BY JULIE BOLDING

Newspaper librarians of a different stripe celebrated 10 years of cataloging and microfilming America's aging, endangered newspapers at the April conference of the U.S. Newspaper Program in Washington, D.C.

They also heard about congressional action that already has forced the National Endowment for the Humanities to reduce grants to states participating in the program.

"I think you need to go ahead and be as openly proud of your accomplishments as some lawyer riding around in his Jaguar," said Bob Harriman, head of the Library of Congress's part in the cooperative effort, to about 80 representatives of state newspaper preservation projects. "What you're doing isn't just fun, it's good."

Members of the News Division may already be familiar with the USNP. It's a cooperative, national effort to locate, catalog and preserve on microfilm newspapers published in the United States from the 1700s to the present. All 50 states and the District of Columbia have started or finished their parts in the program. The program plans to make its last grant in 2004.

With the help of news librarians and other institutions that collect newspapers, these state projects already have added 150,000 catalog records and 300,000 holdings records to OCLC's Cooperative Online Serials database and Union List Subsystem in the past decade. In many cases, these are the first electronic records providing information about these titles. An estimated 54 million pages of newsprint will be microfilmed by the program's end early in the next century.

Pre-digitized history storehouses

Of what value are these admittedly cumbersome rolls of microfilm to busy news librarians? They are the storehouse of predigitized history for communities in your state - often the only records that some towns existed. They provide details of tornadoes, blizzards, sensational crimes, the Depression, political history and so on. One South Dakota columnist recently used information found in old newspapers to show that news appealing to prurient interest appeared in print long before Hugh Grant went looking for a good time!

While conference members were told by an NEH official that the Newspaper Program is one of the agency's "highest priorities," they also were told to intensify efforts to find private money. The NEH lost $5 million this year and pending legislation in this cutting-mood Congress further reduces its budget.

"All we need to do is make people aware of this program, make people aware of how good it is," Harriman said. "We need to go ahead and make the sell."

How to help

News Division members can assist the program by informing the projects in their states of any financial assistance available through their corporations or newspaper chains. They can also ask publishers to urge local and state press associations to give money to state projects. Finally, they can ask members of Congress in their districts to support the NEH.

Of course, division members should notify state projects of any holdings in their libraries, in hard copy or microfilm form. A single issue of an ancient title can be a find. But papers from the 1970s and 1980s are at great risk, too, because few institutions are collecting and preserving them.

Feel free to call me if you need the phone number for the project in your state.

Julie Bolding is project manager for the South Dakota Newspaper Project, South Dakota State Historical Society, 900 Governor's Drive, Pierre, SD 57501-2217.

Phone: (605) 773-3458
E-mail: juliebolding@delphi.com.
Fall is my favorite time of the year. Both the air and the apples get crisp again and I feel like I've been reborn.

This has been a difficult year for many of us - with downsizing and cost-cutting and papers folding. And for other reasons, it's been especially difficult recently for our colleagues at the Minneapolis Star Tribune and the Edmonton Sun.

So this fall, I am working on counting my blessings instead of whining. I'm also thinking about ways that we as information professionals can help a revitalization of our shrinking industry. I have faith that we can figure out how to take the lemon that is the print news business and (WARNING - CLICHE AHEAD) make lemonade.

On a happy NLN note, we have two new contributors. Kee Malesky has volunteered to take over the Channels column and Catherine Kitchell signs on as People editor. I know that they both can count on your support.

In this issue, a former Student Stipend Award winner updates us on the National Newspaper Project. We also get a look at the Tribune papers' photo keyword list and the results of an informal staffing poll taken by Carolyn Edds.

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Here I am in the Autumn of my term.

There has been a considerable lack of rainfall here along the rock-bound coast of northern New England. About the only Maine crop that has had enough water this summer is lobsters. The tourists don't seem to mind...they all drink that bottled stuff from Poland Spring or Perrier or Evian. So, Maine's supply of Korean-made souvenirs has been seriously depleted, and the natives are turning their creative energies toward fleecing the ski crowd. (maybe with L.L. Bean parkas, maybe not)

Speaking of creative energies, the committees of the NEWS Division have sprung into action and are looking for eager volunteers. Look down the list of committees, find one that interests you, then volunteer to help. The division will only be as good as its individual members make it. Your energy and ideas are needed. Get involved!

