

LITA newsletter

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION

Number 17, Summer 1984

ISSN 0196-1799

Carol A. Parkhurst, Editor

Distinguished Speakers Slated for Dallas Conference

Nicholas Johnson

High-tech prime-time show host, lecturer, and former FCC commissioner Nicholas Johnson will discuss technology—especially television—and its ramifications for social, political, and economic institutions. His presentation, "The Telecommunications Revolution," will be featured at the LITA President's Program on Saturday, June 23, 2–4 p.m.

Johnson hosts "The New Tech Times," a weekly series on PBS, and currently writes a nationally distributed weekly column called "Communications Watch" for the Gannett News Service. As FCC commissioner from 1966 to 1973, Johnson was best known for his work as a consumer advocate. More recently, he served as presidential adviser for the White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services. Currently Johnson serves on the Iowa City Broadband and Telecommunications Commission and as a visiting professor at the University of Iowa Law School and Communications Department.

Author of *How to Talk Back to Your Television Set* and numerous articles, Johnson has also appeared on a wide variety of television shows, including "Face the Nation," "Donahue," and "The Today Show."

Colorado congressman Timothy Wirth, chairman of the Telecommunications, Consumer Protection, and Finance Subcommittee, will speak following Johnson's presentation.

Johnson comes to the conference courtesy of EBSCO Subscription Services, EBSCO Industries, Inc.



Nicholas Johnson



Wilson P. Dizard, Jr.

Wilson P. Dizard, Jr.

The LITA Distinguished Lecture Series will feature Wilson P. Dizard, Jr., senior associate for international communications at the Center for Strategic and International Studies,

Georgetown University, and vice president of Kalba Bowen Associates, a telecommunications planning and information-policy research firm. Speaking on "The International Dimensions of Information Technology," Dizard will focus on public service-oriented policies that support United Nations data networks and other noncommercial networks.

Dizard recently authored *The Coming Information Age*, a survey of technological, economic, and political factors in an information-oriented U.S. society.

The lecture will be held Monday, June 25, 2–4 p.m., and will be followed by a reception in honor of the speaker.

This first LITA Distinguished Lecture is sponsored by the F. W. Faxon Company, Westwood, Massachusetts.

ALA Conference '84

Editor's Note: Following are some of the programs and meetings of special interest to LITA members. Other events are described in the VCCS and ISAS sections of this issue.

Preconference:

Contracting for Automated Systems

It's not too late to sign up to learn how librarians can negotiate a contract after choosing an automated library system. The institute, "The Art and Politics of Contract Negotiation," will take place June 21–22, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Dallas.

A variety of vendor and library speakers will present major addresses and conduct workshops in the development, administration, and renewal processes for formalized library-vendor relations.

The preconference will focus on case studies of particularly successful vendor/user situations, and is an outgrowth of the Vendor/User Discussion Group meetings initiated by Brigitte Kenney and conducted by Richard Rowe.

Speakers will include Bonnie Juergens, Texas A&M University; Robert Walton, Texas State Library; Jane Burke, NOTIS; and Stuart Langton, Tufts University. Program cochairs are Sherrie Schmidt of Faxon and Ernest A. Muro of the Baker & Taylor Company.

For more information, contact LITA today at (312) 944-6780.

Using a Consultant Effectively

Sunday, June 24, 9 to 11 a.m., the Consultant/User Discussion Group will bring librarians together to review guidelines, ethics, bibliographies, and referrals for the effective use of consultants in the library automation scenario. Bring your ques-



Members of the Consultant/User Group Steering Committee (clockwise from left): Ernest A. Muro, Baker & Taylor; Patricia Barkalow, GEAC Incorporated; Susan B. Epstein, Susan Baerg Epstein, Ltd.; Charles C. Stewart, Baker & Taylor; Sandra K. Paul, SKP Associates; Sue Tyner, University of Arizona; Paul Peters, Columbia University; Ron Nimmer, Wright State University; Robert White, Morris County Public Library.

tions and yourselves for an exciting brainstorming session. Tell the consultants what you need done.—Ernest A. Muro, Baker & Taylor Company.

