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# LITANEWSLETTER

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## On the Scene in New York

*Editor's Note: The 1980 Annual Conference in NYC was a delightful treat. Aside from too many meetings scattered all over town and major construction work hampering the convention's central hotel, few complaints were heard. Members and vendors alike were pleased with the spaciousness and convenience of the New York Coliseum, which housed all the exhibits.*

*The city provided ample entertainment for ALA-ers, who danced at the Copa Cabana and lined up for half-price theater tickets in Times Square. Jazz buffs attended Newport Jazz Festival concerts that featured greats such as Dave Brubeck and Chick Corea. Those wise enough to send for tickets in advance were able to see the Picasso exhibit at the Museum of Modern Art. And, of course, the streets of New York are always entertaining. At one point convention buses crossing town were stalled because of the annual gay women's parade up Fifth Avenue.*

*Technology dominated the conference. Virtually all programs concerned with automation had overflow attendance. The same was true at the exhibits, particularly the LITA booth (see write-up below), although authors like Judy Blume also gathered large crowds. Some of the highlights of the conference are summarized below. I regret that time and space do not permit fuller coverage.*

### LITA Award to Henriette Avram

Incoming division president Michael Malinconico presented the LITA Award for Achievement in Library and Information Technology to Henriette D. Avram of the Library of Congress at the President's Program in NYC on July 1. Avram was cited for her work in developing the MARC format that provided the firm ground on which the profession could advance. Her work in promoting the development of national networks laid the foundation for further advances. Avram is currently director of the Network Development Office at the Library of Congress. Previously she held the position of chief of the MARC Development Office at LC. She served as president of LITA in 1975-76 and has worked extensively in the development of technical standards for libraries.



*Stephen Salmon, chair of the Awards Committee, congratulates LITA Award-winner Henriette Avram while Michael Malinconico looks on.*

### LITA President's Program

The theme of the program, "Home Video/Computers . . . Will Libraries Be Necessary?" is a sincere concern of the many librarians who attended. Murray Turoff of the New Jersey Institute of Technology predicted that, indeed, libraries may *not* be necessary, or at least they may become very different. He suggested that libraries will remove everything "static" (books, pictures, records) and be left just with the "transitory" information, the data that change. Librarians should start to worry in the 1990s when "everyone will have a terminal." The key to libraries' future role will be facilitating communication among people.

Dennis E. McCaffrey, manager of New Home Services for the Manitoba Telephone Systems in Winnipeg, presented "Project IDA - New Home Information Services." Project IDA is the first commercially available videotext service in North America. Operating through coaxial cable connected to 100 homes in Manitoba, Project IDA soon will begin to carry services provided entirely by private companies. To be included initially are alarm reporting, meter

reading, stereo music, video services (twenty-five channels), and videotext services. Many of the services can be operated on conventional TV sets, but some require special terminals. Libraries could participate directly in the project by providing indexes to the book collections, lists of new arrivals, and texts of popular reference materials. Manitoba Telephone Systems is still in the planning stage for videotext applications to be offered. Such ideas as holiday/travel guides, restaurant menus, TV guides, stock quotations, tax guides, and medical information are being considered.

The mission of the National Science Foundation is "support of basic research for the future." Howard Resnikoff, of the Division of Information Science and Technology, said that it is sometimes difficult in evaluating this research to draw the line between obsolete and futuristic technology. Technology becomes obsolete very rapidly, largely because of the remarkable progress being made in mastery of the electron. As the size of electronics components decreases and the rate and reliability of communications speeds increase, machines will compete ever more effectively with libraries in providing information. However, the "access role" will be the key for libraries. Identifying the knowledge that is needed and providing access to the intellectual content of materials are areas in which librarians should concentrate.