Membership Growing

The NEWS Division is growing. Membership figures are up 6% over the same period last year. That's another good reason to participate in division projects. The diversity of news librarians needs to be reflected in all our working groups.

Professional Development

If you are busy, overworked, and under-appreciated, carve out time for professional development. If you fail to contribute to local, regional, state or national librarianship, you are shortchanging your employer, your colleagues and, most importantly, yourself. Professional service is akin to riding a bicycle...once you push off and learn how to balance, the whole process seems second nature and new roads of opportunity are opened up for you.

Volunteers Needed

If you have an interest in legislation or government policies that affect special librarians, SLA is looking for volunteers to be part of the Government Relations Network. Sandy Morton-Schwalb at SLA headquarters would be glad to sign you up. Contact her at 202-234-4700 or send an E-mail to sandy@sla.org.

Boston in 1996

Tropical storm Teresa (Leonard) is building up steam for a whirlwind week at our 1996 Conference in Boston. You will want to keep an eye out for news of the great events being planned.

And finally...

I do want to reemphasize the fact that each year the executive board strongly recommends that the annual conference be financially self-sufficient. No membership dues are used to fund all the shenanigans and other edifying activities of conference. There is a reason for this policy. The board, for a number of years now, has recognized that the most important role the division plays is that of supporter, educator and advocate for all members, not just those who are fortunate enough to attend conference. I hope everyone will be able to attend at least one conference, but each of you may rest assured that your annual dues will be used to support activities that directly benefit all members of the News Division. Volunteer to help in that effort.

JUST GET WIRED? GET ON THE NEWSLIB LISTSERV!

The newslib list is maintained by Barbara Semanche at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

To subscribe: Send an e-mail message to listserv@ripkin.oit.unc.edu and in the message field, type SUBSCRIBE NEWSLIB YOUR NAME. Leave the subject field blank.

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Magazine Movers

Madeline Cohen, formerly Manager, Research Center and Information Services, ABC News, NY is the new Director, Library and Information Services for Newsweek magazine, NY. C. B. Hayden, formerly Supervisor, Online Information Services at ABC News, NY is the new Manager. (See Channels for more information).

Kathleen Flynn, coordinator of electronic information services for the library at U.S. News and World Report, is the first recipient of the joint Freedom Forum-Special Libraries Association (SLA) fellowship. She will develop an Internet training program for users of the Freedom Forum libraries in Prague, Czech Republic and Bratislava, Slovakia. According to SLA Executive Director David R. Bender, Kathleen “is embarking on an important and exciting endeavor. She will be facilitating the exchange of information in a region of the world where it has been restricted for many years.” She will be in Eastern Europe for two weeks in October.

Lynn Dombek was recently promoted to the position of Assistant Director of the Time Inc. Library on the recommendation of Library Director Lany McDonald. In April 1994 Lynn was hired to establish a research center devoted specifically to Time Magazine. That center has now grown to a staff of five and is still expanding. In her new job she will oversee this ongoing effort at time and extend it, where appropriate, to editorial divisions of other Time Inc. magazines. According to Sheldon Czapnik, Lynn’s accomplishments “have confirmed the benefits of a more direct involvement of information specialists in the editorial process”. Joan Levinstein, formerly a News Researcher for NBC News, will be taking over Lynn’s old job.

Jim Oberman, Manager, Research Operations at People Magazine attended the Stanford professional Publishing course, Stanford University this summer for two weeks. The publishing course involves total immersion into every facet of magazine publishing from editorial to business management and production.

New York Newsday Survivors

Karen Van Rossem is the new Library Director for the new NewsCorp/MCI joint venture to redesign their Delphi internet service. Karen was with Newsday for 15 years and Library Manager for eight until they recently closed the New York edition. Karen is starting the library from scratch which she finds exciting in the is time of so many choices from networked CDs to desktop delivery services. She notes that in this day of Internet services that it is still gratifying to know that companies are starting libraries.

