

# NETnews

St. Louis Regional Library Network

March 1990

Volume 2 Number 5

## "THE BIRTH OF A REFERENCE BOOK"

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by Cathi Alloway, St. Louis Public Library

A luncheon presentation by Barbara Beach, Senior Editor, New Publication Development, Gale Research Co, was attended by 25 members of the St. Louis Regional Library Network who visited St. Louis Public on Feb. 22. Beach described the structure and operations of Gale, a major publisher of reference books. Their booklist includes such reference collection staples as Encyclopedia of Associations, Ward's Business Directory, Contemporary Authors, Something About the Author and Book Review Index.

Gale was founded in 1953, when Frederick Gale Ruffner Jr., then a marketing executive for a plastics firm, needed to find the names of rack jobbers who supplied items to supermarkets. Hoping to find a trade association that would provide him with the needed information, he discovered that there was no up-to-date source for association information. Ruffner quit his job to compile Encyclopedia of Associations which was first published in 1956 and which has remained Gale's best-selling publication. (Ruffner has since "retired" and has started another new publishing company, Omnigraphics, which ironically is a few floors above the Gale offices in Detroit, Michigan.)

Now owned by Thomson Corporation, Gale employs the largest in-house editorial staff in reference publishing, with over 300 librarians, researchers and writers. The company spends over a quarter of a million dollars each year on books and subscriptions to support the research and writing that goes into their publications. The New Publication Development office is responsible for generating and testing ideas for publications. Ideas come from a variety of sources, including Gale staff, but importantly, from librarians and others. Gale encourages innovation by paying a \$500.00 reward for any idea that eventually results in a publication; the librarian who suggested the new Gale publication, Bestsellers 90 won the first cash prize.

Ideas are developed into proposals with sample pages, which are then reviewed by practicing librarians who write evaluations or serve on advisory boards to critique and shape the publication. Beach and other office staff also visit libraries around the country to keep abreast of reference activity, trends, and needs that impact the development of information sources. Several local libraries were visited on Beach's trip, including St. Louis Public, St. Louis County, Monsanto, and Washington University School of Medicine Library.

The opportunity to learn about the development of reference sources and to have some input into their creation was appreciated by all who participated. The meeting was the first of what is hoped to be a series of "brown-bag luncheons" providing educational and social opportunities for Network participants. Suggestions for speakers and locations should be forwarded to Cathi Alloway at St. Louis Public Library.

## Continuing Education Workshop

Who: Rosary College Graduate School  
of Library and Information Science  
When: April 9, 1990  
8:30 am - 5:00 pm  
Where: Resurrection House of Prayer  
(next to St. Louis U)  
What: 0.5 CEU credit  
Dewey Decimal Classification  
(covers major changes in new 20th  
edition)  
Cost: \$85  
Information: Mary Frances Watson  
(708) 366-2490, ext 305.  
Rosary College  
School Library Science  
7900 West Division St.  
River Forest, IL 60305

## FOR SALE

CBC High School Library has a 3M "400"  
microfilm Reader Printer for sale. For  
details please call Charlotte Hanselman or  
Hugh Bergman at 721-1200.

## John Hope Franklin Lecture

MISSOURI SENATE  
HOTLINE  
1-800-877-5982

Dr. John Hope Franklin, James B. Duke Professor Emeritus, Duke University, will be the speaker at the Wednesday, April 4, 1990, Lunch and Lecture of the St. Louis Mercantile Library Association. Dr. Franklin is also John M. Manley Distinguished Service Professor (University of Chicago), former President of the American Historical Association, and winner of the 1975 Messing Award of the Associates of St. Louis University Libraries (now St. Louis Literary Award). His talk will reflect on a career of wide experience in the world of American historical scholarship, especially his field of Black American history.

The regular Lunch and Lecture program is presented on the first Wednesday of each month from 12:15 to 1:15 pm in the sixth floor Reading Room of the Library at 510 Locust St., St. Louis, MO.

The lecture is free; membership in the Library is not required. Reservations for attendance must be made no later than Monday, April 2. Call 314/621-0670 for reservations or more information.