Making information available through libraries is the goal of Channel 2000. Tom Harnish of OCLC, Inc., explained that OCLC is concerned with making the most of opportunities provided by new technology. Channel 2000, designed with low cost and ease of use in mind, will be test-marketed in 200 homes in the Columbus area beginning in October. Using an ordinary television set, a telephone, and a special adapter unit, Channel 2000 will initially provide three types of services to users: financial services, access to the Academic American Encyclopedia, and access to the catalogs of the public libraries of Columbus and Franklin counties. Another new service of OCLC is Source Library Services, which was formed to market "The Source" to libraries. For a description of services and cost see "LITA Booth Tops at Exhibits" below. — *Carol Parkhurst, University of Nevada.*

#### LITA Booth Tops at Exhibits

The "Paperless Information Center" organized by LITA members Joan Maier and John Welsh was a resounding

success at the New York Coliseum. Strong elbows and patience were required to view the plethora of demonstrations amidst the crowds. Source Telecomputing of McLean, Virginia, presented "The Source," which offers extensive programming capabilities, up-to-the-minute news via UPI wire services, the stock exchanges and other business services, electronic mail, home entertainment, flight, motel, and car reservations, and more for just \$2.75 per hour in nonprime time. Access requires a terminal, a modem, and a telephone for dialing TYMNET and TELENET nodes.



Other exhibitors included N. American Philips with the videodisc, OCLC with Channel 2000, Quip and Faxon with telefacsimile devices, Datel Systems with Apple II/III micros. It is hoped that this will be an annual experience.

#### Automated Systems Represented

All major vendors of circulation systems staged demonstrations of their products. CL Systems, Inc., and GEAC, Inc., installed operating computers in the Coliseum, rather than demonstrating their wares over telephone lines to remote hardware. Staff from the library and the data processing department of the Township of East Brunswick, New Jersey, collaborated with International Computers, Ltd., to produce "Cadmus," a new entry into the automated circulation system market. The system is available to single libraries or groups as a package or as a shared service on the township's hardware. Cadmus offers circulation control as well as automated acquisitions and word processing.

Vendors of automation products other than circulation systems also were present. Cataloging and bibliographic services such as OCLC, UTLAS, and Minimarc demonstrated their services. — *David Norden, Ohio State University.*

#### LITA AV Preconference

"Changing Technology and the Media Librarian of the '80s" was the topic of this LITA-EFLA-sponsored seminar. Three presentations were especially rewarding. Gwen Sloan spoke about the indexing and computer requirements for the cataloging system that she developed for the Museum of Broadcasting. This archival collection, established by CBS to be a repository for the history of radio and television, has an extraordinary catalog that allows specific access by hundreds of generic descriptors to the museum's vast holdings on radio and television. The catalog is extremely helpful in identifying excerpts from anthologies and compilations.

A presentation on the videodisc by Susan Baker of Discovision Associates showed off the capabilities of the Pioneer/Universal 7820 videodisc player. This industrial

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model, priced at about \$2,000, has computer interface, which allows the ultimate in interaction between the viewer and the program. She demonstrated the usual instant access by frame, frame-by-frame advance, slow motion, dual programming for two sound tracks, and full stereo sound. Most interesting was news that a new company was being set up specifically to develop and demonstrate interactive programs. The problem so far with the videodisc has been that the machine capabilities are far more sophisticated than the programs.

The third program was a panel discussion on computer film booking (circulation) systems. Panel members discussed CLSI, RTI, and several homegrown systems. Carol Owens of the University of Illinois described the most sophisticated system, which was developed for the Film Rental Library at Illinois, and integrated booking, inventory, and acquisitions. — *Angie LeClercq, University of Tennessee.*

### **Potential of On-line Circulation Systems as Public Access Catalogs**

An overflow audience was evidence of strong interest in the topic of this program cosponsored by the RASD Catalog Use Committee and the Information Science and Automation Section of LITA. Ilene Rockman of RASD introduced the speakers, anchored by Richard Boss of Information Systems Consultants, Inc.

Boss spoke of "Turnkey Minicomputer Systems as On-line Catalogs." Such an idea is possible only because both the units of memory in the central processing unit and disk-drive capacity have grown tremendously in the last five years. All vendors of on-line catalogs are still at early stages of development, and many basic questions have not yet been addressed. It is likely that systems will be delivered in stages and will stand side by side with COM or card catalogs—an expensive proposition. The first delivery will be made late this year or early next year, probably by C L Systems, Inc. Boss predicts that the first vendor "will probably be perceived as unsuccessful by the library market." It probably will be 1984 before libraries can make a practical choice with confidence. The advantages of turnkey on-line catalogs over in-house development are: no in-house expertise required; no software development (80 percent of the cost of do-it-yourself); predictability. The major disadvantage of turnkey systems is that the library does not have the control it would have with an in-house system.

