

LITA newsletter

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION

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Carol A. Parkhurst, Editor

Roger K. Summit Receives LITA/Gaylord Award

Roger K. Summit, president of DIALOG Information Services, Inc., was awarded the 1984 LITA/Gaylord Award for Achievement in Library and Information Technology at the LITA President's Program in Dallas. The award, consisting of \$1,000 and a citation, is donated annually by Gaylord Brothers, Syracuse, N.Y.

A pioneer in the creation of online database searching, Summit is among the earliest supporters of meaningful applications of computers to library problems. His leadership and contributions have been critical factors in integrating database and retrieval systems with information science and library science.

Summit is experienced in many areas of computer applications and has published numerous papers on the computer processing of information. An expert in systems design and programming, Summit has won awards for his inventive work in simulation systems. At Lockheed Information Services, he was project leader for the development of the DIALOG online information retrieval language in the early 1960s. Continuing under his direction, the DIALOG system was awarded the Information Product of the Year Award by the Information Industry Association in 1975.



LITA president Kenneth Dowlin (left) presents the LITA/Gaylord Award to Roger K. Summit, president of DIALOG Information Systems.

Apply for the New LITA/CLSI Scholarship!

See the Education Committee section of the "LITA Committees" article in this issue for details.

LITA Programs at ALA-Dallas

International Dimensions of Information Technology

Wilson P. Dizard, Jr., senior associate for international communications at the Center for Strategic and International Studies at Georgetown University, was featured as LITA's first Distinguished Lecture Series speaker. Addressing "The International Dimensions of Information Technology," Dizard views the world as moving toward a global information environment, with the United States as the test bed. Other countries realize that the American information environment will affect them sooner or later.

Our European allies are building open information systems and are increasing the electronic exchange of information. However, there is a serious information imbalance, with most of the data banks and equipment supplies coming from the U.S., causing the Europeans to feel that they're "losing out." Steps are being taken to address this imbalance before it becomes too serious.

The Japanese determined the importance of the new information environment over a decade ago and place heavy emphasis on its development. The language barrier is a formidable difficulty for international communication.

The Third World countries (Asia, Africa, Latin America) realize they must break away from total dependence on outside information sources. The U.S. is a major target for criticism, as specialized American databanks and information services have more current information on Third World economies than the countries do. The U.S. needs to be cautious about intruding on the information patterns of other cultures.

The U.S. has far fewer contacts with the information systems in Communist countries, but the new electronic information environment is closing in on these countries. It is much more difficult to monitor electronic, as opposed to printed information. The governments have closed down touch telephones for international calls, because these cannot be monitored.

Although many forces will oppose it, the world is moving toward an integrated global information network. It is in our best interests to show the world the benefits of an open information environment. However, there are two sides to the potential of electronic information. Those who control the information channels can control a society. The information becomes more fluid and more changeable, which has serious censorship implications.

Should there be a "national information policy?" Dizard thinks not. Of course we are going to have information policy, but not in one package. The American Library Association should continue to track what the government is doing in this

area, concentrating on each individual issue as it arises.

The LITA Distinguished Lecture Series is sponsored by the F. W. Faxon Company, Westwood, Mass.—*C. Parkhurst.*

LITA President's Program

Nicholas Johnson, host of the Public Broadcasting Service's "New Tech Times" and former Federal Communications Commissioner, addressed "The Telecommunications Revolution." The scene is changing so fast that there is no one person who knows what's going on and no one place to go to find out. As the audience heaved a collective sigh of relief that someone else feels this way, Johnson added another comforting but nerve-wracking thought: past experience with such radical technologies as the telephone shows that it can take a long time to fathom what to do with the technology. For example, telephone sales calls are now being touted in advertisements as a new business technique!

Johnson advised the audience to determine what they want from technology, and then to look for the solution. He noted that the odds are good that the technology is there to deal with almost any need.

A generalized overview of trends in technology followed, including such points as the miniaturization of electronics, decreases in cost, and increases in access to tools. Johnson said that we need to find out why people do not want information they can easily get, why they don't go to the library, don't go to doctors, don't read newspapers, etc. So far there are no easy answers to these questions.

Johnson sees libraries continuing to perform most of the same functions in the future that they provide today: a meeting place for the community, services to the poor, local databases of information, and other traditional functions. Librarians will play the role of "editors" of information, that is, they will collect the best, not all, information. The President's Program was sponsored by EBSCO Industries, Inc., Birmingham, Ala.—*Jean Swanson.*

ISAS Program: Telecommunications

A large crowd heard four speakers on the topic of "Telecommunications: the Social, Political, and Economic Implications." At the conclusion of the session, attendees may not have known much more about telecommunications per se but

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they certainly had learned about current concerns regarding information technology.

Andrew Lippmann, professor of media technology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, presented some exciting glimpses of research projects that demonstrate the overlap of computing with the publishing industry and the broadcasting industry. (One example was an encyclopedic interactive training manual on optical disk.) Lippmann also reviewed some of the social concerns about automation, such as the fear that spelling and math programs and thesauri on word processors will undermine our ability to spell, add, and write well. He argued that, instead, these programs will extend our vocabularies and abilities, just as the invention of the printing press resulted in a spread of literacy.

Don Muccino of OCLC reviewed trends and factors in telecommunications. Although there is now a multi-vendor environment, he pointed out that AT & T still owns 95 percent of the facilities and has 92 percent of the customers. Some of Muccino's expectations in the field are that voice and data systems will be integrated to help defray costs, that local loop systems will grow, including cable and local area networks, and that costs will continue to decrease for technology but go up for private telecommunications lines. He feels that this is a time to rely on the economics of a situation and not on the vendors.

Vincent Giuliano of Mirror Systems, Cambridge, Mass., reported on trends in the electronic publishing industry. He echoed Lippmann's assertion that computers are extending our capabilities, not reducing them. Giuliano noted that there is not much growth now in the conventional segments of publishing, so publishers are turning to electronic and software publishing and the production of pre-recorded videocassettes. However, he feels that traditional publishers have already lost the war in new media publishing. Print publishers have a traditional method of going out and signing up authors, then publishing their efforts with little in-house technological expertise. Software houses do just the opposite; each has an in-house technical staff that produces the products, including big sellers such as *VisiCalc*. The winners will be the "techno-innovators" who don't see the new media as just books in new formats.