## Conservation Center Volunteers

Volunteers are being recruited to work in the library's Shoenberg Conservation Center. Duties will include book and paper repair, as well as the construction of protective enclosures. Manual dexterity, attention to detail, and an interest in book conservation are needed. For further information, call Missouri Botanical Garden, Jeanne McGilligan at 577-5187.



**St. Louis Public Library  
announces  
MacARTHUR LIBRARY  
Video Collection**

St. Louis Public Library recently announced that The MacArthur Library, a gift from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, is now available for circulation on video tape. The MacArthur Library consists of 23 award-winning video programs that address key issues of our times. These films are of special interest to teachers, organizations, and individuals who need programming materials in the following areas:

**Mental Health:** Five videos that consider some of the mental health problems (bipolarism, schizophrenia, and mental retardation). The videos focus on providing basic information that informs the viewer while de-stigmatizing the condition.

**World Environment and Resources:** Five videos that illustrate critical environmental issues and point to possible solutions.

**Peace and International Cooperation:** Five videos that focus on the past, present and future of nuclear weapons and the issues arising from them.

**Community Development:** Four videos that illustrate hopeful solutions to some of the pressing problems of our urban centers.

**MacArthur Fellows:** Four videos that illustrate the range of creative work by individuals who have been rewarded by the MacArthur Fellows program with five-year, unrestricted Fellowships in response to their individual creativity.

For more information, please contact Diane Friermuth at the Film Library, 241-2288, ext. 336. \*

\*from March Events, St. Louis Public Library.

**Washington University** has opened a new medical library and biomedical communications center. The layout of the new eight-level building is designed to be flexible. The center has three major components: a health sciences library; a media/computer center with classrooms, laboratories and production facilities; and a communications network. Built entirely with private funding, the center connects with departments, laboratories and offices in the medical center, with local medical libraries and community physicians, and with the campus-wide telecommunications system.

## ANNUAL DINNER

The Network Annual Dinner will be a gala event this year! Mark the Tuesday of National Library Week on your calendar as an evening to celebrate St. Louis libraries. The Breckenridge Frontenac Inn will be the place to head on April 24 for a festive dinner featuring speaker Mary Jo Godwin, Editor of "Wilson Library Bulletin." Watch for the invitation to come in March. Contact Cathi Alloway at St. Louis Public Library for more information.

**NEW MEMBERS! ! !**

### St. John the Baptist High School Library

St. John the Baptist High School is a parish high school in South St. Louis that has been in existence since 1922. The school presently has 330 girls and boys from grades 9 - 12. The library occupies the lower level of one wing and is a bright cheerful place to go for reading or research. It houses some 10,000 books, plus periodicals, AV and computer software and hardware. The librarian, Gail Mitchell, has the library open from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm on school days.

### Missouri Numismatic Society Library

The Missouri Numismatic Society is a fifty year old organization that has implemented many educational goals over the years. The Society now boasts of an unsurpassed regional library; an annual Missouri Journal of Numismatics; quality educational programs; an ancient coin study group; a junior Missouri Numismatic Society group; and a newsworthy monthly club bulletin.

The library facility is located at 5005 South Grand Blvd., ST. Louis, Mo. 63111. The library is undergoing some renovation and expansion of shelving that is currently causing a slight inconvenience; but soon there will be a more pleasing environment. A number of members of the society man the library on Saturday morning from 9:00 am. -12:00 noon. Members can check out or return books, identify coins or other numismatic items, or share their numismatic knowledge during these hours. The library is air conditioned and refreshments are available. The librarian, Earl Biffle, suggests that if Network members desire to use the library for research, it would be well to phone in advance. Phone (314) 481-7630 or (314) 343-5293.

Mr. Biffle is currently investigating various electronic retroactive cataloging tools in order to place their nearly 10,000 articles into an electronic MARC format. He hopes to soon engage a librarian to begin entering the collection into this database.

\*(some of the material for this article was taken from the Missouri Journal of Numismatics, July 1989.)