Ken Dowlin, director of the Pikes Peak Regional Library District, presented the "Use of an On-line Circulation and Library Management System as a Public Data Base." The Pikes Peak staff has been preparing for an on-line catalog for two years, working through task forces on such topics as cost, physical access for the user, and accuracy and completeness of information. To determine user acceptance, staff members conducted interviews for two weeks, talking to all patrons at a certain section of the catalog. Patrons were asked to do their searches at a computer terminal. Those patrons who preferred the terminal to the card catalog (85.4 percent) thought that it was "easier and faster than the card catalog" and were glad to know the location and status of the book. Those who disliked the terminal thought that it was too limited (only indirect subject access was available), too expensive, too slow, and the bibliographic information was incomplete. If direct subject access was

provided, however, 94 percent indicated they would prefer the terminal.

Susan Miller coordinated the development and use of the Ohio State University Library Control System (LCS), operational since 1970. In 1978 LCS was enhanced to provide full bibliographic records, subject access, and added entries. Headings and cross-reference display and control are under development; by 1982 LCS will be able to accommodate "blanket" headings changes. Remote access to the entire collection has been important to a university system the size of Ohio State. The availability of item status information on-line has been a success with students and staff. Patrons frequently use the LCS call number search to determine status even after using the card catalog. Miller admits that if the project were starting over, several things would be done differently: the full bibliographic record would be converted with complete ALA character set; easier communications would be developed for the user; Boolean logic would be considered.

Neal Kaske of OCLC concluded the presentations with a description of an OCLC study on how patrons and librarians use catalogs for subject searches. More than 200 patrons were interviewed at the card catalog and their comments recorded on tape. General conclusions were that patrons usually find something, even if it is inadequate, and that librarians will *not* be replaced by machines—in fact, they will be much needed as instructors. Patron sophistication in the use of the catalog was found to be low. Most had little understanding of the meaning of placement of data elements on the card, little idea of "tracings" and how they might be used. Few used the standard subject heading guide but instead looked under too-broad or too-narrow terms. Patron understanding was either "very high or very low"; there was no middle ground.

Cassette tapes of the meeting will be available, and the papers are scheduled to appear in the Fall 1980 issue of *RQ*. — *Carol Parkhurst, University of Nevada.*

### **VCCS Reference Program/Museum Tour**

The VCCS Monday morning program was part panel discussion and part museum tour. Librarians toured the Museum of Broadcasting, which was founded in 1976 by William S. Paley, chairman of the board of CBS. After viewing a short orientation tape, librarian Doug Gibbons explained the museum's acquisition practices and viewing policies and conducted a tour of the research facility.

Concurrent with the tour was a panel discussion on video reference chaired by Deirdre Boyle. Panel members included Fay Schreiber of the Television News Study Center, George Washington University, who discussed her role in archiving television news programming. Barbara London explained how video art is used at the Museum of Modern Art. Citing case studies, Stanley Lewis of Queens College spoke on the utilization of video in the classroom. The tour and the panel discussion were repeated so members could attend both programs. — *Bob Katz, Albany Public Library.*

### **Franchising Program a Success**

The cable franchising program cosponsored by VCCS and the LITA Legislation and Regulation Committee was well received by the 200 people that attended the meeting. Chaired by Judith Sessions, the program was titled "Cable Franchising: How We've Done It." Speakers included Ron

Steenland of the Lexington, Kentucky, Public Library, who discussed the role a consultant can play in forming the library's cable future. Panelists reacting included Sharon Briley of the Federal Communications Commission, who spoke about the commission's role as well as the rewrite of the Communications Act (Senate Bill #2827). Jean Rice of the National Telecommunications and Information Agency discussed how to go about planning for franchising, while Merrie Sue Smoller of the Cable Television Information Center talked about how her agency assists cities in the franchising process. For more information on franchising write Judith Sessions, Mt. Vernon College Library, 2100 Foxhall Rd., NW, Washington, DC 20007. — *Bob Katz, Albany Public Library.*

