

# NETnews

St. Louis Regional Library Network

May/June 1991 Vol. 3 No. 6

## NETWORK COUNCIL

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## MISSOURI RESOLUTIONS for White House Conference

The following resolutions on the themes of literacy, democracy, and productivity are listed in priority order. The first three of the ten resolutions on each theme are listed below. Following the resolutions is a copy of the address that Fred Raithel gave at the SLRLN dinner explaining the Governor's Conference and the preparation for the White House Conference.

### DEMOCRACY

1. Libraries need to receive funds to continue their role as equity institutions within the democratic commonwealth. Persons at all levels of society must have access to information, and no citizen should be kept from using that information because of cost. Libraries will resist the economic censorship that tends to make information have-nots out of those who are poor. Persons at all levels of society must have access to information.

2. Libraries also need to be politically ready to face increasing attempts at censorship in a society in which there is a declining sense of cultural commonality brought on in part by forces of change inherent within the Information Age.

3. Information technology is very expensive, and most libraries must keep up with demand for traditional materials at the same time as they meet sophisticated demands for online and machine-readable information. With that in mind, library funding agencies must develop effective grant mechanisms which help all kinds of libraries gain access to the latest in information technology.

### LITERACY

1. Public and private funding agencies which assist libraries will develop funding programs to assist all libraries in the development of collections, space and programs to help literacy self-learners and their volunteer tutors. Special attention will be given to literacy self-learners whose primary language is not English, the disabled and disadvantaged, people in rural areas, minorities, inmates of penal institutions, and the young on the verge of entering the work force.

## COUNCIL

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2. Libraries of all kinds will be encouraged to develop partnerships with organizations actively engaged in promoting literacy among children and adults and in helping to overcome illiteracy throughout the entire population. Libraries and community agencies will determine the best vehicles for outreach to special populations that underuse library literacy programs. Federal and state governments will develop funding mechanisms which assist public libraries in the development of these programs.

3. State libraries should be encouraged and given appropriate funding to extend a full range of library services into all areas and to develop literacy programs, either alone or jointly with other groups or agencies, in those same areas.

### PRODUCTIVITY

1. Federal and state governments will provide funds that enable all libraries to automate their databases and to purchase computer and telecommunications technology. This technology will connect all information institutions into networks providing up-to-date information necessary for individuals and businesses to operate in the environment of international competition and cooperation.

2. Federal state and local governments and private sector agencies and companies will act separately and cooperatively to provide to public, university and school libraries the financial support they need to build their library and information resources so they can contribute to improved productivity and economic development.

3. Libraries will cooperate with other concerned agencies to offer information services that help develop a more efficient work force. (Examples: career information and job search center; college and trade school information center; consortia arrangements with area job-help offices to provide appropriate library information for students seeking skills or educational certification to enter or re-enter the labor force.)

### White House Conference on Library and Information Services

Fred Raithel gave this speech at the annual dinner meeting on May 15, 1991. Originally, Virginia Young who is chair of the Missouri Governor's Conference Planning Committee, and more importantly at this stage, serves on the White House Conference on Library and Information Services Advisory Committee, planned on joining us for this banquet. Virginia was called to Washington at the last moment for a meeting on the White House Conference. She serves on that planning committee with 29 other library contributors including the Librarian of Congress.

Last year at the Missouri Library Association annual conference in Kansas City, I had the privilege of selecting the theme for the MLA Conference as Vice-President/President-Elect. I chose the topic "Libraries: A celebration of Ideas" because I sensed over the years as a Librarian the sometimes mystical and humbling experience of the power of the presence of centuries of ideas while walking down the aisles of the library. The



Three major speakers addressed library issues at the Missouri Governor's Conference in November. Former Senator Thomas F. Eagleton spoke on "Library and Information Services for Democracy". Eagleton reminded us that democracy depends upon an educated and informed populace. "If the ability to read and the ability to use books and the ability to comprehend ideas as emerged from those books and the ability to read poetry and to appreciate its grandeur and its romance or whatever it may be--if all of that is for an ever-dwindling part of the American experience,...then democracy cannot function."

