From the Editor

The next several months promise to be important ones for SCLA and for libraries.

The first-ever Carolinas Library Conference will take place in October, under the auspices of SCLA and the North Carolina Library Association. The benefits of this cooperative approach are obvious from the full and vital program planned for the convention. Neither association, by itself, could attract speakers of the calibre coming to Charlotte.

SCLA members will be making decisions on several amendments to the by-laws at the Charlotte meeting. The details have been sent to you in a separate mailing. Be sure to read them before leaving for the conference.

Library funding programs are, naturally, not immune from the current federal budget cuts. But we deserve better treatment than that afforded us in the budget bill passed by the House of Representatives in July.

In a package pressed on the House by a coalition of Republicans and conservative Democrats, all funding of grants to college libraries for the next three years was removed.

In a mad rush to meet a self-imposed deadline, the conservative coalition forced the House to a vote on the package before most members had even had a chance to read it. Library programs deserve full consideration and debate when priorities are being set. This was not the case in July.

Perhaps the Senate, which did authorize money for college libraries, will have repaired the damage by the time you read this. Whether it has or not, let your Senators and Representatives know you expect fair treatment and full consideration for libraries when the hard decisions on budget cuts are made.

Laurance R. Mitlin
Editor
From Our Readers

To the Editor:

A number of gross inaccuracies in Alan Greenberg's article "Expediting Library Recruitment at the College of Charleston" appearing in the Spring 1981 issue of the South Carolina Librarian have prompted this response. Since most of his statements are either incorrect or woefully negative in their connotation, a point-by-point analysis is needed.

1. Contrary to the impression left by Mr. Greenberg that something is amiss at the College, seven professional positions were filled by the Library between January 1978 and October 1980, two as replacements and five as new positions created to meet the growing needs of the College.

2. While the College of Charleston may not be well-known outside of its region, the same can be said of a vast majority of schools throughout the country, most of which enjoy only regional reputations. This, however, does not diminish the high quality and good name of the College in the mind of those who know it throughout the Southeast and beyond.

3. Candidates for any position, wherever it might be, should investigate on their own the institution seeking to interview them. Sufficient resources exist (American Library Directory, Barron's Profiles of American Colleges, college catalog collections, etc.) throughout the country for this purpose.

4. The committee that searched for a marine resources librarian, with the exception of Mr. Greenberg, has never seen this "Reading List." We do provide copies of several in-house publications (College catalog, Faculty Guide to the Library, Introduction to Bibliography and Research Methods Handbook and the Information Exchange) for the candidate's information as a standard procedure but this has been a long standing practice pre-dating Mr. Greenberg's former employment at the College. There is little benefit to the candidate or indeed to the College, in providing a cumbersome list of materials that includes much that is of limited or doubtful value for informing candidates more fully about the status of librarianship in the region, the state, the city, or the college, and this is almost certainly difficult to obtain in other areas of the country. How such a list "would make for more efficient use of limited interview time and would also help candidates make better decisions" is beyond my comprehension. Though we have erred in the past, our screening process is much more well-conceived than Mr. Greenberg would lead the reader to believe.

In short Mr. Greenberg's brief note and its accompany list do not in any way reflect the search or interview process or procedure practiced at the College of Charleston.

Ralph Melnick, Director
College of Charleston Libraries

Government Documents Online: Use and Benefit to South Carolina

Robert V. Williams
College of Librarianship
University of South Carolina

Editor's Note: The following article is the revised text of a paper originally presented at a workshop sponsored by the Government Documents Roundtable and On line Users' Interest Group of SCLA.

Librarians with an interest in government publications are now in a situation somewhat analogous to the one enjoyed by librarians after the passage of the Federal legislation of 1895 and 1922. The 1895 Printing Act established the position of Superintendent of Documents and the depository library system, and this opened up vast new opportunities for the publication, indexing and distribution of government publications. The 1922 legislation permitted librarians to decide on a selective basis the publications they wished to receive (instead of having to receive one copy of everything). I think we are now in a stage of development that is closely akin to those days, and may even possibly exceed them in gaining access to the vast quantities of information published or sponsored by the Federal government.

This may be an overly optimistic forecast but it does appear that we are now in a better position than ever to achieve the Jeffersonian philosophical principle on which the distribution of government information is based; namely, to have a more informed electorate. It is now possible to find out about, acquire and disseminate the information that this electorate needs — and do it more inexpensively and thoroughly than ever before.