Susan Cote of Case Western Reserve provided a philosophical overview of the implications of communications and information technology issues. She reviewed some important questions of information policy—the involvement of government, censorship, and unequal access to new media. After summarizing the recent activities of some foreign governments in these policy areas, she concluded that the U.S. is not doing an adequate job of facing the future in information technology. Some specific concerns:

- trans-border data flow and the inadequacy of our privacy laws
- the need for training programs in technology to put unemployed workers from other industries to work
- the role of government in providing the sole access to government reports, as in the case of the National Technical Information Service (NTIS).—*Jean Swanson.*

Standards for Cable Interconnection

James Roman, Professor of Communications, Hunter College, and author of *Cablemania: The Cable Television Source Book*, opened the VCCS program with a review of standards for communications throughout history and noted that the economies of scale will bring new standards to both the communications and information industries. Roman predicted



Attendance was low at LITA's pre-conference on "The Art and Politics of Contract Negotiation," but the quality of speakers and information imparted was high. Organizers Sherrie Schmidt and Ernie Muro (pictured left) are planning to produce the preconference proceedings so that the content can reach a larger audience. Attendees enjoyed a cocktail party at the Hyatt Regency, thanks to the generosity of The Baker & Taylor Co., Blackwell North America, Inc., Spacesaver Corporation, Springer-Verlag, Inc., Data Phase Systems, Inc., and Online Computer Systems.

that information will become a valuable currency in the future, and libraries will store this new currency. Warning that the social impact of the information age may develop a new class of "information poor" people, Roman looks to libraries to support information utilities and to librarians to become the human link between knowledge and technology.

Nancy Miller, director of instructional services for the Dallas County Community College District, discussed the franchise process concerning educational access to cable television. A consortium of potential educational access users worked with city governments and attended numerous public hearings to secure educational channels in the Dallas area cable systems. The reality of the situation became clear when Warner-Amex, the cable company for Dallas, announced they were losing money and wanted to cut back on services. Competition from video cassette recorders and subscription television is hurting the cable business. Miller reminded librarians that cable is presently an entertainment medium and not an "information service."

The Dallas County Community College District cablecasts educational programming on fourteen cable systems. The "interconnect" is a system of hardwiring, microwave, and other technologies. Miller noted that although there is no physical interconnect, it is the service, not the delivery mode, that is important.

The final speaker was Roger Ferragallo, director of telecommunications for the Peralta (Calif.) Community College District. Ferragallo built what was an instructional video program into a full-time educational access cable station. The station is run entirely by students and currently reaches sixty thousand subscribers. The college's channel is on the Alameda, Calif., cable system, the first fiber optic system in the country. With two-way microwave, classrooms on other college campuses have become interactive. The gift of an earth station from Scientific Atlanta allows the station to cablecast eighty hours per week.—*Bob Katz.*

Developmental Projects: The Vendor/User Relationship

The Vendor/User Discussion Group presented two case studies on joint development of library automation projects.

Ann Shaffner of the Boston Library Consortium (BLC) described the joint development with the F. W. Faxon Company of the LINX Union List Project. BLC staff acted as advisors on

the project design, then became a test group for the product.

Shaffner advises involving library staff in the project at the earliest stages, even though very little information exists. Information may have to be kept confidential, and it may change, but the staff can be introduced to the developmental process and to the vendor's point of view.

The library/vendor contract may need to be more flexible with regard to functional specifications, testing criteria, and time frames than a standard automation system contract, but there should definitely be a legal agreement. The library should get a significant price break.

The library will assume a certain amount of risk, and only you can decide if joint development is workable for your organization.

Mary Ellen Clapper, Union List Project Manager for the Faxon Company, shared some practical hints for success:

- Start early
- Allow for flexibility
- Establish a trusting vendor/user relationship
- Set realistic deadlines
- Understand the risks
- Be sure that all parties have something to gain
- Understand what you want to accomplish
- Temper expectations with reality
- Communicate effectively

The University of Florida Libraries and Northwestern University cooperated in developing a second-generation circulation module for NOTIS. Nolan Pope of the University of Florida at Gainesville explained that the two entities had an informal agreement and didn't feel in this case that a detailed contract was needed. The groups met regularly for three years for grueling, but essential, working sessions.

Northwestern had a real self-interest in the circulation module, and wanted it to be done well. Bruce A. Miller, Systems Analyst with NOTIS, speculates that if they had it to do again, they probably would make a tighter contract, but might not produce as good a product.—*C. Parkhurst.*

Training Issues Program a Success

One of the most interesting programs in Dallas was "Training Issues in Changing Technology," co-sponsored by LITA, the Library Administration and Management Association (LAMA) Personnel Administration Staff Development Com-

mittee, and the Junior Members Round Table. More than five hundred people attended the program, which focused on the adjustments library staff must make because of rapid and continuing changes in the library environment caused by technological advances.

Four speakers framed the topic by discussing technology anxiety, preparing staff for change, implementing organizational change, and health considerations of video display terminal (VDT) use. Handouts with a summary of each speaker and case study are available from the LAMA office.

Ruth J. Person, Catholic University of America, opened the program with her paper, "Human Factors in Adopting Library Technology." She stressed the importance of viewing technology as a tool in achieving greater productivity and of recognizing employees as a library's most valuable resource. Resistance to change and technology anxiety can be reduced with attention to staff training and development considerations.

Dorothy Anderson, University of California, Los Angeles, discussed what library managers can do to prepare staff for change and to help them adjust to it. Resistance may be a natural and useful step in the implementation of change. Managers must understand the misperceptions individuals may have concerning the change and the political and personal impact the change will make.

Between the old and new ways of doing things, a library goes through an unsettling period of transition. Michael Malinconico described the unique characteristics of this phase in the organization's life and the management tools needed to direct the library through it.

R. Bruce Miller summarized the points he made in his *Information Technology and Libraries* article (June 1983) concerning comfortable VDT use by library staff members.

The impact of technology on staff and the importance of considering their needs when system changes are made were common threads running throughout the program.—*Helen H. Spalding, University of Missouri—Kansas City.*

The Ethics of Consulting

Charles C. Stewart of The Baker & Taylor Company moderated the Consultant/User Discussion Group's topic, "The Ethics of Consulting—The Legal Aspects."

Stanley S. Jones, Jr., attorney with Long & Aldridge of Atlanta, presented his experiences as counsel to the SOLINET library network. He reviewed several guidelines for using a lawyer wisely and emphasized the formal rules of conduct binding upon a lawyer in the client-lawyer relationship. The lawyer is bound by confidentiality, loyalty, elimination of conflict of interest, and non-misrepresentation of competency. These standards are enforced through state legislation.

