

# Social Responsibilities Round Table

OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

N E W S L E T T E R

number 134

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## from the srrt coordinator:

It is early May as I write my column, and Buffalo, New York is awash with the freshness of spring. My daily commute is made more delightful as I watch twice daily the Earth's verdant carpet being unfolded from its wintery confines. Along the New York State Thruway yesterday morning I saw the brown and newly greened mats. Today those green mats burst white with the first blooms of the white trillium or white wake-robin (*Trillium grandaeflorum*).

The thoughts of springtime newness allow me to address issues important to SRRT. I'll begin with a request that you mark your calendars for the Annual Conference ALA Membership Meetings. Membership I is Saturday, July 8, 4-5 p.m., where the "featured discussion" is the draft report of the ALA Education Task Force on External Accreditation. Membership II is Monday, July 10, 11 a.m.-12 noon, with comments and discussions about ALA's statements on filtering.

What is important about your attending these meetings (and strongly encouraging your friends and colleagues to do likewise) is what is NOT listed on these preliminary agenda items. They include issues that will have a significant impact on the future of SRRT. Specifically with the new, official "ALA-Speaks-With-One-Voice" policy.

Our concerns were raised at the Midwinter Round Table Coordinating Committee meeting at which it was clearly outlined that SRRT and other such units CANNOT send their own position statements, passed resolutions, and other notices out to the public. This prohibition is intact even with disclaimers that they represent only the opinions of, say SRRT and NOT ALA. We pick up our discussions in July when RTCC members will meet with ALA Staff, including the association's lawyer for clarification about this policy, and an explanation for how ALA plans to address the issues related to dissenting opinions, viewpoints, and actions contrary to ALA's majority voice.

How serious is this? We were told at the RTCC meeting that units violating this policy could be dissolved and individuals expelled from ALA! This is one issue that needs to be addressed at a Membership Meeting so Council and the ALA Executive Board can hear a louder message that this policy is flawed. ALA is an organization made from MANY

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# So Long!

GET DIGITAL

That is either a goodbye from us, or a description of how long we had to work on the SRRT Newsletter, we are not sure which. Jessamyn and I, relatively fresh out of grad school, took on the co-editorship of the Newsletter almost 3 years ago. It's been great, and interesting, and we thank you all for your contributions (and thank you Fred for your kind words, which we've buried on page 11). And many many thanks to Adrienne Julius, the tireless book review editor, who produced great quality book reviews issue after issue! Actually, the three years (and 10 issues of the Newsletter) have passed by quickly. In that time, we have refrained from editorializing much, so please forgive this final blast of opinion from your humble servants:

Here's my main wish for SRRT: It needs to embrace the digital future, and by embrace I mean "use to our advantage." I've seen too much crying and agonizing at SRRT meetings and on the list (SRRTAC-L) over digital issues, from the pointless arguments over the direction of Library Schools away from [traditional] library service (newsflash, kids, you've already lost that battle), to the refusal to allow this Newsletter to go entirely electronic (and thus freeing up money for much better SRRT purposes than killing more trees). So why not work on bringing the SRRT perspective to digital issues instead of bemoaning the evils of digitization? That train ain't stopping folks, and you better get on it, or you risk not only becoming irrelevant, but ceasing to be able to help those that SRRT has traditionally looked out for. It's not about the loss of the human touch, it's about bringing the human touch to the digital world.

Ken Thompson  
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Hey there ... like Ken I've been trying to act as co-editor primarily to be a conduit for SRRT members to communicate information to other SRRT members. This has worked well at times and badly at others. Some newsletters have gone out full of interesting articles and commentary and some –especially the recent ones – have included little more than resolutions, reviews and some but not all task force reports. SRRT needs to evaluate the mission of the newsletter and determine whether it usefully serves its purpose before getting another editor or two to hassle and harangue SRRT members to contribute for another three years. If you use the newsletter, contribute to the newsletter! If not, please find another useful way to convey information to the SRRT membership. I side fully with Ken that more immediate means of communication of SRRT issues would make us a much more effective activist organization. Let's try to not just act on SRRT issues twice a year but continue to be a force for effecting social change year round.

Jessamyn West  
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although none of the above people are actually working on the newsletter after this issue.

Views expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily those of ALA/SRRT. The editors reserve the right to edit submitted material as necessary or as whimsy strikes.

Next deadline: 10/15. Please be nice to the next editor(s).

## SRRTAC-L

The SRRT discussion group SRRTAC-L is open to all SRRT members and is a relatively low-traffic [less than five messages a day unless there's a hot topic brewing] way of keeping up with SRRT's issues and discussions in-between conferences. Help decide SRRT's future directions and join in some lively debates.

If you would like to join the SRRT discussion group, send the following message to [listproc@ala.org](mailto:listproc@ala.org):

*subscribe SRRTAC-L [your first name] [your last name]*

## SRRT'S WEB SITE

Want more information on SRRT? Want to find contact information for the many SRRT Task Forces? Turn your browser toward the official SRRT web site:

<http://www.libr.org/SRRT>

# SRRT's ALA Councilor's Report

Go, Al!

