FROM THE PRESIDENT

Kari Lucas, Head, Undergraduate Library
University of California, San Diego, klucas@ucsd.edu

Much as I felt overwhelmed at the thought of trekking around New York for the first time, I am overwhelmed with excitement and trepidation as I assume this prominent leadership role in LIRT. And just as New York turned out to be my favorite and most fun conference thus far, I'm confident my tenure in LIRT will be full of interesting and fun experiences. As your president, one of my goals for the year is to increase the value of being a member of LIRT. It is critical to LIRT's well being and its ability to provide meaningful products and services to its members so that long-standing members continue to renew their membership. It is also essential to seek out new members to refresh and revitalize the organization.

With the influx of technology, the value you gain from your membership need not be limited to attendance at ALA conferences. The LIRT News is a valuable source of current instruction and technology information.

Writing an article about instruction in your library is a good way to share your experience with other colleagues. The LIRT-L Web site is under development to provide members and potential members with information about LIRT. The publications LIRT produces are highly relevant and useful to all practicing instruction librarians, regardless of setting.

We must recognize the strong link between what we accomplish as a organization and the resources with which we achieve our goals. We operate LIRT on revenue generated by membership dues, sales and royalties. ALA asks that we have a reserve fund that equals one year's operating budget, or about $10,000. Presently, we fall short of that amount so ALA has placed LIRT on a 'watch list' until we catch up. A task force was charged to draft a report with recommendations for meeting the reserve fund shortfall and ensuring fiscal responsibility and stability.

continued on page 17...

1995-96 LIRT Annual Report

by Carol Derner, Past President

The past two years provided a crash course in LIRT activities and procedures. I hope to be able to share some of that knowledge with new officers, committee chairs and members. Every organization needs staff who provide the corporate memory. I have appreciated the input of former LIRT leaders, many of whom are still very active in LIRT.

Two task forces presented final reports this year, the Five-Year Financial Planning Task Force chaired by Emily Bergman and the Recruitment Task Force

INSIDE

News from New York (Annual Conference)

Columns

From the Editor

Highlights from ALA's Annual Conference in New York City are included in this issue. Lots of excellent programs, terrific food, enlightening committee discussions and a myriad of opportunities to meet many new colleagues are part of the benefits of attending conference. If you didn't get a chance to attend the conference or, even if you did, you have a chance to read about some of the many professional activities which happened in New York.

Current and new members of LIRT are actively involved in LIRT's committees. I'd like to include more of the projects completed by committees in the newsletter, as well as feature articles from the field at large. Over the course of the next year the newsletter committee will be contacting individuals and committees to encourage newsletter contributions. We'll be in touch, so you be in touch. Now that sounds like a New York journalist to me.

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ALA ANNUAL REPORTS
FROM LIRT COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES

[Editor's note: Absence of a committee report indicates that the report was not received by press time.]

Computer Applications Committee

Steve Westman, Chair, University of Texas, San Antonio, email: swestman@coyote.utsa.edu

Members present: Teresa Ashley and Stephen Westman.
Members-elect present: David Levinson and Peter Giordano.

The committee discussed their current project, a WWW site that will contain pointers and annotations to Web-based library instruction materials from all types of libraries. Discussion centered on several areas: definition of types of materials the site would contain, criteria for inclusion of a site, organization of the LIRT site, and the need for indexing for items on the site.

Two new members will begin work on a controlled vocabulary for the site. The chair/webmaster for this project will investigate software to index and organize the site as well as develop a form that visitors could use to suggest additional sites. Beyond this, all group members will review sites the chair has collected using Internet search engines. Communication between members of the group will continue via email.

Continuing Education Committee

Lorna Lueck, Chair, University of California, Santa Barbara, email: lueck@library.ucsb.edu

Members present: Marilee Birchfield, Lucia Dunn, Lorna Lueck, Katherine Todd

The Continuing Education Committee (CEC) compiled "LIRT's Top Twenty for 1995," which appeared in the June 1996 issue of LIRT News. Lorna will obtain ALA's authorization to submit the 1995 bibliography to ERIC. The committee re-viewed and discussed guidelines and procedures for selecting the "Top Twenty" articles. Ideas for future projects were explored, including the possibility of utilizing LIRT's listserv and Web page for more frequent continuing education updates. Marilee Birchfield will serve as CEC Chair in 1996-97.

Elections/Nominations Committee

Mary Popp, Chair, Indiana University, email: popp@indiana.edu

The 1996 Elections Committee completed its work at the New York Conference. The results of the LIRT election were announced before and during the Conference. In New York, the committee spent its time finalizing an elections manual for next year's committee, which includes a timetable, sample forms, and procedures.

Long-Range Planning Committee

Chuck Dintrone, Chair, San Diego State University email: dintrone@mail.sdsu.edu

Members present: Gale Burrow, Barbara Conant, Charles Dintrone, Marsha Forys, Tim Grimes, Kari Lucas, Linda Sammataro, Diana Shonrock, Thelma Tate.

The committee presented its report on the goals evaluation forms, identifying goals that are not being met. Planning for the retreat, which will take place on February 14, 1997, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Gelman Library of George Washington University in Washington, D.C., took the rest of the meeting time.

