

American Indian Libraries Newsletter



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Catch-22 and the Qualla Boundary Public Library

Sandra Harrison

Help! Is anyone out there listening? If you have not read the National Library Act (S.1124, May 14, 1979) introduced by Senators Javits and Kennedy, please make it a point to obtain a copy from your senator and read the whole thing. There is no specific mention of li-



Sandra Harrison

brary services to Indian reservations. This bill, if enacted, will give extensive federal support to public libraries all over the United States, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands, and the Northern Marianas Islands, but it may not help the struggling libraries on Indian reservations, as it is presently worded (see page 14 of the NLA). This bill would even "establish cooperative library exchange programs with foreign libraries, including the translation and distribution of library materials and where appropriate to establish and maintain American information libraries abroad" (page 19), but it might not build one library on an Indian reservation in this country.

All of the federal money that might be appropriated for public libraries by this bill will be funneled through the state library agencies, and they have no obligation whatever to spend even one dime of it on an Indian reservation. Check the laws in your state. Is your tribal library able to qualify as a "county, regional, or municipal" library? If not, you will be unable to tap any of the millions of dollars of federal money, should this bill become law. And as you already know, under the present system of library funding, there is no guaranteed way for the Indian reservations to adequately fund a first-class library and information center.

The question is, Who is responsible for aiding public library services on an Indian reservation? Local public libraries are usually funded in part by property taxes. We do not have property taxes. Most county libraries receive state aid. We have never been able to qualify for state aid, be-

cause the reservation is on federal trust land. The Bureau of Indian Affairs has never provided public library services and has never asked Congress even to make it a line item in its budget. Have you noticed that other federal reserves, such as military bases, do provide public library services through special services of the Department of Defense? And since these libraries are located all over the world, you could say that the U.S. government is *already* in the public library business.

How is it, then, that American Indians have never been able to qualify for ongoing operating funds for our libraries from any source? The most we have ever been able to get is "start-up" money or "one-time project" money.

Here in Cherokee, North Carolina, we have a very small public library that was started with donations, was improved with LSCA grants, and is now totally funded by the tribe (Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians). Tribal money comes from a 5 percent levy on all goods sold on the boundary. So this is probably the only library in the country supported entirely by a local sales tax. It is not a secure base from which to operate. This is a tourist town, and the recent gasoline shortages and price increases have reduced the tribe's revenue by 40 percent this year alone. In addition, we are competing with the police, fire, sanitation, and recreation departments for this money. You can easily see the problems created by trying to fund so many services with a sales tax.

Public library service should not be dependent upon anything so unreliable as a sales tax. It is during bad economic times that libraries are needed the most. The last depression illustrated that only too well.

I personally believe that the tribes should contribute some money to the operation of libraries, but the federal government should have the largest part of the responsibility, with the states and nearby educational institutions making significant contributions according to the population served in their area. For example, we have a technical college and a university holding classes here on the reservation, but we do not have the library resources to support these classes. We

do not even have enough room to accommodate the students from these classes, and we do not receive any money from these institutions.

We are now functioning (minimally) as: a *resource center* for five day-care centers and one day school; a *public library and information center* for 8,000 people (7,000 Cherokees; most of the Anglos either are married to Cherokees or work in agencies serving the Indians); a *learning resource center* for students attending a college and a university; an *audiovisual center* for the distribution of free films and filmstrips and lending of A-V equipment; an *interlibrary loan center*, where one can borrow materials from other libraries in the state or nation; and a *distribution center* for books and magazines to the Indian hospital and senior citizens' center. We also have a branch library operating on another part of the reservation, sixty miles away. All of this is from one room, on an operating budget of \$10,000 (not including salaries and overhead).

Last year we had 18,197 people in our two one-room libraries. Many of them could not even find a place to sit down. (We have only fifteen chairs in the main library and twelve in the branch library.) We need a new building, a bigger staff, and many more books and A-V materials to serve our people's needs.