Training Issues in Changing Technology

The LAMA PAS Staff Development Committee, in cooperation with JMRT and LITA, will sponsor a program on "Training Issues in Changing Technology," Tuesday, June 26, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The program is designed to inform librarians about the types of staff training that may be required when their institutions introduce new technologies. Issues such as attitudes toward change, the possibility of temporary dislocation, and anxieties that accompany change are among the various factors to be examined. Featured speakers include Ruth Person, Catholic University GSLIS; Dorothy Anderson, University of California at Los Angeles GSLIS; Michael Malincono, New York Public Library; Bruce Miller, Indiana University; Jan Schroeder, Duluth Public Library; William Garrison, Northwestern University; Ruth Patrick, University

The *LITA Newsletter* (ISSN 0196-1799) is published quarterly by the Library and Information Technology Association, a division of the American Library Association. Editor is Carol A. Parkhurst; Information Science and Automation Section Editor, Jean Swanson; Video and Cable Communications Editor, Robert A. Katz; Standard Fare Editor, Janet J. Bausser; Contributing Editor, Janice Woo.

The *Newsletter* is sent free of charge to all division members. Copies are available only through annual LITA memberships; there is no single-copy price. Back issues and division membership blanks are available from LITA Executive Director Donald P. Hammer, ALA, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.

Editorial contributions, articles, news releases, and letters should be sent to Carol A. Parkhurst, University Library, University of Nevada, Reno, NV 89557; (702) 784-6566.

Copyright © 1984 American Library Association. All material in this newsletter may be photocopied for noncommercial purposes provided proper acknowledgment is made.

of Montana; and Lynne Bradley, Library Video Network. After a general overview, part two of the program will focus on practical problems associated with implementing specific technologies, namely, microcomputers, video, cable, and integrated systems.

Vendor/User Discussion Group

The major topic for the Dallas meeting will be "Contracts and Conflicts"—case studies of mutually successful conflict resolution arising from an ongoing service dispute; or, Just what does ongoing maintenance and support really mean? We look forward to a lively presentation of real-world conflicts and their mutually satisfactory resolution within the maintenance and support portion of an ongoing vendor/user contractual relationship. We will explore:

- What were the expectations going in?
- How was the contract structured?
- How did the conflict arise?
- How was the conflict resolved?
- How would you do differently?

Update! We will also hear an update on BISAC and SISAC progress in electronic transmission standards within the book and library communities. There has been significant progress in implementing electronic order transmission in both the book and serials industries.—James K. Long, OCLC.

The LITA Membership Committee invites you to
STOP BY THE LITA BOOTH 664
during regular exhibit hours.

Microprograms in Dallas

LAMA, LITA, and PLA are sponsoring a program on Saturday, June 23, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., called "Microcomputers for Managers: Beyond the Basics." Speakers include Bob Walton, automation consultant, Texas State Library; Barbara DeYoung, director, Lawrence (Mass.) Public Library; Frank Queener, director, Geneva (N.Y.) Free Library; Joe Ryus, cataloger, University of California (Berkeley); and James Rush of James E. Rush Associates.

The speakers, as a group, have an impressive record of publications and of presenting successful programs and workshops. They will address the practical aspects of operating microcomputers in libraries, including management concerns, costs, specific case studies, and the problem of keeping current with the rapidly changing world of microcomputers.

Other microprograms to consider:

- "Getting It Together, Getting It Going (Microcomputers)": YASD, Sunday, June 24, 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
- "Financial Management Using Microcomputers": LAMA, Sunday, June 24, 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Computers and the Disabled

A program on adapting library computers for use by disabled people will be presented by the Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA), cosponsored by LITA and others. "Your Computer and the Disabled" will be held Monday, June 25, 2–4 p.m.