### Two Artists Visit Video Showcase

In a change from the traditional viewing of library-produced videotapes, two well-known New York video artists presented and talked about their most recent works. John Sanborn, who produced *The Last Videotapes of Marcel Duchamp*, showed his most recent work, done at the 1980 Winter Olympics at Lake Placid. Sanborn's work, to be shown on network television, gives us an insight into the sporting event not available through conventional television. Photographer and video artist Alan Hertzberg showed a chapter of his video portrait *Norman Kennedy: A Man and His Songs*. When all the chapters of the two-and-one-half-hour portrait are viewed, the viewer has feeling for the folksinger. — *Bob Katz, Albany Public Library.*

### ACRL Future of the Catalog Discussion Group

More than 100 persons heard representatives of Northwestern University, Ohio State University, Penn State University, the University of Toronto, and the University of Illinois describe their steps toward on-line catalogs.

Three of these institutions already have made public terminals available to library patrons. Ohio State has found that patrons have accepted terminals as an alternative to the catalog. Its public terminals average six to eight thousand transactions per month and account for more than one-third of the total use of its Library Control System. Penn State has developed a microprocessor-based terminal system for building and inputting MARC format records into its data base. Each terminal in this system can contribute up to 100 records per day at a cost of fifty cents per record. Finally, Illinois reported on progress it has made in integrating its Library Computer System's circulation system with the WLN bibliographic system. — *David Norden, Ohio State University.*

### Back Issues of JOLA Free!

While supplies last, back issues of the *Journal of Library Automation* are available free to LITA members. Issue dates are quarterly, March, June, September, December, from 1968 to 1977. Out of print are March 1970, 1973, 1977; June 1975; September 1976. Order from Don Hammer, LITA Program Director, ALA, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611. Specify month and year. One copy per issue per person, please.

## From the Editor

With this issue three new editors are joining the *Newsletter* staff. Susan Besemer, from the State University College Library at Buffalo, New York, is covering the AV section. Carol Parkhurst, who is systems librarian at the University of Nevada, Reno campus, is editing the ISAS news, and Bob Katz, media librarian at Albany Public Library, is taking over the VCCS section. Send articles for these sections to the addresses listed in the respective columns in this issue. Division-wide and general news can be sent to the editor.

Special thanks are in order to Deirdre Boyle, who handled the AV section, and to Arlene Farber Sirkin, who wrote the VCCS news for the first two issues. Thanks are also extended to Angie LeClercq and David Norden for their assistance in covering convention meetings. — *Pat Barkalow, University of Tennessee, Main Library, Knoxville, TN 37916.*

## Update on Micros in Libraries

David Norden at Ohio State University reports that staff at California State University, Northridge, are using an Apple II Plus with a Hytype I printer and WRITE-ON software for Bibliographic Society mailings, minutes of meetings, and preparation of the Administrative Manual. In addition, VISICALC software is used for personnel budget projection and operating the expenditure ledger.

The Apple II Plus is also used by librarians at the Lovejoy Library at Southern Illinois University for applications, including analysis of circulation statistics, reserve lists, maintenance of personnel lists, and word processing. For more information on microcomputer use in libraries Norden recommends reading "ASIS at Midyear 1980" in *Library Journal*, July 1980.

ASIS and LITA members Larry Woods and Nolan Pope are in the process of writing a monograph on this topic and request reports on planned or implemented projects. Send material to Woods at the Research and Development Unit, Purdue University Libraries, West Lafayette, IN 47907; (317) 749-2503.

## Meetings & Seminars

"The Cities and Cable Television: Local Regulation and Municipal Uses" is the title of a three-day seminar to be held October 26-28 in Madison, Wisconsin. Sponsored by the University of Wisconsin Extension in association with the National Federation of Local Cable Programmers, the program is designed for individuals involved with regulation and planning for cable television, such as city managers, educators, librarians, video producers, and concerned citizens. More than fifty speakers will preside at conference sessions on topics such as franchising, regulation and utilization, funding sources, and new technology. Cost is \$100. For more information contact Barry Orton, 610 Langdon St., Madison, WI 53706; (608) 262-3566.

