LITA NEWSLETTER

A Salute to Pat Barkalow

A resolution of thanks to Pat Barkalow, former editor of the *LITA Newsletter*, was adopted by the LITA Publications Committee at their ALA Annual Conference meeting. The resolution reads:

Moved that LITA express its appreciation and gratitude to Pat Barkalow for her effective work as editor of the *LITA Newsletter* in its first years. The form, substance, and timeliness of the newsletter have been impressive. On departing the editorial office, she leaves the Division a healthy publication and a legacy of ideas for future consideration.

Barkalow will continue to contribute to the newsletter as editor of the "News from the Field" column. Thanks, Pat!

LITA Fall Institute Takes the Mystery Out of Micros

Would you like to know how to use microcomputers in your library? Are you curious about how other libraries use them? You can find answers to all of your questions at the LITA institute on "SMALL BYTES & LITTLE BITS—The Microcomputer in Libraries, or Does Your Library DO a Whole Lot With A LITTLE BIT?" The institute will be held Sunday, November 7 through Tuesday, November 9, 1982, at Milwaukee's charming and comfortable Pfister Hotel.

Experts will be there to help you get started using micros or to increase your expertise if you are already enchanted. Among the activities will be a half-day workshop on "Getting Started Programming Microcomputers," exhibits by vendors and manufacturers, and a panel of librarians now using micros to tell you how they are using them and how good—or bad—the little things are. A roster of well-known speakers including William Saffady, Theodore Hines, Richard Sweeney, Larry Woods, Allan Pratt, and Darlene Myers, will cover such topics as the availability and evaluation of software, hardware evaluation, cost models, and trends for the future.

For more information and a registration brochure, contact Donald P. Hammer, Executive Director, LITA, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611; call (312) 944-6780 or on ONTYME, LITA.

Phil Long Receives 1982 LITA Award

Philip L. Long, an electrical engineer with a long history of major contributions to library and networking technology, is the recipient of the 1982 LITA Award for Achievement in Library and Information Technology. LITA makes this award annually "to recognize leadership, notable development or application of technology, superior accomplishments in research or education, or original contributions to the literature of the field."

Long was the principal designer of the OCLC system and was responsible for the development, installation, and operation of the OCLC network. His innovative contributions include the design of the first two models of the OCLC terminal and implementation of the OCLC operating system, teleprocessing, and applications software. The OCLC system, developed under his direction, proved that shared cataloging was both cost-effective and workable in a library environment.

As chair of the LITA Telecommunications Committee, Long was one of those responsible for the NCLIS/National Bureau of Standards computer network protocol.

Now an employee of INFOTECH in Salt Lake City, Long consults on designs for firms engaged in the manufacture of digital-computing equipment and data-transmission systems.

Hank Epstein, LITA Awards Committee Chair (left), with Philip L. Long and his wife, LeAnn.

Reports from Philadelphia

Users Like Online Catalogs

An overflow crowd gathered in Philadelphia to hear preliminary reports on the Council on Library Resources' (CLR) Public Access Online Catalog research project. The program was called "Standard Network Interconnection: Progress of Prospects," and was sponsored by the LITA/ISAS Technical Standards for Library Automation Committee (TESLA). Moderated by Lee Jones of CLR, seven speakers explained the project's background, identified its objectives, and reviewed preliminary results.

During the development and testing of the data collection instruments, Charles Hildreth, OCLC, Inc., prepared a systematic comparison of ten computer catalogs. This excellent work, *Online Public Access Catalogs: The User Interface* (OCLC, 1982), defines the functions provided by the computer catalogs and the commands used by each system. Hildreth, reporting on this effort, noted that differences greatly outnumber similarities among the studied computer catalogs.

Douglas Ferguson, RLG, Inc., reported on the objectives and context of the study. Data were gathered from users and nonusers of computer catalogs through the use of self-administered questionnaries. Data were gathered in the twenty-nine participating libraries during April and May 1982, and about 7,000 user questionnaires and some 3,000 nonuser questionnaires were returned.

Gary Lawrence, University of California, focused on the characteristics of the users of online catalogs. The typical respondent to the survey was male (60 percent), between 20 and 24 years old (38 percent), and was either a college graduate (44 percent) or had some college experience (46 percent). Users approached the catalog to find books on a topic (34 percent), to find a specific book (32 percent), or for a class or course reading (16 percent). Users have a very favorable attitude toward the computer catalog.

