We Are the Association

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April 2004 marked the midpoint for my administration and for our current WLA board. Thank you all so much for all of the support and suggestions! Our current board has been great to work with, and our incoming officers are eager to begin their new positions. We rolled out our strategic plan for review, checked off accomplishments, and listed challenges and activities for the remaining year. In our busy first year, we laid the foundation for a major upgrade of our website, supported the first PNLA Leadership Institute, increased our communication of ALA activities and events, reached out to other organizations and institutions, and welcomed the Public Library Association conference to Seattle, among other things. We also continued our branding process with new electronic letterhead templates.

In the coming year, we hope to tackle diversification of WLA, review our marketing plan, explore fundraising options, and continue the push to upgrade the wla.org website. If these sound like activities you would like to be involved in, please contact me at jsheller@wla.org.

Looking ahead to “A New Season”

If you haven’t already done so, please register to attend our joint conference with the Pacific Northwest Library Association. We’re trying a new season by hosting our annual conference in August as opposed to our traditional April timeslot. We’ll be at the Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel and the Wenatchee Convention Center 11 August to 14 August. I hope to see you there. More details are on the conference website: [www.wla.org/wlapnla2004/](http://www.wla.org/wlapnla2004/).

At the annual business lunch on 12 August, we will discuss a couple of proposals for new WLA ventures including:

**A new name for Alki:** I am proposing we change our journal’s name from *Alki* to *Washington Libraries*, and hope to roll out the newly-renamed journal with the March 2005 issue—its twentieth anniversary edition. For twenty years, *Alki* has been a quality communication medium and valued member benefit for WLAers. I was the journal’s editor from 1993 to 1995 and learned so much about our state’s great libraries during my tenure. I’d really like to make it more accessible to prospective members and library supporters. This name change will result in greater visibility and easier access for our not-yet-members. Please join us for a lively debate on 12 August!

**A new academic institutional dues structure:** Our college memberships have grown steadily over the last few years with one noteworthy exception: four-year publicly-supported institutions. These great libraries have seen their budgets steadily erode, so the WLA board passed a resolution to lower the maximum institutional dues amount to $500. Please approve this measure and welcome the University of Washington, Washington State University, Eastern Washington University, Central Washington University, Western Washington University, and The Evergreen State College libraries back to the WLA family. This requires a bylaws change and will be voted on at the business meeting 12 August at the Wenatchee conference.

**Library Marketing Initiative**

At our April WLA board meeting, we also heard an update on the Washington State Library’s statewide Library Marketing Initiative. This effort will pay big dividends to libraries by getting the pro-library message out, and will better enable Washingtonians to make the fullest use of libraries through learning more about the breadth and scope of library resources.

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From the Editor

CAMERON A. JOHNSON

WLA: Working for Libraries Since 1932

The Washington Library Association itself is on display in this issue of *Alki*. The issue’s contributors reflect the occupational variety of the association’s membership, with submissions coming from managers, a retiree, technical staffers, librarians, two students, a professor, and a trustee. We hope you enjoy it and, if you are not presently a member, please consider joining this year. There is a lot of work to be done on behalf of our state’s libraries, and we need you.

Please read our columns this issue. We debut the “Encore” column, which follows up on reports begun in past *Alki* articles. Thanks to *Alki* Committee member Bonnie Taylor for the idea and for all the short articles in the premier column. “The Solinus Page” offers excerpts from the PLA conference diary of iSchool student Jenine Lillian. In “Who’s on First?” iSchool professor Kenneth Himma looks critically at Article III of the Library Bill of Rights.

Library-killing Initiative 864 is dead, thanks in part to the sometimes-heroic off-duty work of WLA members who joined the loose coalition of groups picketing signature gatherers this spring. Even though the campaign wasn’t a WLA effort, our members contributed mightily, and everyone who loves libraries owes these volunteers a debt of gratitude.

Our December 2004 issue will be the conference issue this year, extending the discussions raised in sessions of the joint WLA/PNLA conference held in Wenatchee in August. The March 2005 issue will be dedicated to “Money Matters,” a theme that encompasses everything from fundraising strategies and collection development to the philosophies that drive budgetary decision-making. All kinds of library-related efforts have costs and benefits that contend. Libraries are also embedded in a larger economic and political environment, as the late I-864 made clear. So, there is a lot to write about. As always, critical perspectives are welcome at *Alki*. Note that, with the 2005 WLA conference returning to April, the July 2005 issue will again be a conference issue.

Volunteers for Libraries

In spring 2004, Washington voters were being asked to consider placing Initiative 864 on the fall ballot to decrease property tax collections for each taxing district by 25 percent. While this may sound attractive, it would in fact be devastating to our public libraries, particularly our library districts. By extension, it would be devastating to WLA as well, because public library institutional support for the association would likely dwindle. A group of library supporters emerged and took on the difficult challenge of trying to educate voters on the impacts of I-864. Even though the public education effort was not WLA-sponsored, I would like to extend my personal “thank you” to all who worked to educate the public about the impacts of I-864. All of us in libraryland owe you a great big “Thanks!”

Sheller (Continued from page 2)

Among other things, the initiative intends to raise the visibility and public awareness of libraries of all kinds, promote the use of libraries and information for all citizens, and facilitate coordination among libraries in terms of marketing and public relations. Please take a moment to learn more about this exciting initiative at www.secstate.wa.gov/library/libraries/projects/marketing/.

WLA President John Sheller is manager of the 320th Street Branch of the King County Library System. Photos by Cameron Johnson.

Cameron Johnson is a reference librarian at Everett Public Library. Photo by Laura McCarty.
Conference Coordination: An Extreme Sport

It’s a little before 9:00 P.M. Friday night in the Skyline Ballroom at Spokane’s WestCoast Grand Hotel at the Park. The dimly-lit room is empty except for a few knots of people talking near the door and the hotel staff clearing away the last of the dirty dishes from the tables. It was a very successful conference banquet. There was a good crowd, the food was tasty, the view was great, and the speaker—Public Broadcasting System (PBS) news commentator Ray Suarez—was engaging and articulate. It went very smoothly, as such an event should.

That in itself was a minor miracle.

That morning, Mr. Suarez had called from a Washington, D.C. airport to say that his flight had been cancelled and that it didn’t look like he could get to Spokane in time for his 7:00 P.M. banquet speech commitment. There were few connecting flights. The conference planning committee members hanging out in the coatroom-turned-conference office behind the registration desk somewhat grimly assessed the situation. Two hundred twelve people had banquet tickets: Ray Suarez was a big draw for the public TV/National Public Radio (NPR) library crowd. It was too late to find a substitute speaker. It was too late to cancel the meal, and refunds would break the budget. There was no alternative except to find a way to get him there—and that they did, with a little bit of ingenuity and a lot of luck.

There was an audible sigh of relief from the conference crew when he walked into the hotel lobby at about 6:15 P.M., having flown from Seattle on a chartered plane that he met following instructions in a message that, against all odds, was delivered to him somewhere over mid-continent by the pilot of his United Airlines flight. Mr. Suarez had the distinction of being one of very few airline passengers to enjoy in-flight email service, courtesy of the WLA 2001 Conference Committee and my neighbor’s United Airlines flight attendant daughter in Atlanta, who was able get through to someone who’s done it before. It’s pretty hard to get an event should.