As your SRRT Councilor, I am planning on providing an e-mail report on the activities of the ALA Council after each meeting, and then providing a report for the SRRT Newsletter. Here is the first report which is mainly based on the Midwinter Meeting, but also includes a bit of follow-up from the ALA Council listserv discussions.

1. The ALA Council discussed the new policy on "Speaking with One Voice" in the very unusual Committee of the Whole mode. This provided a way to introduce ALA's lawyer who told us that a unit's actions could cause legal problems for the ALA as a whole including affecting ALA's tax exempt status. Of course, there is absolutely no evidence of any past problems, and tax status is a false issue on its face. Several of us put the issue to them forcefully that SRRT never wanted to speak for ALA and that we didn't do it. We expressed our strong objection to the

ALA Executive Board's prohibition against us using our letterhead with disclaimer for sending our messages forward. According to the Executive Board, there is no appropriate mechanism to communicate our views outside of the Association. We argued for our freedom of expression and against ALA censorship. The discussion ended without any proposed action. This is certainly not the end, and it is quite likely that we will again find ourselves called before the Executive Board to defend ourselves. This could turn into a life and death matter for SRRT.

2. The ALA Council passed our WTO resolution endorsing a previously passed IFLA position. The IFLA position in turn had been based on a resolution of the Canadian Library Association. I had previously brought this to the attention of the ALA International Relations Committee, which was embarrassed to be lagging behind IFLA and the CLA. The IRC and the International Relations Round Table endorsed our resolution with slight amendments enabling it to sail through Council. This was a clear SRRT victory.

3. The Council rejected our Socially Responsible Investment resolution again. If nothing else, we finally shook loose ALA's portfolio. Although the Endowment Trustees claim that they already practice socially responsible investment, a look at the list of stocks clearly proves them wrong. The debate continued on the ALA Council listserv for several weeks after the meeting. I am working on getting a professional analysis of the portfolio, but I don't have any result so far. Any help would be appreciated.

*[Editor's Note: In an update, Al Kagan reports that*

*the analysis by Citizen's Funds of ALA's portfolio was completed. Citizen's Funds reported that, according to their criteria, of ALA's 213 holdings, 62 companies appeared on CF's "Approved" list, 40 companies appear on their "Rejected" list, and 111 companies had not been rated by them.]*

4. The Council passed a resolution endorsing the MLS as a requirement for the ALA Executive Director, but rejected applying this to ALA Staff Directors. This was half a victory.

5. The Council rejected a compromise proposal on new requirements for a quorum at Membership Meetings. We are stuck with the 1% quorum or about 580 people at present. The compromise would have given up the ability of the Membership Meeting to overturn Council actions. Some progressive members of Council rejected the compromise as giving up too much for possible use someday in the future.

6. ALA Council voted to support Dickinson College librarian Song Yongyi who was then detained in China for collecting already released documents on the Cultural Revolution. The IRC had previously refused to act on his behalf and looked pretty bad. After a discussion of Councilors who are members of SRRT, I added SRRT's name to the resolution. Mr. Song has since been released due to widespread pressure of the kind exerted by our actions.

7. After some discussion among SRRT members, Herb Biblo nominated Mark Rosenzweig to run for the ALA Executive Board. Although we knew he could not get elected, the idea was to provide a forum for Mark to express SRRT concerns. He did an admirable job at the Candidates Forum and received 17 votes, more than we might have expected.

8. In response to Sandy Berman's previous lobbying, ALCTS issued a 48-page report on subject headings relating to the Poor People's Policy (1999-2000 CD#4). A special task force chaired by Ruth Bogan wrote the report which contains 33 proposals. The recommendations are not formal subject heading proposals, but only serve to say whether or not the proposals are "reasonable additions" to LCSH. The Task Force recommended 15 of the new headings, recommended against 14 headings, did not consider 1 heading ("Democratic socialism") as out of scope of their task, thought 1 proposal could not be considered ("Classism in capital punishment"), and failed to reach consensus on changing "Poor" to "Poor people." To request the full report, call 1-800-545-2333. I hope that ALCTS will inform us on whether or not the Library of Congress adopts their recommendations.

9. The ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee proposed a resolution (1999-00 DC#19.1) that was adopted concerning

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# Resolutions

**RESOLV-A-MUNDO**

## **RESOLUTION ON SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT**

WHEREAS Council Document 55 (1998) on Socially Responsible Investment was referred to BARC for financial implications on June 29, 1998; and

WHEREAS a model code based on the South African Council of Churches investment code was attached to the original resolution; and

WHEREAS a report was presented to the ALA Council on January 21, 1999 (1998-99 CD #3) asking for more time to develop additional information; and

WHEREAS the latest report from the ALA Executive Board's Finance and Audit Subcommittee did not seriously examine the various types of investment options available, and made no reference to the model investment code (1999-00 EBD #4.4, November 7, 1999); and

WHEREAS the report only advocates the possibility of individual challenges to specific investments after the fact; and

WHEREAS there is no acknowledgement in the report that socially responsible investments can yield high returns; and

WHEREAS the value of socially responsible investment is an inherent value; and

WHEREAS the report incorrectly dismisses the value of investments in mutual funds of any type; therefore be it

RESOLVED that SRRT requests that an ad hoc committee of Council be empowered to revisit the socially responsible investment issue and report back at the July 2000 Annual Meeting.

