

CROSSFIRE

Boise State University Library

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IDAHO LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

I was asked to write about the Idaho Library Association for this issue of the "Newsletter." Elsewhere Adrien has given you facts about ILA. I am to give you "spirit" or a hint as to what I would like to accomplish this year as President.

My theme for the year is "Relationships" and under that theme I hope we can accomplish a lot.

During his Friday night banquet speech at the end of the October ILA conference Governor Evans challenged us to work with our local legislators to lobby for local flexibility in funding. The ILA membership had already passed a resolution to do that this year and to keep membership informed of the activities. The Legislative Committee has already agreed to work on that issue and as part of that activity, we hope to publish a legislative newsletter.

ILA has been asked by the Treasure Valley Library Association to co-sponsor a legislative luncheon on how to lobby, etc. on December 5. Watch for more information.

Since an important relationship is the professional and collegial relationship of librarians my goal is to raise membership by 10%. I also plan to continue the work begun last year to strengthen the relationship of the ILA and IEMA.

The Trustees Division is already hard at work on the October 1986 Conference to be held in Coeur d'Alene. Some exciting speakers have been contacted and workshops are already in the planning stages.

I perceive the officers of ILA to be resource people for the libraries of the State. As resource people they can be called on for workshops or advice. I also hope in a more formal way to offer some mini workshops at the spring ILA Board meeting that area librarians may take advantage of.

I am looking forward to an exciting year; if at times a bit of a frazzling year.

Janet Strong

The Idaho Library Association has nearly 350 members drawn from the staffs of public, school, state, special and academic libraries and the boards of trustees and friends of libraries groups of the State and Public libraries. Divided into four divisions with several standing committees the Association looks to the needs of library users and libraries throughout the State.

At the 1985 Conference, held on BSU's campus, the School Division voted to change its name to the Education Media Division. At the same time the Idaho Educational Media Association voted to suspend operation as an independent organization for 2 years and to meet with the Idaho Library Association. If, at the end of this two year "trial marriage" that Association votes to make the integration a permanent one the Idaho Library Association would number over 400 members and speak with a single voice to all library/media concerns.

The four Divisions are: Trustees and Friends, the largest; Public; College, University and Special; and the newly renamed Education Media. The Standing Committees include: Bibliography, chaired by Ralph Hansen; Continuing Education; Intellectual Freedom; Legislative; Library Development; Membership; Publications; Scholarships and Awards. There are also special committees for Book Awards, Copyright Liaison and for the Association's Constitution and Bylaws.

During the annual convention there are meetings to conduct the business of the Organization and its member divisions. There are also discussion groups and programs designed to enrich the knowledge and enhance the abilities of those attending. Such a conference is expensive to produce. The costs to the Association vary from facility to facility but generally include charges for meeting rooms, meals, and any equipment or service supplied. These costs are borne by the exhibitors who pay for space and by the attendees. In an organization such as the ILA it is hoped that the conference will produce enough revenue to pay not only for the Conference but also for the affairs of the Organization for the year. Conference expenses include fees and/or transportation paid to speakers, printing of programs, mailing and the rentals mentioned above.

The idea of any association is one of strength in numbers and mutual benefit. The Idaho Library Association seeks to construct and maintain an atmosphere conducive to provision of library services to the various constituents within this state and to maintain liaison with the Regional, National and neighboring State Associations. It serves as a valuable focal point for anyone interested in libraries and their services.

Adrien Taylor

PAST AND PRESENT

Ralph Hansen has been invited to participate in a fun College Bowl game on Wednesday, November 20, 1985 beginning 12:00 p.m. in the Union Street Cafe.

The game will be a little different than those the students will play. "Home grown" questions about BSU and the community along with some of the more traditional College Bowl questions will be used. See Ralph in action! Be there, or be square!

Carole Clemens attended Ralph Hansen's ILA presentation on the conservation of materials. Ralph pointed out that most items can be repaired and restored but the use of most Scotch brand tape is not acceptable. Also discussed were books damaged by water, reproduction of newspaper files, and shelving techniques. Don Haacke displayed different types of encapsulation materials and showed us the right and wrong way to preserve and protect archival items such as letters, clippings, photographs, etc. We were all referred to a book in our collection: Conservation Treatment Procedures: A Manual of Step-by-Step Procedures for the Maintenance and Repair of Library Materials by Carolyn C. Morrow. The call number is Z 701/M545/1982.

Carole Clemens

The monthly acquisitions list is going to undergo some changes, although we don't think that the format will be noticeably different to staff or patrons.

Instead of inputting information from the notify slips, as we have been doing since January of 1984, we are going to download records as material is received online. The information needed for our list will then be extracted and reformatted for the list. Once the program gets underway - Hopefully by January - we will no longer have to have Circulation route the notify slips back to Technical Services. This means faculty will receive their notify reports sooner. It also means that the staff time that was previously spent in inputting call numbers and author/title information will now be saved.

