flagstaff, meetings were held with Ms. Margaret Nation, Director of the Flagstaff/Coconino Public Library, Ms. Ann Roberts, her administrative assistant, Ms. Barbara Poley, Director of the Native Americans for Community Action (NACA), and selected members of her staff at the NACA Indian Center.

I had the opportunity to meet with those involved both individually and in groups, with and without members of the Library Extension Service, who had accompanied me from Tempe, present. Ms. Edith Hart, Head of the Extension Service, and Ms. Gloria Donelson, the Service's minority consultant, were present in and contributed to some of the discussions held. Additionally, I was briefed on automation being implemented, which has and will enhance service to the Indian community, by Mr. Joseph Scaccia, who accompanied us to Flagstaff from Tempe for a visit on other matters.

Prior to going to Flagstaff, I had a series of telephone conversations related to what we hoped to accomplish with the short visit. These extended telephone calls also provided me with a good background of what was already being done in Flagstaff. For the visit we determined that we needed to:

- 1) Identify Indian needs for which information could help.
- 2) Find out what kinds of materials, services, and arrangements could help meet these needs.
- 3) Explore methods of getting Indians to use these materials and services, and
- 4) Review funding problems associated with the needed programs.

### Indian Information Needs

Flagstaff specifically and Coconino County generally are confronted with major basic information needs for Indians. The County's population is 25% Indian, principally Navajo and Hopi. At a very rapid rate this population is becoming more urban. Part of the reason for this is a massive relocation program currently underway. This federal program is part of the settlement of a land dispute between the Navajo and the Hopi. Due to the lack of adequate accommodations for relocated people on the reservations, Indians are being settled in Flagstaff. This change from rural to urban life, from traditional to western cultural patterns, is fraught with problems. Furthermore, it burdens down a city that already has sizeable problems from ill-prepared shifts to the city in the past. Child care, housing, employment, and mitigation of an alcoholism problem are some of the basic needs of the Indians.

## History of Contacts between the Library and the Indian Community

The Library has contact with the Indian community, both urban and rural, in a number of ways. First, it has branches on reservations in Coconino County at Tuba City, Supai, and at Fredona and Mocassin on or near the Kaibab reservation in Mohave County. The remoteness of these locations (Supai can be reached only by mule) makes it necessary for the Library to provide many special services. Thus, Kaibab's only TV service is that provided by Library when it brings video tapes of its Saturday morning TV storytelling to the reservation. Similarly at Supai, where even radio reception at the bottom of the canyon is a problem, there is an eagerness for audio cassettes.

Support for the State Library's Literary Extension Service for Indian service comes in two direct forms. One is the consulting support of the minorities consultant. The second is through a small LSCA grant (\$4500) for materials at the reservation branches. The next proposal for LSCA funding will include Flagstaff Indians as well. LSCA funding heretofore has been for reservation Indians. Edith Hart and Gloria Donelson seem genuinely interested in service to Indians. This is all the more commendable given the limited resources they must work with. I found them to be a valuable resource. They were both extremely helpful throughout the visit.

The Public Library has been and is engaged in a number of activities involving the Flagstaff community. One in which there has been considerable cooperative activity has to do with literacy. At the time of the visit a new organization, the Flagstaff Adult Literacy Council, had been formed with representatives from the

Library, the community schools (the adult education division of the Flagstaff Public School System), and NACA. Each of the three organizations had members of its staff trained in the Laubach method. Furthermore, a VISTA volunteer has been hired as a coordinator of the literacy program. In support of this program the Public Library received a grant from the Adult Reading Academy to purchase fifteen sets of training materials.

The Library also maintains a deposit collection at the Indian Center which appears to be well used and is staffed by an employee of the Indian Center. This collection occupies its own room in the Center and is certainly as large as many reservation libraries I have seen. The collection is frequently changed and contact between the Center staff person and the Library is weekly. The one negative comment could be that the location, in the back, upstairs, makes it not noticeable to people using the Center unless it is pointed out. Some fear was expressed by Center staff members that books might disappear or be damaged if they were in a more exposed location. Some of this fear could be seen as an excessive sense of responsibility for the collection.

Besides the deposit collection, there is a small "up-front" collection at the entrance to the Center. A spot check indicated this to be a not-terribly-useful set of materials. For instance, the one book on child care that I saw was in German!

Most of the funding in Flagstaff for Indian materials and library service has come either from the operating budgets or from private local funding sources. The Raymond Education Foundation has funded the Library for blind, Native Americans, and other types of materials which promote community welfare in Flagstaff. In another program funded by Purina, the Library employed Indian youth

for the summer. This latter project was done through NACA. NACA and the Library are hoping for funding by Purina again this year. The Indian youth program accomplished several things for the Library. They were placed where they would be visible to the public. This allowed them to help when people came in who didn't speak English. They also assisted with children.