*Moved by Mark Rosenzweig, Councilor-at-Large  
Seconded by Al Kagan, SRRT Councilor*

*Approved by SRRT Action Council, January 17, 2000*

## **RESOLUTION ON WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION POLICIES AFFECTING LIBRARIES**

WHEREAS the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) and the Canadian Library Association (CLA) have taken similar positions regarding new World Trade Organization (WTO) proposals affecting libraries; and

WHEREAS the national delegates to the November 1999 WHO Ministerial Conference in Seattle were unable to

proceed due to large-scale protests by a wide coalition of environmental, labor, religious and civil society organizations; and

WHEREAS the American Library Association (ALA) sent an official representative to observe the WTO meeting; and

WHEREAS the WTO agenda could negatively affect publicly supported libraries as explained in the IFLA and CLA position statements; therefore be it

RESOLVED that SRRT endorses and requests that ALA endorse the IFLA WTO position statement; and be it further

RESOLVED that SRRT requests ALA to work in coalition with other organizations to protect libraries from potential negative effects of the evolving WTO agenda.

*Moved by Al Kagan, SRRT Councilor Seconded by  
Mark Rosenzweig, Councilor-at-Large*

*Approved by SRRT Action Council, January 17, 2000*

## **RESOLUTION ON CUBAN LIBRARIES**

WHEREAS the United States has engaged in a documented forty-year war of invasion, assassination attempts, propaganda and economic blockade against Cuba, which has contributed to the limitation of the democratic rights of the Cuban people; and

WHEREAS this policy has also restricted the democratic rights of the U.S. people, whose access to information has been limited and whose right to travel freely to Cuba has been denied; and

WHEREAS we, as librarians, do not condone the restriction of free expression anywhere in the world - including Cuba and the United States - but we believe that, as U.S. citizens, the best way to support the extension of democratic in both countries is to end the economic blockade against Cuba and to normalize relations between the two countries; and

WHEREAS in October 1999, the FAIFE committee of IFLA published a report concerning the alleged intimidation of individuals in Cuba calling themselves "independent librarians," based on information provided by a group calling itself the "Friends of Cuban Libraries," and a United States Agency for International Development (USAID)-supported Florida website called CubaNet; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of USAID is to advance the foreign policy interests of the United States; and

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FURTHER RESOLVEDS

WHEREAS the co-chairman of the "Friends of Cuban Libraries" is a Cuban expatriate economist, who also works for the U.S. government's Radio Marti; and

WHEREAS, this group of "independent librarians" are not librarians, but political dissidents of various professions apparently establishing centers of information in their homes or storefronts, and supported by funds and materials from such organizations as Freedom House, which is subsidized by the U.S. government; and

WHEREAS, any U.S.-based organization calling itself "Friends of Cuban Libraries" which does not forthrightly call for an end to the U.S. blockade against Cuba, is no friend of libraries, freedom of expression or democratic rights; therefore

be it

RESOLVED that

1) The Social Responsibilities Round Table of ALA rejects the program and position advocated by the "Friends of Cuban Libraries" as an instrument of the continuing propaganda campaign being waged against Cuba by right-wing Cuban extremists in the U.S. and financed by U.S. government agencies;

2) SRRT supports an increase of exchanges between U.S. librarians and Cuban librarians;

3) SRRT joins the British organization, Cuban Libraries Support Group which advocates a positive program of interaction with, and support for, libraries and librarians in Cuba;

4) SRRT calls for an immediate end to the travel ban, which restricts the right of all but "licensed" U.S. citizens to see Cuba for themselves;

5) SRRT calls for an immediate end to the blockade against Cuba as the best way to support the rights of all people in Cuba to free expression and self-determination, rights which are best exercised in a state of peace, not war;

6) SRRT further calls for the complete normalization of diplomatic and trade relations between the two countries as the best way to promote the exercise of democracy and free expression in both countries.

*Moved by Ann Sparanese Seconded by Mark Rosenzweig*

*Approved by SRRT Action Council, January 17, 2000*

TASK FORCE REPORTS

# Task Force Reports

## Alternatives In Print

<http://libr.org/AIP>

The Alternatives In Print Task Force has a lot going on. Program descriptions for the annual conference follow below. We also have some projects in progress that you might like to get involved in. These include the annual Eubanks award, which is given by an annually rotating panel of judges; Counterpoise, a review journal for alternative literature (about to see a new administrative structure that you might like to get involved in); a project to develop a core list of alternative publications for medium sized libraries; a Web site; A biannual directory of *Alternative Publishers of Books in North America*, which we would like to put on the web via a database; and a midwinter discussion group that needs planning.

Here are AIP's programs for the annual conference.