## SOME INFORMATION ABOUT THE STATE DATABASE

Bill Davis, of the Missouri State Library, reports that school libraries must have all their holdings electronically saved in MARC format on floppies to participate in MCAT (the state database). All other libraries may add their records in parts and still participate in the MCAT. Even non-participating libraries can receive a copy of the database.

## MEMBER QUESTIONNAIRE

The St. Louis Regional Library Network is considering purchase of at least one subscription to Bibliofile. We have some assumptions about potential use but would like you to verify them. Please, take a moment and answer the questions below and return to:

Linda Hulbert, Assistant Director Technical Services  
St. Louis U-Medical Center Library  
1402 S. Grand  
St. Louis, MO 63104

Please circle the most appropriate answer:

I am familiar with the Bibliofile service. Yes No

If the Network were to purchase a Bibliofile subscription, I would use it. Yes No

I would need it for one month two months three months more

I would need it throughout the year once twice three four times

This would have to be done at least partially on a cost recovery basis. What is the maximum you could pay to borrow the software per month? \$25 \$50 \$75

We presently have hardware that could be lent with the software. In order to cover the wear and tear on the machines, again there has to be a charge. What is the maximum amount you could pay to borrow the computer and Cd player per month? \$10 \$20 \$30 \$40 \$50

I have a PC or PC compatible machine. Yes No

I have a CD-ROM player which is/can be attached to that PC. Yes No

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ INSTITUTION \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your time and cooperation.



# JOBLINE

## Library Director:

The Maplewood Public Library seeks a dynamic leader to be responsible for all aspects of library administration, as well as materials selection, cataloging, and reference service. Library serves a population of 10,000, with 5FTE, \$150,000 budget, automated circulation/catalog systems. Candidate must be versatile, innovative, and interested in planning new services; needs strong public service orientation. Qualifications: MLS with public library experience; working knowledge of microcomputers and library automation; ability to communicate with Board, staff and patrons; ability to work evening and weekend hours. Send resume and letter to: Search Committee, Maplewood Public Library, 7601 Manchester Ave., St. Louis, MO 63143 before 4/7/90.

## Consultant:

Two Positions: to work with public libraries in developing and improving library services. Knowledge of library planning, microcomputer technology, and trend in rural library service a must as a high tolerance for ambiguity. Position requires ALA accredited MLS. Other requirements include experience either as a public library director, as director or consultant for a public or multitype cooperative library network, or in a state library setting. Applicants with an ALA accredited MLS and at least 5 years experience in a public library in an administrative capacity will be considered. Salary \$24,000 minimum plus benefits. Positions are located in southeast and southwest Missouri. If interested in southeast Missouri please send letter of application, resume, and list of references to: DeWayne Beckemeier, Director; Popular Bluff Public Library; 318 N. Main; Popular Bluff, MO 63901. If interested in southwest Missouri send materials to: Patricia Andermann, Director; Kinderhook Regional Library; 135 Harwood Ave.; Lebanon, MO 65536. Both positions will remain open until filled.

## Virginia Terry

Virginia Terry, retired St. Charles Elementary Library Coordinator, was honored recently when the new George M. Null school library in St. Charles was named for her. David Brouse, Null Principal, presented Mrs. Terry with a plaque officially dedicating the Virginia W. Terry Library.

Mrs. Terry completed her MLS at Kansas State Teachers College at Emporia in 1970 and worked for several years in branches and special services at St. Louis Public Library. Following that she returned to the St. Charles School District, where she had previously taught English, to become the coordinator of nine elementary libraries. Since her retirement she has taken on the job of archivist for Lindenwood College and continues her active participation in Lindenwood alumni affairs and AAUW. She is also the new president of the Greater St. Louis Library Club.

## Head of Departmental Library Services:

The Olin Library System of Washington University in St. Louis is seeking a talented and dynamic individual to serve as Head of Departmental Library Services. The Olin Library System is engaged in a multi-year project of strengthening and expanding its collections and services to correlate with the University's program of enriched research and teaching activities. The Olin Library System consists of a large central library and eight satellite subject libraries.