Unless you’ve experienced the pleasure and pain of serving on a conference planning committee, it’s difficult to imagine how daunting a task it is. You get $5,000 in seed money eighteen months before pre-established dates to draw 300 to 500 people from across the state to a conference, bound by an ironclad hotel/conference center contract negotiated by someone else five years earlier. Everyone expects everything to be wonderful (and they aren’t shy about telling you so if it isn’t); and the WLA board expects you to at least break even, but preferably to make money for the association, even though many people attend the conference on a shoestring. Can you believe that there are people who willingly agree to do this? There are. I’m one of them.

Because the annual conference is the Washington Library Association activity that brings the greatest number of its members to one place at one time—and is pretty much the face of the association for many—the Alki Editorial Committee thought that an article on the art of annual conference creation merited some space in this issue. A veteran attendee of a couple of dozen of these events, a planning committee member for four or five (I’ve lost count), and the conference coordinator for 2005, I agreed to give Alki readers a brief glimpse behind the scenes of conference planning, using a sort of “Selected Shorts” format. If you’re interested in mind-numbing how-to detail, the annual conference manual is conveniently available to all at www.wla.org/confman/01b.pdf, thanks to the organizational talents of another frequent conference committee member, Kristy Coomes.

It All Starts (and Ends) with the Conference Coordinator

The overall head honcho holds the title of “conference coordinator,” and is an elected member of the WLA board. Have you noticed that this position is frequently uncontested in WLA elections? That’s not just because of the work involved (which is, I think, second only to the president and vice-president-elect in time-commitment, responsibility, and intensity). Because of the increasingly long lead times for major speaker engagements and other arrangements, it helps to have someone informally committed to the job before it’s time for the election. It also helps to have someone who’s done it before. It’s pretty hard to get

Michael Wirt is the director of the Spokane County Library District. Photos on p.6 by Deb Cutler. Photo on p.7 by Rose Ferri.
two people to wait in the wings and duke it out in a hot conference coordinator election race.

However, a coordinator alone does not make a conference work, and it’s in his or her self-interest to find compatible and competent committee members to head up program planning, local arrangements, registration, exhibits, and communications, and to serve as conference committee treasurer. The interest group coordinator and continuing education coordinator are automatically conference committee members. I’m forever indebted to those people who’ve said “yes”—sometimes more than once.

(Not Enough) Room at the Inn…or At Least Not Those We Can Afford

For its size in number of attendees, the WLA conference is a space hog. We need an affordable hotel or conference facility that can accommodate exhibits, general sessions, meals, and at least six concurrent programs. Smaller cities like Bellingham, Everett, and Olympia don’t have such a site. The astute conference-goer will notice that the host cities repeat like clockwork: Tacoma, Spokane, Yakima, sometimes Wenatchee or Pasco, and Jantzen Beach, Oregon with the Oregon Library Association. What about Metro Seattle? Its hotel and convention space charges are too high for WLA’s budget; and because accommodations are also pretty expensive for library or personal travel and conference center people all seem to call “breakout sessions” friends and meet new ones. Either way, the programs (which hotel and food and beverage sales, and there won’t be penalties.

So, if you’ve ever wondered why we try to get you to stay in the conference hotel and why some meal functions are included in the registration fee, you know the answer: to make the contract guarantees and not bankrupt WLA.

The Quest for the Perfect Registration Form

If you’ve ever processed registration forms, you have firsthand knowledge of the countless ways that people can screw them up. The perfect registration form—one that compels everyone to actually read the instructions and interpret them correctly—hasn’t yet been devised, even though the best minds have worked on it. Maybe one that tells you (somewhat impatiently) when you make a mistake filling it out, like something Harry Potter would use at Hogwarts, is the only answer.

Catchy Conference Themes

What to look for in a conference theme is a few catchy words that lend themselves to some catchy graphics. The theme needs to be broad enough so that virtually any interest group program on virtually any topic will fit. Have you ever been at a WLA conference when every program topic was directly related to the theme? Unless the conference planners are real purists, the theme and graphics are as much packaging as they are strict program direction.

Conference themes are created in a variety of ways. Some conference committees will brainstorm during many meetings, agonize over options, and have several lengthy discussions to settle on one. That process then begins anew for the associated graphics. At other times, a task-oriented rather than process-oriented conference coordinator will announce the theme at the first committee meeting, and be done with it (remember who’s in charge). I used that method for the 2005 conference: “Partnerships: We Are Not Alone.” It’s trendy (partnerships are “in”) and “We Are Not Alone” can be perceived in many ways—straight, or with an “X-Files” spin. I think that my committee was relieved to have one less thing to do.

The Crap Shoot That Always Seems to Work Out

Many people attend the annual conference to learn something and be intellectually stimulated. Others do it primarily to see old friends and meet new ones. Either way, the programs (which hotel and conference center people all seem to call “breakout sessions” even when they aren’t) and the speakers are what get the heads on beds—or more for our purposes, butts in seats.

Programs are generated by two groups. The conference com-
mittee is responsible for the keynote speaker, events or speakers for Thursday and Friday evenings, and an occasional fill-in program. Interest groups are responsible for all the rest.

On the conference committee end, it’s pretty much an organized endeavor. With the interest groups, it’s more like organized chaos, some submitting several program proposals, others submitting none, and little or no coordination on topics. Yet, it always seems to work. There are usually plenty of good programs and a broad range of non-repeating topics.

The scheduling goal is fairly impossible: Make as many program slots available as possible, provide several no-conflict times for exhibits, include mandatory events, wedge in meals, and leave enough time between programs to clear out the women’s restroom line. There’s really too much to comfortably pack into a few days.

Following my packaging approach to conference planning, I’ve always tried to have a couple of names that everyone will recognize to tip the balance for people waffling on whether or not they’ll register. Public TV and radio folks have proven to be a good draw for the library crowd, so that’s been my preference for the Friday night banquet speaker. If you have a good speaker, you’ll have more people attending the banquet and more people staying over until Saturday, resulting in more “heads on beds” and a greater likelihood people attending the banquet and more people staying over until Saturday, resulting in more “heads on beds” and a greater likelihood that the room night guarantee will be met. NPR’s Linda Wertheimer in 1991 and Ray Suarez in 2001 were good draws. We hope to have a repeat in 2005 with NPR’s Susan Stamberg. Popular options for some lesser events have included library publishing and ALA personages.

**Keep the Vendors Happy**

Our facility hosts call it a “trade show.” We call it “exhibits.” Either way, vendors of library products and services travel to the conference with their wares, pay for a booth and, in return, expect good traffic. Along the way, the conference committee pays for the services of a decorator to set it all up at $50 or so a booth, figures out how to provide affordable Internet connectivity (wireless is making this part easier), and schedules some activities in the exhibit hall to draw people in and get them to visit the booths. These activities usually include food and drink as an incentive.

How important are the exhibitors to the conference? Pretty important. Spend some quality time visiting with vendors and you can learn a lot of useful information about products, resolve issues you’ve had with the company, and know whom to call when you have a question in the future. And what’s probably even more important to you, your conference registration fees would go up without vendor participation. Be sure to spend a lot of time in exhibits during the next conference you attend to keep those vendors happily returning.