## Standard Fare

**Pierre Badin LaTes**  
Column Editor

This is the first column of a planned series that will address standards in general and technical standards that are related to library automation in particular. In effect, the intent here is to establish a mini-forum or sounding board for the discussion of existing standards, current developments, and inadequate or inappropriate applications, as well as to identify missing links and other opportunities for standards development.

The purpose is to develop a bi-directional vehicle that will serve as a mechanism for communicating TESLA (Technical Standards for Library Automation) Committee and related activities and as a mechanism for learning about and responding to responsible questions, concerns, views, reactions, and the like. All comments will be considered by the TESLA Committee for further deliberation and/or activity, as appropriate. Some aspects will be incorporated in this column, including guest editorials from time to time.

I hope to provide you, the user and beneficiary of standards, with timely items of interest that are of general informational value or of a technical nature. In sum, "Standard Fare" will provide you with a potpourri of information on standards that are related to automation, communications, and networking in the context of library automation and related information services.

Please submit your comments via Editor Pat Barkalow, Attn: P. B. LaTes, "Standard Fare."

### Did You Know?

A listing of all the American Standards Institute (ANSI) standards can be purchased. Send your inquiry to the Sales Department, ANSI, 1430 Broadway, New York, NY 10018. Ask for the 1980 Catalog of Standards. The listings are by subject and by designation, e.g., PH5, EIA, Z39, X3, etc.

## Division News

### New Officers

In division-wide elections Brigette Kenney, InfoCon, Inc., Golden, Colorado, became vice-chair/chair elect. Directors-at-large are Angie LeClercq, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and Nancy Eaton, Atlanta Public Library. All assumed their new positions at the conclusion of the NYC conference.

### Committee Volunteers Sought

If you are interested in serving on a division committee, please contact Brigette Kenney, InfoCon, Inc., 400 Plateau Pkwy., Golden, CO 80401; (303) 278-7411. You should state committee preference(s) and give relevant background and qualifications.

### Aveney Appointed JOLA Editor

The LITA Executive Board has announced that Brian Aveney has been appointed editor for the *Journal of Li-*

*brary Automation* for a three-year term beginning with the March 1981 issue. He was chosen based on the recommendation of a screening committee appointed by outgoing president Barbara Markuson. Members included Michael Malinconico, Charles Husbands, Susan Martin, Robert Miller, and Pat Barkalow. Nine candidates were interviewed, eight of these during the Annual Conference in New York.

Aveney is currently director of Technical Services for Blackwell North America. He has extensive experience in designing automated systems for libraries and has worked for the universities of California and Pennsylvania, the Sacramento Public Library, and Information Design, Inc. He teaches, consults, has been an active member of ALA and ASIS, and is a frequent contributor to the literature. Manuscripts can be sent to Aveney c/o Blackwell North America, 10300 S.W. Allen Blvd., Beaverton, OR 97005.

## Video and Cable Communications Section (VCCS)

**Arlene Farber Sirkin**  
**Bob Katz**  
Section Editors

### Distribution Network for Library-Produced Tapes

A possible distribution network for library-produced videotapes was discussed at the VCCS membership meeting July 1. Paul Schupbach of the Great Plains National Instructional Library, Lincoln, Nebraska, proposed a system in which libraries would receive perhaps twenty hours of programming for seven weeks at a time. After that, the tapes would be sent to the next library in the circuit. Tapes would be available for programming in-house or for cablecast. Libraries would be charged a yearly fee to cover Great Plains duplication and administrative costs. A VCCS task force was appointed to investigate the project further. Currently, Great Plains is distributing videotapes for the Tucson Public Library on an experimental basis.

### Updated VCCS Guidelines Available Soon

The VCCS Communications Committee announced that the updated version of the *Video Guidelines for Librarians* will soon be available. The 461-page publication, edited by Leslie Burke and Roberto Esteves, will include a survey of 266 libraries currently involved with video. Also included will be new articles on equipment, administration, and an updated video bibliography. The guidelines, to be published by LITA, will be available this fall.

### Wanted: Alive and Kicking

*Booklist* is seeking reviewers for its monthly video column. If you are using and/or buying originally produced 3/4" U-matic videocassettes and are interested in contributing written evaluations of recent tapes of national interest, send a sample 150-200 word review to Angie LeClercq, Head, Undergraduate Library, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37916.