Program: *EROTICA IN LIBRARIES*  
Saturday, July 8, 2pm to 4pm

Sexy stories and pictures in the stacks? Given that erotica and all types of sexually explicit materials are available now via library computers, isn't it time to address this neglected subject in public libraries? If erotica is widely available in chain bookstores like Towers and Borders, isn't it true that erotic fiction and pictures now fit within the "community values" of at least some communities?

In this session, we move beyond contentious debates about whether or not libraries SHOULD collect erotica, to a critical examination of what erotica a library COULD collect. The main focus will be on bibliographic selection along a number of different dimensions. Options will be discussed for various levels of explicitness: PG, R, and X. We will also address different genres and formats, including for example poetry, romance, SF, photography, art, graphic novels, and periodicals. Different sexual subject areas will also be covered: "vanilla" heterosexual, lesbian, gay, vampire, SM, anything goes, as well as factors like literary quality, audience, and trends (such as the current fad for anthologies and "classic porn" novels like those of Henry Miller). Finally, panelists will share tips on

developing selection criteria, finding reviews, and developing relationships with publishers.

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This year's Eubanks Award will be given at the start of the Erotica Program.

The Annual Free Speech Buffet  
Monday, July 10, 6pm to 9pm

Enjoy hors d'oeuvres and alternative literature at the annual Free Speech Buffet, held this year at Ann Sather, a popular and community oriented restaurant near Clark and Belmont. Local area independent publishers present books and periodicals that lie outside the usual review stream and offer perspectives not found in the mainstream press (or on the exhibits floor). Librarians and small publishers exchange ideas at this casual social event. Donations are needed to cover the cost of the food; please contact Julie Herrada to help, at [jherrada@umich.edu](mailto:jherrada@umich.edu).

## **Hunger, Homelessness and Poverty Task Force**

"The American Library Association promotes equal access to information for all persons, and recognizes the urgent need to respond to the increasing number of poor children, adults, and families in America." (Poor People's Policy)

The Hunger, Homelessness and Poverty Task Force will be sponsoring a program titled "Economic Barriers to Library Access" at ALA's annual conference in Chicago on Saturday July 8 from 2-4 p.m. The program will focus on the factors affecting equal access to information that are noted in ALA's "Library Services for the Poor" policy i.e. illiteracy, illness, social isolation, homelessness, hunger, and discrimination. Pat Gowens, founder of Welfare Warriors and editor of Welfare Mothers Voice (Milwaukee, Wisconsin), will be the keynote speaker. The following presenters will be on the panel: Sanford Berman, former Head of Cataloging at Hennepin County Library in Minnesota and co-editor of Alternative Library Literature; and Dale Lipschultz, Literacy Officer, OLOS, ALA; and Kathleen de la Pena McCook, Coordinator of Community Outreach for the College of Arts & Sciences and Professor, School of Library & Information Science at the University of South Florida.

The program will be moderated by Karen Venturella, chair of the SRRT Task Force on Hunger, Homelessness and Poverty. The Task Force has drafted recommendations for action in implementing ALA'S "Library Services for the Poor"

Resolution (aka ALA's "POOR PEOPLE'S POLICY"). The website has the complete list of recommendations as well as links to legislation that effects hunger, homelessness, and poverty in our communities; full-text of the PPP; related internet sites; and a bibliography. The links to legislation and related internet sites were created by the efforts of Scott Jenkins, a librarian at Ball State University and a Task Force member. The Task Force website at <http://www.libr.org/HHP> is being maintained thanks to the efforts of Rory Litwin, chair of the SRRT Alternatives in Print Task Force.

The HHP Task Force is also working on the following projects: - Collecting donations of toiletries, books, food, etc. at Midwinter and Annual to give to a local shelter or community agency. - Developing a training materials that libraries across the country could use in implementing the "Poor People's Policy" Anyone who is interested is welcome to attend the next meeting Task Force meeting that will be held on Saturday July 8 from 8-9:30 a.m. at the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago. The OLOS Subcommittee on the "Poor People's Policy" will also be attending the Hunger, Homelessness & Poverty Task Force meeting. The location will be listed in the conference program.

## **International Responsibilities Task Force**

The SRRT International Responsibilities Task Force will present a program on "The WTO and Libraries: Perspectives on Globalization" on Sunday, July 9<sup>th</sup> from 2 to 4 PM. The demise of the 1999 World Trade Organization meeting in Seattle was a great victory for the various organizations that protested its agenda of further empowering transnational corporations at the expense of the environment and workers rights. However, most librarians may be unaware of the WTO proposals on culture as trade which could drastically affect publicly supported libraries. This program will explore how globalization might affect libraries and what we can do about it. The speakers and their topics will be:

- Fiona Hunt, Information Literacy Librarian, Zayed University Library, Abu Dhabi
- "The WTO: a Threat to Libraries"
- Rick Weingarten, Director, ALA Office for Technology Policy
- "The WTO : An ALA Perspective"
- Jonathan Betz-Zall, Children's Librarian, Sno-Isle Library System, Seattle area
- "The WTO: A Local Perspective"

The Task Force is also co-sponsoring a program with the ALA Black Caucus International Relations Committee on Monday, July 10 from 9:30 to 11 AM on " Access to African Materials in US Libraries." The program will give concrete

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information on the easiest ways to acquire African materials.