It has not gone unnoticed that every county surrounding our reservation has built at least one new public library in the last ten years — all with the aid of federal money. We are happy for those people to receive such a vast improvement in their library and information services, but we know all too painfully that our Indian people need a lifelong learning center, in the form of a library, as much as any other community in the United States — and maybe more.

This tribe (the Cherokee Indians) lost more than 40,000 square miles of land to the United States through the Treaties of 1721, 1734, 1755, 1768, 1770, 1772, 1773, 1775, 1777 (two treaties), 1783, 1785 (two treaties), 1791, 1798 (three treaties), 1804, 1805 (two treaties), 1806 (two treaties), 1816 (two treaties), 1817 (four treaties), 1819 (nine treaties), and 1835. Today there are more than 1,000 public libraries located on this land, and most of them were built with federal money.

I personally believe that the National Library Act, the recommendations of the White House Conference, and the National Indian Omnibus Library Bill will stand a better chance of being enacted if we start a letter-writing campaign of unprecedented proportions from every Indian reservation in this country. The time has come to get your pen and paper and send a smoke signal.

Write to the following: President Carter and Mrs. Carter (separate letters); the representatives to Congress from your district (one representative, two senators); the state librarian in your state; Senators Jacob Javits and Edward Kennedy, who sponsored the National Library Act; every member of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs (they are the ones who decide on issues relating to American Indians); every member of the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs; and every member of the National Library Commission.

In addition to this, we should be writing letters to the editors of every Indian newspaper, major newspapers and newsmagazines, and every major library publication in the country. Ask your tribal chairman to write, get your library users and library board members to write, and most of

all you (librarians) write.

The answer is in NUMBERS, my friends. The *more* letters they get on the subject of Indian libraries, the *more likely* they are to notice that all is not well "back on the reservation." And if anyone has expertise in sending lightning bolts, I would recommend one per letter. — *SH, Librarian, Qualla Boundary Public Library, Cherokee, North Carolina.*

Special News

White Cloud Information Retrieval System (WIRS)

White Cloud Center, the National Center for American Indian and Alaskan Native Mental Health Research and Development, is offering a new, major on-line data base for bibliographic information on native mental health. White Cloud Information Retrieval System (WIRS) is a computerized search service that compiles individualized bibliographies on request.

WIRS contains more than 1,200 indexed citations about American Indians and Alaskan natives. These references can be searched and selected by:

- author
- title
- source
- year of publication
- mental health topic
- geographic region
- tribe
- name of psychological test used in the study

For each individual request, WIRS provides a bibliography tailored to meet specifications of date, tribe, topic, and geographic region. Each reference includes: author, title, source, year of publication, and index terms.

WIRS provides assistance to researchers, students, service providers, planners, tribal leaders, consultants, administrators, or anyone else who needs mental health information on American Indians or Alaskan natives.

WIRS bibliographies are valuable tools for:

- writing proposals
- developing curriculum
- research
- developing programs
- training staff members

The *American Indian Libraries Newsletter* is published periodically by the ALA OLSD Committee on Library Service for American Indian People, Virginia Mathews (Osage), Chairperson. The newsletter is sent free of charge. Newsletter editor: Dr. Cheryl Metoyer-Duran (Cherokee). Mailing list additions and address changes should be sent to Jean E. Coleman, Director, OLSD, American Library Association, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611; (312) 944-6780. Manuscripts and letters pertaining to editorial content should be sent to Cheryl Metoyer-Duran, Ph.D., Editor, *American Indian Libraries Newsletter*, UCLA, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, 405 Hilgard Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90024.

- reviewing literature in native mental health
- becoming aware of current research in the field

WIRS will save library search time and improve access to the scattered, interdisciplinary body of American Indian and Alaskan native mental health literature. Included in the data base are references from a wide variety of U.S. and Canadian journals in psychology, psychiatry, anthropology, medicine, social work, sociology, education, corrections, and religion. The cost of the bibliographic search is based on staff time required to structure a search and an hourly rate of telephone and computer time.