It may be optimistic to believe this, particularly in light of the newspaper articles about the Reagan administration's budget for the next fiscal year. I think we will see, however, that administration officials will recognize the system for access to Federal information as a genuine case of Reagan economics. That is, the Federal government provides the initial incentive (in this case, databases and the Information Exchange) for the candidate's information as a standard procedure but this has been a long standing practice pre-dating Mr. Greenberg's former employment at the College. There is little benefit to the candidate or indeed to the College, in providing a cumbersome list of materials that includes much that is of limited or doubtful value for informing candidates more fully about the status of librarianship in the region, the state, the city, or the college, and this is almost certainly difficult to obtain in other areas of the country. How such a list "would make for more efficient use of limited interview time and would also help candidates make better decisions" is beyond my comprehension. Though we have erred in the past, our screening process is much more well-conceived than Mr. Greenberg would lead the reader to believe.

In short Mr. Greenberg's brief note and its accompany list do not in any way reflect the search or interview process or procedure practiced at the College of Charleston.

Ralph Melnick, Director
College of Charleston Libraries

1. The creation of machine-readable databases by Federal agencies for the information and documents they are charged to handle;
2. The distribution of these databases via commercial suppliers such as Lockheed, BRS, SDC and others (or purchase by individual institutions/libraries for their own use) who then make them available online for a fee;
3. The acceptance and increasingly widespread use of microformats for the distribution of these documents;

4. The development of databases on government activities and documents by a large number of private enterprise companies (e.g., Congressional Information Service).

There is possibly a fifth factor that may be of even greater influence on the availability of information in the near future: the development of non-bibliographic databases that contain not citations to information but the actual information itself. In this article I have largely confined myself to the bibliographic databases, but I think in a few years we will see that the databases which contain actual statistical, tabular or textual information on the topic of interest will be even more useful, for certain purposes, than the bibliographic databases. Many of these are already available and are increasing in size and in number every day.

Exactly what is the current situation in terms of online access to databases which contain information about government publications? Exactness and completeness is fairly difficult to determine in this fast changing world. One need only examine a recent edition of such publications as the Directory of Online Information Resources or recent issues of the journal Database to see there are already 300 to 400 of these in existence and increasing at the rate of a hundred or so each year. For the purposes of this article I compiled a list of about sixty of the more general ones that contain information about or are prepared/sponsored by the U.S. Federal and state governments. The directories and periodicals will lead one to the more specialized databases in a variety of subject areas. The online databases that are available today are both extensive in subject coverage and are suitable to the needs of the general library as well as the specialized library. Given that one has the equipment for access and is able to bear the costs of the searching and the provision of the documents, there are significant new possibilities open to all librarians through the use of online government documents databases.

These givens, you may be thinking, are the real "nitty gritty" of the problem. You need money for equipment (terminal, microfiche readers, printers), for searches and for documents. Money may indeed be a problem for many libraries but, as I will shortly indicate, it need not be an insurmountable problem in terms of sheer outlay of funds.

Instead of addressing the money problem directly, allow me to address it indirectly by dealing first with the central theme of the article: "optimum benefit and use to the state of South Carolina." My introduction was to convince you first that there is a lot of information about government documents now available via online databases; and secondly, that access to these documents is very much in keeping with the traditions of the profession in general and of government documents librarians specifically. Let us now proceed to see how we can go about taking advantage, in all areas of library work, of these new and exciting opportunities and by examining some of the possibilities that exist for maximizing use and benefit for the state.

Possible Uses of Online Databases of Government Publications

What is not widely recognized, mainly because the developments are so recent, is the wide variety of possible uses that exist for the databases. Information searching is well known and widely used. It is also possible, however, to use databases for acquisitions, cataloging, classification, interlibrary loan, collection building and document delivery. Some details about each of these follow.

Public Services Uses

1. Reference: Most large and medium-sized libraries are already heavily involved in reference use of these databases. More need to be; small libraries could begin without a great deal of extra expense. When the non-bibliographic files become generally available, we will see even wider use of these databases in reference situations. In this case, however, the reference work will be extended to data and textual analysis and the production of new information products for users.

2. Document delivery: Currently the major use of databases is of the traditional type: provision of citations and the user is on his own to find the documents. I suspect that online services are now contributing to user dissatisfaction because we can easily provide the citations to documents but not the actual documents. This was not a problem in earlier days because we could not afford the indexes and our users had no opportunity to see extensive lists of citations. The provision of such services as DIALOGORDER, (whereby one can order, online, a copy of the document) has helped alleviate the problem. This kind of service is becoming widespread and will increase. Lockheed has indicated that they are working out arrangements with NTIS for supplying copies of all their publications through the DIALOGORDER system. As these systems become a major means of document distribution we will probably see both government and private publishers cooperating.