The topic of nonusers and online catalogs was addressed by Neal Kaske of OCLC. Kaske noted that nonusers and users had essentially the same demographic makeup, but that some were nonusers because: they had not taken the training session on use of the catalog (19 percent), they had no time to learn to use the computer catalog (17 percent), or had no need to use any library catalog (16 percent). In spite of their lack of use, nonusers viewed the computer catalog favorably. More than half felt it would take less than thirty minutes to learn to use and that it would be easy to learn.

When using a computer catalog the user encounters two inter-

faces. One, called a system interface, includes commands, displays, messages, indexes, and other software features. The second, the organizational interface, includes terminal equipment, the physical setting, staff assistance, printed aids, and educational support. During his discussion of system-interface problems, Joseph Matthews, J. Matthews and Associates, Inc., identified the most frequently cited problems: difficulty in managing the results of the search (46 percent), finding the correct subject term (43 percent) and conducting a subject search (32 percent), and knowing what is in the computer catalog (36 percent). The remaining top ten problems revolve around the issue of user control. Matthews called attention to the needs for standards, for consistency in the area of display of information and use of codes or abbreviations, for a meaningful command language, and for improvements in the area of subject searching.

The organizational-interface problems were considered by Bob Zick from the Library of Congress. People learned to use the catalog through printed instructions. Not surprisingly, users want more terminals and printers, especially at locations other than near the card catalog. Users would like more periodical titles (or actual journal citations?) and older books reflected in the database.

Improvements desired by users were addressed by Edwin Brownrigg, University of California. The top four improvements for computer catalog features were: view a list of words related to the search (44 percent), search a book's table of contents, summary, or index (42 percent), know if a book is checked out (38 percent), and print search results (31 percent). Brownrigg remarked that the considerable efforts expended by the University of California to select a number of compatible terminals may not have been necessary, given that "terminals seem to make little difference in a computer catalog."—*Joseph R. Matthews.*

Vendor-User DG on Standards

LITA's Vendor-User Discussion Group promises to be eclectic and wide-ranging in scope. Formed by B Kenney during her tenure as LITA president, the group has quickly honed in on major problems confronting libraries using technology.

This second meeting of the group focused on the use and development of standards. Larry Woods, University of Notre Dame Library, stressed the need for greater communication and publicity about standards. He recommended that librarians insist upon the incorporation and continued adherence to standards in vendor-developed products. He suggested that standards be made a part of requests for proposal. Woods also suggested that a standards column be incorporated into *Library Journal* or *American Libraries* as a means of reaching a wider audience. He pointed out that "Standard Fare" in this publication and *Voice of Z39* are good but limited in distribution.

Sandra K. Paul, SKP Associates, defined standards as falling into several categories that included performance, procedural, and educational standards. Paul focused on technical standards, defined as a measure of excellence adequate to a product or thing. The Technical Standards for Library Automation (TESLA) Committee within LITA is organized to address technical standards that affect libraries. The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Z39 committees are structured at the national level to collect data from groups such as TESLA to assist in formulating national-level standards.

Ernie Muro, Baker & Taylor, provided a twenty-year chronology of library automation ranging from the IBM 1401 system in 1960 to total integrated systems utilizing laser and microwave technology. He also discussed positive aspects of

standards such as functional interface and integration, long-term cost-effectiveness, transportability, ease of maintenance, one-time development costs, assisting in the adaptation to new technologies, and provision of accurate, precise technology. Negative aspects cited were conversion costs, loss of local specificity, and the length of time required for development. Muro outlined the life cycle in the development of a standard and presented examples such as the MARC II project of 1966–79 and the BISAC standard, now in its third iteration, 1974–82.

DG chair Richard Rowe, F. W. Faxon Co., concluded the session by asking two key questions: (1) Where do we need standards? and (2) Is the standards structure working reasonably well? One attendee pointed out that standards are *voluntary* in the U.S. but are rigidly enforced by law elsewhere. Thus both vendors and librarians have to like the industry standard in the U.S. if it is to be adhered to.

Special thanks to Linda Miller, Faxon, and Charles Stewart, Baker & Taylor, for supplying notes on this meeting.—*Pat Barkalow.*

LITA Discussion Group Carries On

Although a rainstorm just prior to the meeting kept away some regular attendees from the LITA Library and Information Technology Discussion Group meeting, ten scheduled speakers and three audience volunteers kept an audience of approximately one hundred entertained with the usual five-to-ten-minute reports describing automation activities. The two-hour time slot approved by the LITA Board in Denver was well received. The group will become a discussion group of the ISAS Section at the Midwinter Meeting in San Antonio.