For further information contact: Dianne Kelso, White Cloud Center, Gaines Hall, UOHSC, 840 S.W. Gaines, Portland, OR 97201; (503) 225-8939.

Los Angeles County Public Library: Project AmerInd

The South State Cooperative Library System (Los Angeles and Kern County libraries) has been awarded a \$58,000 Library Services and Construction Act grant to provide outreach service to the urban American Indian community. Initially, Project AmerInd will serve the native American community in Huntington Park, Bell Gardens, and Cudahy. Goals of the project are to increase community awareness of library services, to determine the needs of the community and build a multimedia collection to supply them, and to increase staff awareness of the American Indian community. The library is currently searching for an American Indian librarian to serve as project director.

For more information, contact: Ms. Marie Contreras, Huntington Park Library, Los Angeles County Public Library, 6518 Miles Ave., Huntington Park, CA 90255; (213) 583-1461.

Ten Indian Groups Awarded Telecommunications Grants

The Public Telecommunications Facilities Program, a division of the Department of Commerce, recently awarded construction and planning grants to ten Indian groups, according to Mary Dinota, program officer. Most of the grants were to assist in the development of public radio stations to serve reservation areas.

According to the Public Telecommunications Financing Act of 1978 (P.L. 95-567), the purpose of the program is to assist, through matching grants, in the planning and construction of public telecommunications facilities in order to achieve the following objectives:

1. Extend delivery of public telecommunications services to as many citizens of the United States as possible by the most efficient and economical means, including the use of broadcast and nonbroadcast technologies;
2. Increase public telecommunications services and facilities available to, operated by, and owned by minorities and women; and
3. Strengthen the capability of existing public television and radio stations to provide telecommunications services to the public.

Grants were awarded in both construction and planning categories. The following were awarded construction grants:

Hoopa Valley Telecommunications Corporation, P.O. Box 1220, Hoopa, CA 95546: \$120,000
 Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, P.O. Box 455, Cherokee, NC 28719: \$269,625

Planning grants were awarded to the following groups:
 San Carlos Apache Tribe, P.O. Box 9, San Carlos, AZ 85550: \$25,000

Gila River Indian Community, P.O. Box 97, Sacaton, AZ 85247: \$25,000

White Mountain Apache Tribe, P.O. Box 1150, White River, AZ 85941: \$20,000

Round Valley Intertribal Council, P.O. Box 448, Covelo, CA 95428: \$35,000

Sho-Ban Communications Group, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, P.O. Box 306, Fort Hall, ID 83203: \$33,730

Fort Berthold Communications Enterprise, P.O. Box 220, Newton, ND 58763: \$32,000

United Tribes Educational Technical Center, 3315 South Airport Rd., Bismarck, ND 58501: \$32,300

Tribal Governing Board, Lac Courte Oreilles, Route 2, Haywood, WI 54843: \$9,224

This year's closing date for applications was January 9. Total amount available for projects during FY 1980 is \$23.7 million. Planning grants are awarded for up to one year; the duration of construction grants depends upon the facility's operation. The program awards funds annually on a competitive basis.

Indian groups interested in further information on this program should contact Mary Dinota at the following address: Public Telecommunications Facilities Program, 1325 G St., Washington, DC 20005; (202) 724-3307.

—*Reprinted, with permission, from T.A. Newsletter 4, no.28, United Indians of All Tribes Foundation, Technical Assistance (Jan. 1980).*

Arizona Native American Community Libraries Meet

Representatives from eight Arizona Indian reservations met on March 11 and 12 at the Fiesta Inn, Tempe, Arizona, to discuss the problems and issues facing Indian community libraries.

Bessie Bohme Moore, vice-chair of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Sciences, was one of the keynote speakers. She stated that the resolutions passed by the White House Conference on Library and Information Services may need assistance to get them implemented, but that Congress has always been concerned with libraries and learning resources. Moore, a member of the Arkansas State Library Commission, has been on the National Commission since its beginning.