Karen McGruder who was also at New York Newsday has moved to the Ford Foundation. Mary Ann Skinner, Director/Manager of Editorial Technology at Long Island Newsday, reports that 2 staff librarians, Dave Hoffman and Pete Johnson, seized the opportunity to accept buyout offers to explore new career options.

In Other Newspaper News...

Kathy Foley is the new Editor, Information Services at the San Antonio Express-News.

The new Director of News Research Services and AJC NEWSEARCH at the Atlanta-Journal Constitution is Ginny Everett. Ginny was library director on The Commercial Appeal in Memphis before coming to the AJC in November 1994. Former director, Beverly Shepard has crossed over to non-editorial and is the Advertising Services Manager.

Joining Ginny at the AJC is Marlene Heroux, formerly librarian at the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games has
joined the staff as Coordinator of AJC NEWSEARCH, a fee-based service. Marlene has managed the Rolls Royce Library and worked at EBSCO. In addition, Kathryn Hulshoff, also from ACOG, joined the staff as a photo/reference librarian. Kathy Drewke, former Photo Librarian at the Contra Costa Times and a pioneer in digital photo archiving has joined the staff as a photo librarian.

As we went to press, there was still an opening for News Research Services Deputy Director at the AJC. If you would like to join these new staff members in a newly renovated library and be at ground-zero for the 1996 Olympic Games. Please fax a resume to Virginia Everett at (404) 526-5840 or call her at (404) 526-5213.

Bob Ivey has retired from The Gainesville Sun. Shauna Bergwall is their new News Researcher since graduating in May from the University of Florida with a B.A. in Journalism. She is looking forward to moving to an electronic library in October and no longer having to clip the paper. She is only 21 and very enthusiastic!

In other retirement news, Nan Williams Stoddard has retired from the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. Shortly after winning the Agnes Henebry Award, she left the Reference Department in 1985 and has worked in various entertainment section positions. She was most recently working in the Food section. Her home address is: 810 Conestoga Dr., Ballwin, MO 63021-7510 and her phone is 314-391-7192.
FREE BOOKS LEAD TO NEW PATRONS AT USA TODAY LIBRARY

To bring new users into your library, you might try what the USA TODAY library does several times a year: give things away.

Our most popular promotion is the Library book giveaway, which we tie to themes: Summer Reading, Banned Books Week, Valentine's Day, Back To School, International Special Librarians Day, etc.

The giveaways are a tremendous promotional opportunity: it gives us a legitimate reason to put our flyers in the elevators, where space is at a premium, and to place messages on the in-house electronic bulletin boards.

BY BRUCE ROSENSTEIN

More than 200 people regularly turn out for book giveaways at the USA Today library. Several times a year about 700-800 employees take advantage of the freebies.

We've had great cooperation in getting books and other items. The main source is book review editors, who donate books that either have been or won't be reviewed. And it's not just books. We've also gotten audio and video cassettes, which are almost invariably snapped up as soon as they reach the tables.

While setting up for a recent giveaway, I turned around to find an editor wheeling in a large cart of books. I hadn't asked for them, but she volunteered them anyway in the spirit of cooperation. Staff members of the library and other departments have even donated items from home.

The books range from the well known to the downright strange. On one recent giveaway, some of the more intriguing books were: Leigh W. Rutledge's Dear Tabby: Feline Advice on Love, Life and the Pursuit of Mice; Ashleigh Brilliant's We've Been Through So Much Together, And Most Of It Was Your Fault; Stop Your Husband From Snoring; an annotated Lolita; and Death of the Office Witch: (Every Office Has One, and Everyone Wants Her Dead).

We have approximately 700-800 books for each giveaway. More than 200 people may turn out each time. We set up two tables, which are usually crowded with browsers.

We now run two separate sessions, one in the afternoon, and the other in the early evening. After numerous requests, we added a two hour session to accommodate the night shift. We estimate about 50-60 people now come at night.

One of the most gratifying things about this promotion is how the staff comes together as a team. Tables get moved, displays set up, flyers designed and distributed; all with a minimum of fuss. We've even had people bring in baked goods - the combination of free books and free food is almost irresistible.

