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Library Newsletter : 1995 : 04 : 28

Nelson Poynter Memorial Library.

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Gossip fit to print:

Congratulations to the winners of service awards this year.
The following Library staff celebrated anniversaries: Signe Oberhofer 20
years; Jackie Shewmaker 15 years; Barbara Reynolds 10 years.

Special congratulations go to Barb Reynolds. In addition to
celebrating 10 years at USF, she received the USPS Excellence in
Service Award offered by Dean Heller and USF St. Petersburg campus. Well
deserved!

The SAPL luncheon held on Friday April 21 was very nice. Lanny
Greaves gave a very enjoyable presentation on technology issues facing
libraries in the twenty-first century.

Deb Henry and Jerry Notaro will be attending FLA Annual Conference
the week of May 8th. Deb will be attending the FACRL board meeting and
program Jerry is making a presentation at the conference. It will cover
the pros and cons of inter and intralibrary loans of media, particularly
videos. It will include a survey of all SUS library/media centers, and a
review of other systems' policies.

SUNCOAST FREE-NET IS UP AND RUNNING
The Suncoast Free-Net is still very much under construction but
it's time to let everyone in. There are two banks of direct dial phone
lines (both area code 813):

Hillsborough: 273-3755   Pinellas: 298-1653

Or telnet to: ns1.thpl.lib.fl.us
login as   visitor
make sure your system is set for vt100 emulation and 8-N-1

If you have telnet capabilities that may be your best way to
access the Suncoast Free-Net as the dial-in system is currently operating
at 2400 baud and your telnet capabilities are only limited by the speed of
your system and our upper limits (probably somewhere around 14.4) and, of
course, the number of simultaneous logins our equipment can handle.

The information line also gives out access information for the
Suncoast Free-Net so anyone can call (813)224-8710 for the dialing
instructions. Information should be available at all the public libraries
in Pinellas, Hillsborough, and Pasco. Contact Anne Ross Volunteer
Coordinator Suncoast Free-Net, if you would like to volunteer in this
project. She can be reached at 224-8145 or email rossa@mail.firn.edu.

Librarians: Check out "Formula B: Librarians" on page 251 of the
April, 1995 issue of CRL News. It is interesting math.

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from: Mosher, Marion Dix. _More Toasts, Jokes, Stories and Quotations_,
    New York: H.W. Wilson, 1932.
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Appendix

1.   The action took place TODAY, May 17, 1995.

                    HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE APPROVES BLOCK GRANT;
                    PLEDGED MORE PROTECTION FOR LIBRARIES

This morning a House subcommittee approved H.R. 1617, the Consolidated and
Reformed Education, Employment, and Rehabilitation Systems Act (a package
of four block grants, including an adult education and literacy block
grant). Subcommittee leaders also pledged further protection for
libraries by the parent committee next week.

Both Rep. Randy Cunningham (R-CA), Chairman of the Early Childhood, Youth
and Families Subcommittee, and Rep. Dale Kildee (D-MI), ranking minority
member, said they wanted to provide additional protection for libraries,
given the long history of support by the committee for library programs.

What ALA has recommended, and what a number of House committee members
expressed interest in, is a separate library block grant based on the
proposed Library Services and Technology Act developed by ALA and several
other library groups.

Today, Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich (R-GA), after talking with
Charles Beard, co-chair of ALA's Library Advocacy Now! campaign and a
Gingrich constituent, expressed support of the ALA recommendation.
Gingrich wrote to Rep. William Goodling, Chairman of the Economic and
Educational Opportunities Committee, to indicate his strong support for
the ALA goal of updating and simplifying the current Library Services and
Construction Act. He said he "would appreciate your reviewing their
proposal and incorporating as much of their approach as you can during
your deliberations."

H.R. 1617 as introduced would set aside for library technology purposes 30
percent of the funds going to states for adult education and literacy
purposes (after funds are taken from the top for various purposes). H.R.
1617 would also repeal LSCA, ESEA, and HEA title II library programs for
public, school, and academic library purposes.

ACTION NEEDED: Library supporters who are constituents of House Economic
and Educational Opportunities Committee members (see list below) should
contact them before May 24. The message: urge support of a separate
library block grant modeled on the proposed Library Services and
Technology Act when the Opportunities Committee acts on H.R. 1617, now
scheduled for May 24.

2.   Infofilter Project

One of the most pressing and frequently identified needs on the Internet
has been for quality control, especially on the Web. A group of
librarians are presenting attempting to address this challenge through
what we call the Infofilter Project. The purpose of this project is to
develop criteria for evaluating Web resources and to use that criteria to
evaluate carefully selected home pages. The intention is not to attempt
to evaluate all Web pages - we simply don't have the resources for that.
Rather, we intend to select the most useful pages in particular subject
areas and evaluate them much as librarians now evaluate reference sources.
Our eventual goal is to be a kind of "Choice" for the World Wide Web.

Since the project began a few short months ago, we have made considerable
progress in setting the ground rules. We have established an organized
page with the reviews we have done so far and the full text is searchable
using the WAIS search engine. We also have a "working page", where we
discuss, present new ideas and new reviews and proposals of various kinds.
In addition, we have a listserv of our own for those who are seriously
interested in joining our work - Diane Kovacs is the list administrator
for this. We have worked out a careful process to evaluate the reviews so
that they achieve the quality standards we desire to maintain.

We invite any librarian or other interested information professional to
view our pages, leave comments, or consider joining us if you think we're
on the right track. All of us are employed librarians and we know how
difficult it is to take on additional commitments. Most of us are doing
this on our own time and we don't expect that many will be able to add
this to their current "spare time" at work. The reason we are doing this
is that we strongly feel that unless librarians take a more active role in
the world of networked information, then the profession is going to be
more and more marginalized. The growth of the current Internet presents us
with a once-in-a-generation opportunity to show our skills as information
organizers and we are trying to rise to the challenge. Point your Web
browser to http://192.135.229.51/inteval.htm if you want to see our
"official" home page or
http://www.usc.edu/users/help/flick/Reviews/index.html if you want to see
our working page. Please remember that we are still in the "pilot
project" stage.

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