Adaptations and ways to use computers will be discussed by a panel that includes representatives of the Library of Congress

ALA Dallas Calendar

Listings are tentative; consult conference program.
All meetings are LITA-sponsored unless otherwise noted.
C = Committee; DG = Discussion Group.

Preconference

"The Art and Politics of Contract Negotiation" June 21-22

Saturday, June 23

Board of Directors	9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
ISAS Program "Telecommunications: The Social, Political & Economic Impact on Libraries"	9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
LAMA/LITA/PLA "Microcomputers for Managers: Beyond the Basics"	9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
ISAS Microcomputer Users DG	9:30-11 a.m.
President's Program "The Telecommunications Revolution"	2-4 p.m.
Publications C	2-4 p.m.
VCCS Executive C	2-4 p.m.
TESLA C	2-4 p.m.
VCCS "Bash" (LITA Suite)	6 p.m.
VCCS Video Showcase (LITA Suite)	8-10 p.m.

Sunday, June 24

Legislation & Regulation C	8-9 a.m.
Education C	9-11 a.m.
Telecommunications C	9-11 a.m.
Consultant/Users DG	9-11 a.m.
ISAS Programmer/Analysts DG	9-11 a.m.
ISAS Program Planning C	9-11 a.m.
ISAS Executive C	9:30-11 a.m.
VCCS Program "Standards for Cable Interconnection"	9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
ISAS/RTSD Retrospective Conversion DG	9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

VCCS Distribution & Exchange C	2-4 p.m.
Bylaws & Organization C	2-4 p.m.
Program Planning C	2-4 p.m.
Telecommunications C	4:30-5:30 p.m.
VCCS/AV Task Force	4:30-5:30 p.m.
VCCS Publications Task Force	4:30-5:30 p.m.
Orientation Forum (LITA Suite)	8-10 p.m.

Monday, June 25

Program Planning C	9-11 a.m.
ISAS Online Catalogs DG	9-11 a.m.
VCCS Executive C	9:30-11 a.m.
VCCS Program Planning C	9:30-11 a.m.
Bylaws & Organization C	9:30-11 a.m.
ISAS Executive C	9:30-11 a.m.
ISAS Authority Control DG	11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Telecommunications C	11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Distinguished Lecture Series "The International Dimensions of Information Technology"	2-4 p.m.
Reception	4:30-5:30 p.m.
ASCLA et al. "Your Library Computer and the Disabled"	2-4 p.m.
Education C	2-4 p.m.
Board of Directors	2-5:30 p.m.
TESLA C	4:30-5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 26

Legislation & Regulation C	8-9 a.m.
Membership C	9-11 a.m.
Board of Directors	9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
LAMA et al. "Training Issues in Changing Technology"	9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
TESLA C	11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
ISAS Authority Control DG	11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
ISAS Executive C	2-4 p.m.
ISAS COM Catalog DG	2-4 p.m.

National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, representatives of the automation industry, librarians working with disabled persons, and a library patron. Vendors and the LC/NLS Research and Development Unit will demonstrate equipment.

Microcomputer Users DG

At ALA Midwinter, members of the Osborne Microcomputer Users Discussion Group concluded that Osborne users could be better served by a DG that is more broadly based. As a result, the name of the Osborne group was changed to reflect a larger scope.

The first meeting of this new group is scheduled for Saturday, June 23, 9:30-11:00 a.m. Joan Maier McKean will discuss upgrading from an Altos to a super networking microcomputer. Ruth Patrick will address policy issues such as those regarding circulation of microcomputer software and hardware. Philip Clark will share some insights on spreadsheet models. If you are interested in participating in the program, please contact Ruth Patrick, Dean of Library Services, Mansfield Library, University of Montana, Missoula, MT 59812; (406) 243-6800.

Reorganization Status

Following the hearings held at Midwinter, the Implementation Committee has received many good suggestions for clarifying and tightening up the new organizational structure. Thanks to all who submitted responses.