Once we decide to hold a giveaway, a theme is picked, a day and time is set, and we run through the following checklist:
1. Arrange for publicity: have a flyer designed and put in elevators and hallways several days before the event.
2. Put notices on the in-house electronic bulletin boards.
3. Check with people who regularly donate.
4. Include weeded books from the collection.
5. If tied to an event like Banned Books Week, make sure posters are put up in the library.
6. On the day of the event, set up tables, displays and make sure a "three book limit" sign is prominently displayed.

Most of the leftover books get saved for the next giveaway. But now that another division of the company is starting an informal lending library, we have agreed to donate several boxes to them. People who have donated to us have made one thing clear: if we don't give the books away, they don't want them back.

A similar promotion could work for your library. Check with editors or reporters who would be willing to make donations for a good cause.

You can combine this with donations from library staff and others who might want to get rid of a few items on their bookshelves.

And when unfamiliar faces appear, it helps to talk with them a bit about the library. We distribute flyers about library services, and offer to arrange personal tours on a later date. Remember, once you have new people on your premises, it's an opportunity to convert them from book-browser to new patron.
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And, the newly updated fall '95 Capital Source provides two new sections: a 1996 elections section featuring information on presidential campaign headquarters and national party convention sites and an electronic media section highlighting new media services.

Call National Journal and order your copy of the fall '95 Capital Source directory today and get all the right connections.

Call (800) 356-4838 today to order the all new fall '95 edition of The Capital Source.
The phenomenal growth of the News Division continues. As of August 30, 1995 we had 858 members. As you will see in the list below, more and more new members are including e-mail addresses.

As we prepare for the 1996 membership directory, please make sure that SLA has your e-mail address as well as any changes or additions that you would like to have included in your directory entry.

You may send changes to SLA by mail, fax or e-mail. Please send them to:

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PUBLIC BROADCASTING'S BELT TIGHTENING AND OTHER NEW CHALLENGES

Kee Malesky
National Public Radio

There's good and bad news in public broadcasting in the United States. Certainly enough has been written everywhere on the battle over continued "public" funding in this climate of budget slashing. The path those tax dollars take - traveling from the pockets of viewers and listeners, through the federal bureaucracy, and on to the libraries at NPR, WNET/New York, and Minnesota Public Radio - is more convoluted than this sentence, and I won't bore you with the excruciating details. Suffice it to say, every level of public television and radio - networks, distributors, local stations, independent producers - will have to follow the 'do more with less' dictum. Everywhere you look you will continue to see 'downsizing' or 'rightsizing,' and 're-engineering.'

We've been relatively lucky in the libraries at National Public Radio (knock wood, cross fingers, throw salt, whatever). After merging the Reference and Tape Libraries in 1994, and making some staff cuts at that time, management was receptive to Senior Librarian Rob Robinson's proposal that we should be spared this round of trimming. NPR cut approximately $2.2 million from its corporate budget for FY96, with $500,000 of that coming from News. With the new two-hour version of All Things Considered, which airs a full hour earlier (4 p.m. E.T.), we are actually adding a position in the Reference Library, so we can cover from 7:30 a.m. to at least 8 p.m. on weekdays, and be available to help ATC update their news coverage when necessary. NPR also has a new staff member, Denise Chen, to welcome to SLA's News update their news coverage when necessary.

MPR's staff was laid off, due to a drop in revenue of more than $2 million projected for next year. Reduction in income from MPR's for-profit enterprises, coupled with the cuts in federal support, caused the elimination of 36 positions. The station's only news researcher, Teresa Callies, was one of the casualties in "...the largest employment cut in station history..." according to the Saint Paul Pioneer Press (May 20, 1995). "I'm disappointed and I'm sad," the paper reported Teresa saying, "I worked with a lot of good people, and I learned a lot of skills."