## New VCCS Officers

Chair: Marilyn Rehnberg, Rockford PL, 215 N. Wyman, Rockford, IL 61101; (815) 965-6731; Vice-chair/chair elect: Arlene Farber Sirkin, U.S. Army AV Center, Pentagon 5A518, Washington, DC 20310; Utilization: Frank Birmingham, Mankato State University, P.O. Box 20, Mankato, MN 56001; Distribution and Exchange: Christine Donnell, 100 Lafayette Dr., Syosset, NY 11791; Legislation: Lynne Bradley, D.C. PL, 901 G St., NW, Washington, DC 20001; Program: Leslie Burke, Box 71, Napa, CA 94558; Nominating: Nowell Leitzke; Members-at-large: Bob Katz, Gene Anderson.

Send information for this column to Bob Katz, Albany Public Library, 161 Washington Ave., Albany, NY 12210; (518) 449-3380.

## Information Science and Automation Section

**Carol Parkhurst**  
Section Editor

### New Officers

Bonnie Juergens, section chair, announced new officers for 1980-81. J. B. Clark of Houston Public Library has been chosen by the membership to be vice-chair/chair elect. Patricia Earnest will be secretary and Cynthia Gozzi member-at-large. All appointments took effect at the end of the Annual Conference.

### Discussion Groups Formed

Congratulations to the following people who have been elected to chair an ISAS discussion group. These groups are formed by the Board of Directors whenever ten people express an interest in a given topic. They meet informally at the Annual and Midwinter ALA meetings to discuss mutual problems and hear updates on projects in the fields. LITA members interested in participating should contact the respective chairs.

- ISAS Retrospective Conversion Discussion Group: Anne G. Adler, Head, Bibliographic Processing, Fondren Library, Rice University, Houston, TX 77001.
- ISAS On-line Catalog Discussion Group: Susan Kallenbach, 1834 Pine St., Philadelphia, PA 19103.
- ISAS Information and Referral Discussion Group: Ken Dowlin, Director of Pikes Peak Regional Library, P.O. Box 1579, Colorado Springs, CO 80901.
- ISAS COM Catalog Discussion Group: Diane Mayo, 2775 Mesa Verde Dr. E., Costa Mesa, CA 92626.
- ISAS Community College Discussion Group: Joseph Lindenfeld, Director of Library Services, Shelby Community College, Memphis, TN 38104.

On the same note, member Walt Crawford wants to know if other members are interested in forming a discussion group on programming problems related to library automation. Contact him at RLG, Inc., Jordan Quadrangle, Stanford, CA 94305.

Send information for this column to Carol Parkhurst, P.O. Box 13417, Reno, NV 89507.

## Audiovisual Section

**Susan P. Besemer**  
Section Editor

Are you looking for news on the hows and whys of being a media librarian in a rapidly changing world? The *LITA Newsletter* is looking for news, too. This column focuses on two aspects of that challenge: reports from the LITA AV Section committees and reports from all of us working in the field. We need the committees to help us structure our effort and we need each other for support, stimulation, and new ideas. Each issue will contain section updates and one or more contributions from a *Newsletter* reader who has a tip, an idea, a problem, or a question. This issue's contribution is a personal account from Gretchen Baldauf, curriculum laboratory librarian at State University of New York College at Buffalo, of her visit to the Weston Woods Studios on the recent ALA tour. Other *Newsletter* readers who have ideas that are looking for exposure or reports of local AV events, please write the AV Section Editor, Sue Besemer, at Butler Library 318, SUCB, 1300 Elmwood Ave., Buffalo, NY 14222. Diversity is encouraged!

### Section Updates

*Officers.* Helen Cyr, Enoch Pratt Free Library, was elected vice-chair/chair elect. Since incoming chair Wesley Doak has resigned, Cyr will take office immediately. She has appointed Edwin Nordine as chair of the Utilization Committee. Patricia Mackey was elected member-at-large to the Executive Board.