The two new software programs that allow us to make these improvements are PC FILE III (J. Button) and BRIDGE-IT (Andresen-WLN) which are used in conjunction with the DISKFORM command on the Terminal Emulator Disk. Ruthann and Nancy have invested energy and time in coordinating the "how-to's" of the three programs. They have documented the steps that enable a WLN-PC user to download complete records to a floppy and then to extract needed information for bibliographies, etc. One of the nicest features is that the program can sort on virtually any field in the complete marc record. Feel free to use their newly gained expertise if you think you have an application in your department.

In case you are interested, approximately 80 copies of the list are now being produced. Copies are sent to every department on campus in addition to BPL & ISL. A few copies are put out for student consumption and they disappear quickly.

Gloria Ostrander

The new base COM CATalog was received on October 25, 1985. There are 208,107 entries (95% of our circulating book collection) on 208 fiche. We have produced 37 copies of the COM CATalog. In addition to the 18 copies that are placed around the library, 10 copies are sent to departments on campus and 9 copies are sent to other libraries in Idaho, including medical, school, college and special libraries.

Gloria Ostrander

CARE AND FEEDING OF YOUR IBM PC

Did you know that smoke, airborne dust, oils, and fingerprints are environmental contaminants that can dramatically affect the performance of a computer system? In addition to environmental contaminants, oxide particles (a wear product from the media surface) can be deposited on the recording surface if the media to the sensitive read/write data is seriously affected. And when contaminants are allowed to accumulate, they can damage or destroy the media as well as the heads.

Computer and disk drive manufacturers recognize the fact that computer components need regular cleaning. A maintenance program which includes periodic cleaning of the critical components of the equipment, and proper care of the media, will prevent the problems associated with contamination. Such a program is mandatory to assure accurate processing and prevent damage to the equipment and data.

For assistance cleaning your PC, contact Leslie at 1736.

Gwen Pittam attended the ILA Conference Workshop, "Dealing with Problem Patrons." The speaker was Lynn Melton, Boise Public Library. Discussion was taken from incidents at Boise Public Library and procedures that have been drawn up to expedite the resolution of explosive situations.



Microbiology is two aisles down to the left

NOTES

BUS LIBRARY SUMMER HOURS SURVEY

During summer school a survey was conducted to determine adequacy of library hours. The first survey was taken the week of June 26-July 1 and the second was taken the last three weeks of summer school. People were asked to complete the survey forms as they were leaving the library. There were 87 responses the first week and 45 responses the last time.

The first question was "How did you find out about library hours?"; with some choices. The most effective ways seem to be the traditional ones: the summer school catalog and signs. There were a variety of other responses including one student's comment "I live here."

Hours seemed to be adequate in June but cutting back hours at the end of the first eight week [session] seemed to create a hardship for some people. Comments from students asked for more weekend hours including Sundays. (We have not been open on Sundays for several summers.) A lot of the people work and asked for longer hours so they could study late in the day.

A preponderance of the respondents use library materials and study. Reserve use was not as great as expected.

It was no surprise that undergraduate students make up the largest number of users. However, there were a larger number of graduate student respondents than during the academic year. This has implications for setting summer hours.

Some of the comments from the two surveys:

The last two weeks of school library hours shouldn't be shorten, because those last two week are like final exam week. [sic]

Help is very helpful & knowledgeable, usually pleasant & willing to help. I liked how quiet the library was this summer, quite nice for studying.

...I love all the signs around the library - how to use - where to go etc. All the staff was most helpful & pleasant! It's frightening as an adult to use the new equipment!

Your library material is outdated - not enough sources - hours are terrible. Help in library is super.

Love the friendly helpful personnel.

The library has been a very helpful tool to my studies. Thanks.

Keep it open later on Sat & Sun also.

Most summer courses usually require intensive study and often intensive research. It's hard to do the research unless the library is open.

I would like to compliment the library staff for their helpful attitudes, their courtesy, and their efforts at attempting to lessen anxiety levels of the students.

Janet Strong

Skip Knox of the Data Center is offering IBM-PC workshops on a variety of topics; most recently he taught a two-day class on the XT, which Ruthann Caylor, Nancy Rosenheim, Ferrol Bixby, and Peggy Hendershot attended. In future, he will offer courses on LOTUS, the PC and the Humanities, and Forms Processing (how to use the word processor to create form letters, do mass mailings, newsletters, memos, and cut your typing workload.) If you are interested in attending these classes, please contact Skip at ext. 1315.

Darryl Huskey will serve on the Faculty Senate Salary Committee, representing the College of Education, 1985-87.

The winner of last month's contest was, not surprisingly, the prolific Adrien Taylor. We are pleased as punch to have a natty new name for the newsletter: Crossfire. This leads us to this month's contest, what shall be Adrien's reward for his trend setting abilities? Submit your gifts or suggestions early!

Crossfire ideally will consist of 4-6 pages and will be issued in the first week of each month. Please submit your articles early to allow us time to select, edit, and arrange them with an eye to creating a coherent, comprehensive report of the library personnel's accomplishments. In addition, if you find material of general interest that will provide us with a fresh view of any age-old library problem, please alert the editors. We wish to have Crossfire serve as a source of information and ideas about how to improve "working at the library."