Technical Services

1. Acquisitions: While the traditional tasks of acquisitions, verification and ordering are certainly made far easier with online access, we have not yet developed a complete system for the entire acquisitions process. DIALOGORDER, (and others) has gone a long way towards such a system but refinement of all aspects needs to be accomplished. Certainly, much of the item-by-item ordering characteristic of the acquisition function is eased since it is now possible to order government publications in large quantities via such packages as the Congressional Information Service (CIS) and American Statistics Index (ASI) libraries, and the Selected Research in Microfiche (SRIM) of NTIS.

2. Cataloging and classification: Certainly no system has had greater impact on the library cataloging world than the advent of OCLC and the regional networks. They are also having a great impact on government publications work, particularly for the smaller libraries which are not depositories.

It is now possible, using the OCLC database (and now on Lockheed and BRS) to obtain complete cataloging of all records appearing in the Monthly Catalog. State publications as well will soon be available as more states input their documents into OCLC. One can search online and order printed cards ready for filing in the catalog. This capability increases opportunities for the medium-sized and small libraries to integrate their government documents into the regular collection instead of having a small collection arranged by Sudocs numbers. Classification of these documents will also be greatly aided as libraries add this information to the database. As one who has been philosophically opposed to the separate collections approach, I welcome this movement and I hope that it will particularly encourage smaller libraries to purchase more government publications.

General Library Uses

1. Inexpensive collection building: Because of the easy availability of information about documents, sample ordering and processing, and fairly inexpensive microfiche collections of many of the documents, we can move to less expensive collection building. It is also possible that we will be able to develop a collection that is better used because we will have more precise information about user demands as a result of searches made on the online databases. Recent studies...
have indicated that about 40% of the monograph collection in large libraries is never used. With careful study of the document delivery requests made of users of the online systems, we should be able to develop measures for improving this rate.

2. Selection: Selection should also be easier and more thorough because of the refinements that exist in breaking down large subject files into specialized topical files. SRIM of NTIS is perhaps the best example of this, but there are many others.

3. Storage: Greater use of the microfiche should help ease storage problems. It should also make it easier for users to obtain copies of the documents for out-of-library use. This is one of the greatest advantages of the use of microformats for documents, and librarians should be willing to provide these services. Microfiche readers are now common in academic, government and industrial offices. Users could copy these documents on fiche very inexpensively and have them available in their offices for reference.

In total, the potential uses of online government documents databases are impressive. Changes are possible for both very small libraries and very large ones. We can provide improved access, availability of documents and, hopefully, user satisfaction by a judicious use of these databases. There are, however, a few things we need to do in South Carolina before this rosy future can become reality for us.

**Optimum Use: What We Need To Do**

Despite the fact that this is the age of library networking, we still largely remain individual entities with objectives stated for our own defined user population needs. We have increased the speed with which we share resources and we can find out more easily what our colleagues have in their libraries, but we have not gone beyond this to deliberately develop cooperative collection building of government publications, particularly for the more technical, abstruse reports literature. We need to do this some way; the more formal and systematic, the better it will probably be for all of us. I suggest three steps to optimize the potential benefits within our state:

1. Form cooperative acquisitions plans for specific reports. At the moment, there is not, as far as I can tell, any place in the state where one can obtain a copy of every NTIS report. (The nearest complete depository is North Carolina State University.) This needs to be remedied. But it is only an example. We also need to know who has a complete file of the energy documents, the CIS/ASI microfiche libraries, the Information Handling Services state documents, municipal documents of the state, ERIC files, and the list could go on.

   We need to formulate agreements, to compile a resource sharing directory, so that all librarians in the state, regardless of the size of the library, would know immediately where to call for a copy of a needed report. Agreements for borrowing, copying, and other uses need to be spelled out, and costs need to be agreed upon.

2. Form cooperative searching networks. Next, we could form cooperative searching networks through which we could share equipment, personnel and expertise (e.g., subject knowledge of a particular database). This would be particularly advantageous to the small and medium-sized libraries and could possibly be a means of additional revenue to the larger libraries. At the moment, we have a number of separate specialized users who could be combined into an informal network. We have two medical schools with access to (and knowledge of) the medical and chemical databases; we have a law school with access to LEXIS; Milliken Research Library has specialized knowledge of and access to the textile literature; at the State Library we have the Dept. of Energy project for searching 31 energy related databases for free; at Clemson knowledge of AGRICOLA and other scientific and technical databases; at USC access to the specialized as well as the general databases, and, around the state, a number of places where online searching is also done. In addition, many small libraries now have access to OCLC/SOLINET and the Monthly Catalog. I think we could easily form an effective informal network wherein we would agree to search certain databases for other libraries and provide them with copies of relevant citations/data for specified fees. Such an agreement, when combined with a directory of resources, would complete the entire cycle of the information process and be of great benefit to our users.

