

American Indian Libraries Newsletter



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AFFILIATION HERALDED

The President of the American Indian Library Association (AILA), Rhonda Harris Taylor, recently announced that the American Library Association Executive Board and Council have accepted AILA's request for affiliation. AILA was organized in 1980 as an important outgrowth of the White House Pre-Conference on Indian Libraries and Information Services. Since that time, the AILA has cooperated with the Office of Library Outreach Services (OLOS) and its Subcommittee on Library Services for American Indian People.

AILA has done several things to realize its goals concerning the establishment, maintenance, and upgrading of American Indian libraries wherever concentrations of Indian people reside. One of AILA's most important goals was the passage of a Federal American Indian Libraries Bill. On October 17, 1984, President Reagan signed Public Law No. 98-480 which provides new Title IV Library Services for Indian Tribes.

As an affiliate of the American Library Association, AILA plans to continue offering quality programs at the annual conferences and make information of interest to American Indian librarians across the country available. AILA's contribution to the annual conference effort, the formal paper session and the popular pow-wow, are designed to provide American Indian librarians with a forum and to provide all librarians with accurate information concerning the needs of American Indian people wherever they might reside.

UPDATE ON LSCA TITLE IV

U.S. Department of Education
Library Services & Construction Act,
Title IV

The final regulations were published in the Federal Register on August 16, 1985, vol. 50, No. 159; Preamble, p. 33172-33175; Basic Grants, Part 771, p. 33183; Special Projects, Part 772, p. 33185-33188; and Comments, Parts 771-772, p. 33197-33199.

Awards will be announced officially on September 30 as planned.

Many citizens interested in American Indian libraries and knowledgeable of Title IV wrote in response to the published regulations. In some cases these comments initiated changes in the regulations. The following are selected comments which reflect the concerns of American Indian communities across the nation:

One reader felt that the library materials definition should be expanded to include computer software. The inclusion of such materials is especially important since libraries everywhere are offering on-line services to their readers. Several sections of the regulations have been modified as a result of this suggestion.

Another reader wanted the term "near reservation" clarified. In this case no change was made in the regulations since many tribes in Alaska, California, and
see Update, p. 2

Update

Oklahoma do not have reservations and still need to participate in the program.

A request that the eligibility of tribal community colleges be clarified was also made. The response was that a school library could qualify for grant funds if the library extends library services beyond its own special readership to include the community at large.

The Red Pages:

Business Across Indian America.

Barbara Conroy,
Native American Libraries
Round Table, New Mexico Library
Association

Toppenish, WA, LaCourse Communication Corp., 1985. 282 p. \$65.00 (no ISBN listed)

This directory, the first of a projected annual series, gives a state-by-state listing of American Indian owned businesses arranged by Standard Industrial Classification (SIC). Businesses listed include those owned by individuals and by tribes from mining and manufacturing to retail. Each listing gives the business name, address, telephone number, and contact person.

The introduction describes the impressive increase in numbers of Indian-owned businesses with classifications by state paralleling business statistics with Indian population figures. Each major SIC category is briefly profiled with statistics and current trends.

Data sources include tribes, inter-tribal organizations, and federal agencies. Indian businesses are only infrequently listed in statewide directories, thus limiting access to Indian entrepreneurs.

This unique and useful reference tool is remarkably strong and essential for agencies and tribes focused on economic development, potential customers seeking products and services, and organizations seeking to channel business to minority

subcontractors. This volume meets a long overlooked need within the American Indian community.

POSITION AVAILABLE

LIBRARY: Library Coordinator, Seminole Tribe of Florida. Responsible for training and supervising library personnel, selection officer, monitor community needs, promote services, prepare budget, catalogue and process materials, prepare long-range development, write grant proposals, supervise maintenance of library facility, etc.

Candidate must have a thorough knowledge of modern library purposes and standards, public library administration, ability to motivate and direct professional and paraprofessional staff, ability to present ideas effectively both in writing and orally. Other requirements include an MLS from an ALA-accredited library school, 2 years of experience in a public library, and demonstrated administrative and supervisory experience.

Salary: \$20,384 with benefits. For further information contact Danielle Carpenter, Assistant Director, Payroll/Personnel Department, 6073 Stirling Road, Hollywood, Fla. 33024. Telephone (305) 583-7112, ext. 263 or 264.

The American Indian Libraries Newsletter is published quarterly by the ALA OLOS Committee on Library Service for American Indian People, Janice M. Beaudin (Winnebago), Chairperson. The newsletter is sent by subscription only. Newsletter editor: Dr. Thomas J. Blumer. Subscriptions and address changes should be sent to Jean E. Coleman, Director, OLOS, American Library Association, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611; (312) 944-6780. Manuscripts and letters pertaining to editorial content should be sent to Thomas J. Blumer, Editor, American Indian Libraries Newsletter, European Law Division, Law Library, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20540. SUBSCRIPTION RATES ARE: \$5.00 (individuals); \$7.00 (libraries, institutions, agencies); \$10.00 (foreign/overseas); \$2.00 (each back copy).

AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES CENTER
LIBRARY

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Velma S. Salabiye (Navajo),
American Indian Studies Center Library,
UCLA, Los Angeles

The American Indian Studies Center Library, established in 1970, provides specialized library and information services to UCLA faculty, students, staff, and researchers whose general and academic interests focus on various aspects of American Indian culture. The Library supports academic programs and research projects while complementing the resources of the UCLA library system. A goal of the Library is to assure that all important American Indian and multi-ethnic materials are available at UCLA or are recorded in the bibliographic apparatus for all users. The Library provides information services central to, and supportive of, American Indian studies courses, research projects, publications, curriculum development, and student/community relations.

Approximately 6,000 volumes comprise the Library's core collection. This number covers the subject "Indians of North America," with a strong emphasis on California and the Southwest. The primary focus is on American Indian life, culture, and state-of-affairs in historical and contemporary perspectives. The collection is classified according to a modified Library of Congress system of classification and subject headings. The materials are accessible by author, title, and subject.

Augmenting the circulating and reference collections are dissertations, audio-visual materials, serials/periodicals, and a vertical file.

Theses and Dissertations: This collection is comprised of 429 volumes and strongly supports the University's graduate program in American Indian Studies.

It represents serious scholarly research on historical and contemporary issues.

Audio-Visual Collection: The audio cassettes number 31 and are significant since the subject matter includes speeches by Indian leaders; some reel tapes also include speeches and lectures by noted Indian leaders. Included in 70 microfilms are records of correspondence to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (Arizona and California) and census rolls of the Southern California Mission Indian Agency, 1922-1939.

Serials/Periodicals: This collection includes 350 titles of significant interest, such as newspapers, newsletters, serials/periodicals, and journals published throughout the United States and Canada by American Indian and Indian-interest organizations. The importance of this collection is in its timeliness in reporting tribal affairs.

Vertical File: The nine file drawers in the vertical file include pamphlets, clippings, and flyers covering numerous American Indian subjects.

The staff is involved in all the traditional library services including technical services, circulation, reference and referral, and reserve book services. The Library has a computer terminal which provides access to ORION, the online database unique to the UCLA library system. It is used as a cataloging and searching tool for reference services. A microform reader/printer and a photocopying machine are also available.

CALL FOR NEWS ITEMS

AILN would like to receive short papers for forthcoming issues. We wish to know about your programs, staff activities, coming events. Profiles of collections, Indian libraries, or cultural facilities are welcome as are short select bibliographies.

Deadlines are as follows: Winter--Nov. 1; Spring--Feb. 15; Summer--May 15; and Fall--Aug. 15.

Please write the editor: Thomas J. Blumer, European Law Division, Law Library, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20540.

THE DEVELOPMENTAL HISTORY
OF THE
NAVAJO NATION LIBRARY SYSTEM

Richard G. Heyser, Director
Cultural Resources Department
Navajo Nation

The first known public library services on the Navajo Reservation began in 1941 when the Window Rock Homemakers Club adopted the concept of a volunteer library as their Club project. The Window Rock Homemakers Club was primarily composed of Anglo women whose husbands worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs or the Public Health Service. Funds to purchase books and supplies were raised through a variety of events such as cake sales. In September 1973 the Window Rock Homemakers Club was disbanded, and by 1975 the same group of people had reorganized themselves into the Friends of the Library. In 1975 the Library was also officially turned over to the Navajo Tribe and placed under the jurisdiction of what was then the Museum and Research Department.

A Tribal budgetary resolution of 1978 formally established the Navajo Nation Library System, and the Window Rock Library became its headquarters and first officially designated branch. The history of the Library System's accomplishments and growth is most evident in the achievements of its two subprograms, the Public Libraries Program and the Native American Research Library (also known as the Special Collections Program).

Public Libraries Program

Today the Public Libraries Program consists of two existing programs and two planned for implementation in 1986. Those are the Window Rock (Arizona) Public Library and the Navajo (New Mexico) Community Library. The two programs planned for implementation in 1986 are the Chinle (Arizona) Public Library and the bookmobile service.

As noted earlier, the Window Rock Public Library was established in 1941. It also serves as the headquarter library. The Window Rock Public Library moved to its present location, the basement of the Recreation Hall, sometime in the 1960s. In 1973, the Navajo Tribe

employed a full-time library technician to operate the library. In September 1975, a library consultant (the author of this article) was employed for a period of four months and was charged with the responsibility of training staff and securing additional funding for the Window Rock Library. As a result of the consultant's work, a staff training program was developed, an operation's handbook was written, and \$10,000 from revenue sharing funds were secured to purchase materials by, for, and about Native Americans. The consultant also developed a design for a proposed community library at Navajo, New Mexico. In 1978, the Navajo Nation employed a professional librarian, and to date the Navajo Nation Library System has a staff of one professional and two paraprofessionals.

In 1977 a new Navajo Community Center was constructed, and the Navajo Community Library began operations in this building. The technician operating the library began to receive a minimal salary in 1978 through the efforts of the Navajo Forest Products Industries (NFPI). In 1981, NFPI turned the operation of the Navajo Community Center over to the Navajo Nation and the Navajo Community Library became an official part of the NNLS at that time.