PERSONNEL

Kathy Tanfield joined the cataloging staff as Library Assistant on October 16. She has worked at the Idaho State Library for the past 8 years, and has a B.S. in secondary education from Idaho State University.

You may have noticed some new faces in the library and at staff functions. Terry Chadwick began working in the Church Room in October. Volunteers Gwenn Stearn and Lillian Hansen arrived this month. We welcome them.

WHYS AND WHEREFORES

From the Suggestion Box...

"Get rid of that hobo bun in the magazine section!"

"Get rid of the bun!"

Which one?

R.W.H.

IS THE LIBRARY LOSING ITS APPEAL TO STUDENTS?

YES! If one believes what statistics reveal. The last four years have witnessed a distressing decline in library use. Since the annual statistics have not been correlated with enrollment figures, nor have studies been made of changing methods of teaching, the statistics of declining library use must be used with caution. It is also possible that while quantity is not evident, quality of use may be improving. Certainly this would be a subjective evaluation. While the figures should be viewed with caution, it is evident to public service staff that we have not had the foot traffic in the building that was the case some years ago.

Consider the figures:

Circulation. There has been a steady decline of 13% since 1981-2 and last year the drop was 4% over the previous year.

Reserve. A dramatic decline of 21% since 1981-2 and last year alone the decrease was 15%. It is apparent that there has been a change in approach to reading assignments by the teaching faculty. Could the 1976 Copyright Law curtailing unlimited copying be a factor?

Exits. The decline since 1981-2 has been a modest 3.5% but if one were to compare 1984-5 with 1982-3 the decline would be 12%. Here we have a good example of the problems encountered with statistics. Beginning with 1982-3 a change in reporting exits resulted in a significant increase in the count over the previous year. Is the decrease 12% rather than 3.5%?

In-House Use. Bucking the trend, statistics for in-house use revealed an increase of 7% over the previous year. However, since 1981-2 the decline is 13%. While 1984-85's recovery is encouraging, there is a long way to go to reach the level of 1981-2.

Reference. Quality vs. quantity. Reference use increased 2% this past year. Overall there has been a slight 1.3% decline since 1981-2. Consequently one could argue that while library use in general has declined, requests for aid at the various reference desks has continued at a level amount.

Interlibrary Loan. If other public service areas experienced a rate of increase comparable to that of interlibrary loan we probably would have to double the staff. Over four years their work load has increased 23%, last year the increase was 7%. In 1984-5 there were 6,396 interlibrary transactions of which 4,587 or 72% were items BSU loaned to other libraries. It would appear that having our records in WLN has made us a library of first resort.

NO! The decline is temporary and improvement is in sight. This hopeful attitude is a result of an increase in library use during the first quarter of 1985-86. These figures show that:

Circulation is up 5% when compared to the first quarter of last year.

Reserves on the other hand continued to decline, having gone down 30% in the first quarter.

In-house use of material increased by 18%.

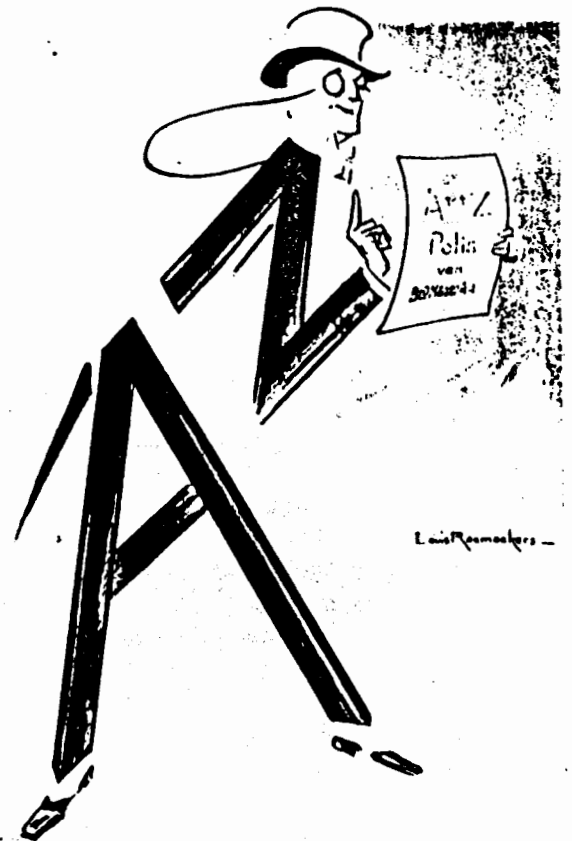
Reference questions answered increased by 37%. Here is a statistic that begs for analysis. For the moment it should be noted that an increased number of class assignments on how to use the library contributed to this increase.

Interlibrary lending increased by 16%.

Computer searching which has been at a modest level since the end of the federal subsidy is also showing an increase in activity. This quarter 69 searches were performed, a 48% increase over last year.

While it cannot definitely be reported that the decline in library use has ended, the first quarter statistics are encouraging.

Ralph Hansen



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