3. Offer more training in online databases for government publications through SCLA and the College of Librarianship. At the College of Librarianship we are taking a number of steps in this direction by offering a separate online searching course and by stressing the use of online databases in our government documents course. This emphasis will continue and will expand. Other training can be done through SCLA so that we will all have at least basic knowledge of how to do searching, ordering, document delivery and so other services.

In the examples already mentioned, whether a school or a library, I do not mean to limit the possibilities for use to those locations nor to the state itself. We could easily profit by using specialized libraries and agencies in other states and within the Federal and state governments. Certainly, the kinds of services provided by NTIS (e.g., extensive searches over a large series of databases both bibliographic and non-bibliographic) should not be duplicated here in the state. There are many such services in the Federal government and some within the government of South Carolina as well. We need our own network whereby we can handle routine requests from libraries that do not currently have the equipment or knowledge and also to service the highly specialized requests from libraries who do not have access to those resources.

**Costs and Benefits**

In reality, it is going to cost something to do what I have outlined; but not as much as you might think — if we cooperate and share resources, staff and equipment.

This is not the place to go into the detailed costs of online searching and obtaining copies of the documents in government documents databases (you can get good estimates from issues of Online or Online Review), but I should give you some general indications of cost categories. Generally speaking, these are: staff, equipment, online charges, cost of resources and housing. The categories we are not accustomed to in our traditional budgets are hardware and online charges. We seem to be moving towards the day when online databases will not be more expensive than hard copies of documents. We do not know yet whether we can justify charging users for this "new" service of online access. I myself have mixed feelings; you may also. I recognize the economic aspects of the situation, but it presents a thorny problem. At this point I simply refer you to the ALA publications which point out the pro's and con's on the issue of charging for service.7

The benefits are, I believe, enormous, particularly to a state like South Carolina with its diversity of libraries and populations and its rapid change in status from a farm state to an industrialized state. We need to recognize the reality of these changes in the state and begin making plans for the development of information systems that will serve these new industries and their diverse employees. Improved access to documents of other nations, to highly specialized information resources and to a wide variety of investment and business information is essential. We will, through the use of online databases of government publications, achieve rapid access to a wide variety of documents that our users have heretofore had to exert great efforts to find and use. We can save our users time, and therefore more money, and will, I believe, make them more satisfied users. We should be able to reduce the overall rise in the cost of these documents. We should continue to take advantage of the "free" Federal
government resources and utilize them more effectively. Through cooperation and sharing we should be able to achieve many of the service opportunities that we had only dreamed of a short decade ago.

In South Carolina we are already doing some work to this end. We need to do more. A number of plans (e.g., the State Library’s study of networking) are now in the formative stages for future development of networking, database development and cooperation. We need to make sure that these plans do not neglect the needs and potential of government documents collections. Through the leadership and cooperation of the various units of SCLA, the College of Librarianship, public and academic librarians, the State Library, and all interested professionals, I believe that we can form an effective system that will be used and, contrary to some current thinking about online searching, affordable by all libraries.

References
3Available free from the author.
6This agreement will also need to take into consideration the varying restrictions placed by the various database publishers on the use and distribution of information from these files.

1981 Conference Promises
A Big Time in Charlotte

If you haven’t already returned your registration for the SCLA/NCLA joint conference, you’ll want to do so today. The sessions planned for the three-day meet promise to make the first-ever two-state meeting one you won’t want to miss.

In addition to Charles Kuralt, Leon Martel, and John Henry Faulk, the three national speakers profiled in the Spring Librarian, the sections and roundtables of SCLA and NCLA have planned over 28 speakers, workshops, tours, and luncheons. And that figure does not include the business meetings!

For example, GODORT will have Margaret T. Lane, coordinator of ALA-GODORT’s State and Local Documents Task Force, and a panel of Carolinas documents librarians addressing the complicated problem of distribution and control of state publications.

Peggy Sullivan, former president of ALA, will address the Public Library Sections. And a new, two-state version of last year’s public relations SWAP’N’SHOP will give you more ideas of how to promote your library.

If public relations is of particular interest to you, a workshop on the subject will be held Thursday afternoon. The case-study approach will be used, with workbooks and other materials provided.