The new DG chair is Diane Mayo, Anaheim Public Library, 500 W. Broadway, Anaheim, CA 92805; (714) 999-1880. As outgoing chair, I wish to thank all of you who have participated as speakers over the past three years. As you've heard me say many times, the worst part of the chairperson's job is finding interesting automation projects and people who will talk about them. I hope you will remember to give Diane a call and volunteer to briefly (and informally) describe your automation project at the next discussion group meeting. It will make her job much easier and we all want to hear what you have to say. If you can give her the fine cooperation you've given me, we can all look forward to interesting and informative future sessions.—*Patricia H. Earnest.*

LITA with the Latest

Once again the LITA booth at the ALA Conference exhibits presented a wide range of the latest gadgets and marvels of technology, courtesy of LITA's Telecommunications Committee, Joan Maier McKean, chair. Along with the usual microcomputer that lured games players into finding out about the LITA organization, the booth featured the Displayphone from Northern Telecom, the Telewriter II from FTC Services, and the Robot Phoneline video-conferencing system.

Displayphone is undoubtedly a mere infant in a new industry, but it provides a quick glimpse into the capabilities of the future. It offers a ninety-number telephone directory that automatically dials at your command, and a mini-display and keyboard that provide access to files such as schedules, appointments, SDI search commands, or whatever one needs. At just over one square foot in size and at $1,995 list price, this item just might roll up the sales.

Telewriter allows the user to write or draw in two colors, red and green, on a special pad and transmit the information to a TV monitor. The device permits erasing portions and can store up to fifteen pages. At $9,120 for purchase price, without the monitor, it may take a while to catch on in libraries.

Robot Research displayed its Phoneline TV transceiver, which offers the capacity to transmit very high resolution video pictures over voice grade lines. The device's central function is to convert video signals from standard TV cameras to audio tones for phone-line transmission and back to TV signals for standard TV monitor display at receiving locations. The chief advantage is to make it possible to transmit and receive pictures economically over regular telephone lines all over the world. The main limitation is the time required—up to several seconds—to transmit each frame or picture. The speed is adjustable depending on the quality of resolution desired. This product is especially useful for video conferencing across distances where detailed drawings must be communicated and for alarm instruction, telemetry, traffic monitoring, etc. This technology could eventually provide the means for communicating detailed technical drawings, prints, sketches, etc., into any individual's habitat at a reasonable cost.—*Pat Barkalow.*

Legislation Committee Fights S.2172

The LITA Legislation Committee met in the City of Brotherly Love to discuss some decidedly unbrotherly cable legislation and other technology matters. On very short notice, S.2172 was to be reported out of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation a week after our meeting. This bill is very industry oriented, providing for automatic renewal of cable franchises, a 10 percent ceiling on public access channel requirements, and would require renegotiation within sixty days of franchises that are not in compliance with the bill. Despite Legislation Committee efforts, S.2172 was endorsed by the Senate committee on July 23, 1982. However, the bill must come before the full Senate, which may hesitate to pass such a controversial measure in an election year. *The Legislation Committee asks that you write or call your senator to oppose S.2172.*

Concerning future conferences, the Legislation Committee decided there is a need for a legislative update session at the LITA national conference in Baltimore next year. Representative Tim Wirth (D-Colorado) and author Nicholas Johnson were named as possible speakers. For the 1983 ALA Annual Conference, mention was made of a possible Government Documents Round Table (GODORT)–LITA joint program on issues involving electronic publishing and access to government documents.

One final note . . . the capable Lynne Bradley of the Library Video Network in Baltimore has stepped down as committee chair. Replacing her is the equally capable David H. Brunell of the Federal Library and Information Network.—*Mary Boulanger.*

MARBI Reports

The RTSD/LITA/RASD Committee on the Representation in Machine-Readable Form of Bibliographic Information (MARBI) met during the ALA Annual Conference to discuss a draft statement of the principles underlying the US/MARC formats (published in the *Library of Congress Information Bulletin,* April 23, 1982). In addition, the group reviewed a list of suggested issues in the MARC formats requiring study and resolution (a list that will eventually become an agenda of priorities for future action), approved minor changes to coded-data elements for sound recordings, defined physical description coded-data fields (007) for globes and for maps, and received progress reports on new format specifications for two- and three-dimensional materials, for location and holdings informa-

tion, and for archives and manuscript materials.

MARBI will next meet October 27–29, 1982, at the Library of Congress. The agenda will include the three sets of format specifications listed above, a final review of the statement of principles, and proposals concerning parallel field linkages for romanized and vernacular descriptive data and concerning publishers' numbers for music (028). Further information may be obtained from the Library of Congress, Processing Services, Automation Planning and Liaison Office, Washington, DC 20540, ATTN: MARC Communications Format Specialist.