Mary Alice Rezetar, also a member of the National Commission, spoke concerning legislation.

Lotsee Smith, assistant professor of library science at Texas Womans University, chaired this meeting sponsored by the Arizona Department of Library, Archives and Public Records—Library Extension Service. Smith, a member of the Comanche Tribe of Oklahoma, stated, that to her knowledge this was the first statewide conference directly related to meeting the problems and issues of native American community libraries. This opinion was also stated by Ben Wakashige of the University of New Mexico, who works with the New Mexico Pueblo libraries.

Nine recommendations were passed by the thirty-seven attendees at the meeting. These recommendations covered formal training for Indian library staff members; creation of a task force to draft a plan for Arizona native American

community libraries in conjunction with the Arizona State Library; and securing of a permanent position, at the state level, of library consultant for native American library services.

Attendees were from the Navajo Nation, San Carlos and Whiteriver Apache reservations, and Papago, Colorado River, Hopi, Kaibab, and New Pascua Yaqui reservations.

At the last session the participants recommended that this conference be repeated within a one-year period to evaluate the progress of the resolutions passed.

For further information contact: Edith Hart, Extension Librarian, Department of Library, Archives and Public Records, Library Extension Service, 2219 S. 48th St., Suite D, Tempe, AZ 85282; (602) 255-5841.

Cibecue Library Shows Off New Shelving

The Cibecue Community Library set a circulation record recently when it unveiled its new shelving.

The community of Cibecue is located on the White Mountain Apache Reservation in Arizona. When the library moved to its new quarters in the Community Center in 1978, it retained much of the shelving and furnishings from the old building. Recently, however, the library received a Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) grant to purchase new shelving and materials.

The results were fantastic when the library showed off its new shelving. An elementary school class visited the library just after the new shelving was assembled and stocked with new books. Within minutes, the children checked out a record number of books. Betsy Peaches and Vanessa Lupe, the librarians at Cibecue, report that the children checked out fifty-eight books in less than half an hour.

"That's a record for our library," said Peaches. "We've never before checked out so many books in so short a time." And you can bet the librarians were aiming for another record when the rest of their new shelving and books arrived in January.

The shelving and materials were funded by LSCA funds, as administered by the Arizona Department of Library Archives and Public Records.

For information contact: Michael Piper, Extension/Outreach Librarian, Roxanne Whipple Memorial-Navajo County Library, 420 W. Gilmore, Winslow, AZ 86047.

Bacone College:

Native American Information Center

Dean Chavers, president, Bacone College, Muskogee, Oklahoma, is compiling a list of Indian personnel, agencies, and activities as part of the Native American Information Center. These lists will be made available to tribes, planners, researchers, urban centers, and the general public free or at nominal cost. Lists will include the following: (1) tribal leaders; (2) Indian newspapers; (3) Indian counselors; (4) Indian radio and TV stations; (5) urban Indian centers; (6) Title IV Indian education projects; (7) Johnson-O'Malley Indian education projects; (8) Indian college programs; (9) Indian scholarship organizations; (10) national Indian organizations; (11) Indian colleges; (12) Indian libraries; (13) Indian Ph.D.'s; (14) Indian M.D.'s; (15) Indian nurses (R.N.); (16) Indian nurses (L.P.N./L.V.N.); (17) terminated tribes and bands; (18) state Indian commissions; (19) state Indian education offices; (20) state Indian education associations; (21) Indian churches; (22) Indian librarians;

(23) federal Indian offices; (24) Indian museums; (25) Indian housing authorities; (26) Indian traders; (27) Indian health service hospitals; (28) Indian Health Service contract care clinics; (29) Indian attorneys; (30) fact sheet: "American Indians in the Professions"; (31) Bureau of Indian Affairs offices; and (32) denominational Indian desks.

For more information, contact: Dean Chavers, Ph.D., president, Bacone College, Muskogee, OK 74401.