Joe Hewett of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, will bring us up to date on what’s happening with the Research Triangle Library Network, a major effort to apply computer technology to a research library resource sharing environment. The program is sponsored by the Technical Services Sections.

Two nationally known storytellers, Laura Sims and Augusta Baker, will present a “Story Kaleidoscope” to the Children’s Services Sections. Joining them in the storytelling will be South and North Carolina librarians.

From the Smithsonian Institution comes David Bearman, who will discuss “Planning for National Control of Archives and Special Collections.” He will be joined by South Carolinians Alan Greenburg and Sharon Avery in this panel on resource sharing and archives.

Check your preliminary program for these and the many other activities planned for October 7-9. All sessions are open to all registrants, regardless of which association or which sections you belong to.

One additional benefit of gathering so many librarians in one place at one time will be the largest and best group of exhibits ever at a Carolina library convention. The exhibitors make a large contribution to the success of our meetings, and you will want to visit them often.

See you in Charlotte!!
Give Those “Freebies” the Attention They Deserve

Shirley M. Tarlton
Dean of Library Services
Winthrop College

What, if anything, have you done with those perennial “freebies” that come to you via institutional memberships, gifts, unsolicited mailings, and other multifarious sources? I’m talking about many of the society newsletters, miscellaneous house organs, and extraneous processed serial material—most of which is not indexed, not cataloged, and not of value after a very brief period of time. Be honest—much of it is of uneven value and often very ephemeral. And that which is of value must quickly reach the appropriate clientele or it becomes out-of-date and consequently of no use to anyone.

Your first task is to find a few minutes, periodically, to review what is coming in the mail and immediately discard all that obviously has no value to your library. For that which remains you must categorize the material for appropriate action or disposition:

1. consider cataloging
2. consider subscription
3. display/discard (retain current issue only)
4. retain current year only (discarding is done progressively—corresponding year-old issues pulled as new ones are filed)
5. add to Sample File
6. other possibilities.

In order to establish a uniform method of treatment, each initial decision based on title-by-title examination and evaluation must be recorded in some sort of decision file or record. I would not recommend expensive housing for such a record nor would I suggest recording receipt of each issue. A simple listing of titles retained recorded on 3 x 5 cards, decision-coded inserts in a visible listing unit, a typed list or something similar would be more practical and less expensive than entry in a Kardex or Acme unit.

If deemed appropriate to your library situation, you could place simple title entries in the card catalog and/or serial record. Depending on available housing space, you could interfile these materials with other serials; or, you could shelve them in an area contiguous to other current serials. You might try a separate range of slotted shelving or shelves placed 5”-6” apart; or, you could place these publications in vertical or lateral file cabinets, or pamphlet cases & Princeton files. Whatever—just “get ’em out” if you intend to use them.

Now, once these publications are on the shelves (or wherever you put them) don’t forget them. Each year select an appropriate time in which to review again all titles. Depending on the use made of these publications, or possible space restrictions, you will probably want to continue adding new titles while you discontinue collection of certain other titles. Others, with erratic publishing habits, will come now and then or may even cease publication. These will automatically be weeded each year during your collection review routines.

Annual business and industry reports are in most instances mailed gratis libraries requesting to be placed on mailing lists of various corporations. They are normally not cataloged by the Library of Congress but are considered to be of some significance to many libraries. Once you’ve determined which ones are important enough to warrant maintaining a collection and decided how many report years to collect, what can be done short of full cataloging and processing? Keep in mind that many of these publications receive relatively slight use. And, I have already mentioned that publications of this type are free or inexpensive, not cataloged or indexed, and of current interest only. It seems practical and economical to employ the minimum procedures and processing necessary to make the material available.

Many libraries file these annual reports alphabetically by company name in vertical or lateral files. Processing can be limited to simple check-in records of receipts, combination ownership/date-of-receipt stamp marked on each report or maintenance of a typed listing of the reports held. Some libraries have found it helpful to utilize the “Fortune 500” list which appears around May each year in Fortune magazine. If you use this list of the largest corporations, it is considerably easier to determine entries for filing purposes and you can simply check those corporations whose reports you have on file. Libraries which house and maintain large files of corporation reports should consider purchase of the available microform editions of the same reports.

As with so many other things, there can be great latitude in actual practice. Perhaps you have developed other methods of treatment for these marginal serial publications. If so—good! If not, I hope this gives you some good ideas. Let local requirements be your guide.

Two Inspiring Carolina Collections!