Interlibrary Loan: A New Game

"New Technologies, New Codes, New Networks: ILL—a New Game" was a program presented by the RASD ILL Committee and others. David G. Remington of the Library of Congress Cataloging Distribution Service discussed the new technologies being used at LC. Card catalog images are stored online and printed on demand using optical digital discs and laser technologies. Although it is not yet economical to transmit materials in this manner to other libraries, the potential of optical storage of image data and the use of electronic mail transmission may well change the future for interlibrary loan.

Nancy Marshall, University of Wisconsin–Madison, stressed the need for responsibility in borrowing and lending. She emphasized that it is essential for all libraries to adhere to the ILL code and for librarians to work for efficient sharing of resources in their respective states. Although the game is being played with new pieces, it is still the same game and the old rules remain valid.

William T. DeJohn, head of the Resource Sharing Program at the University of Washington Libraries, Seattle, pointed out that the networks are shifting and reforming under the influence of technology. Moving from TWX to a microcomputer network, for example, radically changes the nature of the network. The emergence of multiple networks may have decreased interlibrary loan efficiency.

Summing up, Ann Armbrister, AMIGOS Bibliographic Council, reiterated that ILL is indeed a new game. The emergence of OCLC changed the ground rules, and the enactment of a new copyright law added an additional subset of rules. The emergence of new national and regional networks offers libraries the choice of playing three or more simultaneous games. With these radical changes taking place in only a few years, it is not surprising that ILL librarians feel they cannot keep up, yet it is precisely their many and lasting interpersonal contacts that keep the game fair and equitable. If the benefits of bibliographic cooperation are truly to be extended to resource cooperation, then libraries will have to be willing to pay the price, either by subsidy, as we subsidize the buying of books, or by passing on some part of the cost to the user. The challenge is to become more effective managers of change.—*Noelene P. Martin.*

Publication on Automation

Don't miss the newest publication in the LAMA Small Libraries Publication series. *Library Automation in the Small Library* by Kenneth Bierman, Tucson Public Library, provides an excellent overview of automation and a discussion of how small libraries can take advantage of automation. This publication is available from the ALA Order Department for $1.

Information Science and Automation Section

Jean Swanson
Section Editor

"Microcomputers" a Hit

In Philadelphia, an ISAS program on "Microcomputers in Libraries" drew an overflow crowd to hear presentations that ranged from nuts-and-bolts advice on purchasing a micro to descriptions of functions that smaller libraries can now automate with a microcomputer.

Rick Farr, a consultant to Gaylord Systems Division, described the library functions that will be available on microcomputers: circulation, information, and administrative routines. Larry Woods of the University of Notre Dame discussed the issues in deciding whether or not to put micros out for public use, including such problems as security, whether to allow users to do their own programming, and how to treat the micro (as an educational tool or a game machine?). Bob Walton of the Texas State Library presented a checklist of basic items one needs to be aware of when purchasing hardware and software.

The speakers emphasized strongly that one should buy microcomputers locally and should know what they will be used for in the library and thus what features will be needed.—*Pat Barkalow.*

Bibliography Due in 1983

Bibliography Committee Chair Anne G. Adler reports that the committee will produce a five-year (1978–82) bibliography on library automation. Adler estimates that the final document will contain 1,672 citations and will be approximately five times the size of the previous bibliography by Martha West. Both ALA and Oryx Press are interested in publishing the work, which is scheduled to go to press in March 1983.

ISAS Discussion Groups Successful

LITA ISAS/RTSD Retrospective Conversion Discussion Group meetings continue to attract a large number of librarians. The Philadelphia session featured Sandra Card, of the University of California in Los Angeles, who discussed the "Problems and Solutions in a Retrospective Serials Conversion Project." Kathleen Lewis, Fondren Library, Rice University, gave an update on that library's response to administrative demands for speeding up its retrospective conversion project. Helen Hughes of OCLC discussed the "049 problem." Anne G. Adler was reelected chair for 1982–83.

The Microprocessor Discussion Group held three sessions in Philadelphia. Scheduling conflicts precluded large attendance, and most of those attending were comparative novices. The group has definite value as an introductory forum for the subject and will continue under the leadership of Walter J. Fraser, Systems and Automation Department, University of California, Shields Library, Davis, CA 95616; (916) 752-1678. Retiring chair Harry Broussard has recommended that a standing committee be created to further LITA's work in microcomputing. Two areas that need the immediate attention of such a committee are: the identification, review, and dissemination of data on commercial and not-for-profit software and systems; and the presentation of workshops, preconferences, tutorials, etc., on microcomputers.

