

American Indian Libraries Newsletter



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THE TRAIL ENDS

Lotsee Patterson
(Comanche)
Program Director

After providing technical assistance and training to American Indian and Alaskan Natives for 16 months, the contract which funded this program is ending. As of January 10, 1987, the TRAILS office and toll free number will no longer be available to the tribes.

During its brief tenure, TRAILS conducted a total of 12 workshops in 7 states. Seventy-four Indian tribes and Alaskan villages benefited. Seven state libraries also participated in the workshops, and TRAILS received an average of 97 telephone calls per month from communities requesting information or assistance. Assistance provided in response to these requests ranged from locating an out-of-print Choctaw dictionary to planning a new library facility.

TRAILS has proven that the momentum for the development of tribal libraries, archives, and records management programs is gaining strength. The tribes are almost unanimous in their search for human and financial resources to provide services in these library related areas.

In the future, tribes seeking assistance should contact their state libraries and establish contact with one of the library development specialists. I urge you to "Keep your libraries going and growing."

[Lotsee will be teaching at Northeastern State University, Tahlequah, Oklahoma.]

THANKS AND FAREWELL

JEAN COLEMAN

In November, 1986, Jean Coleman resigned her position as Director of the ALA office of Library Outreach Services. Upon this occasion, there are many in the American Indian Library Association (AILA) who will be reflecting upon our debts to Jean. She has provided a vital link for this organization with the American Library Association. Jean has provided the "outreach" so necessary to AILA, especially in its fledgling years. Jean: thank you for your concern and patience. We wish you the very best for your future endeavors. Jean will pursue a Ph.D. in library information studies at Rutgers University.

Rhonda Harris Taylor
(Choctaw)
President, AILA

UPDATE ON LSQA TITLE IV

U.S. Department of Education
Library Services & Construction Act

Applications for the 1987 basic grants have been received from 190 American Indian and Alaskan Native communities. This year, one Hawaiian application was submitted. An announcement concerning awards is expected late in February 1987. Special grant applications will be available by March 23, and the deadline for making application will be May 11.

Additional information may be obtained from either Beth Fine or Frank Stevens of the U.S. Department of Education, Library Development Staff, Library Program/OERI, Washington, D.C. 20208. Tel. (202) 357-6315.

AILA, the Office of Library Outreach Services, and the Subcommittee on Library Service for American Indian People will meet during ALA Midwinter. The first session will be on Saturday, January 17, from 4:30-5:30 p.m. at the Hilton, Conference Room 4-E. A second meeting is planned for Monday, January 19, from 11:30-12:30 a.m. at the Hilton, Conference Room 4-I.

The major item on the agenda for both meetings is the 1987 San Francisco Conference.

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.

Please write the editor: Thomas J. Blumer, European Law Division, Law Library, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20540. Tel. (202) 287-9862.

THE SEMINOLE TRIBAL LIBRARY SYSTEM

Norman H. Tribbett
(Potawatomis)

The Seminole Tribal Library System currently serves approximately 1,300 residents of the Hollywood, Big Cypress, and Brighton Indian Reservations in Florida. The collections include material from a varied information format such as books, videos, cassettes, periodicals, films, and reference materials.

Recently the Seminole system was able to hire two half-time library aides who are members of the Seminole Tribe. These positions were made possible by LSCA Title IV funding. The library aides run 16mm films, provide video showings, and help with the growing children's program. As the Seminoles continue to develop their system, they hope to acquire materials which reflect the history and interests of their communities.

[Norman Tribbett is coordinator for the Seminole Library System.]

AVAILABLE
Elaine Mills

John Peabody Harrington, a dedicated ethnologist, was possessed of one goal in life: to record in every possible detail the lives and languages of the American Indian tribes whose cultures were fading as their numbers dwindled. Beginning in 1907, he combed North America locating and interviewing last survivors in an attempt to rescue for posterity background on their heritage.

Along with linguistic material, Harrington also gathered extensive information on tribal boundaries, local geography, folklore, ceremonies, music, ethnobiology, and material culture. He succeeded where other scholars had often failed in eliciting the cooperation of Native informants, and, working endless hours that would have defeated a less driven man, Harrington recorded every detail he discovered. At the time of his death in 1961, he had amassed a large collection of anthropological field notes.

The Harrington Papers are housed in the National Anthropological Archives of the National Museum of Natural History and consist of more than 750,000 pages of documentation. Only original material created by Harrington, his co-workers, and field assistants, or notes given to him by others, are included. The collection consists of field notes, slip-

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file dictionaries, unpublished grammars, photographs, sketches, maps, correspondence, etc.