Those invited to the retreat include the Steering Committee, former officers, the committee, and public and school librarians active in LIRT. Using the environmental scan done by the Long-Range Planning Committee last year as a starting point, the retreat will focus on key issues LIRT will be

COMMITTEE REPORTS

facing in the coming years. It is hoped that ideas will come out of the retreat that will lead to changes in the organization, a strategic plan, and/or changes in the mission, goals and objectives statements of LIRT.

Newsletter Committee

John S. Spencer, Chair, Arizona State University West, email: john.spencer@asu.edu

Members present: John Riddle and John Spencer.

Distribution of assignments to new committee members was the main topic of discussion. The primary goal of committee members is to find contributors who can write brief articles for the newsletter on topics related to instruction in academic, public, special or school libraries. The editor will be contacting new committee members to discuss possible newsletter prospects.

Organization & Bylaws Committee

Charlotte Files, Chair, Mississippi Bank of Choctaw Indians, email: cif4@ra.msstate.edu

The committee met on Saturday, July 6, during the All Committee meeting. The committee spent time updating and making corrections to the LIRT handbook. Diana Shonrock and Billie Peterson were responsible for the corrections. Carol Derner will be the new chair for the committee. Diana Shonrock resigned from the committee because she was elected secretary of LIRT.

Public Relations & Membership

Linda J. Goff, Chair (1996-97), California State University, Sacramento, email: ljgoff@csus.edu

Members present: Linda J. Goff, Marie Hayden, Barbara Pilvin, Linda Chopra.
LIRT Booth: Laura Bottoms and Andy Corrigan.
Members-elect present: Pixey Mosley and Thomas Biggs.
Visitors: Marilyn Whitmore and Donna Kanapes.

Thirty-seven people preregistered for BITES with LIRT in New York City. Barbara Pilvin will select restaurants in Washington D.C. and Linda Goff will select for San Francisco.

The LIRT booth was back in the exhibit hall in the aisle for professional groups. Linda will contact ALA after the conference to track down the LIRT banner. New materials on the Internet and electronic resources are needed for the booth display binders, and a request for contributions will go in the newsletter. A second table in the booth is needed to display LIRT's printed materials.

The membership brochure was updated and 500 were printed by Sylvia Nichols. The next revision will include a space for email addresses. Sylvia also produced a one-page flyer about LIRT with a committee volunteer form on the back. The Steering Committee asked that red be used for the apple logo.

To increase LIRT membership, the committee discussed using BI-L to increase visibility. Another goal is to develop LIRT awareness in non-academic organizations, and to emphasize LIRT as a way to network and meet other librarians. The committee will also explore having a "LIRT presence" at state and/or regional conferences. Member A-LIRT - Pixey Mosley volunteered to do the next four member profiles.

Publications Committee

Harvey Gover, Chair (1996-97), Washington State University-Tri Cities, email: hgover@beta.tricity.wsu.edu

Members present: Marta Davis, Harvey Gover, Rob Morrison, Signe Swanson.

With input from Kari Lucas, the Incoming Chair met with new and current members to discuss a strategy for completion of the committee's publication project. The committee is compiling a bibliography of journals from other fields which have published articles on/or relating to librarianship. Ideas on journal titles to include will be welcomed by the committee.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Research Committee

Sherry Dedecker, Chair, University of California, Santa Barbara , email: dedecker@library.ucsb.edu

Members present: Sherry DeDecker, Lorna Peterson
Members-elect present: Nerea Llamas, Hilary Craiglow, Gina Persichini
Visitors: Barbara Ford-Foster, Kristen Tepper, Kathy Kie

The committee evaluated Internet sites and examples of Internet instruction collected so far and decided to make this a two-part project: 1) researching the way libraries train patrons on use of the Internet and 2) evaluation of existing Web sites that contain tutorials. The group divided tasks by type of library: public, academic, school and special. Members will also explore political issues involved in institutions gaining connectivity to the Internet and how use has changed the mission of libraries. The committee will work closely with the Computer Applications Committee by developing a list of guidelines for instructional Web sites and using these to evaluate sites gathered by both committees and linked on a LIRT Web page. Results of research done will be submitted to the newsletter in a series of articles.

Five-Year Financial Planning Task Force

Emily Bergman, Chair, email: bm.gab@rlg.edu

Members present: Emily Bergman, Tobeylynn Birch, Barbara Conant, Tim Grimes.

Summary of Discussion: The proposal for a standing committee was discussed, changes were made, and the submission to Executive Board was planned. The treasurer will modify year one of the financial plan; the subcommittee will refine years two through four and create year five.

The inclusion of a special projects line in the budget is to address special needs of LIRT committees. The five-year plan includes a loss of 25% of membership with the dues increase. Later years include an increase in membership, dependent upon the work of the Membership Committee. Discussion centered on raising non-dues revenue; developing healthy reserve funds, and allocating the special project line funds. The work of the task force is complete, and the task force expects to be disbanded.