Dr. Lois A. Bader, professor at Michigan State University presented "Library and Information Services for Literacy." Dr. Bader reminded us that "our libraries and our schools have held great promise for our democratic society and for some... the promise was kept". For others the promise has not yet been realized. Numerous studies conducted in the United States have found the lowest levels of literacy among the poor. Dr. Bader adds, "Thus, literacy is not a single issue, but rather is tied to other aspects of poverty--problems related to health, childcare, employment, substance abuse, and hopelessness."

A. Drue Jennings, President of Kansas City Power & Light Company spoke on "Library and Information Services for Productivity". Jennings told us that productivity is not about efficiency experts with stopwatches doing time-and-motion studies of workers. Instead, he suggested "productivity is the sum total of a company's management capability, its corporate culture, the state of its technology as well as the personal quality of its work force." In short, the successful company manages information effectively.

The November Governor's Conference brought together several hundred delegates to Jefferson City to discuss library services and their implications for literacy, democracy, and productivity. Around twenty observers attended the Mo. Governor's Conference with the delegates. About 14 facilitators assisted in the delegate discussion groups. Resolutions were passed on the three themes of literacy, democracy, and productivity.

During this Missouri Conference, 12 delegates were selected to attend the White House Conference (3 in each of the 4 areas). An alternate delegate was elected for each of the 4 areas, also. Each delegate who agreed to be a candidate for selection to the White House Conference submitted a brief biographic sketch and a position statement before the actual state conference. Each candidate was asked to speak to their group on their position statement for libraries.

By the end of the afternoon at the close of the Governor's Conference, around a dozen resolutions had been debated and passed on each of the three themes of literacy, democracy, and productivity. Several members of the planning committee continued to work throughout that evening in developing the final language of the resolutions. This subcommittee smoothed out and edited the language but not the content of the resolutions that were passed.

Earlier this year, Virginia Young with several of us joining her, presented the recommendations from last November's Governor's Conference to Governor Ashcroft in his office. At that time the Governor acknowledged the important role of libraries in society. The final recommendations from the 2nd White House Conference on Library and Information Services will be presented to President Bush and to the U.S. Congress.

It is now time for the delegates to meet and begin work on the passage of Missouri resolutions at the White House Conference. Delegates to the White House Conference met in March at Lincoln University in Jefferson City to review the recommendations from the Governor's Conference that would be forwarded to Washington. After considerable discussion, the delegates and alternates added an additional recommendation calling for the establishment of a National Endowment for Library and Information Services. The Missouri resolutions were sent to Washington by the end of March to be included in the White House Conference deliberations.

During late May and June, we are providing tours of several libraries in Missouri. We are planning to visit the internationally-renowned Linda Hall Library in Kansas City, a school library (Columbia Public), a public library (Callaway County Public Library), an academic library (Lincoln University), and a special library.

The agenda for the second White House Conference on Library and Information Services is an agenda for the future of library services. This state and national political visibility provides a unique opportunity to forge a new partnership both within the profession and with library supporters, government officials, and the general public.

In response to the enormous people resources unveiled to us at the Governor's Conference, the Missouri Library Association is working closely with the Governor's Conference Planning Committee to encourage wider participation by the Missouri Conference delegates in MLA. Several State Conference Planning Committee members are working with MLA to broaden support for libraries. Dr. Glen Holt has agreed to serve as chair of the MLA Long Range Planning Committee. Don Gaertner has accepted appointment as chair of the Nominating Committee in order to identify top level MLA members around the State for key leadership positions in MLA.