Douglas Corbett, Associate General Counsel, Tennessee Gas Transmission in Houston, Tex., presented a second legal viewpoint, stressing a private agreement between the client and the consultant. In fact, a lawyer could be helpful in drafting, reviewing, and negotiating this contractual relationship.

The question-and-answer session was lively, focusing on the contract negotiation process and ways of avoiding ambiguity and disappointment. Clarification of differences is not always possible given technical complexity, open futures, plus conflicts inherent in the competitive and adversarial models. Cultivation of the team model requires proceduralization of legal, financial, and technical responsibilities.

The Consultant/User DG initiated two projects at Dallas: (1) the drafting of a set of ethical principles to govern the



In attendance at the Dallas meeting of the Consultant/User Discussion Group (l to r): Douglas Corbett, attorney with Tennessee Gas Transmission; Stanley S. Jones, attorney with Long & Aldridge; Paul Peters, Columbia University; Susan Vita, Library of Congress; Ritvars Bregzis, University of Toronto; Bobbie Merilees, Metropolitan Toronto Library; Sandra K. Paul, SKP Associates; Becky Hinton, Topeka Public Library; Sue Soy and Joyce Pipkin of Black Gold Cooperative System (Calif.); Charles C. Stewart, Baker & Taylor.

consultant-librarian relationship; (2) drafting of a checklist of guidelines to use in establishing and maintaining a consultant-librarian relationship. Additional projects envisioned include development of a consultant resource database and development of measures of accountability and success.

New contributions and participants are always encouraged. Please contact Ernest A. Muro, Baker & Taylor, 6 Kirby Ave., Somerville, NJ 08876, with suggestions, contributions, or offers to help.—*Charles C. Stewart.*

Microcomputers for Library Managers: Beyond the Basics

Co-sponsored by the Systems and Services Section of the Library Administration and Management Association (LAMA), the Public Library Association, and LITA, this program was designed to address concerns of managers already well versed in the basics of microcomputers. Kicking off the program was Robert Walton, automation consultant for the Texas State Library. Walton began by explaining that it is difficult to predict how a micro will be used in a library until it arrives and staff begin using it. Often, library managers have expectations for micros that cannot be met, although middle managers are now developing a good instinct for how to use micros.

On the hardware scene, IBM compatibility has been the dominant theme thus far in the 1980s. Most library managers are choosing IBM-compatible machines in order to be able to interface with other machines in their working environments. Although Walton considers this a fairly "conservative" approach, it probably makes sense at this time to stick with IBM-compatible hardware. Walton points out that in the late 1980s, AT & T will introduce a personal computer that will not be IBM-compatible. This may radically change the market in the next decade. On the software front, Walton explained that there are two kinds of developments going on. The first is in the area of integrated software packages. These packages allow the user to massage data for different purposes without having to switch programs. The second is the "MacIntosh/LISA concept," in which the software is not keyboard-oriented, but rather uses a "mouse" or touch screen. These software packages are designed for people who are not comfortable with keyboards, which translates to most managers.

Walton described what he feels are the important issues re-

garding micros that should concern library managers. Managers need to plan for technological changes and market movements. He cautions managers not to speculate in new technologies at this time, but rather to go for a good, average machine. The life expectancy of a micro is under five years anyway. He urges managers to be aware of the trends in home computer use. Current growth curves indicate that by 1992, 85 percent of homes will have microcomputers. The demand for access to library files from home computers will rise. Managers need to be aware of the development of local area networks (LAN). LAN allows the integration of micros, telephone lines, cable systems, and mainframe computers so that various systems can "talk to each other."

Walton encourages library managers to be aware of the changing demands placed on personnel by microcomputers. Staff cannot absorb the development of microcomputer applications along with their regular workload. Micro development and training take time, and employees must reduce other commitments when they take on microcomputer responsibilities. Finally, Walton cautions managers to watch out for "automation egoism" among staff. This syndrome develops when certain members of the library staff who are more comfortable with the new technologies attain a higher status than employees who are not as involved with automation. Managers sometimes tend to favor these pro-technology staff, and traditional library jobs such as answering reference questions and cataloging are seen as having a lower status. This situation can of course be devastating to the operation of a library.

Barbara DeYoung, Wang Laboratories, gave a presentation on operating system compatibility among microcomputers. DeYoung explained that in the beginning of microcomputer development, software was specific to the machine for which it was developed. At the present time, IBM is dominating the marketplace, and both hardware and software developers are striving to be IBM-compatible. DeYoung gave a detailed explanation of why IBM's operating system is not compatible with other machines and emphasized that this compatibility problem must be solved so that various machines can easily communicate. There are two solutions on the horizon. The first is software integration, which will make it easier to use systems interchangeably. The second is a hardware solution. Plug-in boards, which can be inserted into a microcomputer to allow the use of IBM software on non-IBM machines, are being developed.

Frank Queener, Geneva Free Library (N.Y.), gave a case study presentation on the use of a microcomputer in his library. When Queener came to the Geneva Free Library, he inherited a TRS 80 microcomputer and a staff that was somewhat intimidated by the machine and discouraged at their lack of success in using the micro effectively. Queener determined that a great deal of the problem had to do with staff attitudes toward the micro, which ranged from "the micro is a miracle and is beyond me" to "the micro is a tool, just like a hammer." Queener took several steps to turn around these attitudes toward the micro. First, he made the workstation more comfortable by moving it to a pleasant location near a window. Documentation was inadequate, so proper documentation was immediately obtained. Queener made sure all members of the staff had equal use of the micro and did not allow an elite group of micro "experts" to develop. Queener tried to foster the attitude that the staff are in charge of the computer, and not vice versa. Queener was successful at Geneva Free Library, and the TRS 80 is now a welcome addition to his library.

Joseph Ryus, University of California—Berkeley, described his use of a microcomputer to compile the National Shelflist Count. Ryus explained that in the past, the National Shelflist Count had been compiled on the mainframe computer at Berkeley. Ryus took on the task using his Osborne microcomputer with 64K memory and *SuperCalc II*. While Ryus did encounter some difficulties due to the limitations of the software and the micro memory, he was able to produce the 575 tables needed for the National Shelflist Count report. This is a rather stunning example of a micro displacing a mainframe for a large and complex computing job.

The final speaker was James Rush of James E. Rush Associates, Inc., whose topic was "Keeping Current—Sources of Information on Microcomputers." Rush pointed out that one of the problems in keeping current on micros is the vast amount of information available on the topic. He stressed that library managers should read much of this information with a great deal of caution. He feels that newsletters are a good way to learn about specific applications and mentioned the publication *Small Computers in Libraries* as a good example. Rush concluded by emphasizing that no amount of reading can take the place of experience. Some things you simply must learn for yourself by doing.