The speakers will be:

Ismail Abdullahi, Clark-Atlanta University,  
School of Library and Information Science  
Mary Jay, African Books Collective, Oxford,  
UK

Valerie Mwalilino, Library of Congress African/  
Middle Eastern Acquisitions Section

For more information, contact Al Kagan,  
akagan@uiuc.edu

STILL TASKING

## Task Force on the Environment

The Task Force on the Environment is working on two programs for the Chicago conference. The first, Libraries Making Earth

Day Every Day, will be on Sunday from 1:30 - 3 pm. This program will concentrate on:

- how can our libraries sustain the celebrations and good feelings of Earth Day throughout the year,
- a brief history of Earth Day,
- a guide to information sources on Earth Day,
- current thoughts about environmental activism,
- old programs and services that have endured the test of time,

- new programs and services, and examine some ways your library can reach out into your community and convey the messages of Earth Day,

- a new joint ALA-Global Learning, Inc. initiative,

Decide Tomorrow Today: Libraries Build Sustainable Communities

Speakers for the program are:

Fred Stoss, member of National Library for the Environment, Advisory Committee, SRRT Coordinator, State University of New York, Buffalo, NY

Maria Anna Jankowska, chair of the Environmental Task Force, general editor of the Electronic Green Journal, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID

Irwin Weintraub, Life Sciences Specialist, Brooklyn College of the City University of New York, Brooklyn, NY

Jeffrey L. Brown, Executive Director, Global Learning, Inc.

The second program (Monday) is an open house and a tour of the in the EPA Chicago library.

Maria A. Jankowska, a chair of the TFOE has been selected to participate in a panel entitled "Info Tech Professionals for Social and Ecological Responsibility" at the PLANETWORK conference May 12-14 at San Francisco. She will be honored for her work in funding the Electronic Green Journal and for years serving as chair of the TFOE.

## Book Reviews

### Interdisciplinary Information Seeking in Women's Studies

By Lynn Westbrook

McFarland & Company, Inc., Publishers.

1999

BOOK REVIEWS

*Interdisciplinary Information Seeking in Women's Studies* is a meticulously researched work that extensively cites more than eighteen pages of references. Westbrook goes into great and somewhat tedious detail to explain the nature of interdisciplinarity and the particular problems faced by scholars whose research overlaps two or more areas. This study adds concrete data to previously published literature and popularly accepted anecdotal

information about the unique nature and special pitfalls of conducting research in areas of diverse and possibly divergent interests. She interviewed, for at least an hour, each of 33 scholars from two institutions and for months followed the discussions on the major listserv for women's studies scholars. The result is a work of great depth detailing the information-seeking behavior of a rather small sampling of scholars. Although this does not invalidate the conclusions, the small sampling must be kept in mind.

Westbrook found that no matter whether faculty prefer to call their research multidisciplinary, transdisciplinary, or crossdisciplinary, all struggle with a certain lack of understanding from peers or support from department chairs. To a greater extent than those in traditional fields, many rely on a grassroots network of colleagues and non-academic friends or family for certain social-sciences aspects they may want to add to their research. Librarians are often last on these scholars' lists of people to consult, but when they do check at the library they ask a greater number of questions. Often they need to include sources from areas outside their own field of expertise to expand this research. And, because of less familiarity with vital studies or databases, they face greater difficulty searching key sources for pertinent information. This fosters the perception from colleagues that somehow this research is less rigorous and therefore these faculty members are less deserving of consideration for promotion and tenure.

Westbrook also found that few crucial sources are available because not many databases or aggregators bundle titles across disciplines, although the interdisciplinary field is growing and this may be less of an obstacle now. She explains that it forced scholars to investigate less

# Book Reviews

familiar venues and many different databases, or depend on serendipitous searching to find information. The electronic environment is changing so rapidly that the major drawback of this study may be the results of those findings of information seeking behavior in Women's Studies. When she conducted her research in the early 90s, Westbrook found that most of the interdisciplinary researchers were from the social sciences or humanities with less institutional money for electronic support and research. It was thought that with less funding, more outdated equipment and less training in the use of it, these scholars were also less well versed in electronic searching. Westbrook admits that these findings may no longer be valid and that more studies need to be done.

Westbrook's study synthesizes much previous research and goes a long way toward fostering an understanding of the difficulties faced by interdisciplinary scholars. I recommend it for all academic libraries.