It's time that we celebrated libraries and showcased their value to our local, state, and national communities. What better way to acknowledge the importance of libraries than to have begun the celebration with our statewide professional association conference last year and end the MLA conference year with a second national Conference on Library and Information Services. The first White House Conference resulted in increased funding for libraries. It's time that we returned to Washington and transformed our Missouri resolutions into effective national public policy.

In an Information Age, access to information is the key to personal productivity and achievement. This realization is suggested as a reason for the changes in Eastern Europe. A society that controls the flow of information cannot support personal productivity.

As a delegation to the Conference, we must articulate a clear vision of the future of libraries. Libraries are moving

celebration of libraries this past year began with the MLA annual conference and continued through the excitement of the Missouri Governor's Conference and, now, the upcoming July White House Conference. In many ways, these library events are inseparable; they build on one another. All of these events are celebrations of libraries and the important role they play in the intellectual and cultural life of our respective communities. With this local, state, and national attention directed on library services, we library professionals have an unprecedented opportunity to showcase the rich resources of libraries and to direct future public policy in order to enhance library services for all the citizens of our nation.

Let me give you a little history behind the White House Conference. The idea of a White House Conference on Library and Information Services began at an ALA Conference in Kansas City in 1957. (Virginia was present at this meeting and I wish that she could be here to describe that moment to us.) A gentleman representing Massachusetts at meetings of ALTA, the American Library Trustee Association, proposed a White House Conference on Libraries. Not only did the original idea come from a trustee of a public library, but trustees have been active in securing the authorization and funding for both White House Conferences--the 1st White House Conference in 1979 and the upcoming 2nd White House Conference in July. A White House Conference involves a wide range of individuals in the development of recommendations for future public policies. There have been White House Conferences on aging, a drug-free America, and productivity. With issues of national concern addressable at a White House Conference, it only seems appropriate that the special role of libraries in society be addressed at the federal level.

The 2nd White House Conference is authorized by Public Law 100-382 which was signed by President Reagan in 1988. The Conference is administered by the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science. NCLIS is a 15-member nonpartisan, independent agency established in 1970 to advise the President and Congress on national policy matters affecting libraries and information services. Resolutions for the 2nd White House Conference will be adopted by the delegates around the three themes of the federal role in expanding literacy, increasing productivity, and strengthening democracy through changes and improvements in library and information services. The resolutions from the first White House Conference in 1979 featured deliberations on predominantly public library issues. Final recommendations from the first White House Conference addressed concerns of intellectual freedom, access to information, literacy, and meeting the needs of minorities including physically handicapped populations. The second White House Conference will address issues for academic, school, and special, as well as public libraries. In fact, two of the three Missouri library professional delegates are school media professionals. The cross section of delegates brings me to the actual composition of the Missouri delegation.

The law authorizing the second White House Conference not only provides funding for a 2nd conference but mandates the composition of the official delegates to the conference. The distribution mandated by PL 100-382 is:

- 1/4 delegates represent library/information professionals
- 1/4 represent local, state, federal government officials
- 1/4 represent Friends, trustees, other library supporters
- 1/4 represent the general public

This cross section of delegates' interests and backgrounds assures that the Conference will generate resolutions which reflect the diversity and multi-cultural information needs of Americans. In President Bush's written greetings to the planners of the second White House Conference, the President states:

"I am committed to working with you and with others, both in the public and private sectors, to enhance our nation's library services and information systems. By examining the diverse needs of our population and by exploring ways to make the maximum use of new information technology, we can bring the rewards of learning to more and more Americans and ensure that our Nation's libraries continue to serve as a valuable source of knowledge and training. Most important, improving the Nation's library and information services may be one of the best investments we make in our campaign to end illiteracy in the United States."