The Head of Departmental Library Services is responsible for the development of a smoothly functioning, user-responsive system of support for research and instruction for users of the Art and Architecture, Biology, Chemistry, Earth and Planetary Sciences, East Asian, Mathematics and Music Libraries. This will include development and maintenance of (1) an appropriate local collection, (2) rapid physical or electronic access to off-site material, and (3) bibliographic instruction in traditional areas as well as in emerging technologies. The Head will be expected to establish a close and cooperative working relationship between the departmental libraries and Olin Library and with other relevant special Libraries. This position reports to the Associate Dean for Collections and Services.

Qualifications: Candidate must have an MLS from an ALA accredited library school, second masters preferred. At least three years of supervisory experience, preferably in a research library environment; excellent communication skills; commitment to patron service; an understanding of the information needs of a research university; and the ability to work effectively in a collegial manner in a changing environment.

For full consideration applicants should send a resume and the names of three references by April 1, 1990, to: Virginia F. Toliver; Director of Administration and Planning; Olin Library; Campus Box 106f; One Brookings Drive; St. Louis, MO 63130-4899.

## PLEASE NOTE!!!

Doane Marketing Research Library has moved. The new address is: 1807 Park 270 Dr., Ste. 300 St. Louis MO 63146 (314) 878-7707

## New Librarian Named

Marylou Pierce Fox has been named Director of the Webster Groves Public Library. She has more than 25 years experience, most recently as Director, Library Services for Arthur Andersen & Co. in San Francisco, California. She completed her undergraduate degree at Northern Illinois University and holds a Masters Degree in Library and Informational Studies from the University of California at Berkeley.



Washington University presents...

## Sherlock Holmes' Library

Wednesday, April 18, 7:30 p.m., Simon Hall Auditorium

To most people, Sherlock Holmes was just a fictional character in the stories of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. But to the legion of avid fans and scholars of Sherlockiana, Holmes was not only the epitome of the great detective, he embodied the idea of the Renaissance man. His keen intellect and deductive powers knew no bounds, and he mastered a range of subjects in the arts and sciences.

For Sherlockians the world over, Holmes lives on through the Canon: four novels and 56 short stories that serve as fertile ground for the imaginations of thousands of persons active in Sherlockiana.

Since Holmes was a scholar extraordinary and was primarily self-taught

(according to the Doyle stories), it is logical to assume he held a broad-based library. What Holmes collected, what books he consulted for his cases, and other aspects of his personal library will be explored at the April 18 Bookmark Society program by Jeffrey L. Michelman.

Mr. Michelman, a partner in the Clayton law firm of Popkin & Stern, specializes in intellectual property, law, and government contracts. He is a passionate aficionado of Sherlock Holmes. Since being introduced to the complete works 20 years ago, Mr. Michelman has directed his extra-professional energies toward the study of Holmes. He is a member of the Baker Street Irregulars (BSI), the national organization; the Sherlock



Jeffrey L. Michelman

Holmes Society of London; and locally, the Noble Bachelors Scion Society of the BSI.

Mr. Michelman has contributed substantially to Sherlockian scholarship, having authored monographs on the subject and having published articles in society publications. A fervent collector, he has an extensive collection of Sherlock Holmes books and memorabilia.

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## CLOSING FOR INVENTORY

In preparation for a move to a new facility, the Library and Archives of the Missouri Historical Society will be closed to the public to inventory its collections from April 1 through July 4, 1990. The collections will not be accessible for research by phone, mail, or in person during that time.

*Please keep this in mind as you plan your research.*

For more information, please contact the Library and Archives at 314/454-3130.

NETnews is published nine/ten times a year by the St. Louis Regional Library Network to report on Network activities, meetings, and items of interest to the membership and wider library community.

News, reviews and comments are welcome. Send information to Bernyce Christiansen, 9425 Big Bend Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63119. You may call Bernyce at the SLRLN office, (314) 965-1305.

A copy of NETnews is sent to each member. Nonmember subscriptions are \$30/year.

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