The committee is now incorporating the suggestions into a fourth draft, which will be reviewed by the Bylaws Committee. Both the Implementation Committee report and the Bylaws Committee revisions are to be distributed to the LITA Board by the end of May, for discussion and action at the Dallas Conference. If approved by the LITA Board in Dallas, the new structure will be submitted for membership approval by special ballot in the fall of 1984. If approved by membership, nominating committees meeting at the 1985 Midwinter Meeting will nominate for positions under the new structure for the spring 1985 elections. Those elected will take office after the Chicago 1985 ALA Conference.—*Nancy Eaton.*

Interest Groups in the New LITA

An interesting aspect of the proposed LITA reorganization is the interest group: less formal than a committee, more powerful than a discussion group, and flexible enough to meet diverse needs. Interest groups can serve LITA well, particularly if members take the time to see how they work and how they can be used.

The following paragraphs are from the current draft of the proposed LITA bylaws:

Interest groups are intended to reflect topics of current interest to members and to have a structure which allows for easy creation and easy elimination as interest and technology change. Thus, an interest group may be formed by petition, with provision of a function statement, signatures of 10 LITA members, and identification of a designated chair and vice-chair, to be approved by the LITA Board as the interest group fits into the LITA function statement and the overall ALA organizational structure. Interest groups can plan and put on programs and institutes or prepare publications, with the approval of the appropriate LITA administrative committees and the LITA Board. Interest groups may create ad hoc task forces to concentrate on specific tasks, programs, projects, or publications.

Petitions for interest groups must be resubmitted to the Bylaws and Organization Committee every three years and reapproved by the LITA Board; otherwise, the Bylaws Committee shall recommend to the Board that the interest group be dissolved. This mechanism will provide for the dissolution of interest groups where member activity has fallen off.

Each interest group shall have as officers a chair, vice-chair, and (at its option) a secretary. The chair will be responsible for reporting interest group activities to the LITA Board. The vice-chair will be responsible for annual selection of officers and for program coordination with the LITA Program Committee. Officers may be chosen by members informally at the annual meeting or via election at the annual meeting by a majority vote of members present.

How Interest Groups Differ from Discussion Groups

1. An interest group must have at least two officers, assuring that more than one LITA member is actively interested in pursuing the interest and sharing the load in active groups;
2. The three-year renewal helps prevent interest groups from outliving their usefulness, and allows short-term interest groups to be dissolved without difficulty;
3. Interest groups may stick to discussion, but can also plan programs and take other actions, allowing a much more active role than that of a DG.

How Interest Groups Differ from Committees

1. Interest groups are started by members who perceive a common interest, with LITA Board review limited to form and appropriateness, where topical committees must be initiated by the LITA Board;
2. Interest groups choose their own officers, who may continue indefinitely with some form of annual election or confirmation. Committee members and chairs are appointed by LITA officers and cannot serve more than four consecutive years;
3. Interest groups have no set action agenda, and can still function as discussion groups; such groups do not need explicit accomplishments to function properly.

Some Possible Models for Interest Groups

All existing discussion groups will become interest groups; each will need to select an additional officer and determine its own structure. Different structures can serve different needs; a few examples follow. Some of these interest groups use existing DG or committee names; this does not suggest that the interest group named would actually adopt the structure shown.

• MODEL 1: Programmer/Analysts Interest Group

Type: small, informal, organized for discussion, topic-oriented, little overhead (mailing list, two or three mailings per year); chair serves primarily as convener, moderator.

Likely organization: chair, vice-chair (not chair-elect), with vice-chair assisting with organizational details; informal election; no fixed rotation of officers, no secretary. *Informal election* typically means that the vice-chair asks if the chair is willing to continue and if anyone would like to see a change; if no change, the chair continues in office.

Plausible change: if one year's topic proves to be of major interest, a task force might be formed to prepare a document for publication or possibly to plan a program; in such a case, the vice-chair would probably head the task force.

• MODEL 2: Telecommunications Interest Group

Type: former committee, with a number of active participants and a perceived action role (monitoring developments, disseminating information). More action-oriented, more formal, likely to prepare programs on a fairly regular basis, more effort required.