Carol Liu, a member of the LAMA/SASS Program Committee, prepared an excellent handout entitled "Source List." This annotated bibliography outlines the key journals, monographs, indexes, continuing education courses, and user groups in the field of microcomputers. Contact the LAMA office for a copy.—*Suzanne K. Metzger, University of California—San Diego.*

President's Message

LITA members were hard at work during the various board, section, committee, and discussion group meetings in Dallas. I would like to highlight just a few of the activities of particular note to LITA members.



1. Reorganization—The LITA Board accepted the final report from the task force on LITA reorganization, and the Bylaws Committee has re-drafted the bylaws to accommodate the new structure. Members will receive a mail ballot this fall to vote on the new structure, accompanied by a detailed description of the structure and a copy of the bylaws changes that will be necessary to activate it. **PLEASE VOTE WHEN YOU RECEIVE YOUR BALLOT THIS FALL!!!** If the reorganization is approved, the new structure will take effect after the Annual Conference in Chicago.
2. LITA/CLSI Scholarship—The Education Committee has proceeded with designing the mechanisms for awarding the first annual LITA/CLSI scholarship to a prospective student enrolling in an ALA-accredited graduate program and specializing in library automation or information science. Applications will be available from the LITA office this fall, and application forms are due back

no later than December 15, 1984. If you know of prospective students who would benefit from this scholarship, please make it known to them.

3. Chicago Preconferences Planned—Two very timely pre-conferences are to be given at the ALA-Chicago Annual Conference. The first is on telecommunications, the second on electronic publishing. Bruce A. Miller, Northwestern University, is organizing the telecommunications preconference, also to be offered as a two-day institute in fall 1985 and spring 1986. Brian Aveney, Blackwell North America, is responsible for the electronic publishing preconference, which will draw heavily from the publishing industry for speakers. Plan to arrive in Chicago early to attend one of these exciting, information-packed programs.

These are but a few of the activities resulting from the Dallas meetings, but they indicate a strong membership commitment. Any individual who would like to become more active in LITA should review the proposed LITA organizational structure (available from Donald Hammer, LITA office) and let Lois Kerschner, LITA vice-president/president-elect, know what your interests are so that she can take them into account for this year's appointments. I encourage you to be an active LITA member!—*Nancy L. Eaton, LITA President.*

Crossroads— First in LITA Series

Crossroads, edited by Michael Gorman, is the first title in the newly established Library and Information Technology Series. The forty-one invited and contributed papers in *Crossroads* were prepared for presentation at LITA's first national conference in 1983. User response to online catalogs, automation of authority control systems, network technology, administration of technological change, electronic publishing, automated preparation and storage of library information, and interactive AV are among the topics addressed in research and progress reports. State-of-the-art papers describe online catalogs, government information in electronic form, automated acquisitions, retrospective conversion, and office automation. A basis for understanding the impact of information technology on society and the capacity of libraries to develop and capitalize on that technology is provided in papers by H. L. Resnikoff, Ithiel de Sola Pool, Hans Wellisch, John Wicklein, and Bruce Miller. Order from Publishing Services, American Library Association, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611; \$40.00.

Newsletter Deadlines

Your contributions to the *LITA Newsletter* are welcome. Send them to Carol A. Parkhurst, University Library, University of Nevada, Reno, NV 89557 before the following deadlines:

Winter 1985 issue—due October 1, 1984

Spring 1985 issue—due January 18, 1985

Summer 1985 issue—due April 1, 1985

LITA Board of Directors: Highlights of Meetings at the 1984 ALA Annual Conference

Highlights of the LITA Board of Directors meetings will appear in a new format in this issue of the LITA Newsletter. Board actions and motions will be summarized rather than copied verbatim from the minutes, with voting listed for official motions. Issues covered in other newsletter columns and articles will not be repeated.

The full minutes are available on request from the LITA Office, American Library Association, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.

The LITA Board of Directors met three times during the 1984 Annual Conference in Dallas. Members are: Kenneth Dowlin, Nancy Eaton, Lois Kerschner, Joyce Capell, Hugh Atkinson, Jerome Yavarkovsky, Bonnie Juergens, Pat Barkalow, Carolyn Gray, Heike Kordish (ex officio), and Donald Hammer (ex officio). The board approved a request that Charles Kritzler replace Joyce Capell at the final two board meetings.

All votes were unanimous unless noted otherwise.

LITA Newsletter. The *Newsletter* editor was given the responsibility of editing the LITA Board minutes from conferences and publishing a condensed version of the proceedings.

It was moved that the voting record of board members not be published in the *Newsletter* but with the full minutes, available on request. The motion was defeated. (In favor: Dowlin, Eaton, Kerschner, Yavarkovsky. Opposed: Atkinson, Barkalow, Juergens, Kritzler. Absent: Gray.)

Long-Range Plan Implementation. The following actions were approved (Absent: Gray):

- Accept the new LITA structure as submitted in the final report of the Long-Range Plan Implementation Committee.
- Accept the revision of the LITA Bylaws as presented by Heike Kordish.
- Immediately implement two aspects of the new structure: (1) appoint a board director to serve on the Budget Review Committee, (2) appoint a board director to serve on the Program Planning Committee.
- Appoint Pat Barkalow to the Budget Review Committee.
- Discontinue the LITA liaison to the RTSD Board of Directors and the RTSD Planning and Research Committee.

Program Scheduling. The board voted to approve a plan that all programs should be submitted to the Program Planning Committee by August 1. The chair of the Program Planning Committee, in consultation with the LITA Executive Director, will control the master calendar, submit all programs for approval to the board, and submit all forms to the Conference Arrangements Office. The Program Planning Committee will submit descriptions of programs and budget requests to the LITA board for approval at the last meeting of either Annual Conference or Midwinter Meeting. (Absent: Gray)

Policy on Hiring Consultants to Develop Programs and Institutes. The board discussed a proposed policy involving the relationship between LITA and vendors and consultants. Juergens feels it is important not to discourage participation and communication between LITA and the vendors/consultants. Guidelines are needed to facilitate communication, sharing, and benefitting professionally from these organizations without putting LITA in a compromising position.

The board approved a motion that the president appoint an ad hoc committee to (1) explore the issue of consultants and vendors as developers of programs and institutes for LITA, and (2) examine the issues surrounding vendor/consultant programs being held in conflict with ALA programs. (Absent: Gray)

Dowlin appointed Yavarkovsky as chair and Atkinson as member of the ad hoc committee, which will report to the board at Midwinter.