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**Be Aware . . .**

**Major speakers** often have very specific travel and lodging requirements. When engaging a speaker, be sure you ask about these so you don’t get stuck with first class airfare for two, a limo, and chilled champagne upon arrival.

**Booking a speaker** is a little like buying a car. There may be a list price, but it’s usually negotiable. Don’t assume that you can’t afford the person you want because of what the booking agent’s catalog says. Tell them what you can pay and see what happens.

**Buffets** cost more than served meals and take much longer, so if your noon-event timeframe is short, plan for a cold lunch that’s on the table when the diners arrive.

**Coffee** for coffee breaks goes for as much as $35 per gallon, plus 19 percent service charge and more than 8 percent sales tax (but that includes cups, cream, sugar, assorted herbal teas, and hot water!). You’re better off to plan conservatively, then order more if you need it.

**Preconferences** are entirely self-supporting. That’s why they’re cancelled if they don’t reach a minimum registration. Because they’re held before the conference (hence the name), they often require an extra overnight stay for attendees. If you’re planning a preconference, be sure to choose a topic of wide interest, and market it with more than just the conference publicity.

**The hotel or conference center liaison:** Bond early and deeply with this person. As the conference time approaches, the liaison can make the small inevitable problems that crop up just go away.

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**The Big Day**

After a two-year buildup, the big day comes—Wednesday of annual conference week. We’re ready. Pre-registration numbers hit the target. The optional meals sold well. The exhibit hall is full. No airline is on strike. No program presenters cancelled. The hotel is happy with registration numbers. It doesn’t look like we forgot anything. And people start arriving.

What does the conference committee do during the conference? Check and re-check room set-ups. Resolve registration problems. Change signs. Pick up speakers at the airport. Order forgotten audio-visual equipment. Nervously pace. Occasionally, we may even attend a program.

Suddenly, it’s over. It’s Saturday noon. The WLFFTA business meeting is breaking up, and almost everyone else is gone. The hotel is quiet. After three days of frenzied activity, there’s nothing to do but pack up what’s left from registration. As you haul boxes of name badge holders, registration forms, leftover programs, and office supplies out to your car, someone you don’t know stops you and says, “Great conference. Thanks for doing such a good job. I really enjoyed it.” You smile, say “thanks,” and load up your trunk.
This eulogy was given at the memorial service for former state librarian Maryan Reynolds on 24 January 2004 at Tumwater United Methodist Church. Reynolds was state librarian from 1951 to 1974.

We have been privileged to know, to love, and to work with the most amazing woman! How can we describe the Maryan we knew and loved?

VISIONARY? Oh, yes! She dreamed big dreams on behalf of the citizens of our state. She saw what libraries could become, and she helped us see and work toward the fulfillment of our dreams for serving the people of Washington. If she saw something we didn’t, she educated us.

FIGHTER? And how! She didn’t just believe libraries could serve people; she battled to make that service exceptional. She never feared change, seeing not problems but opportunities.

With this mindset she helped Washington libraries and librarians move onto the cutting edge of new technology. If libraries needed better funding or better laws, she led the charge. Never, ever, did she quit even if the going got tough.

TOUGH? Tough as nails when she had to be. A defeat was just the spur to rethink, re-strategize, and restart.

WORK HORSE? Yup! She spent her energy prodigiously on our behalf.

PUSHY? You bet! She pushed us and pulled us until we were giving our best in the common cause. She called us to work with, and for, each other.

AGGRAVATING? Sometimes. She could challenge us when we were tired. She could argue when we only wished for peace. She could be hell on wheels when we only wanted to get off the wagon. But she was never, ever mean. She knew us, and she respected us as we were and, more importantly, for whom we could become.

SMART? Oh wow! Smart enough to change her opinion in a flash if someone presented an argument that proved her wrong. Smart enough to welcome change. Smart enough to articulate visions for a better future. Smart enough to help us see where we ought to go and how to get there. Smart enough to seek coalitions of citizens, legislators, and librarians committed to building a better future.

HONEST, YET WILY? If you don’t know the answer to that one, just ask some governors and legislators who knew her!

SERVICE-MINDED? To the nth degree! She helped us time and time again to see how we could and should cut through our bureaucratic fog to make it easier for people to use us and our library resources to meet their needs. Their needs, not ours.

TEAM PLAYER? Absolutely! For Maryan, it was never about Maryan. It was not even about the State Library. It was all about the profession (that’s us) and about what we could do together for and with the people of the state.

TENDER? We probably don’t know the half of it! Who among us did she not counsel with, commiserate with, rejoice with, challenge to accept new responsibilities, and quietly help along the way? Maryan was tough on issues, but kind to people. Who among us could not count her as a true friend?

SUCCESSFUL? Oh yeah! Under her leadership the Washington State Library became one of the foremost state libraries in the nation. Under her leadership Washington libraries met the challenge of a new technological age. With her help we librarians found new ways to cooperate and to share our human and material resources. Not everything she envisioned came to fruition, but the record of her accomplishments is long. It is noteworthy. It would be easy to say: “Times were different then,” implying that it was easier then to accomplish great things. Anyone who has heard the stories of how Washington librarians struggled to bring libraries through the Depression, or to get the State Library built, or to forge multi-county library systems knows this just isn’t so. Success is never easy. It belongs to those among us who are visionaries and fighters.

WHO WAS MARYAN E. REYNOLDS? She was not just our exceptional leader and mentor. She was our pole star, our compass point. Oh, how we have missed her! Oh, how we will continue to miss her. With Maryan we knew who we were and who we could become. With her we knew where we were and where we could arrive. Maryan’s legacy lives not just in the institutions and services she helped us build, but in our very selves—in our selves, and in the selves of those who will follow us, as beneficiaries of all she dreamed and all she achieved.

Thank you, Maryan!

Shirley C. Tucker is a retired director of Mid-Columbia Library and a former WLA president.
Clockwise from top:

Maryan Reynolds. WLA’s scholarship has been renamed in her honor.

Reynolds in the state library stacks at the old Temple of Justice building.


Gov. Albert Rosselini and Reynolds examine the regional libraries master plan in 1962. Reynolds laid the ground for development of library districts in the state.

Reynolds in a cabinet meeting, Gov. Rosselini presiding.
How many times have you heard, “They won’t hire me for the job because I don’t have any experience. How can I get experience if I can’t get a job?” One answer is to volunteer for an organization that allows you to gain the kind of experience you need.

Libraries today rely on a wide variety of jobs to accomplish their mission. They have people working in collection development, acquisitions, archives, computing, interlibrary loan, circulation, and reference departments, all of whom collectively identify, obtain, store, retrieve, and loan books and other items. Which of those jobs do you find interesting? How do you know which you’d be happier doing?

Library science education generally gives you history, theory, and brief exposure to most of the skills required to start. But employers want experience as well as education. As part of your education you might have had exposure—through internships or other programs—to various aspects of library work. That helps, but how do you expand your contacts in the field? How do you show more people what a great person you are and what an asset you’d be to their organization? What organization provides opportunities to meet and work with a network of people with interests similar to yours?