In early September, Teresa paid a visit to the MPR newsroom to see how they are functioning without her. As she expected, reporters are doing their own research, and some are beginning to explore Computer Assisted Reporting. Her collection of basic reference books is still around, although its fate in this fall's space renovation is uncertain. Teresa is characteristically unbowed. She says she had a great summer, networking and improving her computer skills, even attending an Outward Bound program. She spent four days at the Minneapolis Star Tribune doing some Internet workshops, and is looking forward to taking her skills to new levels - as long as it's in the Twin Cities!

Jane Bealer, at WNET/Channel 13 in New York, doesn't know yet how upcoming changes in public television will affect her library. Half the usage of her collection is by reporters with their requests for footage. Elizabeth was recently able to create a Senior Library Assistant position, who will spend half time on video and half time on reference and research. This establishes a career path in the library, which may provide incentive for people to stay with them longer. Elizabeth and the staff are involved with developing guidelines for creating tape compilations, have prepared thousands of George Bush tapes for cold storage in Atlanta, and are planning to automate and barcode the video collection. This fall, Elizabeth reports she will be visiting Moscow, St. Petersburg, and Prague as part of a delegation of librarians.

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"Suffice it to say, every level of public television and radio have to follow the 'do more with less' dictum."

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## NEW PHOTO KEYWORD LIST DEVELOPED BY THE TRIBUNE NEWSPAPERS

John Jansson, Editor of Information Systems at the Chicago Tribune, has distributed the following list of basic photo enhancement terms. The list was produced by the Information Managers at the four Tribune newspapers.

It is based on “Keywords for Digital Photo Archives”, which was published last year by the News Division’s Automation and Technology Committee, but is substantially different. John is “very interested” in hearing your comments about his list. He expects to publish a revision early next year which will be based on your comments and the experience of the Tribune photo librarians as they work with the list.

The revised list will be offered to the division as version 2.0 of “Keywords for Digital Photo Archives”. The Tribune papers support the idea of a single list of photo archiving terms to simplify sharing of photos and information.

If you have any comments, or would like a copy of the list plus the expanded guide on how the words are to be used, please contact John Jansson or Mary Wilson in Chicago or one of the other Tribune papers library directors: Judy Grimsley, Orlando; Bob Isaacs, Ft. Lauderdale; or Melissa Simpson, Newport News.

### Tribune Company Photo Archiving Task Force Key Words & Photo Type Words for Digital Photo Archives, July, 1995

#### Part 1 – Key Words (Enhancement Terms)

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*NEW PHOTO KEYWORD LIST DEVELOPED BY THE TRIBUNE NEWSPAPERS*

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### Tribune Company Photo Archiving Task Force Key Words & Photo Type Words for Digital Photo Archives, July, 1995

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*NEW PHOTO KEYWORD LIST DEVELOPED BY THE TRIBUNE NEWSPAPERS*

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EDMONTON SUN LIBRARY TAKES A BATH

Sustained heavy downpours on July 4, 1995 caused failures in both the roof and drainage systems of the Edmonton Sun building. All 3 floors of the building were damaged, but the library was the only area to get it from both above (roof leak) and below (drain backup.) Management is tight lipped on damages, but Chief Librarian John Sinclair estimates them in the 6 figure range.

"Responding to the waves of water coming in from all directions was actually the easy part," John said. "It’s the cleanup that broke our back." All filing cabinets and furniture had to be moved and raised on two by fours so that carpeting could be dried. "At one point we had 4 industrial strength fans going all at once. We had to scream in each other’s ears to be heard. And the smell was sickening."

Although no one was forced to work, most editorial and production staffers threw personal safety and caution to the wind and elected to stay. In the best tradition of the business, a product rolled off the presses less than an hour behind deadline.

And the library? "We hardly missed a beat. Our digital photo archive was unavailable that night, but the filing cabinets still worked. All our electronic systems were operational the next day, and we never fell seriously behind. We received lots of accolades from the newsroom for the way we handled things. Our area was the worst hit; we had the most water, the most noise, the most moving and the most smell. I think they really respected the job we did under the circumstances."

(John and his staff can be reached corporately at edmonton.sun@ccinet.ab.ca; John’s personal address is sinclair@worldgate.com)

Chief Librarian John Sinclair (L) and staffers Carol Woods (C) and Bruce Grant survey their new wading pool, formerly the Library Dept. of the Edmonton Sun.