Distinguished Lecture Series. It was moved and approved that (1) the board refer wording of the LITA Distinguished Lecture Series Policy to the Program Planning Committee, with instructions to report to the board by the end of the 1985 Midwinter Meeting, and that (2) LITA continue to conduct the Series in an ad hoc fashion until the policy is adopted. (Absent: Gray)

Database Project. Eaton and Hammer will set up an ad hoc committee to look into the planning of a future database for LITA.

Orientation Forum. Attendance at the LITA Orientation Forum was low. The board accepted Juergens' recommendations that (1) as individuals are appointed to LITA tasks, they be requested to attend the forum and (2) the forum should be held in meeting-room style rather than in the LITA suite.

ALA Long-Range Planning. Dowlin feels that the problem of long-range planning within ALA needs a higher priority at ALA headquarters, with perhaps a full-time person assigned to work with the Budget & Planning Assembly. The board gave Juergens the authority to work with the ALA Planning Committee.

Discussion Group Discontinued. The board voted to accept the dissolution of the LITA/ISAS Library and Information Technology Discussion Group. (Absent: Gray)

Reorganization of Committee on Representation in Machine-Readable Form of Bibliographic Information (MARBI). The board voted to accept a resolution drafted by the Resources and Technical Services Division (RTSD) to the effect that a MARBI Review Committee be established to make a report to the presidents of LITA, RTSD, and Reference and Adult Services Division at the Chicago Annual Conference. The charge to the committee will be to examine MARBI and make recommendations on its mission, charge, structure, liaison, relationships, representation from various committees, and accountability to the three division boards. (Absent: Gray) Dowlin appointed Ruth Carter and Susan Martin as LITA's representatives to the MARBI Review Committee.

Telecommunications Committee. Janet Bruman, Telecommunications Committee chair, reported that the committee has been working largely in the areas of electronic mail and electronic publishing. A document on electronic messaging systems has been prepared using ALANET; because the document was not prepared in time for distribution at the Dallas Conference it will be submitted to the *LITA Newsletter* for publication.

With the reorganization of LITA, the Telecommunications Committee will become an interest group. People interested in telecommunications topics will be asked to attend the committee meeting at the 1985 Conference to become the core of the interest group.

The Telecommunications Committee met jointly with the Publications Committee to discuss electronic publishing. Issues included: which LITA committee should be responsible for electronic publishing? how are electronic publications to be funded and maintained? who is to decide what should appear in electronic rather than print form (or both)? and the fact that electronic publications will reach only a small percentage of LITA members.

The board voted to establish a subcommittee of the Publications Committee consisting of a member of the Publications Committee and two other LITA members. The subcommittee is to evaluate proposals for LITA electronic publications and recommend action to the full committee on all electronic publications matters. Motion passed. (In favor: Eaton, Juergens, Atkinson, Kritzer. Against: Barkalow, Kershner, Yavarkovsky. Absent: Gray, Dowlin.)

The Telecommunications Committee will draft a request to ALA that some portion of the revenue generated from ALANET be distributed to the divisions that are creating and maintaining documents on ALANET. Documents on ALANET are accessible to all ALANET users and will encourage the use of ALANET, thus increasing the income that ALA headquarters derives from the service.

Since almost all LITA electronic mail is now being done on ALANET, the board decided to discontinue funding for ONTYME.

Publications Committee. Michael Gorman, Publications Commit-

tee chair, suggested that there would be greater continuity on the Publications Committee if the committee chair were made a three-year appointment, overlapping by one year with the chair-designate. The board asked the Bylaws Committee to look into the matter and report back.

Herbert Bloom from ALA Publishing Services reported to the Publications Committee on proposed new procedures for publishing conference proceedings. If approved, the divisions will be responsible for editing proceedings and producing camera-ready copy. ALA Publishing will simply print the material.

After a lengthy discussion of the problems LITA has with ALA Publishing, the board voted to ask that ALA Publishing Services meet the generally accepted level of royalties and timeliness, or that publications be offered to other publishers through standard bid procedures.

Legislation and Regulation Committee. The board voted to approve funding (est. \$340) for the printing and distribution of an information package to aid state and local library groups in lobbying utility commissions on telecommunications tariffs.

The board voted to endorse the "Resolution of Tribute on Telecommunications," and the "Resolution on Reaffirmation of ALA's Concern for Library Telecommunications." (See the committee's report in this issue for content of resolutions.)

Education Committee. The board voted to support the costs of distribution of the packet on standards prepared by the Education Committee.

ANSI Committee X3. The board agreed to support Paul Peters in seeking election to a chair on the ANSI X3 Secretariat/Management Committee. Peters' election to that committee would be beneficial to LITA in improving understanding of the workings of X3 and providing earlier identification of problems or opportunities that are emerging for LITA. LITA's financial commitment would be about \$3,000 for a three-year term.

Preconferences Planned. The board voted to accept the Program Planning Committee's two preconference concepts for the 1985 Annual Conference. The budget and content of the preconferences will be presented at Midwinter.

LITA News Online with ALANET

Check out the premiere issue of the *LITA Online Newsletter (LION)*, which is part of a study being carried out by LITA to determine the feasibility of, and the interest in, electronic publishing. *LION* will provide up-to-date news on such topics as automated library systems, telecommunications, and video/cable, as well as information about ALA and LITA activities. Staff in the LITA office will do the editing and publishing until the journal becomes more established.

ALANET, the American Library Association's electronic mail and information service, is now open to personal members of ALA and to nonmember organizations. A sign-up fee of \$30 starts an ALANET subscription, plus an annual billing fee of \$90. Organizations are billed, while individual subscriptions are by Visa or MasterCard. Use charges are based on connect time and text storage, with rates starting at \$17 per hour in prime time (\$13 nonprime time).

If the *LITA Online Newsletter* is accessed frequently, it will continue to be maintained. User interest will determine whether or not it is worth the cost.

For more information on ALANET, contact Joel M. Lee, ALANET System Manager, American Library Association, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611; (312) 944-6780.

LITA Election Results

Congratulations to the following officers who began service following the Dallas Annual Conference:

Vice-President/President-Elect—Lois M. Kershner

Director-at-Large—Louella V. Wetherbee

Director-at-Large—Brian Aveney

Director-at-Large—Ernest A. Muro

Director-at-Large—Michael Gorman

ISAS Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect—Gail Persky

ISAS Member-at-Large—Gwen Miles Culp

VCCS Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect—Robert C. Miller

VCCS Member-at-Large—Judith Segal

LITA Committees

Education Committee

Information Packet on Standards. The LITA Education Committee has been developing an information packet about standards. The packet should be ready sometime this fall and will consist of a selected, annotated bibliography; brochures and other printed information about standards-making bodies and organizations; and a selected list of standards of interest to librarianship. The packet was developed to provide information about standards to educators in library and information science, staff development officers, and individuals interested in learning about standards. When the packets are ready for dissemination, information about obtaining them will be published in the *LITA Newsletter* and *LITA Online News*.

