

For Immediate Release
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ALA/Meckler Library of the Future Award recipient named

The Albert R. Mann Library at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., directed by Jan Olsen, is the 1993 recipient of the American Library Association (ALA)/Meckler Library of the Future Award.

The award, \$2,500 donated by the Meckler Corporation, is given to a library, consortium, group of librarians, or support organization for information technology in a library setting.

"The 1993 award is present to the Albert R. Mann Library for their exemplary work in the development of an overall program that demonstrates the capabilities and applications of information technology," said Marty Kesselman, chair of the ALA/Meckler Library of the Future Award Committee. "Clearly, Mann Library has implemented powerful tools for instruction, networking and preservation.

"Through partnerships with corporations, government agencies, foundations and professional associations, this library has made impacts beyond the traditional boundaries of the university. Mann Library's work in these areas forms a blueprint for the continuing evolution of the electronic library of the future."

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Mann Library's electronic library takes advantage of computer networks to overcome the barriers of its physical walls. Library staff members keep in constant touch with developments in technology. The library's instructional program has enabled students and faculty to consider keyboards, screens and computer software their allies. More than 31,000 students, faculty and staff have received instruction in information access and management from Mann staff since 1983.

The library is recognized as a national leader in preserving printed books and journals and staff have provided leadership in the development of a national plan for the preservation of literature of the agricultural sciences.

The Mann Library supports the research, instruction and extension work of students, faculty and staff in Cornell University's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, College of Human Ecology, Division of Nutritional Sciences and Division of Biological Sciences. Part of the Cornell University Library System, the library also serves the citizens of New York State as a land grant library.

It was constructed in 1952 and houses a print collection of more than 900,000 volumes. The building contains two microcomputer centers, provides research and study space to a primary user population of almost 10,000 including 4,500 undergraduates. An addition to the building, scheduled to be completed within five years, will double Mann Library's size and will feature state-of-the-art technology for instruction and information storage and access.

Since 1991, Mann's electronic library, the "Mann Library Gateway," has provided access to bibliographic, full text and numeric information from outside the library's physical walls via computer networks including the Internet. The electronic library is available to the entire Cornell community

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of almost 30,000 people and to hundreds of cooperative extension agents in all parts of New York State.

Mann Library was the recipient of a 1984 John Cotton Dana Public Relations Award for "an innovative, creative and effective public information program that dramatically convinced students to cooperate in a campaign to keep food and drink out of the library."

The Mann staff have coauthored a book, "Public Access Microcomputers in Academic Libraries: The Mann Library Model at Cornell," edited by Howard Curtis. Chicago, IL: American Library Association. 1987.

The award will be presented during the ALA Annual Conference, June 26-July 1, in New Orleans.