Jos Anemaet  
 Jos.Anemaet@orst.edu

## **The Volunteer Library: A Handbook**

Linda S. Fox  
 0-7864-0679-8  
 Mcfarland & Co. Box 611 Jefferson, NC  
 28640  
 Copyright 1999

When was the last time you smiled as you read a library science book? I didn't remember either, but I do now. In fact, I found myself daydreaming about my childhood library, one I'm sure began its life as a volunteer library, created and championed by the same spirited people who start them today. In *The Volunteer Library*, author Linda Fox shares her experience as the veteran of many library start-ups. She has produced a highly-usable and thorough handbook that covers all aspects of building a library from setting the wheels in motion to actually opening the doors. In between there are lucid discussions of such topics as dealing with boards and problem patrons, finding funding, scouting locations, procuring supplies and books, and organizing materials. Especially useful are the well-written sample policies and procedures (Ms. Fox generously encourages copying them) and a summary of Dewey headings. The conversational tone makes easy reading for librarians and volunteers alike, and would undoubtedly be useful to anyone

committed to improving access in underserved or unserved areas. Contains bibliography, index, and appendices.

Jane Ingold  
 jli4@psulias.psu.edu

## **Including Families of Children with Special Needs: A How-To-Do-It Manual for Librarians**

Sandra Feinberg, Barbara Jordan, Kathleen Deerr,  
 Michelle Langa  
 Neal-Schuman, New York, 1999.  
 (ISBN 1-55570-339-9)

In *Including Families of Children with Special Needs*, Feinberg, et al., provide a practical guide to educate public librarians about inclusive practices for children with disabilities. Part One defines inclusion and provides a basic background of the laws and regulations which support it, such as the ADA and Individuals with Disabilities Act. The preface outlines the contents of the book, chapters and sections are labeled clearly and are descriptive of the content, and each chapter includes references and resources, when appropriate.

Throughout the book, the authors illustrate the librarian's role as community resource, educator, and advocate in assisting children with disabilities and their families. They feel public libraries, as community settings, must be proactive in furthering inclusion (the right for all children to participate in learning environments). Concrete examples, real-life anecdotes, and some reproducible tools to illustrate the process of inclusion are included.

Besides the references at the end of each chapter, part three focuses entirely on print, electronic and physical resources for developing collections and services. There are four appendices, which provide a complete bibliography of resources, developmental milestones for children, a list of coordinators of IDEA programs, and an example of an inclusive library-based resource center. Finally, the index provides easy access to all main points.

This book, a directory and how-to guide in one, is clearly written and contains a wealth of information. Highly recommended for public librarians looking to improve and/or implement inclusive programs for children with disabilities.

Deborah J. Moore  
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# Book Reviews

## Literacy, Access, and Libraries among the Language Minority Population

London: Scarecrow Press, 1998.  
Constantino, Rebecca ed.  
ISBN 0-8108-3418-9

**BOOK REVIEWS, MORE**

Literacy is not only a 'national obsession', it is one of the cornerstones of librarianship. Interestingly, though, as the authors of this collection argue, there is surprising little discussion of literacy for immigrants or language minority populations. This clear role for libraries is often neglected. Too often we assume that immigrant and language minority populations simply are not interested in the public library. This 'blame the victim' scenario fails to address real problems at the library. Public librarians are proficient at serving white, educated, monolingual, mainstream needs. These needs are connected by a shared culture and value system. This is a narrow audience in the context of demographic facts. For the public library to remain a predominantly Anglo-institution is our failure.

This collection of essays addresses the issue of literacy from the viewpoint of immigrant and minority language students. Contributions are mainly by ESL educators and bilingual teachers. Research supports that a free and rich reading environment is essential for development in people's own language and for acquiring proficiency in English. This is true for children, adolescents and adults. Regardless of age, unhindered access to reading material is paramount in this process. Assuming this basic premise, the volume covers topics ranging from Spanish language literacy in school and community libraries; secondary ESL students' understandings and beliefs about public and school libraries; adult immigrants; to the role of the school library.

While the title implies that the audience for this book is librarians, many of the contributors focus on the role of reading in the classroom. There are only a few chapters that are directly applicable the librarian looking for help in developing collections or library programs for language minority populations. Nonetheless the book opens with an extensive literature review of access to minority language books in the library. There is a bibliographic essay highlighting 75+ books in Spanish for the elementary library users. Another chapter examines secondary ESL student's assumptions about libraries and their services. There is an excellent chapter outlining that bonds to the community, outreach, bilingual/bi-cultural staff and culturally responsible environ-

ments are all essential components of successful programs for immigrant and language minority populations.

In addressing the needs of non-native English speakers/readers, Constantino's book fills a gap in the literature. There are some excellent summaries of research to date as well as lengthy bibliographies. This book is recommended for academic libraries with library schools, college libraries that support ESL programs and, perhaps most importantly, for school and public librarians.

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## Libraries, Immigrants, and the American Experience.

Plummer Alston Jones, Jr.  
1999:Greenwood Press, Westport CT.

Did public library services to immigrants change between the years of free immigration (1876 to 1924) and restricted immigration (1924 to 1948)? What attitudes toward assimilation did librarians incorporate into their work: cultural pluralism, anglo conformity, or melting pot? Did immigrants welcome the efforts to be Americanized? These are some of the questions Plummer Alston Jones attempts to answer by examining the work of four prominent librarians: Jane Maud Campbell, John Foster Carr, Eleanor (Edwards) Ledbetter, and Edna Phillips. These four individuals embodied the spirit of advocate, propagandist, social activist, and educator through their outreach to immigrants.