LITA/CLSI Scholarship. The LITA Education Committee was assigned the responsibility for administering the LITA/CLSI Scholarship in Library and Information Technology. This is a new scholarship, funded by C L Systems, Inc., (CLSI) of West Newton, Mass. It will be available for the first time for the 1985 school year. The \$1,500 scholarship is to be awarded to a beginning student on the master's degree level in an ALA-accredited program in library and information science with emphasis on library automation. The purpose of the scholarship is to encourage qualified people who plan to pursue a career in the library automation field and who show evidence of leadership in, and a strong commitment to, the use of automated systems in libraries.

The criteria to be used in choosing a recipient will include previous academic excellence, leadership, evidence of a commitment to a career in library automation and information technology, and prior activity and experience in those fields. The scholarship recipient will be selected by a jury composed of Education Committee members and other LITA members.

More information about the scholarship and application forms are available from LITA/CLSI Scholarship, LITA, American Library Association, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.—*Janet J. Bausser, Duke University.*

Legislation and Regulation Committee

This summer in "Big D" the Legislation and Regulation Committee beat the heat by meeting at 8:00 a.m. Sunday and Tuesday. The main topic of discussion was a proposed resolution supporting further postponement of private line tariffs. (See *LITA Newsletter*, Spring and Summer 1984, for back-

ground.) A "Resolution on Reaffirmation of ALA's Concern for Library Telecommunications" was approved by the LITA Board of Directors:

The Library and Information Technology Association of the American Library Association reaffirms its support for legislative action to guarantee permanent, universal, and affordable access to telecommunication service, and

The Library and Information Technology Association also supports the need for Federal regulation to insure reliable installation, repair and maintenance services for library telecommunications, and

The Library and Information Technology Association supports the efforts of other library organizations in seeking legislative or regulatory relief at national and state levels from high telecommunications charges.

Also approved by the LITA Board was a "Resolution of Tribute on Telecommunications," thanking Senator Larry Pressler and twenty-six other U.S. senators for signing a letter asking the Federal Communications Commission to postpone adoption of private line tariffs.

In related action the committee started planning an information packet for lobbying state and local governments on utilities and telecommunication rates. The packet will include background information on the importance of this issue to libraries, guidelines for state library associations on organizing lobbying efforts, information on how dockets and utility commissions work, a list of state utility commissions, a bibliography, and a list of monitoring groups. The packet should be available in November 1984.—*Mary Boulanger.*

LITA to Participate in Interdivisional AV-CIP Group

An ad hoc interdivisional committee has been coordinated by the Resources and Technical Services Division (RTSD) Audiovisual Committee to promote cataloging in publication (CIP) for audiovisual (AV) materials. LITA will be participating through the Video and Cable Communications Section. Other participating divisions are the American Association of School Librarians, Association of College and Research Libraries, and the Public Library Association, all of which have AV committees. The committee will be working with a representative from the Library of Congress. The first action of the committee will be to survey the cataloging in publication needs of AV librarians. It is expected that priority formats will be software and videocassettes. The formation of the committee came about in response to a presentation at the last ALA Midwinter Meeting by Susan Vita, head of the Cataloging in Publication Division at LC. She felt that the impetus for implementation of AV-CIP would be a clear mandate from the library community. The interdivisional committee hopes to provide LC with the necessary clarification and expression of support for the AV-CIP project. For more information about the Interdivisional Group within ALA to Promote the Cataloging in Publication for Audiovisual Materials, contact Janice Woo, LITA Liaison to the RTSD AV Committee, Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library, Columbia University, New York, NY 10027.—*Janice Woo.*

Standards Poster Available

The LITA Poster, a big hit at the LITA booth in Dallas, is available for \$5.00 from LITA, American Library Association, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.

Information Science and Automation Section

Jean Swanson
Section Editor

Discussion Groups at Annual Conference

With about fifty people in attendance, the **Programmer/Analysts Discussion Group** heard brief presentations from representatives of Research Libraries Information Network (RLIN), OCLC, Washington Library Network (WLN), Library of Congress, and the University of California (UC) Division of Library Automation. The topic was record matching algorithms for monographs. Although each system has taken a different approach to record matching, this session revealed a great deal of similarity in the data elements used and the problems encountered. Karen Coyle of the UC Division of Library Automation was reelected chair of the group. Vice-chair will be Ruta Pempe of Informatics.

Charles Clement, chair of the **COM Catalog Discussion Group**, sent the following report:

Last year we discussed the viability of COM. This year the theme of the meeting was the production of COM and a look at several libraries in various stages of its use. Next year we will cover display techniques for COM fiche.

On the program were Anne Lipow of UC Berkeley, Charlotte Clark of Ramsey County (Minn.) Public Library, and Bill Bridgman of Troy, N.C. Anne Lipow gave an excellent talk, describing a large library in an advanced stage of using COM fiche. Some of her points were: retroconversion is slow; patrons confuse form of catalogs (card versus fiche); the greatest complaint is the use of vertical devices for reading fiche; misfiling of fiche is a big problem; computer production tapes for fiche are getting so prolific that they're hard to manage.

Charlotte Clark gave a superb slide presentation illustrating the switch from roll film to fiche. It cost only \$600 to put data on fiche that had cost \$1,200 on film. Instructional material is minimized at her library; they rely instead on "active" assistance at the catalog. They find that people are persistent and will use four-eight fiche per search.

Bill Bridgman gave an articulate and candid review of the concerns facing a regional library system that is thinking of COM fiche. Some decision factors are: fiche are less expensive and more portable, durable, and reproducible.

Charles Clement will continue as chair of the discussion group.

The newly formed **LITA ISAS/RTSD Discussion Group on Authority Control in the Online Environment** held two meetings in Dallas and continues to develop some exciting projects. Chair Barbara Tillett reported on some preliminary results of the group's opinion poll on automated authority control. Final results were distributed in September. Attendees who signed the attendance sheets will receive copies, as will all respondents to the poll. Others wishing a copy should send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Barbara Tillett, Scripps Institute of Oceanography Library C-075C, University of California—San Diego, La Jolla, Ca 92093.