Likely organization: chair; vice-chair/chair-elect (either a one-year or two-year rotation); secretary. Succession of vice-chair assures continuity but also assures rotation; elections likely to be more formal.

Task forces more probable, to prepare programs or to seek out needed information; heads of task forces might be persons other than the three officers; secretary might coordinate task forces.

• MODEL 3: Microcomputer Database Software Interest Group

Type: small but intense group formed to achieve an aim—studying available microcomputer database software in actual use and preparing a suitable report. Expected to be a two-or three year effort, with no intention of continuing the interest group beyond three years.

Likely organization: chair elected for the three-year period (with annual confirmation); vice-chair serving as secretary and clearinghouse for information gathering. Chair serves as collaborator and editor of the expected document.

This group is effectively a special-interest task force. Given the new structure, such a task force could be assembled, operated, and dissolved with little difficulty.

• MODEL 4: Personal Computer Interest Group

Type: very large group of attendees anxious to learn more; several-dozen computer owners willing to take a more active part, but representing a variety of smaller interests; a few committed leaders. Orientation: full-scale programs at frequent intervals, possibly developing into workshops; task forces representing smaller interest within the group (CP/M task force, word-processing task force, software-exchange task force).

Possible organization: chair elected for two-year term, vice-chair/chair-elect, secretary, past chair serving as fourth member of leadership group; secretary maintains informal network of heads of task forces, vice-chair heads program-planning effort; each task force selects its own head.

This is an example of an active and diversified group, possibly spinning task forces off into separate interest groups if their activities appear to be ongoing and substantial; such a group might plan a successful program or workshop every other year, while maintaining small-group discussions and training sessions at Midwinter Meetings.

Other models are possible: groups that function only to plan programs; groups that become so complex as to look like LITA sections; groups with so much political tension that secret ballots are required and the group maintains term limitations for officers.

Summing Up

The key to interest groups is flexibility: an interest group can be almost as informal and unstructured as a discussion group, or far more structured and complex than any existing committee. Each change from existing discussion-group structure serves a real purpose; each should serve to make interest groups more useful and more vital than discussion groups have been to date. If they are formed and used creatively, interest groups can serve LITA and its members well.—*Walt Crawford, The Research Libraries Group.*

Standard Fare

Pierre Badin LaTes II
Column Editor

The Technical Standards for Library Automation (TESLA) committee will meet three times during the Dallas Conference. The first meeting will be Saturday, June 23. Although it is scheduled from 2 to 4 p.m., the meeting will actually begin at 1 p.m. so members can attend the President's Program that afternoon. The other meetings are Monday, 4:30-5:30 p.m., and Tuesday, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. There will be reports from the representatives for Z39, X-3, and MARBI. Dorothy McPherson and Ruth Carter will discuss the current status of TESLA's MARC compatibility survey.

The majority of the meetings will be devoted to a follow-up to Midwinter discussions about identifying technical standards that need to be updated, developed, or brought to the attention of library and information practitioners. As part of this, Paul Peters will report on the progress of his matrix/model for technical standards. (See his guest column in the Winter 1984 *LITA Newsletter*.) There will also be progress reports by committee members on various activities relating to the identification of needed technical standards. Ruth Carter, TESLA chair, has written an article summarizing TESLA's work to date in this area. It will be published in *Library Hi-Tech*, v.2, no.1, and should be available just before the conference. TESLA encourages those interested in standards to read the article and join us for our discussions during the conference.

Finally, committee members will discuss the possibility of a TESLA program for the Annual Conference in Chicago in 1985. Suggested topics are the matrix/model for technical standards and standards relating to use of VDTs, particularly those concerned with health issues.

Sandra K. Paul of SKP Associates and chair of the National Information Standards Organization (Z39) is guest columnist for this issue.