NEW LIBRARY JOBS ON THE WEB

The News Division’s web site has started posting current job openings at news libraries. Many of these notices first appeared here, but if you missed any, point your web browser to: http://www.nando.net/prof/poynter/nd/ndmenu.html

If you want to advertise your position on the website, please send the notice to me at phbasofin@dcn.davis.ca.us. I’ll post it as soon as I get it. I’d also appreciate hearing when the job is filled, so the notice can be removed.

Thanks,
Pete Basofin
Sacramento Bee
Vormelker-Thomas Student Award Applicants Sought

The News Division of SLA is the professional organization for news librarians. Since 1924, the division has provided continuing education in the form of seminars, conferences and publications to the membership. The division offers its members opportunities for sharing ideas, sharpening professional skills and keeping up with changing technology. Our membership ranges from one-person libraries to libraries at the largest newspapers, and includes libraries of news magazines and broadcast outlets.

The News Division encourages graduate students in the library science and journalism to explore careers in news librarianship. Our programs at the annual SLA conference provide opportunities to meet and exchange ideas with professionals in the news library field, to visit news libraries and to learn of new developments.

The Vormelker-Thomas award, cosponsored by University Microfilms, Inc. offers a $1,500 stipend that will enable a graduate student interested in news librarianship to attend the 1996 SLA conference in Montreal.

1996 Conference Program

The 1996 Special Libraries Association Conference, “Information Revolution”, will be held June 8 - 13 in Boston. News Division conference programs and activities will include:

- The era of digital libraries
- The new world of copyright performance standards for news librarians
- Tips for new managers
- Disaster research
- Your reference collection: The next generation
- Changes in the news library
- Covering the 1996 campaigns

1996 Selection Criteria

1. Applicants must be members of SLA at time of application. To get information about membership, contact SLA at 202-234-4700.
2. Applicants must be graduate students interested in news librarianship as a career.
3. Applicants must be attending their first SLA conference.
4. Applicants will be judged on the basis of a typewritten essay (500-1000 words) addressing a current issue in news librarianship.
5. Applications should include a letter of reference from a news librarian, a news editor or a faculty member.
6. Applications should be accompanied by a résumé, including a list of coursework undertaken and a statement of professional goals. The applicants should also include a statement on what he or she expects to gain from attending the conference.

7. Applications must be postmarked no later than February 15, 1996 to:
   Barbara Maxwell
   USA TODAY Library
   1000 Wilson Boulevard
   Arlington, VA 22229

The winner will receive a check prior to the conference in June. The division reserves the right not to award the stipend if there are no suitable applicants.

Previous Stipend Winners

- 1986 Elaine Campbell
- 1987 Theresa Leonard
- 1988 Robert Davidsson
- 1989 Jacquelyn Cenacevira
- 1990 Susan Hill
- 1991 Maureen Morrow
- 1992 Teresa Prince
- 1993 Julie Bolding
- 1994 Glenn Johnson-Grau
- 1995 Catherine Cino

"Attending the Special Libraries Association's annual conference will provide me with many opportunities...News Division programs will expand my knowledge of the operation of news libraries...Other programs will provide me with practical tips...however, the most exciting opportunity is the chance to meet and exchange ideas with professionals."

---Catherine Cino, 1995 Student Stipend Winner

NEWS DIVISION ANNUAL AWARDS NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

The Awards Committee seeks your nominations for the Joseph F. Kwapis Memorial Award, the Agnes Henebry Roll of Honor Award, and the Certificate of Appreciation and Recognition.

Joseph F. Kwapis Memorial Award

This award is the highest recognition of the News Division. It is given for major achievement in the field of news librarianship and for outstanding service to the News Division to a member who has actively participated in the Division's programs and projects for a continuous period of ten years or more.

Agnes Henebry Roll of Honor Award

This award is given to a member or former member for service to the Division and for participation in Division programs and projects.

Certificate of Appreciation and Recognition

This certificate is given periodically to an individual or institution for outstanding contributions in the field of information science and/or news librarianship.

