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Nelson Poynter Memorial Library.

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Library Newsletter volume 1(7)

April 28, 1995

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.

from: Mosher, Marion Dix. More Toasts, Jokes, Stories and Quotations,
New York: H.W. Wilson, 1932.

Appendix

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

HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE APPROVES BLOCK GRANT; PLEGGED 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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