The Washington Library Association is such an organization. WLA brings together colleagues from all over the state to share knowledge in specific areas of library expertise. The organization provides mentors and training, and keeps members informed of the changes in the library industry. Member commitment to WLA is flexible. Members can volunteer to help and participate as much or as little as they want to. They work at their own pace and when they have times available. They have dozens of people ready to help them or mentor them at a moment’s notice.

When I first joined WLA, I was a lurker (someone who watches and learns but doesn’t contribute). I went to conferences because I wanted to have a few days off and meet some new people. I was a nobody from nowhere and I didn’t know a soul outside of my own workplace. But I found that I actually did more work at the conference than at my regular job. I was literally running from program to program, all of which were interesting to me. Earlier I had joined ILLIG (the Interlibrary Loan Interest Group), whose chair talked me into making a two-year commitment as vice-chair/chair-elect. Even though I’d never set up more than a dinner around the kitchen table, I was now setting up the annual interest-group meeting. The very thought of setting up a statewide meeting sent a stab of fear deep into my psyche, but I took the task on with support from the “others who had gone before.”

The next year my position allowed me to attend WLA board meetings, where I started to learn how things worked in this organization. Every so often WLA holds an interest group retreat designed to provide continuity and education for the new interest group officers. The first one I attended was the “workshop on workshops,” which included a manual on how to set up and hold a workshop.

I eventually became chair of ILLIG, a position I held for several years. I’ve also been secretary/webmaster of that interest group and WLA’s coordinator of communications, an elected board position.

The cost of joining WLA is a very small price to pay for what you get. WLA involvement has provided experience that will benefit me for the rest of my life, experiences in communications planning, small and large group interaction, public speaking, budgeting, accounting, building Web pages, and setting up presentations and conferences. Many of these experiences I could not have gotten in my day job. As with all things, what you get out of WLA depends on what you put into it. Now, when someone asks if I have experience, I can reply with a resounding “yes!”
Vigilance Pays: WLA’s Legislative Planning Committee outlines major impacts on library funding propelled by political action and inaction (December 2003 article by Mary Wise and Bonnie Taylor).

State legislators’ initial reaction to almost-ubiquitous CIPA-compliance in Washington public libraries by January 2004 would be sincere appreciation and praise, predicted WLA’s legislative consultant Steve Duncan. Nevertheless, some in the state House and Senate would quickly slip back into a customary stance of doubting how well public libraries protect children, zeroing in on the 20 percent of Washington public libraries not implementing the Internet filtering requirements outlined in the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA). Duncan said those doubters in the legislature would continue to push for elected library trustees and a protection of minors act.

Sure enough, in the 2004 legislative session those doubters exerted enough pressure to stop a bill that would have helped public libraries. That bill would have allowed four-year levy lifts for library districts.

Duncan, who works year round to promote library issues in Olympia, encourages librarians and the supporters of libraries likewise to keep in contact with their county and hometown officials, as well as their legislators. “Ask them to come to your library,” he urges. “That’s how they will see for themselves that it is the expertise of librarians that makes technology an effective, dependable tool. That’s a key way libraries can meet the Google challenge.” Calling for library employees and supporters to work with WLA and their local Friends groups to meet threats that include a steady stream of initiatives, Duncan notes that the middle of summer is no time for librarians to take a vacation from advocacy. “If you don’t fight,” he says, “you know you will lose.”

—Bonnie Taylor is a trustee at Mid-Columbia Library.

Got Politics? A library director assesses the successful efforts to save Stevens County Rural Library District (SCRLD) from being dissolved (December 2003 article by Regan Robinson).

Public libraries across the state face perennial political and funding threats. Robinson finds that members of the public “love library services but don’t yet equate them with taxes.” It is clear that Stevens County’s libraries are well used and appreciated, but this appreciation does not translate into wanting to pay for them. The quality of Robinson’s staff earns high praise, but the reality is that the grim funding climate in the state means she will have to “back fill” positions not with certified librarians but with library assistants.

She has always known that educating the community on library operations is part of her job. However, she now markets the library in a more casual and conversational manner than she did when campaigners worked to keep the library district from being dissolved in 2003.

The library is also listening to community members who are being asked what their needs and interests are. For example, computers are very popular at the branches, she notes, even with patrons who have computers at home, because of SCRLD’s good data communication speed. In rural areas, home Internet connections often are slow and expensive. That means that libraries are building community use—and appreciation—by offering a fast connection to the world.

—Bonnie Taylor

Outreach at the Mid-Columbia Library: “Old-Fashioned is not a Bad Thing” was the theme then, but what’s rolling down the road now is new, and so is its technology (March 2001 article by Brian Soneda).

Its nearly 20-year-old bookmobile was spending more time in the repair shop, and much less time on the road when Mid-Columbia Library (MCL) decided quality service demanded an upgraded vehicle. Old-fashioned, friendly library service on wheels would remain. The aim was to make it a lot more dependable and accessible. But first came months of research and working on specifications with staff and vendors, including plans for wireless communication.

At last the time came to act. In November, Kevin Dougherty (bookmobile driver) and Brian Soneda (assistant director for public services) flew to Greensboro, North Carolina, home of Matthews Specialty Vehicles. There they inspected the partially-completed vehicle and got a good feel for what Matthews could provide. Smaller than the old MCL bookmobile, and easier and safer to drive, the new ve-

11.
hicle—carefully designed down to the last inch—would hold nearly as many books. The paint job was another big decision. White, with a logo of bold colors and happy kids, this mobile library is hard to miss as it’s coming up the street.

After more give and take by email and phone, the vehicle was ready. This time Dougherty went to the Matthews plant alone to give the final okay. On 18 February, the bookmobile arrived in Kennewick. After a few bugs got worked out, the collection was loaded, and in late April there was a coming-out party for the bookmobile at Kennewick’s Playground of Dreams. The playground too was new, having been rebuilt after an appalling arsonist attack. Families helping with the park-building project toured the mobile library and checked out materials, while local media covered the regeneration of both the playground and bookmobile service. Now, requests are pouring in to MCL for more bookmobile routes and children’s programs.

—Bonnie Taylor

Actors and Activists Reclaim Intellectual Freedom:


Citizens are responding to the message of G.A.P. Theatre’s PATRIOT Acts: The Bill of Rights Theatre Project. Surveys show that, after seeing the performance, most people are highly motivated to take action in one way or another, including contacting elected officials. And, as word spreads, more community groups are asking to see the skits.

Sarosh Syed, a special projects coordinator for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Washington, said the goal is to reach audiences who are unclear or undecided about the merits and drawbacks of anti-terrorism policies. ACLU speakers are now reaching out beyond the Puget Sound region, appearing before community groups around the state and discussing homeland security issues on a monthly cable show on SCAN (public access television for King County and South Snohomish County).

Syed praised library associations, including the WLA, as invaluable allies in the fight against portions of the Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001 (the USA PATRIOT Act, also known as the Patriot Act).