PAGE 16       NEWS LIBRARY NEWS       FALL 1995
WHADDYA MEAN YOU’RE NOT OPEN? I USED TO COME IN HERE ALL THE TIME!

BY MARCIA MACVANE
PORTLAND (MAINE) NEWSPAPERS

Sound familiar? If you’re one of the many libraries formerly open to the public and forced to close your doors during “downsizing”, you probably have been faced with a few irate customers who can’t understand the difference between a public library and a private library.

If your library is also not available on a database, you have effectively cut off any efficient way for the public the have access to your archives. They can take lengthy and tiresome strolls through miles of microfilm looking for specific stories, but people with that kind of patience and eyesight are rare.

Okay, there is definitely a problem here. You don’t have enough staff to handle the reporters, much less the public. The public, meanwhile, has complained loudly and indignantly to your publisher, who suggests that perhaps we COULD do something. Meanwhile, you send all your former customers to the public library and the library starts calling to complain, too.

Then you start to feel some additional pressures from “above” to become a revenue center as well as a cost center...

We re-opened our library here at the Portland Newspapers last May after it became apparent that we could satisfy a community need and perhaps earn a little money at the same time.

I decided to develop three feasibility plans: Plan A would be to reopen at no cost, or very little cost; Plan B would be a medium expense and Plan C would shoot the works.

In order to be consistent, I created a list of questions to be applied to each plan:
1. How many hours would we be open?
2. Could it be done by existing staff?
3. Would additional employees be needed? If so, how many hours per day?
4. How will the questions be handled?
5. Could we provide quality customer service in a timely fashion?

I outlined proposals for all three plans and received the go-ahead for Plan B. This plan consisted of a dedicated telephone line to receive all research requests. To begin with, a 4-hour shift per week was used to transcribe the messages, make the telephone calls, do the research required and bill the customers. People could also make appointments to visit the library during this shift to do their own research.

We then needed to create a pricing structure which would not only cover our expenses and make a profit, but also stay within the community’s desire and ability to pay. Since we are also located close to several colleges and universities, we set some student rates.

Our marketing services department designed a house ad. We also sent letters to the colleges and libraries in the state explaining the new service, including fee structure.

We’ve grossed about $1,000 in the twelve weeks we’ve been open and we’ve spent about $600 in labor costs. The house ad has appeared only twice, yet word of mouth keeps people calling. If the ad were to appear more often, we wouldn’t be able to handle the calls in the allotted time.

Some changes are needed. To get the most bang for our buck, the researcher most familiar with the local clipping files needs to handle these calls. We have not yet been able to do this due to staffing shortages, vacations, etc. Physically, we need to somehow create space for public research. There have been times when the “walk-ins” have lined up down the hall after using all available space within the library itself.

And the one thing we need to continue to do is provide excellent customer service. Any of you who have dealt with the public on a continuing basis knows that they can be most demanding and discourteous. It takes a real pro to create a positive experience for both.

If you would like a copy of our fee structure, I would be glad to send it along. And, most importantly, if any of you have had similar experiences to share with others, please call or write. I’ll include them in the next column.
RESULTS OF INFORMAL STAFFING SURVEY

Thanks to everyone who responded to my query about staffing. I appreciate the several responses that I received. I got swamped during our web project and didn’t get a chance to respond personally to many of you but I am grateful for the information about library staffing at your newspaper. (And the information on research forms.) I know it will benefit me and perhaps it will help others. I think many of you will find the compilation interesting.

I wanted each entry to be complete so I consulted the 1994 Editor & Publisher’s Yearbook for circulation figures and other information when I did not have it. If you notice any errors, please let me know.

Please note a change in my e-mail address. I’m still riverat but now I’m at teleplex.net.

Carolyn J. Edds
News Researcher/Librarian
Herald-Journal
P.O. Drawer 1657
Spartanburg, S.C. 29304
(803) 582-4511, ext. 7246
(803) 594-6350 (fax)
riverat@teleplex.net

**The Oregonian**
Portland, Ore.
Sunday circ. 441,000
Daily circ. 326,000
Head Librarian
2 Enhancers (full-time)
5 Researchers (who also enhance)
2 Photo Librarians (one of whom also enhances and does some research)
Clerk (part-time) one person who handles photo sales but is not considered a librarian.