Kays Gary, Columnist
A Collection of his Writings Compiled by his Friends
edited with a foreword by
C.A. McKnight

Kays Gary, columnist at The Charlotte Observer for 50 years, has a devoted following throughout the Carolinas. An outstanding writer, Gary is loved by his readers for his compassion and humor and is beloved by his colleagues for his ability to combine professional journalism with courageous moral commitment. KAYS GARY, COLUMNIST is a memorable collection of his columns and of reminiscences about him by his contemporaries.

$10.95 hardcover, November, 1981
ISBN 0-914786-43-4
LC 81-68672

Just Folks
Visitin’ With Carolina People
by Jerry Bledsoe

This is Carolina folk history at its best! Jerry Bledsoe, award-winning columnist at the Greensboro Daily News and The Charlotte Observer, has compiled a collection of his best interviews with North and South Carolinians. “Jerry Bledsoe is Carolina’s Listener Laureate. Nobody beats him at listening to the human voice and to the human heart, and nothing beats holding his book in your hands and listening with him.”—Charles Kuralt, CBS News

$9.95 hardcover, September, 1980
ISBN 0-914786-31-0
LC 80-36880

The East Woods Press • 820 East Blvd. • Charlotte, NC 28203
The ALA Committee on Instruction in Use of Libraries drafted and the ALA Council in June 1980 approved the following statement:

Policy Statement
Instruction in the Use of Libraries

Utilization of information is basic to virtually every aspect of daily living in a democratic society, whether in the formal pursuit of educational goals or in independent judgment and decision making. In our post-industrial, increasingly complex society, the need for information daily becomes greater.

Libraries are a major source of information; however, their effective use requires an understanding of how information is organized and how individuals can retrieve that information. Many individuals have an inadequate understanding of how to determine the type of information needed, locate the appropriate information, and use it to their best advantage.

Instruction in the use of libraries should begin during childhood years and continue as a goal of informal educational process in order to prepare individuals for the independent information retrieval essential to sustain lifelong professional and personal growth.

It is essential that libraries of all types accept the responsibility of providing people with opportunities to understand the organization of information. The responsibility of educating users in successful information location demands the same administrative, funding, and staffing support as do more traditional library programs.

The American Library Association encourages all libraries to include instruction in the use of libraries as one of the primary goals of service.

LOEX Expands Services & Ups the Ante

LOEX Clearinghouse, the national exchange for the collection and dissemination of bibliographic instruction materials and information, is now providing service to public and school libraries as well as to academic libraries.

Located at 217H Library, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197 (Phone 313/487-0168), LOEX has collected and loaned materials, given advice, and told who is doing what since 1972.

In its first price increase since 1978, LOEX has raised 1982 institutional and school memberships to $45 yearly. As a user of LOEX since its beginning, I hate to see the rise in price but believe the benefits exceed the cost.
Today's School Librarian Must Play Many Roles

Catherine M. Townsend
Willington Elementary School
School Section Chairman-Elect

In modern education, the school librarian plays many roles. She may be the media specialist, the audio-visual coordinator, or the director of the learning resources unit, or, as with many schools, she may be all three. However, she is always, first and foremost, a librarian in the true meaning of the word: "variously...a teacher, an administrator, a counselor, a reading expert, and a materials specialist." (Rossoff, The Library in High School Teaching, page 9)

Her primary function is to collect, accurately describe, and quickly dispense information. Information is her product, and the packaging of this information is secondary to its use. Getting information to the user is an administrative task of enormous proportions. This task involves the need to remain current in all phases of learning, and to be familiar with what is new in the field of education.

The librarian must be able to offer good advice to her co-workers on sources for the most up-to-date information in each of their respective fields. She is no longer just the harried collector and shelve of books. She has come of age and come out from the seclusion of the circulation desk and card catalog. The school librarian can now be found talking with computers, handling the most complicated technical equipment, working at ease among all the space-age technical advances. The role of the school librarian has changed as her working conditions and job requirements have altered.

In modern public education the librarian is no longer 'almost a teacher.' Librarians are the vital link in the overall chain of events which comprises modern education. This changing role is a varied one. There are many facets to it, but perhaps the best way to describe it is to break the role into the four distinct phases from which it is made. These are: 1) the librarian as an advisor to the administration for supplemental materials for the curriculum; 2) the librarian as coordinator for all resource materials, book and non-book; 3) the librarian as public relations agent between school and community; and finally 4) the librarian as a resource person for the students and faculty, administration and staff, of a given school.

To put it another way, the librarian wears four different hats during the course of her day. Each hat represents one of the phases of school librarianship. Each phase is equally important to the smooth operation of the library. Combining these is like balancing a tower of blocks on a scale, not one of them can overbalance the other or the entire structure will come tumbling down.

