

3-1980

## UA51/1/4 All About Us, Vol. 3, No. 7

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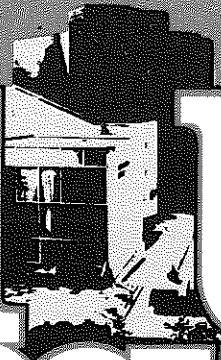
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### Recommended Citation

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# All About

A Newsletter to promote communication

in the Division of Library Services.

Vol. 3, No. 7

March 1980

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77/LS—The cost of printing this publication by Western Kentucky University was paid from state funds KRS 57.375.

## NEW DIRECTIONS FOR LIBRARIES? - WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ACTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

The path which led librarians and library-oriented citizens to the White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services (WHCLIS) was long. The idea for the conference was conceived 23 years ago in the mind of Channing Bete, a library trustee from Greenfield, Massachusetts, in 1957. His idea was presented to the American Library Trustee Association for their endorsement which ultimately led to the support of four Presidents - Johnson, Nixon, Ford and Carter.

The nation and its population has changed greatly since 1957. The library and information needs of Channing Bete's day have compounded in the 1960's and 1970's with demands expanding at a greater pace than librarians and the information industry could handle. Through these decisive decades there was much activity but little concerted and coordinated effort. The 1979 White House Conference, therefore, provided a "common ground" for libraries, the information industry, and "lay" citizens to take time to identify problems, talk about them, and come to some general consensus. The WHCLIS proved to be a "grass roots" conference; the delegates did "run their own show," and they came forward with a call for progressive new programs of library services. From the hundreds of delegates with their diverse goals and concepts of what libraries and librarians were supposed to do and be, statements were clearly and unanimously made. The democratic process indeed functioned! Some of the principal resolutions were:

COORDINATION: An Office of Library and Information Services was recommended to be administered by an Assistant Secretary of Education in the Department of Education. This office would serve as national coordinator for all types of library services and administer Federal funding and library programs. Formerly some activities relating to libraries were administered under the old Office of Education in HEW. Full responsibility would be placed in the Department of Education for libraries with emphasis on future legislation to provide for public, school and academic library support and to encourage and fund innovative projects, cultural awareness and community needs assessments.

A NATIONAL POLICY: All citizens should have full, free, and equal access to publicly funded libraries, services, and information which is timely and reliable. Libraries should have local control over the purchase and selection of library materials.

ELIMINATION OF BARRIERS: Library and information services should be available to the handicapped, the homebound, institutionalized, retarded, and other special population groups not presently served. Librarians should be trained to provide such services.

LITERACY TRAINING: Literacy training programs for functionally illiterate adults and out-of-school youth should be implemented with libraries playing a major role. This would be a part of an extended cooperative national effort.

RESOURCE SHARING THROUGH NETWORKS: A national system of library networks should be planned between private and public libraries to make materials available to all citizens in all parts of the nation. This would provide for a national periodicals center and a national lending library for both print and nonprint materials.

SCHOOL AND PUBLIC LIBRARY COORDINATION: School and public libraries should be coordinated to provide improved services for both school and community. Existing regulations on the sharing of school library materials should be coordinated.

## WHCLIS (continued)

TECHNOLOGY: Direction and coordination at the national level should be given to the development of standards for information storage, retrieval and transmission with compatible and standardized hardware/software. Efficient use of technology for improving library services should be encouraged.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS: An information program should be established to encourage the international sharing of information including the unrestricted exchange of library materials.

PUBLIC AWARENESS: Librarians should be more aware of community needs and should be actively engaged in efforts to inform local residents of the services offered. Federally funded programs to inform the public on the effective use of libraries should be implemented.

NATIONAL LIBRARY ACT: To assist in implementing the goals of the WHCLIS as outlined above, there should be enacted a new National Library Act encouraging greater Federal involvement in funding library operations. This would obligate States to aid in meeting the costs of non-profit library and information services.

The activities of the conference did not end when the last delegate left Washington. A caucus of experienced activist delegates from various parts of the country formed National Citizens for Public Libraries, a permanent organization to seek support for improved library services.

Further official activities are still in progress at the national level - the NCLIS has discussed the resolutions, the new Secretary of Education has received the recommendation to create an Office in the Department to administer library programs, the Conference Staff is preparing the final draft of the Conference for the President, and follow-up plans have been made for an ad hoc committee composed of representatives elected by each State delegation to the WHCLIS.

At the State level, the Kentucky delegation is planning on future meetings to develop concerted efforts for continuing and improving library services in the Commonwealth.