**The News-Gazette**
Champaign, Ill.
Sunday circ. 50,000
Daily circ. slightly less
Librarian (has MLS)
Assistant Librarian (high school diploma)

**The Huntsville Times**
Huntsville, Ala.
Sunday circ. 84,000
Daily circ 53,000
Head Librarian (full-time)
Assistant Librarian (full-time)
Library Assistant part-time (about to propose to make this position full-time because of impending digital photo-archiving.)

**The Palm Beach Post**
West Palm Beach, Fla.
Sunday circ. 225,000
Daily circ. 175,000
Assistant Managing Editor/Information Services (full-time, professional level, MLS)
Library Manager/Research (full-time, professional level, MLS)
Library Manager/Operations (full-time, professional level, MLS)
Systems/Training Librarian (full-time, professional level, MLS)
Database Editor/Acquisitions Librarian (full-time, professional level, MLS)
2 Database Editors (full-time, paraprofessional)
Photo Manager (full-time, paraprofessional)
Photo Assistant (part-time, clerical)

**The Post-Standard and Syracuse Herald Journal/American**
Syracuse, N.Y.
Sunday circ. 214,000
Daily circ. 87,000
Library Director (MLS)
Assistant Library Director (bachelor’s degree)
3 Library Assistants (one of these positions is currently filled by 2 part-time temps.)
Photo Clerk (part-time 20 hours a week)

**The Record**
Stockton, Calif.
Sunday circ. 60,000
Daily circ. 53,000
Head Librarian
Clerk (full-time)

**Daytona Beach News-Journal**
Daytona Beach, Fla.
Sunday circ. 116,000
Daily circ. 100,000
Library Manager
2 librarians (full-time)
Assistant (part-time)

**The Wichita Eagle**
Wichita, Kan.
Sunday circ. 190,000
Daily circ. 115,000
Librarian (MLS)
3 Library Assistants/News Associate (full-time)

**Greensboro News & Record**
Greensboro, N.C.
Sunday circ. 127,000
Daily circ. 120,000
Library Director
Text Librarian
Photo/graphic Librarian
The 1996 annual conference of the Investigative Reporters and Editors will be in Providence June 13 - 16, which is immediately after SLA in Boston. It will be in the new convention center and Westin Hotel across the street from the Providence Journal-Bulletin. The theme will be “The Power of Words”. The program on Thursday will focus strongly on computer-assisted reporting and research. Other tentative program threads will be international journalism, investigating in the suburbs and “How I wrote (or produced) the story.”

News researchers will be included on several panels throughout the conference, so the planning committee needs your help. We need your ideas and we need you. One topic we are looking at is teamwork - when reporters, editors and researchers work together to produce a blockbuster story or series.

Teresa Leonard, program chair for the News Division in Boston, is planning to run a bus trip from Boston on Thursday, June 13 for those who would like to attend the first day of IRE. But because of the unusually favorable logistics (Boston and Providence are only 45 minutes apart, with good train service between), you could stay in Boston and attend all three and a half days of IRE. Or you could come down to beautiful Providence and stay for the weekend.

If you have ideas for panels, if would like to be on a panel or if you have a good example of teamwork, please contact me. And when you’re planning your travel budget for next year, think about IRE in Providence.

Linda Henderson
Sylvia Frisch

Sylvia Frisch, the Assistant Librarian at the Star Tribune in Minneapolis died in a car accident on September 3. Her husband, Henry, who was driving, was also killed.

Sylvia was not able to attend many of the SLA conferences, but many of you did get to know her either in person or by talking to her on the phone.

Sylvia defined reference at the Star Tribune and was immensely helpful to the library staff, the newsroom and many other departments at our newspaper. She was a master at bringing people and information together.

Sylvia was an excellent database searcher, but reporters loved to come in just to talk to her. The library staff will always remember Sylvia as a wonderful colleague and friend. She taught us to be better librarians and raised our expectations. We’ll miss her immensely, but cherish the memories forever.

Bob Jansen
Library Director
Star Tribune