Blackfeet Indian Reservation

Indian Library Resolution Reaffirmed

WHEREAS: It has come to the attention of the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council through information provided by Cynthia Kipp that there does not presently exist on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation any type of Indian library; and

WHEREAS: There is a great need on the Blackfeet Reservation for an all Indian library that would be a resource center for Indian studies, including cultural materials together with legal and historical materials; and

WHEREAS: Cynthia Kipp has told the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council that such a library is possible for the Blackfeet Reservation and that she would be responsible for seeing that the proper funding and resource sources are contacted;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council hereby goes on record to support Cynthia Kipp's efforts to obtain an all Indian library for the Blackfeet Indian Reservation and further, the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council unequivocally supports the idea of such a library for the Blackfeet Indian Reservation.

The Blackfeet Tribe of the
Blackfeet Indian Reservation

Letters to the Editor

Dear Dr. Metoyer-Duran:

Was speaking to Roberta Miskokomon (vice-president, Original Peoples Library Association, from Muncey, Ontario, Canada) and I understand that you met each other recently. Roberta told me that you were interested in the Original Peoples Library Association and what the Resource Centre here is doing.

The brief history of the Resource Centre outlines our activities here. One of the projects that we have undertaken, which I understand you are particularly interested in, is the computerization of our holdings with a native classification scheme (designed by Brian Deer [Mohawk] and used by quite a few native libraries in Canada). The project seems to be progressing very well. However, we will be in a better position to comment on it after March 1980 when it should be in complete operation. We are also going to be using the Hennepin County Subject Headings. Are you familiar with these headings? If so, I would be interested in knowing your opinions on them.

From our visits to the Indian communities in northern Ontario that we service, it has become firmly established that training of native people in library work is definitely a priority. We have already had one successful workshop with

band librarians in August of this year (agenda and kit enclosed).

In northern Ontario, we are in a particularly difficult position because there is no institutionalized library training program in the north, the closest one to here being about 200 miles to the south in Sudbury, Ontario. This makes the cooperative learning situation (where a student goes to school part-time and works in the field part-time) particularly difficult. The Northern Ontario Regional Library Systems offer training workshops, and some of these are very useful. However, the emphasis is mainly on nonnative library service.

An added difficulty is the fact that the Indian communities in northern Ontario are almost all isolated communities (see Grand Council Treaty 9 brochure. This outlines the situation in one treaty area of northern Ontario). This means that there are never or rarely any local resource people trained in the library field who reside in the community. Training, consequently, has to be conducted either in the community, or the band librarian has to leave the community to attend workshops in the larger centers.

We very often find ourselves in the position of designing many of our workshops and other training programs from scratch. We also have to adapt many of the nonnative library materials to native people, in language that is straightforward, simple and free of unnecessary library jargon. In other words, there is a lot of creative writing involved.

What we eventually hope to develop is a band librarian training manual. We have also been documenting any training we've been doing here.

I received with interest all the back issues of the *American Indian Libraries Newsletter (AILN)*, some brochures, and resolutions passed by the NCAI and the chair of the White House Preconference resolutions committee. It is certainly impressive, the amount of work American Indians have been doing in the library field, especially the political lobbying. The area I am particularly interested in is the training you've been doing in this area.

Could you please let me know the following:

1. Do you know of any library training manuals that have been prepared—technical services, public services, etc.—specifically for native library use in the United States? If so, do you know if we could obtain a copy and from where? Note: We are aware of the additional sources outlined in "Notes from the Editor" in the *AILN* (Fall 1977). In addition, I intend to check with the School of Librarianship, Western Michigan University, re their Public Library Services to Native American Groups, on this same matter.
2. Do you know of any films or videotapes on native American library service that might be useful to us?
3. Are you aware of any native American organization which has developed high interest/low vocabulary material specifically for native people?
4. We would be interested in receiving information on any library and information conferences relevant to native people that may be coming up in the near future in the United States. The Original Peoples Library Association (OPLA) might be interested in attending these workshops. OPLA might also consider making presentations at any of these conferences that appeal to them.