Walter C. Crawford was reelected chair of the Programmers Discussion Group. After some discussion, the group chose to retain its present name, with a continuing focus on algorithms at the program and system level rather than overall system design. The topic for 1983 will be "Authority Linkages to Bibliographic Records." The group plans to meet from 8–10 p.m. at future conferences to reduce scheduling conflicts.

Twenty-two programmers and analysts heard Karen Coyle of the University of California Division of Library Automation discuss the UC union catalog (MELVYL) record format for monographs. This hierarchical extension to the MARC formats provides for workable, flexible storage of bibliographic and holdings information combined from OCLC archive tapes, RLIN transaction tapes, and local system tapes. Coyle's summary of the UC local record structure can be found elsewhere in this issue.

Send items for this column to Jean Swanson, Texas Medical Center Library, 1133 M. D. Anderson Blvd., Houston, TX 77030 or call (713) 797-1230 ext. 26.

Video and Cable Communications Section

Bob Katz
Section Editor

Update on Libraries and Cable

Linda Hillman, an educational technologist for Tele-Sociates, presented the keynote speech for the VCCS program in Philadelphia, "Now That You've Got Your Channel . . . What Will You Do?" Hillman contrasted current library video activities with those of a few years ago. In past years, with the availability of LSCA and CETA funds, libraries were able to afford their own access studios. Today libraries are relying on local cable companies to provide studio time and staff for library productions. Instead of purchasing and maintaining their own equipment, libraries often borrow equipment from local companies, thus saving both purchase and maintenance expenses.

Libraries have expanded their video services, providing sites for viewing and participating in satellite teleconferences. Newer cable systems have special institutional trunks that enable libraries to designate specific "receive" sites within a cable system. The viewing audience may be further limited by the use of scrambling equipment.

Hillman suggested that before libraries become involved in cable and video activities they take the time to assess the needs of the community as well as those of the library. A library should investigate the local cable franchise to determine if the library is eligible for a free drop or for access to production facilities. If there are no provisions for access programming, work to have this included in the franchise. Examine how other libraries in the area are involved with video. Identify your "allies," institutions such as churches and schools that might be willing to share equipment, staff, or involvement in political activities.

The future will bring challenges to libraries. Competition from the information industry may diminish the library's role in the community. Libraries must keep pace with changes in both technology and society if they are to remain influential institutions.

Showcase Guests Are Interactive Innovators

Ann Sheehan, program director for Berks Community Television, Reading, Pa., was a special guest at the VCCS Video Showcase. BCTV, a nonprofit organization, was the originator of interactive cable programming in 1975. Interactive programming is made possible by a dual trunk cable system, which reaches more than seventy sites in the Reading area. Every program produced by BCTV is interactive, at least through viewer telephone call-in. Also joining in the showcase was Jerry Richter, formerly director of BCTV, now a consultant on cable franchising.

VCCS Committee "Highlights"

The Distribution and Exchange Committee needs your selection and loan policy statements for videotapes. If you can contribute a written policy, please send it to Roger Qualters, Aurora Hills Library, 735 Eighteenth St. S., Arlington, VA 22202. Also, if your library is charging for use of your video facilities, Leslie Burk Chamberlin of the Napa City-County Library, Napa, CA 94558, is interested in your rate structure.

The Utilization Committee reports that the updated VCCS information packet will be available by October 1, 1982.

Original plans of the Program Planning Committee for a preconference in 1983 may be postponed in light of the proximity of the ALA and LITA national conferences.

The ALA Midwinter Meeting will be the first meeting of a Cable Franchising Discussion Group, which is being organized by Charles A. Kritzler, Hennepin County Library, Edina, MN 55343.

Send items for this column to Bob Katz, Albany Public Library, 161 Washington Ave, Albany, NY 12210.

Call for Papers for National Conference

The Library and Information Technology Association (LITA) National Conference Committee invites persons to submit papers on current aspects of information and technology for its first national conference, September 17–21, 1983, in Baltimore.

Papers may deal with any aspect of current and future information technology—hardware and software, the impact of those technologies on the information process, or specific recent and evolving processes in information technology. The conference, "Information and Technology: At the Crossroads," will address a wide range of topics including videodisc/videotape, library resource sharing and modern technology, the information poor, computers and the handicapped, electronic conferencing, and replacing the scholarly journal.