Internet Presence Task Force

Billie Peterson, Chair, Baylor University
peterson@baylor.edu

The task force discussed two ideas at the conference: 1) the guidelines and standards which have been developed and 2) the design and content for the LIRT Web pages. In addition to ideas generated by the task force, ideas for the content of the LIRT Web pages were also solicited from LIRT committees. The content will both promote LIRT and provide mechanisms which will help LIRT committees do their work. A prototype for the LIRT Web will be available by mid-November, with a "final" version publicly available before Midwinter. ■
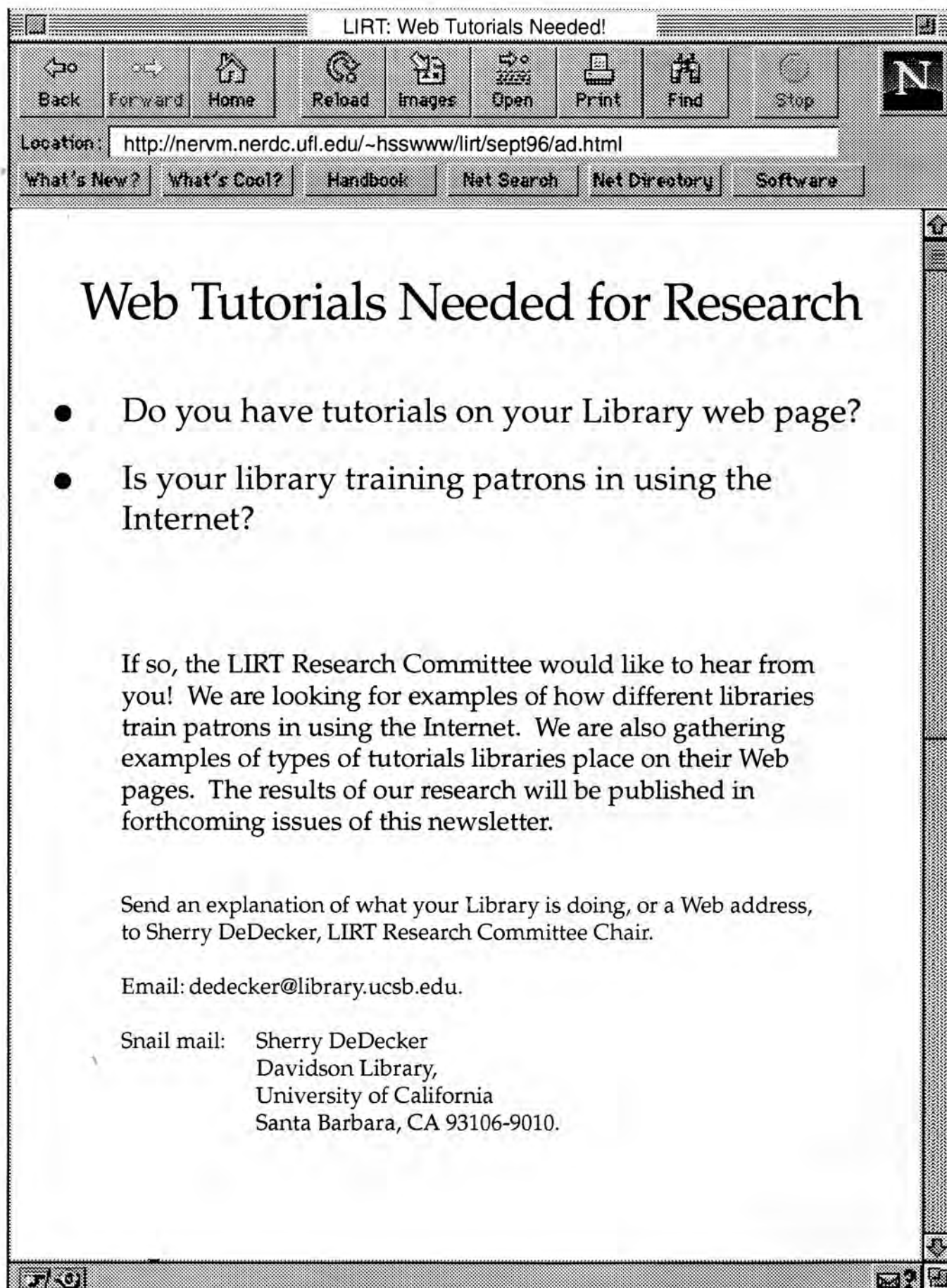
Member A-LIRT

Linda has found that her fellow round table members are very friendly and down-to-earth, and share many of her same concerns about library instruction. She loves the experience of meeting and talking to librarians from other states, countries, and kinds of libraries through ALA, and now is able to make a contribution to the larger organization through her commitment to LIRT for the next two years. Our congratulations and thanks to Linda for taking on this new challenge.

Marcia Boosinger, Bibliographic Instruction Librarian at Auburn University, is a member of LIRT's PR/ Membership Committee. ■

Web Tutorials Needed for Research

- Do you have tutorials on your Library web page?

- Is your library training patrons in using the Internet?

If so, the LIRT Research Committee would like to hear from you! We are looking for examples of how different libraries train patrons in using the Internet. We are also gathering examples of types of tutorials libraries place on their Web pages. The results of our research will be published in forthcoming issues of this newsletter.

Send an explanation of what your Library is doing, or a Web address, to Sherry DeDecker, LIRT Research Committee Chair.

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Member A-LIRT
Linda Chopra

By Marcia Boosinger, boosiml@lib.auburn.edu

The newly elected treasurer-elect of LIRT is Linda Chopra, Support Services Supervisor at the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library in Cleveland, Ohio. A member of ALA since 1988, she has been attending association conferences since 1992. She had been active for years in many capacities for both state and local professional organizations. However, she didn't have an opportunity to become active in any group within ALA, that is, until she happened to eat dinner with LIRT PR/Membership committee member Laura Bottoms in Miami. Laura invited Linda to attend her committee meeting the following day and the committee recruited her on the spot. She was asked to run for treasurer-elect of LIRT in the last ALA elections and was excited to be elected to an office in the Round Table after so short a time as an active member.