The topic of discussion this summer was research on authority control. Arlene Taylor of the University of Chicago Library School gave an update on her study of commercially available systems for authority control. She identified particular system

designs and some conflicting features in present systems. She also noted that computer systems for authority control are still in the primitive stages of development. A second talk by Taylor covered the research that she and three students are conducting. The researchers are examining transaction logs from the Northwestern (NOTIS) system to see what users keyed in when they received "no hits." One finding is that one-third of the names on title pages do not match the form chosen for the catalog heading.

Catherine Thomas of UC San Diego presented the results of her research project on the effects of online search capabilities on authority work. She studied MELVYL, the online catalog at UC, and the authority work conducted at the Central University Library of UC San Diego. Thomas found that 47 percent of the references now created under AACR2 would not be needed in an online catalog with keyword and right-hand truncation capabilities. She also noted that 70 percent of the headings established in the authority file were based on LC's authority data. Her study is being published in the September issue of *Information Technology and Libraries*.

At the second meeting of the discussion group, research reports continued. Alexis Jamieson and others at the University of Western Ontario Library School have done a study of keyword searches. Their results include a demonstration that keyword searching will not take care of the synonyms and other real variations from a chosen form of heading, and authority control systems are indeed still necessary. Another study on Chinese names was the topic of a Ph.D. dissertation at the University of Pittsburgh. A study on the SOUNDEX system will be presented at the Midwinter Meeting of the discussion group.

Three study groups were set up at the meeting:

1. Group to draft a proposal regarding an alerting mechanism for maintenance of Name Authority Cooperative (NACO) authority records. Members: Barbara Tillett, Judy Fenly, Frank Sadowski, Suzanne Reisner, and Tanja Lokovic.
2. Group to study issues on subject authority control. Members: Irene Hurlbert and Monty Montee.
3. Group to examine issues in bibliographic and authority links. Members: Barbara Tillett, Karen Coyle, and Jim Meyer.

Barbara Tillett will continue as chair of the discussion group.

The mechanisms of linking local, detailed holdings to bibliographic records were considered at the meeting of the **Online Catalog Discussion Group**. Cathy Salika of the University of Illinois Library described their project to link WLN software to the Library Control System (LCS), so that full MARC records can be linked to detailed holdings records and appear on the same terminal for patrons. Illinois is providing a user-friendly interface for public access to the online catalog using fifty IBM personal computers (PC).

Bernard Hurley of the Systems Office at UC Berkeley gave a presentation on the project to link Berkeley's local system, GLADIS, to UC's MELVYL. Local holdings and the maintenance of records are on Berkeley's Tandem computer, while full MARC records are stored on MELVYL. Berkeley is also using IBM PCs as terminals.

Steve Salmon of Carlyle Systems, Inc., reviewed database machines in general and his company's database machine in particular. Carlyle's machine is specially designed to facilitate the searching of databases, as opposed to performing computations. The machine is now undergoing acceptance testing at the Research Libraries of the New York Public Library. The

new chair of the discussion group will be Steve Salmon.

The LITA ISAS/RTSD Application of Serials to Computers Discussion Group held an organizational meeting in Dallas. Linda Miller of the Library of Congress was elected chair.

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.

Standard Fare

Pierre Badin LaTes, II
Column Editor

During the Annual Conference in Dallas, the Technical Standards for Library Automation Committee (TESLA) met three times. Activities included discussion of the MARC compatibility survey recently conducted by TESLA. Dorothy MacPherson tabulated the responses and reported that comments to the various questions proved most interesting and informative. A report on the survey will be written for future dissemination. Discussion of the standards matrix being developed by Paul Peters and reports of various committee members on assignments related to needed standards continued activities begun at Midwinter.

A program for the Annual Conference in Chicago is being planned around the topic "technical standards in action." For example, the concepts involved in using MARC as a communications format illustrate an issue with which TESLA is concerned.

National Information Standards Organization (Z39)

Sandra Paul, chair, reported that NISO is moving forward to accreditation. Subcommittee V has been charged with developing a library identification number for other-than-book purchasing activity (the latter is covered by the Standard Acquisitions Number). Subcommittee V has not been charged with developing either a patron or item identifier for library application. The Program Committee, at the request of the agency responsible for administering the International Standard Book Number (ISBN), reviewed the charge of Subcommittee BB, which is to develop a standard number for micro-computer software. The Program Committee determined that such a charge is still appropriate and has directed Subcommittee BB to continue its work. A draft may be available in early fall. NISO Subcommittee C's draft standard for serial item and article identifier has been incorporated into an International Standards Organization (ISO) draft standard, BIBLID. With this incorporation, it appears that the U.S. standard and the ISO standard will be compatible.

Book Industry Systems Advisory Committee (BISAC) order formats for variable and fixed length are out for review as a draft American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standard for the voting period ending in the fall. BISAC will spend the

remainder of the year concentrating on machine-readable coding and current conflicts in coding, specifically in barcodes. New officers for BISAC are: Don Wozniak, National Association of College Stores, chair; Buddy Pickler, Ingram Book Company, vice-chair; and Susan Kranberg, SKP Associates, secretary.

Officers of the Serials Industry Systems Advisory Committee (SISAC) are: Richard Rowe, Faxon, chair; Patricia Sabosic, Choice, vice-chair; and Juan Astudillo, John Wiley, secretary.

NISO—Subcommittee G

Subcommittee G (Common Command Language for Use in Interactive Information Retrieval) is chaired by Charles Hildreth. The subcommittee is to develop a standard to "specify the vocabulary, syntax, and semantics of a command language for use by people in interaction with information retrieval systems." The purpose of the command language is to "facilitate the use of interactive information retrieval systems by rendering it unnecessary for the user to have to learn or relearn diverse command languages as is now required to achieve similar results on different systems." The intention is that such a standard will provide the means for consistency among systems without prescribing the commands or functions that a system must implement. The subcommittee now has a full contingent of members, and its first meeting will be held during the American Society for Information Science (ASIS) fall meeting (October 21–25 in Philadelphia). One of the items under consideration will be the draft standard for a common command language which has been submitted for review and vote later this year by ISO TC46/4/5. Contact Charles Hildreth, Office of Research, OCLC, for more information and a list of the members of Subcommittee G.

ANSI Committee X3, Information Processing

Paul Peters, LITA's representative to X3, supplied the following information. During the last six months, X3 has undertaken new initiatives in a number of areas including software engineering and quality assurance, mobile telephones and terminals, optical digital data disks, barcode print quality, and 3.00 and 3.25-inch flexible disk cartridges. The transition from an American National Standards Committee to an accredited standards committee was another area of heavy activity. Further information about X3's scope and activities can be obtained from Paul Peters, (212) 280-4744.