On the legislative front, ACLU continues to organize communities to pass resolutions against the act. It is lobbying for a resolution that would make Washington the fifth state to oppose the act. In Seattle, a suit was filed against the government’s inclusion of innocent people on its “no-fly” list. A broad-based coalition that includes the ACLU has filed a friend-of-the-court brief calling on the U.S. Supreme Court to assure that Guantánamo Bay detainees have access to courts in order to challenge the legality of their detention. Nationally, ACLU strongly supports the Security and Freedom Ensured (SAFE) Act, legislation introduced in both houses of Congress. The SAFE Act adds civil liberties safeguards to USA PATRIOT Act provisions.

—Bonnie Taylor

Washington Library Levy Issues: In 2002–2003, libraries racked up eight reported successes and four failures, but all levy campaigns diverted money from library budgets (December 2003 article by Colleen Brazil and John Sheller).

Compiling statistics on library elections is no easy task. Some were missed in that first Alki report, but enough data was available to see just how costly it is to raise funds in a state swamped by tax initiatives. To finance year-to-year library services and building projects, costs are paid not only in campaign expenses for levy lifts and bonds, but also in time and effort and diminished zeal.

Here are the election updates for late 2003 and early 2004:

• LaConner and Sno-Isle Regional Libraries achieved levy lid lifts.
• Spokane County Library District gained voter approval for the creation of a Library Capital Facility Area (LCFA) in Moran Prairie and, on its first try, passed a bond measure of $2.35 million for the same area.
• Yakima Valley Regional Library reported a strong annexation success. More than 77 percent of the voters in Sunnyside voted to annex to Yakima.
• Mid-Columbia Library received good news after the votes were counted in the Benton City area on an $800,000 bond to build a new library on a donated site. Before the election, MCL had pledged $120,000 to buy furnishings and shelving.
• Further down the Columbia River, the Fort Vancouver Regional Library failed to gain the 60 percent supermajority required to pass a $48 million bond to relieve the overcrowding of their downtown Vancouver Community Library and allow for other
expansions. The area newspaper suggested a retry for passage should include a more tightly drawn subdistrict and a smaller bond request. (These two actions helped get bond approval in Benton City, after earlier measures failed.) Some Fort Vancouver area residents also indicated that library policies on Internet service affected the outcome negatively.

**Coming this fall:**

- Sno-Isle Libraries endorsed ballot measures on the creation of an Oak Harbor LCFA and a vote on a bond for a 30,000-square-foot library. The new $12 million building would replace the current crowded library on the Skagit Valley College Whidbey campus.
- King County Library System's capital replacement bond will appear on the 14 September ballot. If it passes, the $172 million measure will meet KCLS's top capital priorities for the next ten years, replacing aged libraries that cannot be upgraded to meet necessary safety standards and adding three new libraries in areas where no library service exists.
- Orcas Island Library District will try again for a levy lift. The intent this time is not to return the library to its pre-I-747 funding level, but to protect the library from further financial losses. If I-864 qualifies for the general election, and is approved by voters statewide, Orcas Island’s library budget will be cut again, this time by more than $111,000. The amount of the current request for a levy lift will be small, perhaps as little as one cent per $1,000 assessed valuation. How other libraries would handle such a devastating cut in revenue is a full story in itself, which hopefully won’t need to be written because voters are being educated by library supporters on the losses their communities would suffer under I-864. And yet, fighting passage of this latest tax-cutting initiative is one more costly and demanding campaign for library advocates.
- Supporters of the Stanwood Public Library asked the Sno-Isle Regional Libraries’ Board of Trustees to request a September ballot measure in Snohomish and Island Counties for a twenty-year library construction bond. A consultant’s report named two possible sites for a new library.
- Bremerton will use $100,000 from the city’s capital improvement fund to renovate the downtown Martin Luther King Jr. Library. For the $400,000 project, backing is also coming from the Community Development Block Grant Fund for $100,000. Also, library Friends so far have raised an additional $16,000.

**Other ways Washington libraries are raising funds:**

- Whatcom County Library System’s Friends in Deming are in an eighteen-month campaign to raise $500,000 to expand the library building, built twelve years ago and owned by the Friends. The expansion will nearly triple the library’s size to 7,000 square feet. Mount Baker High School students donated art to an auction to benefit the building project.
- The Neill Public Library in Pullman is progressing with a Heritage Addition, privately funded by the late Ivan Shirod, who wanted to build a repository for history of the Palouse in honor of his parents.
- Space for a new Bellingham Public Library branch, offered by a developer at a commercial site, is being considered by library officials. However, city budget concerns are a major factor in any expansion plans. A $15 million bond to replace the current central library also was on the table, but not pursued this year because of funding demands for other city services.

For the first *Alki* report on the escalating need for voter approval of library financing, Colleen Brazil and John Sheller checked each district’s poll authority, typically a county auditor’s web page, to nail down the voting percentages. To assure a complete accounting of future financial developments, libraries are encouraged to report on their funding measures to the WLA office, greatly advancing the data collection and creating a clearer picture of library strategies and trends that lead to successful funding.

—Bonnie Taylor

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wenty years ago, with fanfare and enthusiasm, WLA leaders launched Alki, our association's print journal. Alki's volunteer editors have
each brought something different to the job, and the intervening years have brought new production tech-
niques, new ways of relaying content, and new expecta-
tions. Anniversaries are milestones and a time for congratulations. But they are also an appropriate time
to take stock of an effort and where it is leading.

Alki Has It All—But for Whom?

Alki's originators wanted a journal that was more broad in scope than other library association publications, a journal that published material other
state library journals and periodicals would not, a journal that encompassed diverse people and ideas
within the library community, that had articles going beyond “how our library did it good.” So,
from the beginning, when Louise Saylor became the journal's first editor in 1985, Alki's offerings have
included everything from scholarly historical pieces to conference session reports to humor pieces to
philosophical pieces to doggerel verse to reports of a Friends' barbecue. Alki has had it all.

Although each editor put his or her stamp on Alki, none veered from this principle. The Alki Edit-
torial Committee—which functions largely independ-
ently of the WLA leadership as it determines issue
themes, hires editors, and solicits articles (or writes
them)—appears to have taken the responsibility seri-
ously of giving a voice to the variety of institutional
types and constituencies that exist within the library community. Incorporating content that is as eclectic
as WLA's membership, Alki also has not shrunk from contro
versial subjects, offering up articles like Harvey
Gover's piece in December 1994 that calls into ques-
tion the use of part-time employees in libraries (1) and
my own piece on library unions in the December 2001
issue (2).

“I saw Alki's role as a forum for discussion of
issues that mattered to people who either worked
in, or at least cared about, libraries,” says fifth editor Vince Kueter. “And I valued Alki's editorial independence and worked hard to preserve it.”

Alki is not a professional journal, although of course many articles published in Alki reflect the concerns of professional librarians. Alki is a publication produced by members and aimed at the
state’s wider community of library-affiliated employees, trustees,
and citizens. Receiving the journal is a benefit of WLA membership;
but the journal also goes to a variety of state libraries, library asso-
ciations, nonmember libraries, and a few individual subscribers. Its
circulation now hovers around a thousand. Few Alki articles reach
the general public, however, as print distribution beyond the WLA
membership is limited. Since 1998, the journal has appeared full-text
online in WilsonLine and, since 1997, full issues have been available
on WLA's website.