Linda's life experiences have prepared her for the ever-changing user group she encounters at her library. She was a "military brat", the daughter of a career Air Force man, and had the opportunity to live in many different states, in Europe, and in India before graduating from college, all of which have contributed to her enjoyment of teaching new customers from other cities and countries about her library's resources.

Her career began as a high school English teacher and school librarian. While her daughter was young, this schedule was convenient, but when her daughter became a teenager, she began to look for a way to expand her knowledge of reference services in a larger setting and with customers of all ages. She began her public library career in 1986 and reports that she has never regretted that decision. Seven years later she began supervising fifteen clerical, support, and computer staff members in the adult services department of her library, a job which is a continuing challenge, as many of her supervises are part-time and many are college students. Her teaching skills continue to be invaluable in the great amount of time she must spend training staff.

Linda and several of her colleagues provide formal instruction to the public on the use of their library's online catalog one night a month. These classes vary, depending upon the expanding array of electronic resources. They generally include keyword searching on the library's local database, as well as on resources such as Infotrac and the Cleveland Freenet. Much of the instruction she provides to customers is one-on-one, point-of-need instruction, but service demands rarely permit her to provide that type of instruction as thoroughly as she would prefer. Linda and her colleagues hope to expand the number of classes they are able to offer in the near future, in order to meet the need for more in-depth instruction. She states that she has "a particularly strong commitment to teach information-gathering skills to those who do not have the opportunity or means to acquire them elsewhere. The future of our nation depends upon the ability of our citizens to acquire and comprehend information on complex subjects and issues. Libraries are providing users with access to information in many different formats. . . and must now recognize the ongoing need for instruction to accompany this access."

Linda has co-authored two library instruction publications that were designed to guide high school students through the process of writing a research paper. Published by the Center for Learning in Cleveland in 1991, Research I: Information Literacy and Research II: Investigative Skills, Processing Information, and Writing a Formal Paper are due to be updated, and constitute the next big project on Linda's agenda.

Her life outside the library is a very active one. Some of her time is spent jogging, and she has progressed from entering local races with her running buddies for fun to completing a half marathon last fall. Her creative outlet includes making earrings from beads and semiprecious stones which she sells at local craft fairs. With relatives scattered from Puget Sound and Palm Springs to France and India, she has many opportunities to indulge her love of travel while visiting family.

Non-LIRT Meetings at ALA in NYC

1996 ALA Annual Conference, New York, New York

ACRL Professional Education Committee Program: "Instructional Models for Internet Training: Teaching Trainers Who Teach Library Users."
July 8, 1996. 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Lorelei Tanji, from the University of California at Irvine, described their "Electronic Library Initiative Team" and six"models" which were developed to carry out the Library vision to radically improve electronic services. More detailed information about these models can be found at http://sun3.lib.uci.edu/~ltanji/pec.htm. Critical elements of success included strong support from the library administration, partnership with the Office of Academic Computing, and priority given by the campus to electronic initiatives. Over time the library has carved out a niche for itself as expert in electronic resources. They have also recognized the need to constantly update, enhance or acquire skills.

Mary Jane Petrowski, from Colgate University, discussed the "Oberlin Group" model. She noted that small schools are different from large institutions and present special challenges and that many faculty feel "new technology" is being emphasized too much. The library developed a first-training orientation in conjunction with the University's Information Technology Office which includes e-mail, the online catalog, and the Web. The library also developed a faculty/staff training program. Their programs are designed to present a continuous learning environment and develop faculty and staff who can train others. Several URLs were recommended: the LOEX Clearinghouse (http://www.emich.edu/public/loex.html), the CNI/ACRL Instruction Section Internet Education Project (http://www.cwru.edu/orgs/cni/base/acrlcni.html), and Colgate (http://www.meltec.hamilton.edu/).

Betsy Wilson, from the University of Washington, described their U.Wired project which officially

began in 1994 and is a collaboration of librarians, faculty, students, and computer center professional staff. It allows for the integration of electronic tools into the curriculum. During the first year there were 65 students participating, but more FIGs (Freshman Interest Groups) have been added in subsequent years, as well as some intercollegiate athletes. Over time the focus has changed from technology to pedagogy and learning. Further information about the U.Wired project can be found at http://www.washington.edu/uwired/uwired.html.

Reported by Jennalyn W. Tellman,
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ACRL Education & Behavioral Sciences Section Program: "Strategic Academic Partnerships: Leading the Development of an Interactive Learning Environment."
July 7, 1996. 9-11:30 a.m.
Chair/Convener: Patricia Libutti

This program consisted of several presentations and was designed to be interactive with several break-out sessions. More information about the program may be found on the "W.E.B.B. : The Working Educator's Bulletin Board" (http://www.umuc.edu/~kelley).

Ree De Donato, from Columbia University, described partnerships at Columbia. The library and the computer center created a series of workshops for students which included homework for students, ensuring that the students effectively learn the material being taught. The partnership included creating a digital library of electronic texts and integrating on-line texts into a required course on civilization. For John Stuart Mill's "On Liberty," they provided links to other resources. Images have been digitized for an art class and a catalog record was also added for each image digitized.