#### Ideas Developed During Visit

A series of meetings with Ms. Nation and Ms. Poley and the NACA staff were very productive. Many cooperative ideas were developed and several concrete decisions on cooperation were made. Several ideas involved upgraded use of the NACA Indian Center for making library materials and services available. Ms. Nation envisions gradual conversion of the deposit collection at the Indian Center to a full-fledged fourth affiliate (branch) of the Library. Also, a collection of books at the entrance of the Indian Center is to be evaluated and replacement with more useful materials considered. Books-by-mail catalogs will be distributed at the Center. NACA activities can be coordinated with display of relevant library materials and realia. For example, the Library's solar oven could be demonstrated at a NACA bake sale. Finally, NACA will aid the Library by helping to identify Indian language materials that are available as well as special tribal publications and statistics.

Other ideas involved use of the Library and its services to enhance the mission of NACA. Some of these ideas involved better ways of attracting Indians to library services. A display of native language materials in the bookmobile and at the libraries would be useful even for those who can't read in their native language. Its principal use would be in making Indians feel at home. It could make them feel more that it's their library as well. Also, the bookmobile could distribute the NACA newsletter to rural locations. This could help establish a closer link between the rural and urban settings and make the rural Indians aware of assistance they can secure when they come into Flagstaff. One of the most exciting cooperative activities involved the distribution of an information needs survey. NACA had prepared a questionnaire (see attached) which was about to be distributed when the visit was made. The Library agreed to cooperate in the distribution of the instrument and NACA, in turn, was to share the results.

Barbara Poley also felt it would be a good idea to tape dances on the reservations and at other gatherings. She felt it would be a good idea for the Center to provide tape recorders to take home to listen to them.

One other advantage of the trip was informational. The visit created an obligation for both Maggie Nation and Barbara Poley to take time out of their busy schedules to share information in a way that would have been difficult to justify in their normal schedules.

The Library has already taken advantage of automated on-line searching via Lockheed's DIALOG system to identify funding sources for Native Americans. They now intend to do more of this.

### Recommendations on technical assistance program

In the course of the discussions several recommendations concerning ALA's conduct of the technical assistance program were made. First, there was a feeling that ALA should take leadership in pressing states to support adequately service to Indian populations. Many good ideas here and elsewhere cannot be implemented with the patchy minimal funding and services now available to urban, semi-urban, and rural Indians.

Secondly, ALA should provide some means of getting participants of the various technical assistance projects together to share experiences. Specifically, the people at Flagstaff felt that it would be useful to have the consultant, the public librarian, and Indian center director at each site get together in one meeting to share information on ways in which each has solved problems relative to service to their Indian population.

Finally, it was felt that ALA could help in the identification of funding sources for library service to Indians. Also, in this regard, technical assistance in actually submitting proposals for funding would be useful.

A three day visit such as this cannot hope to do more than act as an outside spark. The basic materials and the setting must already be present. In that light, I personally felt good about the visit. There was considerable discussion both during the day and in the evening among all the parties involved. Native Americans for Community Action was not only a willing partner but an eager and effective one as well from the standpoint of library service. The Flagstaff/Coconino County Public Library is doing a yeoman's job and is committed to service to Indians. It suffers like many public libraries from an overworked staff and insufficient funds to do much more.

Maggie Nation and Barbara Poley were amazing in their imaginative ideas and quick decisions. They are to be commended for their work.

Please check the areas you or your family members believe to be problems within the off-reservation area of Coconino County.

EDUCATION:

- Lack of high school diploma
- Uncaring school teachers, counselors or administrators
- Lack of cultural school material related to my tribe
- Lack of information concerning education programs

EMPLOYMENT:

- Lack of full time jobs for adults
- Youth unemployment during the summer
- Lack of job skills and training

SOCIAL SERVICES:

- No transportation available
- Housing shortage for low income people
- Difficulty in paying utility bills
- Not enough contact with people from my tribe or who speak my language
- Rent is too high
- Child abuse
- No local PHS medical services. To far to PHS services
- Lack of legal aid
- Drug or alcohol abuse
- Not enough activities for youth
- Home maintenance repairs
- Lack of day care for children
- Lack of translators
- Discrimination by public agencies (courts, schools or police dept.)

OTHER:

(Please list other problems that were not checked above)

Advisory Committee Meeting  
Native American Information/Referral Center  
Chicago Public Library

The Advisory Committee to the Native American Information/Referral Center, Chicago Public Library, held a meeting on Friday, May 23, 1980 from 2:00 to 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the Chicago Public Library, 425 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL.

PRESENT: F. Jennings, L. St. Germaine, F. Smith, D. Wiese, R. Baumruk, A. Scott, P. Sullivan, M. Ghikas, L. Rowton, C. Faberize, V. James, D. Kane, G. Oandasan, E. Krantz (for J. Coleman).