Former WLA communications coordinator Troy Christenson
would like to see Alki target nonmembers. “If members are its sole
target market, then the publication could be described as an in-house
journal. Certainly members should be included, but I think that oth-
ers should be included as well—library advocates, decision makers,
and nonmember patrons. These people should know it if libraries
are threatened with elimination because of legislation, revenue loss,
 misinformation, or passivity. All these groups should be able to see
what is going on in the profession, what is happening in the legis-
lature, and should be able to answer questions like: ‘Why should I
care? I can get anything I need on the Internet,’ and ‘How does that
affect me?’ ”

What's in a Name?

WLA members take a proprietary interest in Alki. A proposal to change the journal’s name is one of the most debated issues this year
on the WLA email discussion list. Alki's founding editor Louise Say-
lor weighs in on this debate on the side of wanting a name change
only if it leads to growth in Alki’s readership: “I am not certain,
but I think that we considered a title similar to Washington Libraries.
The members who made comment on the topic said that they felt
it narrowed the focus and scope of what we hoped to offer to the
WLA membership… I wonder if those titles [of library association
journals] with ‘libraries’ or ‘librarian’ provide the range of material
that Alki does. If the title were to change, would someone come to
Washington Libraries expecting to find the history of the Blue Moon
[Tavern], or a thoughtful discussion of postmodernism, any more
than someone would who picked up a copy of Alki? This is my
convoluted way of saying that I do not think a title change would
increase readership.”

Cameron Johnson is a reference librarian at Everett Public
Library and current Alki editor. Photo by Laura McCarty.
Former Alki editor and current WLA president John Sheller, who introduced the idea of the name change, sees Alki’s main purpose a little differently. He feels that the name change might reinforce the common identity of the library community in Washington state. He says, “As John Prine once said in his song ‘Dear Abby,’ ‘You are what you are and you ain’t what you ain’t!’ WLA members come from academic, governmental, public, and special or corporate libraries. Collectively we are Washington libraries. What we ‘ain’t’ is the Washington Historical Society, the Chinook Nation, or a homeowners association in a trendy but overpriced West Seattle neighborhood.” Sheller also believes that one of Alki’s strongest purposes is to be an historical record of the association’s accomplishments: “The association’s journal is the one communication tool that allows for thoughtful dissertation, photographs of WLA events, and a written, archivable record of our activities and accomplishments. By being our document of record, it also serves a time-capsule role by allowing current WLAsers to dialog with future members and library supporters.”

Alki as Time Capsule

Except for the files residing in banker boxes in association coordinator Gail Willis’s home (see the article by Margaret Thomas in this issue), Alki is the closest thing we have to a published record of our association’s—and, by extension, Washington libraries—last twenty years. Michael Schuyler’s “Bit Bucket” column, which ran from 1985 to 1990, now serves as a primary source record of libraries’ adoption of computer technology. And who today would have guessed that privatization of government information was on WLA members’ minds, as demonstrated in the very first Alki issue? Or that the fullest explication yet published of WLA’s position on election of library trustees is presented in the December 1990 issue?

Members reading these old Alkis gain insight into our organization, its members, and its past issues and struggles, and can find valuable context for the association’s current concerns. For example, reading the reprint in the December 1992 Alki of tech guru Brewster Kahle’s vision (3) of the future library—with its storefront location, dearth of books, and print on demand (with libraries policing the collection of royalties for publishers)—provides some context for evaluating the claims of today’s tech gurus.

Still, it is rare today for an Alki author to cite older Alki articles. I suspect that our members have treated Alki as ephemera, not as the record of our association’s deliberations. WLA is typical of other volunteer-run organizations, barely able to keep up with today, much less yesterday. Much of any such association’s past is always lost.

According to OCLC, of the forty-two libraries that catalog Alki in the state, only eight are public libraries. Of those eight, only three have a complete run: Seattle Public Library, Spokane Public Library, and Pend Oreille County Library District. Part of the explanation for this is that many libraries have not been continuous institutional members, so did not get some issues to begin with. But whatever the reason, few of our public libraries have seen the archival value of Alki, and that is a pity, for the past is prologue to now. And though members can access post-1997 issues via the WLA website, older issues are not available except through the few libraries that have retained physical copies.

Production Evolution

Alki has always been shaped by the editor’s personality and capabilities, and by the institution in which the editor works. Alki’s first editor had a vision

Alki editor Cameron Johnson. On display is the cover of Alki’s tenth anniversary issue, published March 1994.
and a desire, but no experience producing a journal. Each subsequent editor has brought particular talents and abilities, and has evolved the journal in a particular direction.

Louise Saylor has English degrees, is an “anal retentive cataloger,” and was able to have Eastern Washington University’s publications office design issues and set them into type for transmission to the printer. Debbie Ramsey did much of Alki’s design work during Saylor’s tenure. With WLA’s support, third editor Lisa Wolfe hired a graphic designer, Klundt-Hosmer, to overhaul Alki’s cover and appearance, a redesign that she today compares to a People magazine-type metamorphosis. “The new layout had standing heads and we used those,” Wolfe says. “I am a big fan of photography and we solicited photos to go with articles as well as ensured that WLA leaders had professional headshots to use in the magazine. Plus, we hired a professional photographer to shoot photos at WLA conferences, both award winners and other candid shots. He was a newspaper photographer who had done quite a bit of work for me at Spokane Public Library and so he had a good understanding of libraries and librarians. He took many of our cover photos as well.”

Seventh editor Carolynne Myall’s production method was to lay everything out on paper and—because of her proximity to Alki’s printer (United Lithographers of Spokane)—to consult frequently and in-person with them as her layout was translated into a print-ready file. Prior to becoming Alki editor, Myall had written articles and a short monograph, and had edited a three-issue offering of an academic journal. “But the academic journal I had worked on basically required only that I get to the point of submitting the edited text files of articles; then the publication staff took over,” she says. “Layout, photos and clipart, finding cover artists, hiring conference photographers, printing, mailing, advertising—all these aspects of publishing Alki were brand new to me.” Myall’s editorship saw Alki’s first appearance on WilsonLine, and Myall first arranged to put PDF images of Alki issues on the WLA webpage.

Sixth editor Vince Kueter had support from Seattle Times artist James McFarlane, and did the Alki layout with QuarkXPress software before sending an issue to the printer. Kueter has similar thoughts to Myall’s on assuming the Alki editorship: “I’d edited two literary journals and I worked at a newspaper, but editing the flagship publication of a professional association, relying on the members of that association for content, and acknowledging the expectations of the leadership of that association while still putting your own personal stamp on the publication and remaining true to the goals of the publication itself—well, I can tell you that it requires abilities beyond the core editorial skills that suffice for most publications.”

Kueter and his predecessor John Sheller both have journalism backgrounds, as do I. My library has permitted me to do some Alki business on library time, providing I keep up with my regular work. The facelift that happened during my editorship was triggered by WLA’s adoption of new graphical standards, that and having the services of two fine cover artists on staff at Everett Public Library—Joan Blacker and Kevin Duncan. I also decided to do the layout of Alki issues myself using InDesign software.