They periodically inform the faculty of what is new, using print to do so because many of their faculty do not use e-mail. They have learned that when the faculty use listservs for interacting with their students, it helps to get the faculty involved with other electronic resources that the library provides. More information about Columbia's partnerships may be found at http://www.cc.columbia.edu/cu/libraries/indiv/under.

Susan Griswold Blandy, from Hudson Valley Community College Dwight Marvin Learning Resource Center, spoke from the perspective of a two-year community college. She noted the importance of being visible on campus and involved in the campus community. She had a number of practical suggestions for promoting involvement in the development of library related assignments. She keeps records of student and faculty characteristics, notes on the flow of command, notes on the library's collections — its strengths and which materials disappear. She builds on strengths and notes that the assignments must have intellectual content. She also tailors assignments to the interests of the particular faculty.

David Carr, from the School of Library Studies at Rutgers University, spoke about the necessity of librarians having helping minds. He believes this is critical as information becomes more complex to access and understand. He believes that it is the librarian's job to define how the library offers an opportunity for life long learning.

Reported by Jennalyn W. Tellman,
email: jennalyn@library.arizona.edu

RASD Services to User Populations Section, Services to Adults Committee Program: "Adult Programming: When You Have to Do It Yourself. "
July 8, 1996. 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Lesley Williams, electronic resources specialist, Arlington Heights Memorial Library (IL) talked about a series called Instructional Saturdays, showing that public libraries are getting into

instruction even in the more traditional sense. These are classes on various topics, including finding information on CD-ROMs and on using the Internet. Attendance increased for the CD-ROM sessions when she switched to a topic emphasis instead of a database one. Sessions were, for example, on home and health or business instead of on Wilson products. She advised teaching what people want to know rather than how to think like librarians. She also said that it is best to keep the classes small and interactive.

Reported by Chuck Dintrone,
email: dintrone@mail.sdsu.edu

ACRL Instruction Section Emerging Technologies in InstructionCommittee.
July 6, 1996. 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Chair/Convener: Keith Morgan

This committee has been working with the Coalition for Networked Information to create the ACRL/CNI Internet Education Project web site (http://www.cwru.edu/orgs/cni/base/acrlcni.html) in order to provide an "effective method for librarians to display and share instructional materials they have designed for teaching about the seeking and evaluation of information in a networked environment."

Committee minutes for this and previous meetings of the Emerging Technologies in Instruction Committee are available on the committee's web page (http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/kamorgan/etech.html).

Reported by David G. Sherwood,
email: davids@creighton.edu

Non-LIRT Meetings

ALA Social Responsibilities Round Table,Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual TaskForce, Reforma, and the ALA Black Caucus Program: "What About Side Streets? Reaching Underserved Populations."
July 8, 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Chair/Convener: Michael J. Miller

This innovative program contained much of potential interest to instruction/outreach librarians who are interested in actively addressing the information needs of Latino, African American, and gay and lesbian students and other library users. The speakers were Toni Bissessar, Oakland (CA) Latin American Library, Khafre Abif, Montclair (NJ) Public Library, the Instruction/Outreach Librarian, University of California, Santa Barbara, and Polly Thistlethwaite, Lesbian Herstory Archives, Brooklyn, NY.

Each speaker stressed the need for "creativity" in dealing with special needs populations. Non-English speakers can be helped using multi-lingual signage as appropriate as well as clear and detailed in-house guides and handouts. Beyond these, each speaker stressed the need to become actively involved with the target community and maintain significant contact.

Consequently, it becomes just as important for the public or school librarian to join or attend community organizations and events as it is for the academic librarian to address the availability of information to appropriate campus groups. Many members of these underserved communities are reluctant to approach the library and librarians for information. Others may not realize the library

has something for them at all. Instruction begins with going out of one's way to identify these groups, assessing their information needs, and meeting with them to explain or demonstrate what the library has to offer.

Reported by Michael Poma,
email: mapoma@creighton.edu

ALTA Education of Trustees Committee, PLA Program: "The Public Library: Who Needs It? The Essentiality of the Library"
July 7, 1996. 9:30-11:00 am
Chair/convener: Nicholas Spillios

This program featured directors and trustees of several New York City and New York City area library systems. The program clearly described the essentiality of the public library as going beyond serving customer's information needs. The library was deemed essential as a place to bring people together for social interaction, both the young, the older and the much older. A variety of instructional opportunities take place in the library. Libraries are home to literacy programs and toddler learning programs. Libraries need to appreciate their potential and offerings to the community. They need to let the community know what they have and help the community to learn effectively how to use what they offer. The library is essential not only because of information sources and the help that the librarians provide, but also because of the programs that libraries offer to help serve customers effectively.

Reported by Ellen Kessler,
email: ekessler@maestro.com ■

Volunteer for a committee!!!

see pages 18-19...

✓ CHECK THESE OUT!

Mary Pagliero Popp, Indiana University Libraries

Feeling overwhelmed by the Internet? You are not alone. Watching the literature of library instruction makes one acutely aware that teaching the Internet is a major topic consuming librarians everywhere. If you have time to read only one article right now, take time for this one:

Oberman, Cerise. "Library Instruction: Concepts & Pedagogy in the Electronic Environment." RQ 35.3 (Spring 1996): 315-323.