A Joy Forever

American National Standards Committee Z39's members have just approved a new name for ANSC Z39. It is "National Information Standards Organization (Z39)," retaining the words defining its scope, "library, information science, and publishing," in its subtitle. As chairperson of this body, I am sometimes asked why I devote my time and energies to the time-consuming and often tedious effort to develop national standards. I think I found the answer.

A well-thought-out standard is a joy forever (or something like that). Recently the value of a good standard was brought home to me by a newcomer to the standardization world who had discovered American National Standard Z39.2. Although this standard is entitled "Bibliographic Information Interchange on Magnetic Tape," its use has gone far beyond that original scope. Certainly, during its five-year review this year, the title should be changed to reflect its current and potential utility.

Most librarians are familiar with Z39.2 as the basis for the MARC formats that are produced in the United States and internationally. The publishing/wholesaling/bookselling and subscription agenting world have just begun to see the potential of this standard for their communication standards development efforts. Their decision to use it is not based on fear of developing a standard in conflict with a national standard. They chose it because it works!

When the Book Industry Systems Advisory Committee (BISAC) set about developing a standardized format for the computer-to-computer communication of orders, librarians on that committee suggested that Z39.2 become the basis for their standards. The publishing community's lack of familiarity with variable-length records made them look to other approaches for their computer tape-oriented format.

Finding themselves with the need to create a variable-length format in 1982, BISAC took a pragmatic, start-from-scratch approach. However, NISO's Subcommittee U has been working with both of BISAC's formats in the development of an ANSI standard for computer ordering of books. The final result of SC U's efforts, thanks in great part to the creativity of Sally McCallum and Henriette Avram of the Library of Congress, is an order format that corresponds totally to the concepts in Z39.2.

In 1982, the Serials Industry Systems Advisory Committee (SISAC) became the sister organization to BISAC. One of their first concerns was the development of a computer-to-computer ordering format for serials. The SISAC subcommittee charged with this project reviewed all existing ordering formats, along with other communication formats in the library, information science, and publishing communities. Their decision is—Z39.2 is the most workable. As this is written they are preparing a draft format for review by their membership and the library community at the LITA Vendor/User Discussion Group meeting during the Dallas Conference.

It should be most rewarding to those who had a hand in the development of Z39.2 to see that the far-reaching applications they envisioned when they created it are, in fact, coming to pass. A well-thought-out standard is one that can be implemented by a large number of organizations and used widely, over time—if not a joy forever.—*Sandra K. Paul.*

Video and Cable Communications Section

Bob Katz
Section Editor

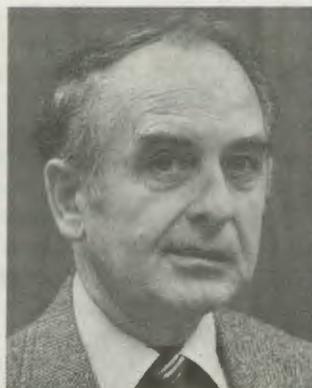
Standards for Cable Interconnection

The VCCS Program Planning Committee, under the direction of Nora McMartin, has assembled a program that promises to be one of the most informative and interesting of the Dallas Conference. The three-hour program, "Standards for Cable Interconnection," is slated for Sunday, June 24, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Three experts have been invited to speak: Nancy Miller, director of instructional services, Center for Telecommunications, Dallas County Community College District; Roger Ferragallo, director of telecommunications for the Peralta (Calif.) Community College District; and James Roman, Professor of Communication, Hunter College (N.Y.) and author of *Cablemania: The Cable Television Source Book*.

The speakers will discuss interfacing capabilities, using a variety of different technologies for networking, both here and abroad. Attendees will learn about the library's role in "technical literacy." One speaker will address interconnection from the franchise process to the building and operation of a network. Moderator will be Joan Maier McKean, chief of library services for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.



Nancy Miller



Roger Ferragallo

Video Showcase—One Night Only

Now is the time to send your composite videotape for showing during the video showcase Saturday, June 23, 8 p.m. in the LITA suite. Tapes should be 3/4-inch and be no longer than fifteen minutes. Send to Bob Miller, Atlanta Public Library, One Margaret Mitchell Square, Atlanta, GA 30303, or phone (404) 688-4636. Send before June 10!