Submitted papers may be sent in duplicate, typed double-spaced on 8½-by-11-inch paper. For maximum consideration they should be received by January 1, 1983. The papers will be refereed (the author's identity being concealed), and changes may be asked for in accepted papers.

Send papers to: Michael Gorman, Chair, Contributed Papers Committee, 246A Library, University of Illinois, 1408 W. Gregory Dr., Urbana, IL 61801.

News from the Field

Pat Barkalow
Column Editor

ASIS 83 Mid-Year in Kentucky

The twelfth Mid-Year Meeting of the American Society for Information Science (ASIS) will be held on the campus of the University of Kentucky, Lexington, on May 22–25, 1983.

The meeting will be sponsored by the ASIS Southern Ohio Chapter and the College of Library and Information Science of the University of Kentucky. Conference chairperson is Trudi Bellardo of the college.

The theme for the meeting is: "The Online Age—Assessment/Directions." The meeting will evaluate the rapid development of online information systems, consider problems facing continued systems development, and examine the exciting prospects, opportunities, and directions for online systems in a world increasingly dependent on access to current and accurate information. The technical program—which will consist of plenary, platform, and poster sessions—will emphasize management, users, and technology regarding online information systems and services.

A call for participation has been issued. For information on the technical program and submission of papers, contact Susan M. Harvey, Technical Program Chairperson, Metcut Research Associates, Inc., 3980 Rosslyn Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45209; or phone (513) 271-9510.

Long Beach Public Library Gets Video Studio

The Long Beach Public Library and Information Center in Long Beach, Calif., will be the center of a city-wide telecommunications information network. A cable communications franchise contract recently negotiated by director of library services, Carolyn Sutter, contains provisions for a full production studio in the main library with seating for an audience of 350. The studio will have the capacity for teleconferencing and for cable, microwave, and satellite communications with other teleconferencing centers. An interactive channel will provide the ability for subscribers to search library databases from homes and offices. For more information contact Sutter at (213) 590-6016.

Pacifica Tape Library

Pacifica has been a leader in open-access, First Amendment radio since 1949. It has broadcast programs of singular historical and educational value, programs of people and events that commercial media did not document well, if at all. About 20,000 of these programs are housed in the Pacifica Tape Library. The programs are actual broadcasts from the nonprofit educational FM Pacifica radio stations—KPFA in Berkeley, KPFK in Los Angeles, WBAI in New York, KPFT in Houston, WPFW in Washington, D.C.—the Pacifica News Bureau, and Pacifica affiliates. Subject coverage includes politics, foreign affairs, history, economics, women, labor, education, philosophy, psychology, anthropology, environment, science, health, medicine, consumer affairs, art, music, and literature. Some of the programs in the collection are:

- Sigmund Freud speaking in English on his last tour of the United States
- One of four existing interviews with John Coltrane
- Many lectures by Margaret Mead
- Poetry readings by San Francisco poets like Ferlinghetti, Ginsberg, and Snyder before they were published
- A unique collection of northern California Indian tales that exist only in oral form
- Coverage of the civil-rights movement, the peace movement, civil liberties, prison riots, and wars.

Audiocassettes of these programs are used as source material, educational aids, and recreational listening. A project funded by NEH that will produce a microfiche catalog of all the tapes in the library is now in progress. In the meantime, information about the programs can be obtained through sales catalogs or by contacting: Pacifica Tape Library, 5316 Venice Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019; (213) 931-1625.

Videotapes Available

The Library Video Network of Baltimore County is offering a selection of locally produced videotapes for purchase and rental; cablecasting rights are included with each program.

Discounts are available for rentals and purchases of three or more programs on one order. Single titles may be purchased for $115 per title or rented for $60 each. Preview samplers can be borrowed for a $15 preview fee. Rental charges can be applied to the purchase price within six months of initial rental. For more information contact Lynne E. Bradley, LVN "Blue Sky" Studio, 1811 Woodlawn Dr., Baltimore, MD 21207. Telephone (301) 265-6983.

RLIN Links to Local System

The Research Libraries Group, Inc., has developed a software enhancement to the RLG40 terminal that provides an interface between the RLIN system and local library systems for the online transfer of records. The linking capability, which has been installed at the Pennsylvania State Library since December 1981, can be utilized by any RLIN user.

The record transfer mechanism is initiated by a command from the terminal operator. The record is reformatted by the system into a string of tagged MARC fields and passed through the RLG40 terminal RS232 communications port to the local computer. Libraries using this interface must provide local programming so that their computer can recognize the transmitted record character string.