Oberman argues that librarians must prepare users, in the context of the electronic library environment, to evaluate the information they find and to understand and use the power of information. She advocates a return to teaching critical thinking skills and concepts of information access, retrieval, and evaluation. At the same time, she asserts, librarians must be prepared to alter the existing concepts of information retrieval and to add new concepts.

Children and the Internet

Librarians who work with children in school and public libraries will find a wealth of recent articles.

Johnson, Doug and Mike Eisenberg. "Computer Literacy and Information Literacy: A Natural Combination." Emergency Librarian 23 (May/June 1996): 12-16.

A must-read for school librarians! The authors argue that school librarians can provide a service to their students by combining computer literacy and information literacy curricula. They outline a curriculum of "Computer Skills for Information Problem-Solving," based on the Big Six information literacy model, developed by one of the authors. The curriculum includes Internet skills.

The July 1996 issue of School Library Journal includes two useful brief articles:

Caywood, Carolyn. "Guide and Seek." School Library Journal 42 (July 1996): 35.

Gold, Etta. "Do Spiders Live on the Web?" School Library Journal 42 (July 1996): 34.

Caywood argues that librarians should develop programs to help children, teens and parents evaluate material found on the World Wide Web. She provides a URL for a handout she created to assist parents. Gold describes a program she created at the Miami-Dade Public Library System to introduce the Web to a group of toddlers, middle school students, and parents.

Earlier in the spring, SLJ provided a series of two articles for school librarians:

Symonds, Ann K. "Intelligent Life on the Web & How to Find It: Part 1 of http://the.thinking.librarian's.web.guide." School Library Journal 42 (March 1996): 106-109.

Vandergrift, Kay E. "Build a Web Site with a Brain; Part 2 of http://the.thinking.librarian's.web.guide." School Library Journal 42 (April 1996): 26-29.

Symonds describes how she has used the Web in her high school library to support student projects and discusses the issue of evaluation. Vandergrift provides the beginner with tips on planning for a Web site, including defining a purpose, maintenance, and copyright. Both articles include many useful definitions and tips on keeping up-to-date.

Quick Notes

Two articles in the Winter 1996 issue of Research Strategies are of special interest. Check out:

Burke, John J. "Using E-mail to Teach: Expanding the Reach of BI." Research Strategies 14 (Winter 1996): 36-43.

Lee, Catherine A. "Teaching Generation X." Research Strategies 14 (Winter 1996): 56-59.

Mary Pagliero Popp is Electronic Services Librarian at Indiana University Libraries in Bloomington. popp@indiana.edu ∎

TECH TALK

Billie Peterson. Baylor University

Dear Tech Talk—
I really want to use Web resources to answer some reference questions we get: zip code or area code information, maybe quotes, elementary statistical questions, brief factual questions. In my limited experience, I've encountered some nifty Web resources that answered questions more efficiently and just as accurately as a traditional print resource. However, I'm having a hard time convincing others that it's a realistic endeavor. What should I do?
—*Ruffled in Reference*

Dear RiR—
There are a myriad of sites on the Web that could be very useful in answering many basic reference questions, and although these resources won't replace traditional print resources any time soon, they are certainly worthy of being used. One approach to take to convince others of the worthiness of these resources is to compile a list of useful sites and provide easy access to them. What?? You say that you just don't have the time or sufficient knowledge to create this list?? Then perhaps you can start with the one below:

Almanacs

World Fact Book
<URL: http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/>
Provides a good overview of countries throughout the world.

Conversion of Units
<URL: http://www.chemie.fu-berlin.de/chemistry/general/units.html>
Trying to convert miles to furlongs; admiralty knots to knots; bytes to bits? This site does the math for you.

Embassy Page
<URL: http://www.embpage.org>
Although not 100% inclusive, because it is based on embassies that have established Web pages, there are a surprising number of embassies and consulates listed here.

Flags

Flags of the World
<URL: http://www.wave.net/upg/immigration/flags.html>
Need a picture of the flag of Kazakhstan? You name the country, and you'll probably find an image of their flag here.

Flags of Native American Nations
<URL:http://users.aol.com/Donh523/navapage/index.html>
As long as we are talking about flags, what does the Navajo flag look like?

Flags of the US States
<URL: http://www.law.uoknor.edu/flags.html>
And if you need to know what the state flag for Hawaii looks like, check here. Or perhaps you want to see an earlier rendition of the US flag.

Foreign Currency Conversion
<URL: http://www.olsen.ch/cgi-bin/exmenu>
On March 3, 1995, how many American dollars would you obtain for 23.97 Albanian Lek's? Olsen & Associates Currency Converter will tell you; and it will also tell you how many Albanian Lek's you can obtain with $25.35 as well, with retrospective data back to 1990 for many currencies.

Internet Movie Database

<URL: http://us.imdb.com/>

An outstanding movie database where you can find a great deal of information on current and past movies, English-language and foreign.

Local Times Around the World

<URL: http://www.hilink.com.au/times/>

It's 3 PM CDT; can I call my boss in Perth, Western Australia? Probably a *bad* idea, since it's 4 AM the next day in Perth!!

Mortgage Calculator

<URL: http://ibc.wustl.edu/mort.html>

What will my mortgage payment (without taxes and insurance) be for a loan of $150,000 at 6%? What kind of income do I need to qualify for this loan?

Salary Calculator

<URL: http://www.homefair.com:80/homefair/cmr/salcalc.html>

I'm making $50,000 a year and living in Rapid City, SD; can I have a comparable lifestyle in Honolulu if I make $70,000? Probably not.