*Membership Committee.* Barbara Ortiz reports that audiovisual professionals who currently are members of ALA and many others who are not members will soon be receiving the committee's new flier. Ortiz suggests that when it arrives in the mail, we share it with a friend in the field. She hopes that we can advance our mutual goals through encouraging a broad representation of various AV interests in many kinds of libraries. More committee reports in the next issue.

### Around and About Media

*ALA Participants Tour Weston Woods.* Boarding a bus at ALA's annual convention this summer for a tour sponsored by Weston Woods, I tried to anticipate what the media production enterprise would be like. Nothing I had imagined prepared me for the lovely, rustic setting I found at the end of that ride. There are several low buildings in the Weston Woods compound. One is the home of Morton Schindel, founder of Weston Woods, and also houses executive offices, a screening room, and dining facilities for visitors. Another building houses the production studios and still others house more offices, a professional library, a computer named "Fritz," and guest quarters for the illustrators who often visit Weston Woods for consultation on their work. To round out this setting are a pond complete with ducks, gentle hills, and plenty of trees.

While many talented professionals contribute to the productions at Weston Woods, Morton Schindel is the one person responsible for making it all happen. Back in the 1950s, Schindel experimented with converting children's books into an audiovisual format. Finding his first live-

action film unsatisfactory, he tried to capture the essence of the story by photographing the book's original illustrations. He found this could best be done by keeping the camera stationary and moving the pictures. Schindel was a pioneer in this type of filmmaking, later coining the term "iconographic" to describe his technique.

After our group was cordially welcomed by Schindel and his wife, Nancy, we were invited into the screening room for an overview of Weston Woods—its philosophy, history, and operations, delivered by Schindel himself and generously sprinkled with examples of the company's work. We were fortunate to have Caldecott winner Gail Haley, who was staying at Weston Woods for consultation on a documentary of her research into the Green Man legends, participate in this discussion. We then dispersed into small groups, each led by a Weston Woods staffer, to tour the various facilities.

It is impossible to spend time at Weston Woods without developing a feel for the attitude there. Each book is evaluated for its particular strengths and for the media that will best interpret those qualities. It is obvious that much care and deliberation goes into this process. As Rebecca Bingham once said, "Weston Woods does for children's literature what the Colonel does for chicken!"

In addition to recordings and filmstrips, four types of motion pictures are produced at Weston Woods. The first is the iconographic type mentioned earlier. Two types of live-action films are also made: dramatization of stories and documentaries of the "story behind the stories," such as Haley's project. The fourth type is the animated film, relying heavily on the talents of Gene Deitch and other artists living in Czechoslovakia.

Another stop on our tour was the Children's Caravan, a media experience on wheels equipped for showing films, performing puppet plays, sharing stories, and displaying children's art, among other things. Marketed or rented to communities, schools, or libraries around the country, these customized vehicles are only one example of the innovative thinking going on at Weston Woods.

After enjoying lunch served poolside, our group boarded the bus to return to New York City, satisfied that we had witnessed a very special group of people involved in expanding the delight to be found in children's literature.

Organizations interested in a similar tour may contact Ruth Cook at Weston Woods. — *Gretchen Baldauf*.

## News from the Field

### Inforonics Clarification

Inforonics recently automated the trade catalog at the Harvard University Press, not the Harvard Library catalog as implied in the last issue.

### Circ System Contracts, Service

Cincinnati Electronics has been awarded the contract to install its CLASSIC Library System for the River Bend Library System in the "Quad City" area of Illinois and Iowa. Public, academic, and special libraries will share the thirty-one-terminal interstate system. Previously CLASSIC was

chosen by the Wyoming State Library for a statewide system.

Dataphase Systems, Inc., has completed an on-line interface between OCLC and its own Automated Library Information System (ALIS). The first installation was at Oral Roberts University at Tulsa, Oklahoma. The enhancement is free to all ALIS customers.

CL Systems is now providing twenty-four-hour diagnostic service from its Systems Support Group (SSG). The SSG staff answer operational questions and do preliminary troubleshooting. The service began in September.