In his book, Jones also outlines the implications of immigration laws on attitudes and services to new Americans. Two of the seven chapters are devoted to exploring the changing laws that regulated the country of origin and influx of new immigrants; laws which both reflected and influenced the social climate towards these new library users at the time.

Although this is thoroughly researched, Jones does draw some questionable generalizations. For example, librarians are viewed as "sovereign alchemists" that know best how to acculturate immigrants. Overall, however, Jones does achieve his goal of documenting the history of services to immigrants in American public libraries since the inception of ALA.

# Book Reviews

EVEN MORE

*Libraries, Immigrants, and the American Experience* is recommended reading for anyone interested in services to new Americans or the history of librarianship between 1876 and World War II. This well-written, accessible text includes an extensive bibliography of primary and secondary sources, as well as a hearty index.

Robyn Erler  
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## **The Holocaust: Memories, Research, Reference**

edited by Robert Hauptman, Susan Hubbs Motin, 1998. Haworth Press, New York London. US \$42 320p.

(A monograph published simultaneously in the *Reference Librarian* Vol 29 Nos 61/62)  
ISBN 0-7890-0379-1

«If I go down, do not let my paintings die.» This was a final wish of Felix Nussbaum (1904-1944), an artist who remained virtually unknown for more than 20 years after his death in Auschwitz. Nussbaum's astonishing depictions of internment camps and ghetto life painted during the Holocaust remained undiscovered until 1968 when a relative discovered a large cache of paintings in the basement of the artist's former Brussels residence. The full story surrounding Nussbaum's life and paintings would not be known today without the work of Holocaust studies scholars and researchers who continue to try and learn about the Shoah. Hauptman and Motin's book entitled, *The Holocaust: Memories, Research, Reference*, realizes the value in educating future students of the Holocaust. There are many stories like Nussbaum's still waiting to be discovered. This book aims to help readers identify research methods and valuable sources on the Holocaust.

*The Holocaust: Memories, Research, Reference* contains twenty-five contributions from academics, scholars, poets and survivors. Intended to be read as a research manual for teachers and librarians, the book is divided between personal retellings, research sources, and reference resources. The articles discuss some of the following important issues: high school curriculum approaches for teaching about the Holocaust, the development of genocide studies and future directions of Holocaust research, the role of the Holocaust historians, Holocaust Internet research, the

U.S. Holocaust Museum, effective research strategies, reference sources, qualitative versus quantitative resources in survivor research, and how scholars can effectively incorporate contemporaneous newspaper articles about the Holocaust into their research. The book also touches upon evaluating resources.

We live in a time where Holocaust revisionists continue to challenge the accounts of survivors and scholars. One cannot overlook the ongoing case of Deborah Lipstadt of Emory University. She and her publisher are facing a libel lawsuit filed in a British court by writer David Irving, whom, on the basis of his own writings and public comments, Lipstadt has labeled a Holocaust denier. Irving says he doesn't deny that Nazis killed Jews. But he disputes the number of victims and the manner of their killing. He has also offered the controversial thesis that Hitler himself knew nothing about the Final Solution. Clearly, there is a great deal of material being published on the Holocaust, and one can conclude that interest in research on the Holocaust will continue to grow. This book therefore fulfills the growing need for research guidance for both the student and professional researcher. It is highly recommended for teachers, librarians, and students looking to improve their knowledge about Holocaust research methodology.

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the restoration of the teaching of evolution in the Kansas schools. It adopted a statement issued by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The AAAS statement can be found at <http://www.aaas.org/spp/dser/evolution/issues/aaas.htm>

10. The Core Values Task Force has recently issued a final document which has received much discussion on the intellectual freedom and implies endorsement of fees for service. Adoption of such narrow core values might greatly inhibit SRRT's work. This will be a topic at the July "Membership Meeting" even if there is only an informal discussion due to lack of a quorum. It will be important for SRRT members to be there to voice their opinions.

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# Fred Speaks

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voices and ALA must see that all of those voices can be articulated.

Another issue related to ALA's "Speaking with One Voice," is the need for an open discussion on the recently released ALA statement on Core Values. Some feel these values represent the basis for our profession. Others will say these values have undermined the basic foundation on which our libraries are built. The process by which the Core Values were prepared, how they were crafted, and what they mean for the association, its members, the profession, and our future have been challenged. The Core Values issues beg to be addressed at a Membership Meeting.

Why the fuss about ALA Membership Meetings? Well, for those new to ALA, our association has not been able to gather a quorum to hold an annual Membership Meeting for more than five (5) YEARS! The inability to gather a quorum and the ALA Council's refusal to lower the quorum has in effect neutered ALA membership "to meet, deliberate, and refer resolutions to Council... represents a profoundly anti-democratic disposition," as stated by SRRT member and ALA Councilor Mark Rosenzweig in a recent eMail message to the SRRTAC eMail discussion list [SRRTAC-L:4568]. Mark's message was loud and clear - come to the Membership Meetings. You don't recall seeing this message from Mark? It's not a big surprise.