WebElements 2

<URL: http://www.shef.ac.uk/~chem/web-elements/>

The Periodic Table of Elements on the Internet from the University of Sheffield, England.

World Clock

<URL: http://www.stud.unit.no/USERBIN/steffent/verdensur.pl>

This site also tells you that it's a bad idea to call your boss in Perth when it's 3 PM CDT!!

Awards and Prizes

Book Awards and Prizes

<URL: http://www.books.com/scripts/awards.exe>

If you're looking for a current or past book award winner, this site is likely to have it listed.

Nobel Peace Prize

<URL: http://www.nobel.no/indexen.html>

Among other things, a list of all of the laureates since 1901 is provided here.

Dictionaries/Encyclopedias

A Basic Dictionary of American Sign Language

<URL:http://home.earthlink.net/~masterstek/ASLDict.html>

The title says it all.

Clinical Pharmacology

<URL: http://www.gsm.com/clinphrm/monographs .html>

Detailed information about drugs, including images of the chemical structures and the manufactured appearance of the drug and detailed text similar to that found in the Physician's Desk Reference.

Hypertext Webster Interface

<URL: http://gs213.sp.cs.cmu.edu/prog/webster>

Enter a term and obtain it's definition. In the definitions provided, most of the words used in the definition will have hyperlinks to their own definitions in the dictionary.

Internet Braille Wizard

<URL: http://www.access2020.com/>

Type in a word or phrase, and Braille equivalent is displayed on the screen.

Merck Manual

<URL: http://www.merck.com/!!rBcqc2NcTrBcrH2C13/pubs/mmanual/>

Although you have to register to use it (at no cost), the 16th Edition of the Merck Manual is available online.

[Editor's note: Try http://www.merck.com and follow the links to the Merck Manual, if the above URL doesn't work.]

Roget's Thesaurus of Words and Phrases

<URL: http://www.thesaurus.com/>

Translation Dictionary

<URL: http://rivendel.com/~ric/resources/dictionary.html>

More than 30 translation dictionaries are represented here. Not all of them are for English translations.

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Directories

AT&T 800 Numbers
<URL: http://www.tollfree.att.net/dir800/>

Area Code Look-Up's
<URL: http://www.555-1212.com/aclookup.html>

ABI Yellow Pages
<URL: http://www.abii.com/>

Internet 800 Search
<URL: http://www.abii.com/>
Can't find it in the AT&T 800 directory? Try
this one.

**USPS Zip Code Lookup and Address
Information**
<URL: http://www.usps.gov/ncsc/>
Enter an address and out comes the Zip+4
Code.

Maps

MapQuest
<URL: http://www.mapquest.com/>
You've got a friend who has moved to a new
address and you don't know where it is? Enter
the address and it will be displayed on a map.
Taking a road trip? Enter your departure and
arrival towns and let MapQuest provide you with
a route.

PCL Map Collection
<URL: http://www.lib.utexas.edu/Libs/PCL/
Map_collection/Map_collection.html>
An impressive site, provided by the University of
Texas at Austin Map Library, that provides
access to digitized maps in their collection

Yahoo! Maps!
<URL: http://maps.yahoo.com/yahoo/>
You don't believe what MapQuest said about that
address? Try it here and compare results.

Quotations and Concordances

Bartlett's Quotations
<URL: http://www.columbia.edu/acis/bartleby/
bartlett/index.html>
The 1901 edition of Bartlett's Quotations.

Bible Gateway
<URL: http://www.gospelcom.net/bible>
Search for passages or words in the NIV, NASB,
RSV, KJV, Darby, and YLT Bibles, or all of them
at once.

Search Shakespeare
<URL: http://the-tech.mit.edu/Shakespeare/
search.html>

Statistics

National Center for Health Statistics
<URL: http://www.cdc.gov/nchswww/
nchshome.htm>
Especially useful for health, birth, and death
statistics in the U.S.

Doing research on the World Wide Web?

Share your findings, lessons plans, strategies with your fellow LIRT members.
See page 8 for details!

TECH TALK

County City Databook
<URL:http://www.census.gov/stat_abstract/ccdb.html>
  Selected statistics and tables from the County and City Databook.

Statistical Abstract of the US
<URL: http://www.census.gov/stat_abstract/>
  Selected statistics and tables from the Statistical Abstract of the U.S.

U. S. Census
<URL: http://www.census.gov/>
  Selected statisitcs, tables, maps, etc. from the US Department of the Census.

World Population Figures
<URL: http://www.worldonline.nl/~q/index.html>
  Population information on countries, provinces, and cities.

Set up this list of Web resources as a bookmark file for your Web browser of choice, let the other reference librarians know about it, and perhaps before you know it, they will be using it to answer questions and even adding new resources to it.

As always, send questions and comments to:

Snail Mail: Tech Talk
               Billie Peterson
               Moody Memorial Library
               P. O. Box 97148
               Waco, TX 76798-7148

E-Mail: petersonb@baylor.edu ■

President

The Five-Year Financial Planning Task Force, headed by Emily Bergman, finished its work in New York. The group's report recommends adoption of a five-year financial plan and establishment of the Five-Year Financial Planning Subcommittee chaired by the treasurer as a subcommittee of the Long-Range Planning Committee. The job of the subcommittee is to modify the five-year financial plan, refining years two through four to create year five. This structure creates an on-going mechanism that provides strong oversight and planning for LIRT's fiscal viability.