MARBI Activities

Gary McCone reported that an update of the MARC format for machine-readable data files was at the Government Printing Office being printed and should be distributed in early September. The holdings format is undergoing implementation and testing in the Virginia Tech Library System (VTLS), at the Southwestern Library Network (SOLINET), and at Harvard University. Negative votes regarding the NISO standard for detailed serials holdings are being resolved. The non-serials holdings standard, which NISO Subcommittee W has been working on, was to be sent out for review in the late summer or early fall. It appears that this standard will fit into the holdings format. McCone noted that MARBI documentation will no longer be distributed free of charge. It will be available, however, through subscription from the Cataloging Distribution Service at the Library of Congress.

Video and Cable Communications Section

Bob Katz
Section Editor

Distribution and Exchange/Video & Cable Utilization Committees

Chairs Robert Miller and Thomas Szudy combined their meetings at ALA Dallas into one session. Discussion centered around the formation of a database of library video materials. The database will be compiled from a survey limited to public and academic libraries, because these were the primary respondents to the last survey.

Once the proposed LITA reorganization goes into effect, the work of these two committees will continue under the Utilization Committee.

VCCS Publications Task Force

Members of the Task Force are going to do a pilot video journal using resources available to committee members. The journal will be presented to LITA officers at the Midwinter Meeting as an example of what can be done in publishing using electronic rather than print media.

Discussion concerning articles for *Information Technology and Libraries* and the publishing of the proposed VCCS Video Survey also took place.

Program Planning

Nora McMartin has agreed to chair the committee this year with help from Stephen Bloom of Chicago. The theme for the 1985 programs will be "technology." A pineapple was served in honor of Nora's being named "Library Thrift Queen of Chula Vista." The planners of the 1985 program will try to take advantage of the resources of the Chicago area.

VCCS Executive Board

Chair Charles Kritzler conducted an efficient meeting on Monday, July 26. Meeting slots for Midwinter were selected (most will be on Sunday, January 6, 1985). Janice Woo reported on the VCCS Audiovisual Task Force survey included in the summer issue of the *LITA Newsletter*. Results are incomplete at this time because not everyone had time to respond to the survey. A full report will be given at Midwinter.

Videodisc and Optical Disk Conference

The fourth American Conference will be held December 5-7, 1984, at the Washington Hilton, Washington, D.C. Sessions will include: programming and design for interactive videodisc systems, database publishing, analysis of the European market, erasable optical disk systems, optical disk storage, and more. For additional information, contact Meckler Communications, 520 Riverside Ave., Westport, CT 06990; (203) 226-6967.

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

Recent Vendors' Contributions to LITA

With the advent of the LITA Vendor/User Discussion Group in 1982 under the chairmanship of Richard Rowe, F. W. Faxon Company (Westwood, Mass.), vendors allied with the library field have become active in LITA and have begun to contribute both time and funds to LITA. This development has posed an excellent relationship in that the vendors have gained additional exposure in the library technology world and LITA has enjoyed enhanced programs and activities.

Under the leadership of Leedom Kettell, Gaylord Brothers, Inc., of Syracuse, N.Y., began sponsoring the LITA/Gaylord Award for Achievement in Library and Information Technology in 1983. The company is contributing a \$1,000 stipend to the award winner each year. This generous gift has stimulated interest within LITA to develop such arrangements for other distinguished activities sponsored by the division.

It should be noted that the Dallas Conference was the first time a reception has been held for a LITA/Gaylord Award winner. A reception for this year's winner, Roger K. Summit, was sponsored by Gaylord Brothers, Inc., and the Information Access Company of Belmont, Calif.

A second award, in the form of an annual scholarship, has been established through Charles Farley of C L Systems, Inc. (CLSI), West Newton, Mass. The LITA/CLSI Scholarship, to commence in 1985, is intended to help library science students with an interest in library automation.

This year at the Dallas Annual Conference, the first lecture in the LITA/Faxon Distinguished Lecture Series was held. The F. W. Faxon Company has agreed to sponsor this series of lectures for the next three years, at a cost of up to \$5,000 per year. This year's speaker was Wilson P. Dizard, Jr., of Georgetown University.

Also at the Dallas Conference, the LITA President's Program was sponsored by an organization other than LITA for the first time. EBSCO Industries, Inc., Birmingham, Ala., provided \$3,000 to support Nicholas Johnson, PBS show host,

LITA/Gaylord Award Nominations Sought

Nominations are needed for the LITA/Gaylord Award for Achievement in Library and Information Technology. The \$1,000 annual award is made in recognition of distinguished leadership, notable development or application of technology, superior accomplishments in research or education, or original contributions to the literature of the field. Individuals or a small group of individuals working in collaboration are eligible; organized institutions or parts of organized institutions as such are not. The award will be presented at the 1985 ALA Conference in Chicago. Submit nominations by December 31, 1984 to: Berna Heyman, E. G. Swem Library, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA 23185; (804) 253-4029.

lecturer, and former Federal Communications Commissioner, as the featured speaker.

The 1984 LITA preconference on contract negotiation was organized by the Consultant/User Discussion Group under the chairmanship of Ernest Muro, The Baker & Taylor Company, Somerville, N.J. Baker & Taylor contributed financially to support of the institute, along with five other firms: Blackwell North American, Inc., Lake Oswego, Oreg.; Springer-Verlag, Inc., New York, N.Y.; DataPhase Systems, Inc., Shawnee Mission, Kans.; Spacesaver Corp., Fort Atkinson, Wis.; and Online Computer Systems, Germantown, Md.

It would seem appropriate, since libraries are moving in the direction of acquiring technology through commercial vendors, that LITA should develop closer relationships with firms that are active in the library and information technology field. There are many areas of mutual interest through which both can benefit and through which LITA's programs and activities can be improved for the benefit of LITA and ALA members. I

personally hope the new relationship continues and vigorously grows.—*Donald P. Hammer, Executive Director, LITA.*

Nominations for '85

The LITA Nominating Committee invites nominations for the office of LITA vice-president/president-elect (one-year term); for the office of LITA representative to the ALA Council (four-year term); and for two directors-at-large (three-year terms). Those elected will begin serving following the ALA Chicago Conference. Names of suggested nominees should be sent to the chair of the LITA Nominating Committee: Heike Kordish, 15 Claremont Ave., New York, NY 10027. Deadline is October 31, 1984.

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