The duties involved in each of these phases are familiar tasks for any good librarian. As an advisor to the administration for a school or for the system, the librarian must be able to offer professional opinion on newly published materials available in all fields of that school's or district's curriculum.

It is the responsibility of the librarian to familiarize herself with what is taught and what is to be taught, as well as to know when it will be taught. She must know these facts so that suggestions can be offered and supplies and materials available when courses are being taught.

The librarian should also work closely with the administration and counselors to offer the students the best career information available. Sources for standardized tests, vocational materials, and college information must be readily available for both student and staff alike.

As materials coordinator, the librarian must be on easy and informal terms with the other members of the faculty, and with the district supervisors. Much of the scheduling and exchange of information can be accomplished in a relaxed atmosphere, but of course there is also a need for the more formal exchanges at regularly scheduled teachers' meetings. Librarians should always be present at such meetings.

With the increasing emphasis on non-print media, a librarian must be prepared to act as media technician as well as media coordinator. In short, there should not be any piece of equipment in the library that the librarian cannot operate, and teach others to operate.

For the professional growth of the school's faculty it is necessary that a professional collection be maintained by the librarian. Sources for non-book materials, lists of new publications, professional books, periodicals and catalogs should be included in such a collection. Careful cataloging of the resource materials available in the library is an essential part of the task of the librarian as materials coordinator. These materials must be readily available and easily identified, and the collection must be structured to meet the specific needs of the instruction it supports.

Not all collections are exactly alike, and not all librarians will arrange those collections identically. Ease of use and accessibility are the key considerations when structuring any collection.

As public relations person between the school and the general public, the librarian plays a significant, if somewhat understated, role. The role of the librarian may not be visible to all the people at all times, but the functions of the library or resource center make an impact on each individual who enters, or whose child uses that facility. Questions from parents and the general public should be answered quickly, courteously, and as fully as possible. All services of the library which lend themselves to it, should be open to parents and perhaps to a limited degree, the general public. The physical facilities can be used for public functions so that students, parents, and friends alike can become familiar with the services and materials located there.

Traditionally, the librarian as a resource person for both the students and the faculty has been one of, if not the most, vital roles played by the librarian. The librarian plays a significant role in the educational process. Students must learn research skills and good library habits to successfully compete in public education, and who is more aptly qualified to pass on these skills than the school's librarian?

Basic library skills are now a part of the South Carolina Defined Minimum Program, and in most districts responsibility for teaching these skills rests solely with the librarians. In point of fact, many of the language arts skills, such as dictionary skills, note-taking and paper writing are also left to the librarian to teach.

Teaching library skills can be done by the librarian in the classroom, or in the library. Practical hands-on activities using the card catalog, periodical indexes and reference materials are a necessity to make these skills operational. The librarian and classroom teacher should work closely together when papers are assigned, and the librarian should be available to answer reference questions, assist students in pinpointing needed materials, and suggest alternative sources of information. While the stereotype of the rubber-stamp-wielding, bun-topped librarian is fading, materials control the circulation are still one of her major tasks. This control remains one of the unpleasant necessities in a library.

A library is a living, vital place; a place for relaxing, studying, browsing, and just having a good time. It is a place where information is the most important product, and the librarian's task is to see that this product is available to all, at all times.
The Seaboard Airline Railway Free Traveling Library System

Estellene Walker
Library History Project
S.C. State Library

From 1898 until the early 1940's, upcountry South Carolina shared with communities in five other Southeastern states the services of the Seaboard Airline Railway Library system, a unique library and one which must have developed the first regional library extension program in this country.

The library was begun at Rose Hill Plantation near Middleton, Georgia, in 1898, by Mrs. Eugene B. Heard. Sally Heard was a famous hostess and a real Georgia belle. She married Eugene Heard who inherited a 2,000 acre plantation given to one of his ancestors, an early governor of Georgia.

They had two children, a son and a daughter, but the son died soon after his twelfth birthday. He had loved books, and Sally Heard, hoping to share his books and love of books with other children, began to loan them to the children in the neighborhood. The response was far greater than she had anticipated. Children and adults were hungry for books and soon exhausted the Rose Hill collection as well as the books Sally Heard was able to gather from her friends. People still came however, and Sally Heard resolved to do all in her power to see that not only her neighbors but rural people elsewhere had access to books and reading.