Second Annual VCCS Bash

Plans have been made for the second VCCS Bash, to be held prior to the Video Showcase on June 23. Come to the LITA suite at 6 p.m. to meet other VCCS members for refreshments and informal discussion of video and cable.

Public Access TV Survey

The Allen County Public Library has completed a survey of libraries involved in public access television production. Project directors Pamela Bieri and Pamela Sandstrom organized the results to provide funding information, programming statistics, budget breakdown, types of services provided, and other helpful information. Copies are available for one dollar from Fort Wayne Telecommunications Center, Allen County Public Library, 900 Webster St., Fort Wayne, IN 46802, Attn: Angie Scofield.

Committee Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed for VCCS committees. If you are willing to make a contribution to a section committee, or know of an interested individual, please contact Chuck Kritzler, Hopkins Community Library, 22 Eleventh Ave., N, Hopkins, MN 55343.

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

Call for Papers

- The ACRL Audiovisual Committee is calling for papers to be presented at the Chicago ALA Conference in a program entitled "Integrated Library Systems—The Media Factor." Persons with experience in media services in libraries that are automated or planning automated systems are asked to submit a one-page letter outlining their specific areas of interest and concern to Richard Matzek, Library Director, Nazareth College of Rochester, P.O. Box 10996, Rochester, NY 14610. Deadline is June 10, 1984.

- Meckler Publishing's *Library Software Review* announces a call for papers in advance of its two-day seminar, "Library Software Conference," to be held at the Philadelphia Hilton, October 15-16, 1984. The program will focus on software applicable to micro, mini, and mainframe computer systems, including instructions for software selection; practical approaches to installing and integrating software; demonstrations of software packages; product updates; and opportunities to discuss local experiences and problems with others. Librarians, educators, and software specialists are invited to submit proposals for papers and poster sessions on one or more of these topics. Send proposals to Nancy Jean Melin, Editor, *Library Software Review*, 520 Riverside Ave., Westport, CT 06880; or call (914) 666-4099.

LITA Series Announced

Two volumes of the Library and Information Technology series will be published by ALA this year. *Crossroads: The Proceedings of the First LITA National Conference* will be edited by Michael Gorman. The proceedings of the 1983 preconference on online catalogs/online reference will be edited by Brian Aveney. Since both conferences were well attended and well received, the proceedings are bound to be corkers!

Information Science and Automation Section

Jean Swanson
Section Editor

Annual Conference Previews

Two new discussion groups will make their debuts in Dallas. The Authority Control in the Online Environment DG will meet Monday, June 25, 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., and again on Tuesday, June 26, at the same time. The first meeting will provide background on an opinion poll sent to LITA and RTSD members this spring, as well as dispense information on current research in automated authority control (particularly at the University of California and the University of Chicago). An update on the Linked Systems Project will also be given. Tuesday's meeting will provide an opportunity for open discussion on any issues identified during the previous day's talks. Chair for the DG will be Barbara Tillett of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography Library.

William G. Potter, University of Illinois, will chair the organizational meeting of the Application of Computers to Serials Discussion Group. Check the conference program for date and time.

The Online Catalogs Discussion Group will meet Monday, June 25, 9–11 a.m. Chair William G. Potter states that the topic of discussion will be the relationship of detailed holdings to the online catalog. Discussion will include both monographic and serial records, and will address the merging of item-specific holdings with bibliographic records. (The session looks like it will be as informative and popular as meetings of this group have been in recent years.)

Karen Coyle, chair of the Programmers' Discussion Group, reports that their two-hour session on Sunday, June 24, will feature representatives from the major utilities (WLN, OCLC, RLIN) and the Library of Congress. The topic will be record matching. Each presentation will describe how record matching is done in that system and will include detailed information, such as the fields and subfields used for matching. The OCLC report will discuss de-duplicating, RLIN will describe clustering of records, and the University of California Division of Library Automation representative will outline the procedures used in matching records from different utilities.