The White House Conference is generally preceded by State conferences. The purpose of the State Conference is to identify issues that need to be addressed and resolved. Planning for the State Conference began in early 1988. Virginia Young, chair of the Planning Committee, and Monteria Hightower, Associate Commissioner for Libraries and State Librarian, appointed a Missouri Governor's Conference Planning Committee. Virginia Young served as Chairperson of the Conference and Stuart Symington, Jr. served as Vice-Chair. The planning committee was composed of representatives from each of the above designated groups-- library/information professionals, library supporters, local, state, federal government officials, and the general public.

Virginia was also instrumental in getting Governor John Ashcroft's attention. The Governor issued a proclamation on January 17, 1990 designating 1990 as "The Year of Library and Information Services in Missouri". The proclamation stated the importance of libraries and their role in "developing and maintaining the quality of life for all citizens".

After months of planning, the Missouri Governor's Conference on Library and Information Services was held on Friday and Saturday, November 16-17, 1990. In addition to about 200 delegates from the four categories, approximately a dozen educational exhibitors were invited to participate in the conference. These educational exhibitors included: Center for Independent Study-UMC; Dept. of Library Science & Information Services-CSMU; Extension Teaching-UMC; Missouri Assn. of School Librarians; Missouri Dept. of Economic Development; Missouri Library Assn.; MLNC; Missouri Special Libraries Assn.; Missouri State Archives; Missouri State Library; MU School of Library & Informational Science; Springfield-Greene County Library Literacy Van; Wolfner Library.

from a printed holdings philosophy to an electronic network access. By providing access to information for all citizens, the Library can be a democratic society's commitment to equality and productivity.

As A. Drue Jennings, President and CEO of Kansas City Power and Light said, "A library is just as important a part of our infrastructure as any road, bridge, public building or utility. Even so, and as essential as libraries are to cultural literacy and critical thinking, they are not only under-used but overlooked in most of our thinking and planning for America's future. Hopefully, the Governor's Conference and the White House Conference to follow...can help more libraries back into the mainstream of this nation's educational mix where they belong."

**L a u m e i e r  
Sculpture Park  
Library wants:**

**R E P L A C E M E N T  
C O P I E S:**

Art Forum

1971 Mar-June-Oct-Nov

1981 May

1984 Oct

1985 Jan

Art News

1982 Jan-Mar-Summer-Sept

1983 Jan

1984 Summer-Dec

1985 Oct-Nov

1986 Feb-Apr-Oct

1988 Feb

Art in America

1973 May-June

1974 Jan-Feb-Sept-Oct

1976 Jan thru June-Nov-Dec

1977 May-June

1983 Mar-June

Art Journal

1988 entire year

1989 Fall

If you can help, call Barb  
Mykrantz, 821-1209

**BY-LAW CHANGE PASSES**

The By-Law change allowing for a member-at-large for the Network Council has passed. The following is the change, that accomplishes the merging of the two special groups and the two medical groups. These groups have requested this merging because finding a council representative in many of these one person libraries is difficult:

The new by-law reads:

The network shall be composed of one representative from each of the following type-of-library groups: large academic, small academic, large public, small public, special (including both corporate and not-for-profit), health -related (including small and large medical), public school, private school. Members-at-large will be elected from the general membership to make a total of ten council members.

Members have voted in Vicky Witte from Washington University, Olin Library to fill the member-at-large vacancy.

**NEW SMALL ACADEMIC REPRESENTATIVE**

Linda Bigelow from Jefferson College Library was elected as the new small academic representative to the Network Council.

**NEW LARGE ACADEMIC REPRESENTATIVE**

Gary Denué from Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville Lovejoy Library was elected as the new large academic representative to the Network Council.

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## INFO-PASS UPDATE

### Add:

Valley Park Community Library

CP: Susan D. Harris, (314) 225-5608  
S: M,T,W,F: 1-6 TH 1-8 SA 10-2  
OP: yes  
R: no AV; 2 wk loan

### Revision:

St. Louis University- Pius  
CP: Doris Beeson, (314) 658-3087  
OA: Rose Torres, Lora Vogel, Michael  
Higgins, Anne Holderread

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.

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