One aspect of the financial plan is to raise membership dues. There will be a vote at the business meeting to be held at the Midwinter Conference in Washington, D.C. to determine a dues increase and several changes to the bylaws necessary to implement the Five-Year Financial Planning Task Force's recommendations. More information will be forthcoming on these issues in the next newsletter. ■

Annual Report

chaired by Tobeylynn Birch. Both reports are critical to our future and will be incorporated in future planning. The Executive Board approved a dues increase, $15 for individuals and $25 for institutions. This will be presented to the LIRT membership for a vote. The increase is necessary to support LIRT's programs, the quarterly newsletter, the conference booth and also to maintain a healthy fund balance.
Recruitment impacts our budget, leadership and committee work. We especially need to recruit more public, school and special librarians. Have you told a friend about LIRT lately?

The LIRT manual is a wonderful tool, and I thank the Organization and Bylaws Committee for their review and Billie Peterson, Electronic Resources Manager for revision, production and mailing to all new chairs and officers.

Thank you to the Executive Board, Steering Committee and committee members for your efforts and support this year. ■

LIBRARY INSTRUCTION ROUND TABLE STANDING COMMITTEES

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS: Examines how computers are used in library instruction. Promotes the use of computers by publishing a bibliography on computer applications for BI and maintaining a clearinghouse for information on computer software.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM: Plans the LIRT program for the ALA Annual Conference. Makes arrangements for speakers, room, handouts, and activities during the program.

CONTINUING EDUCATION: Conducts research and develops plans, actual materials, and directories to further the education and help meet the information needs of librarians engaged in user education.

ELECTIONS/NOMINATING: Prepares a slate of candidates for LIRT offices and maintains records on procedures, candidates, and election results. Solicits volunteers for LIRT committees and maintains files of prospective committee appointees.

LIAISON: Attends and reports to LIRT Steering Committee and members about committees within ALA involved in library instruction activities. Distributes to conference attendees a listing of instruction-related programs and meetings at ALA Conferences.

LONG RANGE PLANNING: Develops short and long range plans for LIRT. Implements planning and operations for the activities of LIRT. Chaired by the president-elect.

ORGANIZATION AND BYLAWS: Reviews, revises, and updates the organization manual of LIRT. Recommends to the Executive Board, and through it to LIRT members, the establishment, functions, and discontinuance of committees and task forces. Maintains the Constitution and Bylaws of LIRT and recommends amendments to those documents.

NEWSLETTER: Solicits articles, prepares and distributes the LIRT newsletter. The Executive Board of LIRT serves as the Editorial Board for the LIRT newsletter.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION NETWORKING: Maintains information about and communicates with national, state, and regional library instruction groups. Maintains the Directory of Bibliographic Instruction and Related Groups.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/MEMBERSHIP: Publicizes LIRT purposes, activities, and promotes membership in LIRT. Develops brochures and news releases to inform members, prospective members, and the library profession about LIRT activities. Sponsors an exhibit booth at the Annual Conference. Organizes BITES (meals for instruction librarians to meet for a meal and discussion) at the Midwinter and Annual conferences.

PUBLICATIONS: Establishes, maintains, and disseminates LIRT Publication Guidelines. Solicits ideas for publications and advises as to the appropriate means for publication. The LIRT newsletter editor and assistant editor are ex-officio members of this committee.

RESEARCH: Identifies, reviews, and disseminates information about in-depth, state-of-the-art research concerning library instruction for all types of libraries. Pinpoints areas where further investigation about library instruction is needed with a view toward the development of research proposals.

Committee Appointments are for 2 years. Appointments begin at the close of the annual conference and continue through the close of the annual conference in two years. For more information, contact Lynn Ossolinski, telephone: (702)832-4260 x33, email:lynno@nsn.scs.unr.edu or see the address on the Committee Volunteer Form on next page.

Library Instruction Round Table
COMMITTEE VOLUNTEER FORM

If you are interested in serving on a LIRT Committee, please complete this form and mail it
to the Vice-President/President Elect of LIRT:

Lynn Ossolinski
Incline High School Library
P.O. Box 6860
Incline, NV 89450

NAME and TITLE:

TELEPHONE:
　　HOME:
　　WORK:
　　FAX:
　　E-Mail:

INSTITUTIONAL ADDRESS:
*(star * preferred mailing address)*

HOME ADDRESS:

DATE OF APPLICATION:

LIRT COMMITTEE PREFERENCES: (Use the numbers 1-9 to indicate order of preference, with
1 being the most preferred. If you are willing to serve as recorder for this group, follow your number
preference with the letter "R")

_____Computer Applications	_____Newsletter
_____Conference Programs	_____Organizational/Bylaws
_____Continuing Education	_____Professional Association Networking
_____ Elections/Nominations	_____PR/Membership
_____Liaison	_____Publications
_____Long-Range Planning	_____Research

CAN YOU REGULARLY ATTEND LIRT MEETINGS AT THE ALA MIDWINTER AND ANNUAL
CONFERENCES? _____YES _____NO

*PLEASE ATTACH A SEPARATE SHEET LISTING COMMITTEES OR OFFICES (IF ANY) PREVIOUSLY HELD
IN LIRT, ALA OR STATE/REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS, WITH YEARS OF SERVICE.*