The COM Catalog Discussion Group will meet Tuesday, June 26, at 2 p.m. Focusing on microfiche as a catalog form, some interesting points of view will be presented by speakers from Ramsey County P. L. (Roseville, Minn.), the University of California (Berkeley), and Sandhill Regional Library System (Troy, N.C.). A representative of COMCO will compare the techniques used in producing microfiche and roll film. One of the highlights will be a presentation by a COM newcomer currently in the throes of preparing for a microfiche catalog.

The ISAS program meeting will address the topic of telecommunications: the social, political, and economic implications. The speakers will be Andrew Lippman, professor of media technology at MIT; Vincent Guiliano of Mirror Systems in Cambridge, Mass.; and Susan Cote of Case Western Reserve

University Library. Moderator will be Richard Rowe, president of F. W. Faxon.

Send items for this column to Jean Swanson, head of Acquisitions, Houston Academy of Medicine-Texas Medical Center Library, Jesse Jones Library Bldg., Houston, TX 77030; (713) 797-1230.

USMARC Advisory Group

The USMARC Advisory Group completed action on two groups of proposals at their ALA Midwinter Meeting. The group approved the addition to the Films Format of data elements relevant to records for two-dimensional materials (prints, photographs, etc.) and changed the name of the format to "Visual Materials Format." These changes will be published in update 11 to the *MARC Formats for Bibliographic Data*.

The group considered proposals concerning microcomputer files in the new format for machine-readable data files. These proposals make possible the description of microcomputer files according to guidelines promulgated by the Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access. The completed format for machine-readable data files will be published in update 9 to the *MARC Formats for Bibliographic Data* sometime in the spring of 1984.

The group continued its discussion of "format integration" and adopted this statement:

In its discussions of format integration, MARBI has agreed upon the following definition of an integrated format. The USMARC bibliographic formats are considered a single integrated format. Content designation defined therein is valid in any record in which it is appropriate.

In order to begin this process, MARBI has agreed to identify inconsistencies among the various existing formats and to evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of eliminating these inconsistencies (including the impact of such changes on existing systems). Where the advantages predominate, the inconsistencies will be removed. Any inconsistencies that remain will be clearly labeled in the format documentation.

The principle stated in the above definition has not received approval of the group and will be discussed further as the process of examining inconsistencies proceeds.—*John Attig*.

Telecommunications Update

The Federal Communications Commission issued a memorandum March 21, 1984, to the Exchange Carriers Association, which postponed implementation of private line tariffs from April 3 to June 13, 1984. The primary effect on libraries is the postponement of the massive cost increases mentioned in the last *Newsletter*. This could be a substantial savings for libraries at the end of the fiscal year.—*Mary Boulanger*.

A Questionnaire for the AV Professional

If you feel that the issues in AV need to be addressed within an organizational framework, please attend the LITA VCCS Ad Hoc AV Task Force meeting in Dallas on Sunday, June 24, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., and/or send the questionnaire to Janice Woo, LITA VCCS AV Task Force Leader, Mid-Manhattan Art Library, 455 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10016, (212) 340-0872.

What are the issues in AV today?

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> software | <input type="checkbox"/> networking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> hardware | <input type="checkbox"/> standards |
| <input type="checkbox"/> utilization | <input type="checkbox"/> funding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> access | <input type="checkbox"/> obsolescence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> physical maintenance | <input type="checkbox"/> other |

How can an organization serve the AV profession?

- workshops/continuing education
- newsletters
- professional literature
- conference programs

- national meetings
- local meetings
- guidelines, directories, glossaries, etc.
- interdivisional/organizational communications
- other

Are you willing to participate in a LITA AV interest group?

- attend conferences
- contribute to newsletter or other publications
- plan programs
- other

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
50 EAST HURON STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611

RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
Permit No. 3226

26/3/92