Any information that you can give us re the questions

outlined in this letter would be greatly appreciated. Also, if you have any questions on what is enclosed, please let us know.

Leith Peterson, Assistant Coordinator
Ojibway & Cree Resource Center
Native Information Service (AKNIS)
71 Third Ave.
Timmins, ON P4N 1C2

Dear Dr. Metoyer-Duran:

I have just received my first issue of *American Indian Libraries Newsletter*. It will be a valuable addition to our resources on current issues concerning American Indians.

The Heard Museum Library is a research facility specializing in anthropology, American Indians, primitive art and some material on Oceania and Africa (primarily concerning art). Would you please send the library a copy of the questionnaire mentioned in your Winter 1980 issue so we may participate in your American Indian Library information gathering project? Thank you.

Mary E. Graham, Librarian
The Heard Museum
22 E. Monte Vista Rd.
Phoenix, AZ 85004

Notes from the Editor

Cheryl Metoyer-Duran, Ph.D.



In previous issues of the *AILN*, the editor has considered topics such as community surveys, the role of the White House Preconference on Indian Library and Information Services on or near Reservations and that of the White House Conference, and information in relation to Indian economic development. In the majority of these editorials, it has been assumed that the leadership role provided by tribal chairs and tribal committees in formulating library-oriented policies is both acknowledged and understood. Recently, in discussions with non-Indians concerning library development, it has become apparent that the crucial position(s) held by local tribal leaders have not been fully understood. Therefore, these notes will highlight the role of tribal leaders in formulating library-oriented *policies* and programs:

1. Policies affecting the total community including library development are, by definition, the domain of tribal leaders.
2. Regardless of the source(s) of the funding for Indian library programs, the stimulus and support for such programs are primarily provided by tribal leaders in conjunction with the librarian.
3. The potential for continuing support of library programs is significantly improved if tribal leaders are consistently informed of library activities and accomplishments.

4. As the groundwork is prepared for developing new programs or expanding existing programs, some form of community analysis is required. This analysis in turn should include the input of tribal leaders at all appropriate levels of development.
5. Tribal leaders rely on their own communications network, which spans the reservations' geographical boundaries. The impact of this network is significant and could foster regional library growth.
6. Public, school, and academic libraries located outside Indian country should identify and attempt to solicit tribal leaders as library board members or as advisory members of library committees.
7. Letters of support from identified Indian leaders should be requested and included in proposals seeking funds for Indian library activities.
8. And finally, in developing a dialogue with tribal leaders, keep in mind that while they are intent listeners, they also require the time to formulate and speak to the library issues under discussion. This is crucial, as the accumulating and digesting of information is the key to the tribal leader's role as an information disseminator.

Without the necessary information, a tribal leader cannot function as an effective library supporter or community leader. As the tribal librarian, you have the responsibility to inform your tribal leaders of their significance in library development. You also have the opportunity, as an effective librarian, to provide such leaders with the information they require for informed decision-making. A careful balancing of these responsibilities should improve and enhance the

growth of the library within your community—*CM-D* (Cherokee), editor.

Job Announcements

POSITION AVAILABLE, Michigan Technological University.

The Department of Social Sciences is interested in developing a new program in Society, Science and Technology. It is possible this will develop into a graduate program within the next five or so years. The position being sought is therefore an important one, especially since it will be our first SST appointment and we will expect to obtain guidance from the individual chosen.

Michigan Technological University is located in a relatively rural area close to Lake Superior with the advantage of many nice old turn-of-the-century homes, clean air and plenty of fresh water. For an individual inclined to live outside the urban area, it is an excellent place to live and work.

We would welcome receiving applicants in Society, Science and Technology.

For additional information, contact: John H. Winslow, Ph.D., Head, Department of Social Sciences, Michigan Technological University; Houghton, MI 49931; (906) 487-2113.

Notice

In 1979, the *American Indian Libraries Newsletter* did not print an issue No. 4 for Vol. 3.

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
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