

1981 ALA MIDWINTER MEETING

Office for Library Outreach Services  
Subcommittee on Library Service for American Indian People

The Indian Subcommittee met on January 1, 1981, 2-4 P.M., Shoreham Hotel, Tudor Room and February 2, 1981, 4:30-5:30 P.M., Sheraton-Washington Hotel, Washington, D.C.

ATTENDANCE

Committee Members: Virginia H. Mathews (Chair); Mary L. Nieball, Sally Roggia, Edith Hart, James H. May, Sherry Ann Hokanson, Cheryl Metoyer-Duran.

Guests: Arthur Kirschenbaum, Darien Disher, Maggie Nation, Charles Townley, Margaret Kilpatrick, Lee White Ruth Robinson, Jean Jack, Janet Suzuki.

Staff: Jean E. Coleman and Lois Ann Gregory-Ball.

Greeting: Virginia H. Mathews (Chair) officially opened meeting.

Proposal: The Committee reviewed and discussed an unsolicited proposal to conduct a study on the current information seeking status and resources of Indian decision-makers on or near reservations. The proposal received committee approval with some changes in content for clarification. The proposal has already been sent to the Management, Procurement and Budget Division of the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs. Although, BIA is very interested in the proposed project it is uncertain as to who will be given a grant to conduct such a study.

Legislation: Mathews spoke of various Indian legislation items. She would like to see the BIA treated as a 51st state for funding purposes. This was not made clear in the Jarvit's bill.

Newsletter: Thanks and gratitude was extended to Cheryl Metoyer-Duran (editor) for her continued efforts to produce the AIL Newsletter. Permission was also obtained from the editor to include the AILA membership form and the committee's conference program flyer in the forthcoming newsletter.

American Indian Library Assn. The newly established association's present membership stands at 100 members. The Association will be registering as a not-for-profit organization in the State of Illinois. It will also petition for ALA affiliation. The organization will hold its 1st annual membership and business meeting, in conjunction with the Indian Subcommittee meeting, at the 1981 ALA Annual Conference. All non-members present at this meeting was encouraged to join the Association.

Conference Program: Sam Deloria will be the keynote speaker on the program. Mr. Deloria is the former Deputy Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior. He will express his views on the future of library/information services to American Indians and his perceptions on the future of other services to American Indians during the 1980s. The program will also include two twenty-minute visual presentations: (1) Yakima Indian Reservation Library and (2) library service to Native Americans in Arizona. Reports on the technical assistance given by members of the Committee to urban areas Indian centers and libraries will be featured. Gail Brown will be invited to report on the Native American Library Project of the Milwaukee Public Library.

The Committee will make a formal request of two hundred (\$200.00) from the OLOS Advisory Committee for rental of A-V equipment and program mailing costs.

Technical Assistance: Jim May underlined technical assistance services provided to libraries. He said that one aspect was to create an ongoing dialogue between the Indian center, Indian community, and the library; to seek ways of cooperating; and to make use of available resources. Mathews also talked about her technical assistance work in Denver, Colorado.

Maggie Nation, Director, Flagstaff City-Coconino County Public Library System, reported on her library and the Indian center. The library and the Indian center, with Jim May acting as catalytic agent, set aside 1-1/2 day to do nothing but talk about the center's activities, problems, needs and relating it back to how the library could be of assistance. She expressed her gratitude and appreciation of Mr. May's assistance. She said that the Indian center has a large bright reception room at which people can rest, relax and have a cup of coffee. Old donated books have been replaced with current, very attractive books. They are replaced upon request. A deposit collection has been established in the adult program of the center. In cooperation with the Indian center and the Northern Arizona University's Sociology Department, the Library has prepared a proposal to address different kinds of high interest/low vocabulary materials that would assist the relocatees from the Navajo/Hopi relocation project. Flagstaff now has 100 new Native American families. The Library and the Indian center are working more closely due to May's visit. Ms. Nation would like to see a followup visit to help the library and the Indian center to do future planning. There are enough funds available in the OLOS budget for this visit. May and Nation will work out details.

It was thought to be a marvelous idea to bring together the people who have provided technical assistance in different areas together to interact and possibly deriving out of this meeting some guidelines to help others. Mathews had pointed this out in her meeting with Tom Phelps (NEH).

Other proposed site visits are Wichita, Kansas and Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Mathews suggested Nation write an article on the library and the Indian center for inclusion in the AILNewsletter.

Indian Subcommittee/3

Recommendations: The American Indian Center in Flagstaff, Arizona recommended :

ALA take leadership role in pressing states to support adequately funding for Indian library services;

provide means to getting participants of the various technical assistance projects together to share experiences;

to help in identifying funding sources for future library activities.

Awards: Mary Huffer (former Director, Office of Library Service, U.S. Department of the Interior and subcommittee member) was awarded the Meritorious Service Citation for her singularly distinctive accomplishments and her outstanding achievements including her library service through the Department of the Interior. Ms. Mathews urged the committee as individuals and as a committee to write to Mrs. Huffer expressing their congratulations and gratitude.

Guide To Funding Sources for American Indian Library and Information Services. This document was originally published by the Department of the Interior and has been very useful. Mathews asked for suggestions on what could be done regarding revision.

NCLIS Task Force on Cultural Minorities: Mathews and Lotsee Smith will be serving on this newly formed task force. Also serving are several Blacks, Hispanics, and Asians. The task force has identified as the major minorities groups: Blacks Hispanics, Asians, and American Indians. Mathews will keep the subcommittee informed of the task force's activities.

Adjournment: Both meetings adjourned on schedule.

1980 ALA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

OLOS Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, July 1, 1980,  
2:00-5:00 p.m., Barbizon Plaza, Studio A, New York, New York.

AMENDMENT TO MINUTES

ETHNICITY ROUND TABLE

It was the consensus of the OLSD Advisory  
Committee to reaffirm its position against  
the establishment of an Ethnicity Round  
Table.