Up through John Sheller’s editorship (John’s last issue was December 1995), articles frequently had to be entirely re-keyed because submissions came in as typed manuscripts, or because of computer file incompatibility problems. “If I end up with carpal tunnel, I’ll bet a lot of the cause was those hours of re-keying 1,500-word Alki articles,” Sheller says. Routine re-keying of Alki articles is, I trust, gone forever. But though its typography and use of graphics have changed since the late 1980s, the articles published back then would be immediately recognizable to current readers. Two of Alki’s regular columns, “Who’s On First” and “I’d Rather Be Reading,” have been with the journal since issue one in 1985.

Whither Alki?

Alki’s base of contributing authors has grown in recent years such that we have marginally more submissions than we can publish. But impinging on the production of our little journal are all the big dilemmas that face librarianship—figuring out how to value virtual versus actual resources, sorting out intellectual property rights, facing budgetary challenges, re-examining professionalism and its trappings, coping with changing publication formats, and adapting to technological change and its resulting disjunctures. The question is, will we do as well—or better—for ourselves than others are doing for themselves?

Alki’s sparse retention among public libraries, and the absence of a competent index of Alki’s full twenty-year run, greatly diminish its practical utility as a historical record of our association and our libraries. If such an index were created and made accessible, members could consult the index and then rely on interlibrary loans to acquire the full-text articles. Although the next logical step after that would be putting up full-text Alki articles on the WLA website in HTML or PDF format (or perhaps distributing a CD-ROM with the same content), the feasibility of our doing this is in question. For example, because WLA owns the electronic publishing rights only for Alki articles produced within the past six years, permissions from all pre-1997 authors (more than forty journal issues) would need to be secured.

Although some others in WLA might disagree, I believe that making Alki entirely virtual would lessen its prestige and endanger its contributor base. Some contributors see a benefit in being able to hand to a prospective employer or review board an attractive and well laid out Alki issue containing their article. In some circles, a print journal carries more prestige than an electronic one: Words
set in physical form and mailed out can’t be retrieved or altered, so they represent a tangible commitment to the message they carry. Nevertheless, other state library associations now produce e-journals rather than physical journals, so if WLA continues to face a money crunch there could be a call to save annual printing costs by virtualizing Alki.

Publishing software is getting cheaper and more accessible, and printers now expect clients to deliver a fully realized, “RIP ready” file. This means that, unless publication production services are available through an institutional affiliation, the editor must add (to an already full plate of skilled editing tasks) a working knowledge of complex publishing and image-processing software. While such knowledge makes possible a more flexible and iterative process for publication layout, using that knowledge makes steeper time demands on the editor. A team approach can be the answer, so long as timely communication and cooperation under deadline pressure are possible.

At twenty years old, Alki is a mature, well-established journal. I am frankly awed by the work and dedication reflected in these fifty-nine Alki issues. But being established and mature doesn’t ensure the journal’s future. Only by meeting contemporary challenges can we accomplish that. As it was in Alki’s founding year of 1985, so it is now.

I would like to thank the WLA folks who granted me email interviews during preparation of this article: John Sheller, Carolyne Myall, Louise Saylor, Anthony Wilson, Lisa Wolfe, Vince Kueter, and Troy Christenson.

References
An author interviewing centenarians for a book liked to ask, “How do you want to be remembered?” It’s too early to record the legacy of 62-year-old Gail Willis, but when the time comes, here’s a beginning that’s not too bad: “You can depend on her,” says longtime associate Mike Wirt. “You can totally depend on her to do what she says she’ll do.”

Members of the Washington Library Association have been depending on Willis for a decade now. As association coordinator, she knows what’s coming up and what’s gone down. The ringing telephone aside, a typical day brings three dozen email messages. If it’s Monday, make that seventy-five or eighty; and if she’s gone more than a day, some 150 messages greet her return like hungry baby birds.

Members want to know where to get a conference registration form. They need help organizing a workshop, or need a ruling on the association bylaws which Willis helped rewrite years ago. Young aspiring librarians send letters asking for career advice, says Willis, “and they’re still writing on lined paper with a pencil.”

The association pays Willis to work 80 percent of full time. “I quit a long time ago keeping track,” she says. “I don’t worry about whether it’s evenings or weekends.” And neither apparently does anyone else. “You can call Gail anytime, day or night,” says friend and association member Kristy Coomes. “She is absolutely selfless and dedicated. She will probably just cringe, because she truly enjoys the job.”

Willis not only does what she says she’ll do, “she’ll also get you to do what you said you would do,” says friend and former association president Sharon Hammer. She might make you an outline. She may leave reminders with your office staff. She’ll encourage and pat you on the head. She nags. Willis helps board members prepare for meetings and has discreetly advised five association presidents since she was hired in 1994. “Gail’s ability to multitask is legendary,” says current president John Sheller. “If you need it, you go right to Gail.”

But Willis is more than the association’s go-to girl. Everyone agrees that one of her most important roles is remembering. “She really is the institutional memory of the association,” says Wirt. “She remembers people,” says Coomes. People she met just once a year before. “This is amazing, because she does it over and over and over.”

A member of the association since the early ’70s, Willis gently steers green board members away from rabbit trails and quagmires. And how does she handle the biennial change in presidential agendas? “Carefully,” she says. “I’m not shy, though. I try to be kind.”

Taking Work Home

From the quiet street in front of Don and Gail Willis’s 97-year-old Wallingford home, it’s just a short tumble to the rippling waters of Lake Union at the bottom of the hill. Across the lake, downtown Seattle juts geometrically from the horizon with an air of urban importance. It’s April, and daffodils bloom in the front yard of the brown brick Willis home, operations central for the Washington Library Association. Twinkling white Christmas lights festoon the deep front porch, warding off remnants of winter gloom.

Don Willis answers the door in stocking feet, chats a moment, and then disappears like a husband used to sharing his home with his wife’s work. The Willises moved into the Wallingford house in 1975, shortly after they were married. They preserve its turn-of-the-20th century charm with lace curtains at the front windows and oriental rugs on the hardwood floors.

Gail Willis takes a seat in the dining area at a long wooden table. “It’s always a miracle to find it clear,” says Willis. She had scheduled a meeting here for later in the day with a committee to count ballots from the association’s recent officers election. The 178 ballots, representing about 20 percent of the 850 eligible association voters, are tucked in a canvas bag that hangs on the back of her chair.

Willis is pragmatic about the association’s static membership numbers and low voter participation. Active involvement in a professional association is integral to some library workers, she says, and not to others—many of whom join just to attend the annual conference. “That’s just a mindset, and I don’t think there’s any way to change that mindset. I don’t think it’s a huge negative.”

Mauve molding frames a hallway that leads to Willis’s small, tidy office. A large window faces onto the neighbor’s cluttered side yard. She starts her day at her desk early, often still in her nightclothes, sip-
ping coffee and checking email before the telephone starts to ring. One of the ubiquitous Nancy Pearl dolls, still in the package, leans against a collection of cookbooks in the dining room. With its short hair, glasses, and loose-cut suit, the doll resembles Willis.