### CLR Funds User Access Study

The Council on Library Resources, Inc., has awarded a grant of \$16,300 to OCLC, Inc., and the Research Libraries Group Inc. for a study of the approaches, problems, and priorities involved in the development of on-line patron access to bibliographic data bases. The three-month project will provide the library community with information on current and proposed systems, identification of critical issues, and recommendations for research and other work necessary to move the concept of on-line patron access forward.

The two organizations will prepare a state-of-the-art survey and an inventory of issues, covering such topics as user requirements, data bases, computing hardware, software design, telecommunications, terminal equipment, performance factors, cost factors, library impacts, networking, and standards. To assist in establishing goals and priorities, a working session is planned that will draw together a representative group of academic and research librarians who are actively involved in planning for on-line patron access.

## Legislation and Regulation Committee (LRC)

The purpose of the LITA LRC is multifaceted. The committee monitors legal and regulatory developments of communications technologies and reviews pending legislation. The committee identifies issues affecting libraries, provides position statements on these issues, and develops appropriate strategies for affecting favorable resolution. To help in fulfilling its role as technical adviser to the ALA Committee on Legislation and the ALA Washington Office in matters dealing with communications technology, the committee seeks to gather and share information.

### Legislative Network

The LITA LRC is seeking volunteers from each of the fifty states to be liaisons to the committee. Each state representative will be asked to keep the LITA LRC informed of any state legislation that has an effect on library and information technology, particularly items relating to cable TV, telecommunications, and state funding for related projects. The committee will integrate this information with federal legislative issues and will report key concerns to the LITA membership.

Judith Sessions, Mt. Vernon College Library, 2100 Foxhall Rd., NW, Washington, DC 20007, chairs the commit-

tee. Interested individuals are asked to contact either Sessions or George Abbott, Syracuse University, B101 Bird Library, Syracuse, NY 13210.

#### **Instructional TV Fixed Service**

In dockets 80-112, 80-113, and 80-116, the Federal Communications Commission recently proposed to reduce by two-thirds or more the number of channels allocated for Instructional Television Fixed Service (ITFS). Additionally, the FCC proposed new and more expensive standards and other actions that threaten the educational band. The full text of the dockets is available in the *Federal Register* vol.45, no.87, Friday, May 2, 1980, p.29323, 29350, 29335.

The LITA LRC is eager to ascertain the involvement of libraries with ITFS. Please send comments to Judith Sessions at the address above. The committee is preparing a detailed questionnaire to send to respondents.

#### **Cable Access Threatened**

A proposed amendment to the Communications Act-S.2827 introduced in the Senate in mid-June may alter federal, state, and local government contracts with cable television. S.2827 is essentially a "deregulation" bill that puts emphasis on the marketplace whenever possible to develop common carrier, broadcast, and cable technologies.

Sec. 238 of the bill was anxiously received by the Video and Cable Communications Section at the recent annual meetings in NYC. This proposed amendment would prohibit local, state, and federal government entities from requiring cable operators to provide government-access channels and other local programming. Franchising authorities also would be prohibited from regulating cable program-provider fees and subscriber rates. This would severely cur-

tail much of the cable-access programming being done by libraries. LITA members wishing to be more involved with this issue may contact Lynne Bradley at the address below.

#### **Off-Air Taping**

The American Library Association is one of the "educational" representatives in the ad hoc negotiations to establish guidelines for off-air recording of broadcast programs. Eileen Cooke, director of the ALA Washington Office, is co-chair of the negotiating committee that was established by the House of Representatives' Judiciary Subcommittee on Copyright in 1979.

As negotiations continue, the issue of "fair use" of off-air recording remains a complex issue with the need to balance both educational and proprietary interests. The LITA and VCCS Legislation and Regulation committees are eager to hear from members about their experiences and needs regarding off-air recording. In particular, the committees need information about the actual use of off-air taping, the retention period needed for such tapes, and how the materials are used for preview, teaching, scholarship, and other individual or group use. Send documentation of comments to Lynne Bradley, D.C. Public Library, 901 G St., NW, Washington, DC 20001; (202) 727-1186.

#### **More, More, More**

Throughout the year, the committee will report legislative developments. A program cosponsored by the ALA Copyright Committee on AV and Copyright is in the planning stages for the San Francisco Conference. A legislative reception is being discussed for Midwinter. Plans will be announced as they are finalized.

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