On the LIghT'A Side

- You know you're getting old when your knees buckle and your belt won't.
- Sometimes cruelty can be unkind!
- One of the best experiences for any library manager is to observe the library *in action* (preferably two words and not one).
- There are rumors of a movement afoot to get the National Center for Disease Control to recognize OCLC-itis and RLIN-tosis.
- The last question of the final exam—Point out the deficiencies in your point of view as demonstrated in your answers to the questions above.
- Then there is the ad hoc group that is working on the development of applications for Write Only Memory—WOM (also written the same upside down).

—*P. Luap.*

Standard Fare

Pierre Badin LaTes
Column Editor

TESLA activities were plentiful during the course of the ALA Annual Conference in Philadelphia. The Sunday program entitled "Standard Network Interconnection: Progress and Prospects" held the attention of a near-capacity audience though scheduled from 8 to 10 p.m. Following introductory remarks by Walt Crawford, presentations by Wayne Davison, Jim Aagaard, Sally McCallum, and Ray DeBuse provided everyone with an insight into the work of the CLR-sponsored Linked Systems Project that is aimed at linking the WLN, RLG/RLIN, and LC computers. Standards were omnipresent, e.g., the International Standards Organization (ISO) Reference Model for Open Systems Interconnection, the efforts of Z39 Subcommittee D in working toward an ANSI standard for a computer-to-computer protocol including the applications layer for the exchange of bibliographic data, a discussion on the authority application, and a look into future possibilities.

The TESLA Committee also held three meetings that explored the gamut from CRT health hazards to MARC compatibility of vendor-supported turnkey systems, possible future TESLA programs, software and hardware checklists for personal computers, an inexpensive ASCII CRT with the full ALA character set, a TESLA-related information packet with bibliography, etc.

Comes the final bell and with it comes the loss of two irreplaceable TESLA family members. Both Walt Crawford and Sharon Sullivan completed their second (and terminal) two-year appointments. Walt and Sharon have been active contributors to deliberations and programs throughout their four years. From all of us, sincere appreciation and thanks. And on the flip side, a hearty welcome to Asha Capoor of Baker & Taylor, Bruce Miller of UT-Austin, and Susan Olson of OCLC.

The issue's guest columnist is George A. Parsons, a veteran of thirteen years on the CLR staff. As an information-systems specialist he has seen and experienced both the joys and sorrows of progress along the oftentimes rocky road to success. An adamant proponent of standards and opponent of the reinvention of the wheel, his pragmatic views on standards should light some fires.

Whither Standards?

I realize that the subject is "old hat" for some and, seemingly perhaps, has been played to death. But it is the very fiber by which we all hang together. It is even more important and pressing today than it was yesterday, and it will become more critical tomorrow.

Let me begin by stating that we all make use of or apply standards in just about everything we do, either directly or indirectly. Even the very act of recording these words invokes hundreds of standards. Many we are very conscious of, and many we take for granted. The way we speak, the way we put things down on paper, or enter data into a computer all require the acceptance and use of standards. Even so, de facto standards are standards; we should use them and should expect others to use them as well.

Unlike the human brain that supports us in our thought processes and allows us to intuitively adapt from one set of conditions to another, the digital computer is highly dependent on structured protocols. As our universe of ever-growing technologies becomes increasingly permeated with the likes of macro-, mini-, and microprocessors, increased dependencies on the categorization, documentation, and application of standards will result in significantly more important roles for these standards, and, ultimately, will benefit the users who apply them.

The standard medium for input to and output from early generations of computers was the 80-column or Hollerith card, a standard developed at the end of the past century. The standard medium for recording information about items in a library was the 3-by-5-inch card. Today input to data systems is multimedia. Everything from the 80-column card to paper tapes, magnetic disks, and even voice input. Each of these various media requires a whole host of standards in order that systems may operate cost-effectively, if at all.

However, we have not been so swift with the means to display data from these many-faceted data systems. We continue to be fairly rigid about traditional display requirements and tend to fall back on the constraints of the 3-by-5-inch card image. We need to break from the old.

Today, we see data handling equipment at all levels of activity from the home to the multinational consortium. We must look at what data we really do need in order to accomplish our tasks. This then leads to the question, Just what is it that we are building or acquiring databases for? In the past, it seems that the library community had set out to simply build databases for internal purposes. If that is the only requirement and the costs seem justified, perhaps that is all we need. But I am not convinced. I believe we must consider ways and means to make these very carefully constructed databases into dynamic, useful tools for distribution and access beyond local confines and in formats that are more responsive to user requirements than printed or displayed 3-by-5-inch card images. It also seems to me that library managers are faced with a set of very demanding problems and that information handling techniques, along with appropriate standards, should be used to help resolve these questions—questions concerning collection development, acquisitions, cataloging, inventory access, shared access, shared distribution, and so on. We have already expended too much on isolated projects that cannot be extended beyond local confines.