INTRODUCTIONS: The Project Director, Lawrence A. D'Urso, asked those in attendance to introduce themselves.

PROJECT DIRECTOR'S REPORT: An office has been established with funding and furniture. (2) An Assistant Project Director has been hired. She is Joey Oandasan. She has been with the office for a week and has been attending seminars at The Newberry Library. (3) The Director has been working with Acquisitions and the Finance Office to set up mechanisms for ordering materials. This function is ready to start. (4) The computer which will be used for the referral file has been received and is being checked out. (5) The Center is in the process of coordinating collection development with the present activities of the Chicago Public Library facilities. The work in the Social Science and History Divisions has been completed. The next division will be Government Documents followed by the Cultural Center. Preliminary activity has been started with the branches. (6) Discussions of possible programming in the branches has begun as well as initial contacts to provide speakers and materials for display. (7) Under consideration is a letter of inquiry to various organizations and agencies to find out what they have. (8) Visits have been made to three branches and The Newberry Library. The Director has not yet had a chance to look at the collections there. (9) The Director will also make visits to the various agencies in the Uptown community.

ADVISORY BOARD VACANCIES: The Director asked for recommendations of people to fill the two vacancies on the Board. Olivia Oxendine has moved to North Carolina and Ken Scott has resigned. The names submitted were: Mike Limas, Truman College and LaVonne Ruoff, University of Illinois, Circle Campus, who is considered a national authority on Indian literature.

There was a discussion about contacting the directors of key agencies for names of people to serve on the Advisory Board, to see whether they are still interested in the library or not, and to give them a progress report, possibly in the form of a news release. It was pointed out that it is difficult to find people who have the time to become involved with the Board, especially when meetings are held downtown. One possibility was to alternate the Board meetings between the Loop and the neighborhoods, where parking is not so difficult nor so expensive.

Also discussed was a possible survey of Board members on the best time, day of the week and place of future meetings which would not conflict with

Chicago Public Library regularly scheduled meetings. Nothing was decided beyond the date of the next meeting (see below).

SURVEY: The Director proposed such a survey as one way of determining what community characteristics should be considered in establishing the service. Faith Smith asked if this information was not already part of the Proposal. The Director replied it was no more specific than the broad mandate to provide community service. Faith Smith still had negative feelings about a survey and felt it would take too long to get the information. Lucille St. Germaine has a survey done by students who went to a conference in New Orleans and will check it out. One of the most frequently asked questions is the history of a person's own tribe but there is very little available.

Suggestions made included: (1) Keep it simple; make it one page; not a great deal of depth. (2) Include banks who make loans to Indians and general social agencies. (3) Do it by interviews with people working with agencies. (4) Have the Center's staff develop a form for the agencies to respond to. (5) Do it through the classes in the high schools.

What should be in the questionnaire? What do we want to know? What categories of information? We should give them a tentative idea of what the Center's plans are. We should list various kinds of information and then ask, "Would this help you and how?" We should draft it, tear it apart and rewrite it. One thing we should not do is arouse expectations we cannot fulfill. The definition of an "Indian" by the U.S. Census Bureau has varied through the years. No final decision was made.

COLLECTION OF MATERIALS/REFERRAL FILE: The Director asked for a discussion on the information needs and the subject areas and concerns that should be included. Mr. Fleming of The Newberry Library made the following points: (1) We need a study of urban Indians to interview for patterns. The Newberry Library is a historical library and cannot have up-to-date information. (2) We should also consider the non-Indian user and take advantage of things like Thanksgiving and social studies curricula. (3) The Center should be strong on audio-visual materials. (4) Purchases of books and materials should be for Indians and not for general use. (5) It is important to have such items in the branches in order to overcome the hesitation about coming downtown. (6) One problem is how to get people into the information center. They need to be made to feel at home. They should have their own corner. It should be attractive to Indian people. There is an oral not a reading tradition. Ann Landrum has done a bibliography on what is on the shelves in three branch libraries. Cheryl Montoyer also has a good list.

SOURCES OF MATERIALS AND INFORMATION: This discussion turned on what kind of information should be programmed into the computer and the depth and use of such information. It is anticipated it would function like the Information Center at the Chicago Public Library - it would perform the function of the yellow pages, a social service directory, a list of places to call, an agency referral source for Chicago and elsewhere. There was some discussion on meetings between the quarterly meetings in order to establish managerial and organizational procedures in this area.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the Advisory Board will be Thursday, September 11, 1980 at 2:00 p.m. at the Hild Regional Library, 4536 North Lincoln Avenue (728-8652).

NEWBERRY CONFERENCE: There will be a conference at The Newberry Library on Saturday, September 26, 1980 on "Urban Indians".