## THE COLLECTIONS - ADDITIONS AND CHANGES

The U.S. Administration on Aging has recently named WKU as a repository for its SCAN Collection (Service Center for Aging Information). The Helm-Cravens Library has received the first 3,100 documents on microfiche; projections call for considerable growth. The SCAN Collection covers a broad area of information, centering on aging. Several departments will be interested in learning more about SCAN, and it is our hope that faculty, staff, students, and other patrons who have a research interest which touches on aging will want to know more about the collection. At the current time the collection is not easily accessed, as there is no index. We do have a thesaurus and the index/abstract service is promised for the near future. Anyone interested in learning more about the collection can contact the Microforms Area (ext. 34) or the Periodicals Librarian (ext. 26).

Certain government documents of a legal interest have been moved from the Seventh Floor of Cravens to the Law Library in the basement of Helm Library. The Federal Register and the Code of Federal Regulations are the most frequently used of these items. For information contact the Law Library (ext. 25).



## COLLECTIONS (continued)

The Folklore, Folklife, and Oral History Archives recently acquired the Archbold Collection. This collection, which was directed by Ann Archbold, consists of a survey of traditional crafts and folklife in Warren County with interviews with artists and craftsmen. The project was conducted through the Bowling Green-Warren County Arts Commission. For information contact the Folklore Archives (ext. 53).

## SO NICE TO HEAR

A recent letter to the Dean -

"As part of my recent thesis research effort, I have had frequent contact with the personnel of the Reference and Interlibrary Loan Section, Division of Library Services. I would like to express my appreciation for the prompt, courteous and totally professional service they provided. The staff's friendly and concerned attitude was most encouraging and is often a rare commodity within large service organizations."

Note found in a book anonymously returned -

"Alumni are not the only creatures that return to the Hill for homecoming.

I am returning a book, "Tap Roots," that belongs to Western. When I left the campus 30 years ago, and have not returned, the book was mistakenly packed with my books. I did not have it checked out nor do I know who did. However, I figure if I had been the one to check it out and it was overdue 30 years (which is 10,950 days at five cents per day, I would owe \$547.50 fine).

WELCOME TAP ROOTS BACK TO THE LIBRARY AFTER TRAVELING IN THREE STATES AND RESTING FOR 30 YEARS."

## SPOTLIGHT

AAU would like to spotlight some of the faculty and staff members who have been with Academic Services for somewhat longer than most of us. We want to recognize these individuals for their many years of service to the University and especially to the students who have been the chief beneficiaries of their services.

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Susan Todd began full time as an assistant in the Catalog and Acquisitions Office in 1966 after working in the library as a student assistant. A native of Bowling Green, she has had secretarial training and some college work. Assigned to the Science Library since 1968, her position was included in the Circulation Department some time later. In addition to her duties as Assistant in the Science Library with special responsibility for bindery and helping out at the Circulation Desk when needed, she is responsible for the organization and maintenance of the Wilson Hall Collection. Susan is a member of the First Presbyterian Church and spends a lot of time with her family.

## SPOTLIGHT (continued)

Virginia Neel joined Academic Services in 1963 in the Training School and has been librarian in the Science Library since 1967. Her background includes college secretarial study as well as degrees from Western in English and Library Science. In the Science Library she handles reference services, interlibrary loans, acquisitions and periodicals. She has been active in committee work and is presently Faculty Senator from the Circulation Department. Professional organizations have also benefited from her energies, and she is Chairman-elect of the Kentucky chapter of SLA. In 1971 she became an Assistant Professor and was tenured in 1976. Virginia is active in sports and enjoys her role as grandmother.

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Congratulations to these members of Academic Services and good luck in the upcoming years.

## SHORT NOTES

Evelyn Thurman has been granted a Sabbatical for continuing her work on a biography of Rebecca Caudill.

Boyd Childress' article, "Library History and College Catalogs" has appeared in the recent issue of Southeastern Librarian.

Pat Bowen has been awarded a Faculty Research Grant to complete her bibliographic work on gerontology.

Nancy Baird has received a Faculty Research Grant for her work on Joseph Rogers Underwood.

Evelyn Thurman has also received a FRG for her work on Laura Ingalls Wilder.

## THOUGHTS

At a recent luncheon honoring former Librarian of Congress Archibald MacLeish, the present Librarian commented on the advanced technology now employed by LC, to which the former Librarian responded:

"That one phrase you used - storage and retrieval - chills the blood," he exclaimed. "For the real perceptions of the human soul are in the (book) stacks, and sometimes not easily available even by storage and retrieval. You must know where to go - as long as there are people between us and the apparatus."

from The Washington Star

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Contributors of this issue of AAU are Dr. Earl Wassom, who is an elected delegate to the WHCLIS from Kentucky, and Boyd Childress.