About this time Everitte St. John, Vice-President of the Seaboard Airline Railway, was in Elberton, near Middleton, in connection with an expansion of the railway system. Mrs. Heard invited him to Rose Hill and while there he heard Sally talk about a library for everyone along the length and breadth of the Seaboard. In the children coming to Rose Hill for books, he saw the need demonstrated and before he left Rose Hill, he made Sally Heard the offer of the Seaboard's services in distributing the books in all the states in which its system operated. If she could get the books the railroad would take them, free of charge, to anyone or any community, wherever the railroad ran. This offer remained in effect from 1898 until 1955, when the library finally closed.

With a means of distribution assured, the next step was to get books and more books, and magazines and more magazines. Sally Heard visited every publishing house and editor in the East, and came home with promises of free books and magazines — promises which were kept until long after her death.

With the assurance of a continuing supply of books and magazines and with the means of distributing them, Sally Heard's next step was to arrange with communities along the Seaboard for handling circulation of the books which would be sent to them without any charge whatsoever. She rode from one end of the Seaboard to the other, through Georgia, Virginia, Alabama, Florida and the Carolinas, securing the cooperation of women in the villages and hamlets in taking over the operation of the "circulating library" boxes.

By 1912, 18,000 books and 38,000 magazines were being distributed. Library "boxes" were going out to 150 schools in 35 communities located along the Seaboard in addition to the hundreds of "book bags" distributed to individuals in each of the six states.

The library grew of its own momentum. Andrew Carnegie made a grant to the program and contributions were received from many other prominent business and social leaders. In 1907 the library won a gold medal award at the Jamestown Exposition.

The library did not close until 1955. By that time its mission was being carried on by the county and regional libraries and state library programs developed in each of the six states which it had served. In the last few years of its existence service was largely limited to the Elberton neighborhood, and in 1955 the remaining books were turned over to the Elberton Schools.

For fifty-eight years the Seaboard Airline Railway Free Traveling Library System operating from Rose Hill Plantation provided a vital community service to the communities along its extensive railway system. The lives of thousands of men and women, boys and girls were enriched and expanded through the books that came to them from this unique library which had been founded through the vision of a woman who believed in the value of good books.

In all its years of existence no fines were ever charged for overdue books nor charges made for lost books. There were no regulations, no state aid, no Federal aid and no local funds. The librarians who donated their time for the operation of the library were neither trained nor certified, but their knowledge of books, love of people and devotion to a cause were as effective as any graduate library degree could have been. The standards of service were simple good will and a concern for others.

Its history was a miracle which can be attributed to one woman's vision, the generosity of publishers, a level-headed businessman and the tracks of the Seaboard Railway System.
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Review

Ancestoring. Published by Augusta Genealogical Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 3743, Augusta, GA 30904. Irregular. Write for price.

Ancestoring, the official journal of the Augusta Genealogical Society should be of interest to librarians not only in Georgia but also in South Carolina. Published irregularly, the journal is designed to provide "well-researched, in-depth information" for those interested in genealogy and family history.

The format of the journal is quite impressive, with interesting illustrations, an attractive cover, and print which is easy to read. The journal features the usual articles found in all genealogical publications — cemetery inscriptions, court records, and the like; but the journal also includes interesting articles of general interest which should help most genealogists in their quest for roots.

Although the journal is a Georgia publication, there are articles relating to South Carolina genealogy. Articles such as "Savannah River Plant Site Cemeteries (Aiken and Barnwell Counties, SC)" and "Horn's Creek (Edgefield County, SC) Baptist Church and Cemetery," will be of interest to South Carolina patrons.

With the increasing interest in family history, librarians in South Carolina will want to add this journal to their genealogy collections.

Ron Chopesiuk
Winthrop College Archives
Medical Union List Available from U.S.C.

The School of Medicine Library, University of South Carolina, announces the publication of the Southeastern Medical Periodicals Union List (Microfiche Edition). The Union List records the periodical holdings of the fourteen major medical school libraries in the Southeastern United States (including Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Puerto Rico).

The first edition contains over 17,000 titles and cross references. The primary authority for the list is the serials bibliographic record of the National Library of Medicine. An attempt has been made to include all ISSN's.

This publication may be purchased for $35.00 by writing to R. Thomas Lange, Chief Medical Librarian, School of Medicine Library, University of South Carolina, VA Medical Center, Columbia, South Carolina 29201.

ACRL Peddles Charleston Librarian's Paper

Cerise Oberman-Soroka, of the College of Charleston, presented *Petals Around a Rose: Abstract Reasoning and Bibliographic Instruction* at an ACRL meeting last summer. The 28 page paper is available from ACRL (50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611) for $4 for ACRL members, $5 for nonmembers. Enclose a mailing label.
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