The 101 reels of microfilm included in Part I contain material on the tribes of Alaska and the Northwest Coast. Part II includes both North and Central California. All orders and inquiries should be directed to Kraus International Publications, One Water Street, White Plains, New York 10601 (Tel. 914-761-9600).

AMERICAN INDIAN RESOURCE CENTER

Los Angeles County Public Library
Tom Lippert
Librarian

The American Indian Resource Center was established in 1979 to serve the information and cultural needs of the 70,000 American Indians residing in Los Angeles County.

The Center's service population is 80% Plains and Southwest Indians, with substantial representation from the Great Lakes area and the Southeast.

Los Angeles County covers almost 4,000 square miles. There are no Indian neighborhoods or districts. Most communities have an Indian population of less than 1%. Because of distances, most requests are received by telephone. Whenever possible, materials are sent to a community library in the system near the patron's home or a free photocopy is mailed directly to the patron.

Collections are strongest regarding the Indians of the Southwest and Plains areas. The Center collects most aspects of the Indian experience, preferring popular titles over academic works whenever possible. The stacks are open for browsers, and most materials circulate. At present, the basic collection contains about 4,000 volumes, and this year's book budget allows for good growth. In addition, the Center has 50 16mm films which circulate and has started collecting video-cassettes. Fifty periodicals including newspapers and newsletters are received on a regular basis. One of the collection's strong points is its 400 circulating phonograph records and cassettes containing traditional music. The Center also has some microform materials: periodical backfiles, census rolls, and various publications of the Indian Claims Commission. An added community service

is a 50 card Information and Referral File on local Indian service agencies, organizations, and individuals.

The Center also has a six drawer Current Events Vertical File with 300 subject headings. Fifty periodicals are monitored and articles photocopied.

Staff: one full time librarian and one half time library aide who is a Navajo.

Cataloging: Dewey. The staff is presently reorganizing the stacks. Books are being shelved by tribe/nation.

Readers: 70,000 urban Indian residents, urban service agencies and organizations, and the general public interested in Indians.

Meeting Room: Seats 50. On the average, it is used six times per month by Indian groups.

Outreach: The Center conducts a vigorous program. Equipped with a portable table, a cart full of books and flyers, the staff visits powwows, senior citizen luncheons, and any group expressing an interest in the Center. In 1985/86 the Center conducted 26 visits and provided 18 book displays. The Center also held 60 in-house outreach programs. As a result of the Center's outreach efforts, circulation has increased 134%, reference 156% and the Center's book fund allocation has been increased by 50%.

JOB MARKET

Assistant or Associate Librarian. Reference librarian with experience in social sciences, textual and numeric data files and microcomputers. Requires MLS or equivalent, communication skills, and the potential to work with computerized data files. Deadline: January 30, 1987.

Contact: Katherine Beiers, Assistant University Librarian--Personnel, University Library, University of California, Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA 95064.

Assistant or Associate Professor. Cornell University is seeking applicants for its American Indian Program in the areas of anthropology, education, literature, and the social sciences, as well as applicants whose academic expertise is in the area of Northeast Indian studies.

Contact: Isaac Kramnick, Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, 236 Goldwin Hall, Ithaca, New York 14853.

AMERICAN INDIAN LIBRARY
SYSTEM IS GROWING

Richard V. La Course, the executive editor of La Course Communications, agrees with Lotsee Patterson's assessment of the current strength of library services in American Indian and Alaskan Native communities. According to the latest figures, the 1986 census of such facilities is as follows:

- 167 secondary and primary school libraries;
- 30 college libraries;
- 487 tribal archives;
- 62 museum libraries;
- 59 law libraries;
- 42 business libraries; and
- 11 international issues libraries.

This list does not include the vast number of specialized American Indian and Alaskan Native library and archival collections in federal, state, and local institutions. These remain non-Indian in ownership. Public facilities have long been used by the tribes and will continue to be of tremendous value; however, a change is coming in the American Indian library situation as young tribal members

are able to do more and more of their research near their homes. Hopefully, before long few American Indian and Alaskan Natives will have to travel far afield to do library research on their own history.

RUPERT COSTO LIBRARY
OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN

University of California at
Riverside

Recently the Rupert Costo Library was transferred from the American Indian Historical Society in San Francisco to UC at Riverside. The base collection consists of more than 7,000 volumes and 9,000 documents. At the same time, the Society established the Rupert Costo Chair in American Indian History made financially possible through a \$400,000 gift.

Rupert and Jeannette Costo have long been involved in the continuing campaign to correct the historical record regarding American Indians. They frequently appear before state textbook committees to fight for the scholarly representation of history, rather than the old stereotypes.

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