As of May 1, 2000 SRRT has 1716 members, and SRRT is growing! That is good news. The SRRTAC-L eMail discussion list has, as of last count in late April, 110 subscribers. Those of you not subscribed to the SRRT list need to. More than 1600 SRRT members did not see Mark's message, or the other messages from SRRT members.

The SRRT list was established in 1997 initially as a communication vehicle for SRRT Action Council. Later in that year the list was opened to ALL SRRT Members. This is your list! You need to take part in the ongoing discussions about programs, issues, concerns, activities, resources, services, and other aspects of implementing SRRT's mission.

Not only do you need to hear about SRRT, SRRT needs to hear from and about YOU. Your ideas, suggestions, concerns, abilities, criticisms, recommendations,

and leadership are needed by all of SRRT. I know that there are many new members to SRRT and we must get to know you better and form new contacts, new professional relationships, and expand our outreach and networking. As you see in the above mentioned need for your attending the Annual Membership Meetings, SRRT is an active and dynamic organization with ALA. As one of SRRT's leaders, I invite those of you not subscribed to the SRRT list to do so ASAP. When you do, please introduce yourself to us - tell why you joined SRRT, what you are hoping to gain from your SRRT membership, what your expectations are.

To join the SRRT lists, send the following message to [listproc@ala.org](mailto:listproc@ala.org):  
*subscribe SRRTAC-L [your first name] [your last name]*  
 It is THAT simple to GET ON BOARD!

Other dates to remember for the Annual Meeting:

**Saturday, July 8; 8:00-9:00+** SRRT All-Task Force Meeting followed by the SRRT Action Council I;  
**Monday, July 10; 2:00-4:00** SRRT Action Council II

— All of these SRRT Meetings will be in the Ballroom suites in the conference headquarters hotel, the Hyatt Regency Chicago.

Saying good-bye is never an easy task. But with this issue we say good-bye to our two illustrious, hard-working, patient, kind, and friendly Editors, Ken Thompsom and Jessamyn West. They have been the stewards of this publication for three years and have weathered the storms, basked in the sun, and filled our pages with their tender loving care. For their efforts I join all of SRRT in saying a BIG THANK YOU. We hope that both of you enjoyed working with and for SRRT. Thank you for the gentle reminders (when more force was necessary), thank you for the constructive criticisms (we need a kick in the pants now and then), and above all thank you for your friendship. Good luck in your future challenges. And remember, there's always going to be space for a progressive piece of prose - the SRRT Newsletter is always looking for good copy...

See you in Chicago,

Fred Stoss  
 SRRT Coordinator

## SRRT Task Forces & Friends

**Alternatives in Print:** Advocates local selection and cataloging of materials from small and alternative presses and independent producers by sponsoring programs and Internet discussions; linking grassroots groups; and producing reviews, articles, exhibits, on-line resources, the biennial Alternative Publishers of Books in North America, etc. Gives annual Jackie Eubanks Memorial Award of \$500 to an individual for outstanding achievement in promoting acquisition and use of alternative materials in libraries. Publishes quarterly review journal, *Counterpoise*. <http://www.lib.org/AIP/>

**Coretta Scott King:** Presents annual awards to Black authors and illustrators of children's books who have promoted "better understanding and appreciation of the culture and contribution of all peoples to the realization of the American dream." <http://www.ala.org/srrt/csking/>

**Environment:** Promotes awareness of environmental issues within ALA; addresses information exchange on the world environment; and provides services, programs and publications that assist librarians with environmental issues in the workplace and in local communities. <http://www.ala.org/alaorg/rtables/srrt/tfoe/>

**Feminist:** Brings active feminism to ALA. Focuses on women's issues and experiences and on the exchange of informa-

tion and resources on women's issues. Serves as a vehicle for feminist activism within the profession through coalition building, programs and activities such as mentoring and promotion of women's presses. Publishes quarterly newsletter, *Women in Libraries*. <http://www.lib.wayne.edu/ff/>

**Hunger, Homelessness & Poverty:** Fosters—through programs, lobbying, and publications—a greater awareness of the dimensions, causes, and ways to end hunger, homelessness, and poverty, as well as a better recognition of the library/poverty nexus. Also monitors and encourages implementation of ALA's Policy on Library Services to Poor People. <http://libr.org/HHP/>

**International Responsibilities:** Provides a forum for discussion of and work on the international dimension of SRRT issues, especially matters concerning human rights and freedom of expression. Particular emphasis is given to current situations in which U.S. policy is likely to have a major impact.

**Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Round Table:** A SRRT task force until becoming a Round Table in 1999. Creates and disseminates information and materials relating to gay, lesbian, and bisexual issues, works to combat discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people. Provides a supportive atmosphere for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender librarians. Awards the annual GLBTF Book Awards, one for literature, one for nonfiction. Publishes a quarterly Newsletter. [http://calvin.usc.edu/~trimmer/ala\\_hp.html](http://calvin.usc.edu/~trimmer/ala_hp.html)

*Visit SRRT Central on the web at*  
**<http://www.lib.org/SRRT>**

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