The Chinle Public Library began operation in the late 1960s in an old, unused BIA facility and was staffed by volunteers. In the late 1970s, the NNLS, in cooperation with the St. Johns/Apache County (Arizona) Library, successfully secured personnel from the Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) program to operate the Library. This Library was closed in 1981 when the CETA participants were no longer available to staff the Library. The NNLS is currently working with volunteers in an attempt to reopen the Chinle Public Library.

Bookmobiles provided the most significant early library service on the Reservation. Before 1969, bookmobile service from Phoenix, Arizona, was provided on an irregular and infrequent schedule. However, in July 1970, the Four Corners Mobile Library Project became operational under funding from the Four Corners Regional Commission and the Arizona State Library Extension Service.

Two bookmobile programs operated at this time and serviced approximately 75 on-reservation stops. The project ended in 1973, and the bookmobiles were loaned to the Museum Research Department of the Navajo Tribe. The Tribe, using funding from LSCA and staff from CETA, managed to keep one bookmobile operating until 1978 when the project was discontinued primarily because the bookmobiles were no longer operable. The NNLS acquired two new bookmobiles in 1982. One bookmobile was purchased through funding provided by the Pittsburg and Midway Coal Mining Company and the other was purchased through funds from the Navajo Tribe and LSCA. It is hoped that bookmobile service will be provided to residents in 1986.

Native American Research Library

Five unique collections belong to the Native American Research Library (NARL), and each has its own history: the Museum Collection; the J. Lee Correll Collection; the ONEO Oral History Collection; the Navajo Research and Statistics Center Collection; and the Water Library. The Research Library will continue to grow as additional special collections are identified and brought into the program.

The Museum Collection is located in the Window Rock Public Library. Established by Martin Link in 1961 as part of the Navajo Tribal Museum, it was transferred to the NNLS in 1978. Receipt of the Museum Collection provided the impetus for the creation of the Research Library (Special Collections) Program of the NNLS. The collection was developed

through a combination of gifts, grants, donations, and budgetary funding. It is a reference, noncirculating collection of materials about Navajos in particular and Native Americans in general.

For over 27 years J. Lee Correll, a researcher for the Navajo Tribe, systematically worked on a collection for the Navajo Tribe. This important collection became part of the NNLS in 1979 upon Correll's death. The collection consists of a large number of pre-Treaty (1868) manuscripts, Navajo land claims, case records, archaeological site information, maps, photographs, genealogical materials, oral history records, field books and logs, and archival documents. This collection is closed to the general public and only accessible through permission granted by the Attorney General of the Navajo Tribe. As Correll did much of the investigation for the Navajo Tribe's land claim cases, the collection contains very sensitive data which is still being used in Tribal litigation.

The ONEO Oral History Collection contains a number of tapes, data, and manuscripts developed by the Navajo Cultural Center which operated under the auspices of the Office of Navajo Economic Opportunity (ONEO) from 1966 through 1968. The collection consists of culturally sensitive materials including information on Navajo rites and ceremonies gained through interviews with tribal elders and medicine men. Assessment/inventory of the collection was made in 1979 by Ruth Green and it was reported that many of the materials had disappeared, tapes

AMERICAN INDIAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

"Working to improve...."

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____ Position or Title _____

Address _____

Town or City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Membership dues enclosed are for:

- Regular \$10.00
- Institutional 25.00
- Student 5.00

Comments or Requests:

needed transcribing and duplicating, all materials needed to be properly stored, and their use carefully controlled. The collection was turned over to the NNLS in August 1981 upon the demise of the ONEO. That same year the NNLS obtained a consultant grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to evaluate it. Because of its cultural sensitivity and delicate physical condition, the collection is closed.

The Navajo Research and Statistics Center Collection was developed with funding from a federal grant and revenue sharing beginning in 1974 and lasting until 1977, when it received a budget from the Navajo Tribe. The Center operated under the Economic Development Division of the Navajo Tribe. The Center's main library focus was to collect materials on comprehensive planning, economic development, and technical information. At the same time, research on various topics was done by the Center's Research Director. The Center was administratively transferred to the NNLS in 1981 and placed under the supervision of a professional librarian. Its collection is open to the general public, although some

materials, because they contain sensitive data, are placed on a restricted list.

In 1983 the Water Library was presented to the NARL. This Library consists of data, manuscripts, and books collected by Williams Brothers of Tulsa, Oklahoma, water consultants to the Navajo Nation for a period of approximately 10 years. The Water Library has been micro-fiched, and a copy has been given to the Tribe's Division of Water Resources. The NARL's Water Library is closed to the general public; however, those wishing access to it may consult with the Division of Water Resources concerning use of the materials.

The Navajo Nation Library System's programs have proven to be successful; however, the demand for service far exceeds the ability of the limited staff to provide access. The NNLS has taken steps to ensure that existing problems be solved efficiently and effectively. With these problems in mind, NNLS has initiated a phased development, a preliminary needs assessment, and the development of long-range goals and objectives. This program will be discussed in detail in future issues of AILN.

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