We need to take a good hard look at what it is we are doing today and decide if the product that we are developing will meet the growing demands of increasingly sophisticated users. This all says *standards*. We have standards now and we can expect more of them, in spite of Toffler's near-term projection to the contrary in *The Third Wave.—George A. Parsons.*

Did You Know?

Technical experts are being sought to assist in developing character set standards for computer terminals. This work is under the aegis of Technical Committee X3L2 of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). Anyone interested in working on requirements, applications, design, etc., should contact Thomas Hastings, Digital Equipment Corporation, Mail Stop ML1-2/H26, Maynard, MA 01754, or call (617) 493-8109.

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) has just published a new standard in the Z39 series Z39.30-1982 (ISSN 0276-0762): *American National Standard for Order Form for Single Titles of Library Materials in Three-Inch by Five-Inch Format.* Copies may be purchased for $5 from ANSI, 1430 Broadway, New York, NY 10018. This standard was developed for ordering *single titles* of both print and nonprint materi-

als. There are three versions of the form: (1) handwritten and typewritten (both 10-pitch and 12-pitch); (2) computer printer-generated; (3) and an alternate form that measures 3 inches by 10 inches to accommodate added data for accounting, distribution, cataloging, and other purposes, and yet can be folded to fit 3-by-5-inch files. Printing specifications are detailed in section 4 of the standard.

UC Local Record Structure

The University of California union catalog database receives bibliographic records from a number of sources. The vast majority of the records come from RLIN and OCLC. As there is no MARC standard for the transmittal of local data, these two bibliographic utilities have developed distinctive fields and structures for the input of local data elements. The UC Division of Library Automation has created a local record structure to accommodate these different local fields.

The UCDB record consists of five parts or "segments." The segments are linked hierarchically in the order given below:

1. Bibliographic segment: this segment contains the information about the bibliographic work and consists of all nonlocal MARC fields. There is one bibliographic segment per union catalog record, and it contains the base record fields and all preserved variations.

2. Maintenance segment: there is one maintenance segment for each OCLC or RLIN record that enters the UCDB. It contains the control numbers and dates necessary for correctly updating each record.

3. Holding segment: contains the holding library code, call number, summary holdings statement (if applicable), and any location level notes. (The latter would generally be stored as 590 notes in the MARC format.) Each holding location is placed in a separate holding segment in the UCDB record.

4. Copy segment: each segment represents a single copy number. Included in the copy segment are copy level notes and copy level call number.

5. Volume segment: the volume segment represents a single physical volume, where possible, or a volume range that is treated as a unit. The segment carries information used in control of the physical volume such as acquisitions numbers, circulation system numbers, status information, etc.

The local data subordinate to a given maintenance segment is stored as a single field. Within that field there are only a few required types of data, such as location code and call number. Few of the incoming records provide detailed copy and volume level information. For this reason, the record structure is not dependent on the presence of these lower levels of data. All local data is stored in linear order according to the logical hierarchy of the data.—*Karen Coyle.*

Editor's Note: a MARC format for location and holdings information is in the review process. See "MARBI Reports" in this issue.

Division Updates

Bylaws Passed

All proposed changes to the LITA Bylaws passed in the spring 1982 election. The full text of the changes was published in the Spring 1982 issue of the *LITA Newsletter.*

Congratulations

Kenneth E. Dowlin, director of the Pikes Peak Regional Library District, Colorado Springs, Colo., has been elected vice-president (president-elect) of the Library and Information Technology Association (LITA). Lois M. Kershner was selected for a three-year term on the LITA Board of Directors.

Mary Margaret Diebler will serve as chair of the Video and Cable Communications Section, assisted by vice-chair (chair-elect) Constance J. Tiffany. Barbara H. Ortiz is the new chair of the Audio-Visual Section following the resignation of Louis R. Pointon. The AV Section also elected Sally J. Voth to a two-year term as member-at-large. Jerome Yavarkovsky will serve the Information Science and Automation Section as vice-chair (chair-elect), and Norene F. Allen commences a three-year term as member-at-large.

Wanted

Humorous pieces or cartoons for the *LITA Newsletter.* Send contributions to the editor.