Pearl may be an icon in the Washington library world, but Willis is the superhero behind the scenes. Participants in meetings and work parties often gather around her dining room table, where it's not uncommon for the association coordinator to serve bowls of homemade soup for lunch. “Which I'm sure is not in her position description,” says Wirt. Appetizers are her specialty, says Willis, who likes to cook and throw big parties. Some of the best ones featured a friend at the ornate piano, which also serves as a photo gallery of grandchildren.

The association lauds Willis’s work ethic, but friends value her dry wit, her sound advice, her prayer circle, and a signature talent. “Gail knows every word to every Broadway show tune,” says Hammer. And she can carry a tune.

**A Lifetime in Libraries**

Willis grew up in Seattle and attended Lincoln High School, just eight blocks from the Wallingford house. Her earliest memories include playing a mushroom in a library drama festival, and a coal stove explosion during a library story hour.

At about age sixteen, Willis got her first job at the then-new Greenwood branch of Seattle Public Library, where she shelved books, stamped due dates, and reinforced magazine covers. She also accompanied the head librarian, who periodically went door-to-door collecting overdue books. Willis, who stands just 5-foot-3, carried a large black umbrella—rain or shine—and described her role as “feeble bodyguard.”

In those days, library pages made seventy-seven cents an hour, but that didn’t exempt them from pressure to donate to the United Way campaign. Willis raised eyebrows when she refused, citing the fact that Planned Parenthood was not among participating nonprofits. “I had strong feelings about lots of things,” she says.

In the early ‘60s, Willis worked in what was then the Padelford Library at the University of Washington, before moving to Pullman to study English literature at Washington State University. Over the next ten years she married, had two children, taught English as a second language, and helped prospective army recruits at Fort Lewis prepare for their General Educational Development tests. “I was not a good fit with the Army during the Vietnam War,” says Willis, who returned to libraries in 1972.
Seattle Public had launched a mobile outreach program to serve residents of nursing homes and others who couldn’t get to the library. For the next fourteen years, Willis worked for the program and at the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. “This is a unique kind of librarianship that’s not for everyone,” says Coomes. Outreach librarians must be flexible enough to deal with all manner of physical and mental disabilities. They become fond of elderly readers and frequently are faced with death and dying. On behalf of one nursing home resident, remembers Hammer, Willis was relentlessly on the lookout for “Westerns without guns.”

Willis’s affiliation with the library association began when she joined the then-new outreach interest group. “It was back in the 70s—the activist approach,” says Wirt, who was also part of the group that came to be known as the “Young Turks” for its collective activism and idealism. “It was just a feeling of trying to take care of library services for people who couldn’t take care of them themselves.”

By then divorced, Willis met Don, a graduate student and part-time employee, at Seattle Public Library. In 1986, a progressive cataract forced her to quit her job. A detached retina already had blinded her left eye and a cataract in her right eye gradually worsened over the next few years. Reading meant holding the book inches from her eye, and going for a walk required a cane. Cataract surgery in 1994 restored Willis’ right-eye vision and the library association offered her the part-time coordinator’s job.

An active member of the association himself, Don often drives his wife to meetings and conferences.

Together they work for and donate to their Episcopal church, and are active in their neighborhood community council. As precinct committee officers for the Democratic Party, they have held caucuses and rung doorbells before elections. In recognition of their work on behalf of libraries, WLA gave both Willises the President’s Award in 1999.

So when Gail Willis is a hundred years old and someone asks how she’d like to be remembered, Hammer can help with the words: “She does what all of us should be doing… working hard enough that people know who you are and are willing to listen to you when you talk about libraries.”
Who’s On First?

KENNETH EINAR HIMMA

Libraries as Political Advocates: A Critique of the Library Bill of Rights, Article III

The American Library Association (ALA) Library Bill of Rights has generated a lot of controversy, among librarians and non-librarians alike, for its liberal conception of the right to content. The most controversial article is Article V, which asserts that minors have the same right to content as adults. But Article II, which suggests that content-based censorship of any kind is illegitimate, has also generated its own heat.

In contrast, Article III seems completely unobjectionable. According to Article III, “Libraries should challenge censorship in the maintenance of their responsibility to provide public information and enlightenment.” On its face, Article III seems to do no more than express a general opposition to censorship. What could be objectionable about that?

But a closer look at Article III discloses a couple of implications that warrant careful evaluation. First, Article III implies that libraries owe an advocacy obligation to their patrons. Second, it implies that it is the job of libraries to advocate a particularly expansive conception of speech rights that seems to admit of no exceptions.

As we will see below, these implications are problematic. The idea that libraries are obligated to challenge all censorship on behalf of their patrons is difficult to reconcile with ordinary views about public libraries and their proper role in a democratic society.

Libraries as Advocates

Article III makes a very strong claim about the responsibilities of libraries. To see this, notice that Article III does not attribute a right to challenge censorship to either libraries or librarians; that is, it does not assert that libraries or librarians have a right to challenge instances of state censorship. This, of course, would be utterly uncontroversial; since every natural and artificial person (e.g., a corporation) has a right to express her views about censorship, it follows that librarians and libraries have such rights.

Instead, Article III defines an obligation to challenge censorship: Libraries have a duty to challenge censorship to fulfill their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment. On this conception, then, a library has a general obligation to provide information and enlightenment that implies a more specific obligation to act as political advocate.

Moreover, this obligation is owed by libraries (not librarians) to patrons. By definition, rights are constituted by obligations. Your right to life, for example, means the rest of us are obligated not to act in ways likely to result in your death. Since the rights that the Library Bill of Rights creates are held by patrons against libraries, those rights define obligations that libraries owe to patrons.

The idea that it is the proper role of a public library to act as a political advocate—and, further, that it has an institutional obligation to do so—on behalf of library patrons is problematic for several reasons.

First, on the ordinary conception of a library’s proper role, political advocacy is just not part of the job description. On this common conception, the job of a library is to provide access to whatever information is legally available. It is the job of other persons—courts and elected representatives—to decide what content is legally available.

Second, neither libraries nor librarians can plausibly claim to represent or express the will of the people—or, for that matter, even the will of library patrons. While it makes sense to characterize elected officials as representing the will of the voters, public librarians are not elected to their positions either by the people in general or by library patrons. Although public library employees can, I suppose, fairly be characterized as “public officials” in the broadest sense of the term, they cannot plausibly be said to represent or express anyone’s views but their own.

Third, librarians are not required to get any particular training that would qualify them to be political advocates for other people. Library students are required to take courses in collection development, cataloging, archival services, information behavior, classification theory, information retrieval systems, abstracting, etc. But none of this gives rise to any expertise that would qualify librarians to decide for patrons whether censorship is proper in any given instance.

And there are no other required elements in the library curriculum that would provide the appropriate expertise. Unlike law students, library students are not required to take courses in constitutional law, the legal system, or legal reasoning. Unlike philosophy students, they are not required to take courses in logic, political theory, moral theory, or applied ethics. Given

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this, it is hard to see how public libraries could have some sort of moral or political duty to act as political advocates for their patrons.

It is true, of course, that the very point of a library is to provide access to content, informative and non-informative alike, and hence that library professionals are inherently concerned with providing content. But it is not clear how this would qualify librarians, either individually or collectively, to act as political advocates: Expertise in organizing and providing access to information does not confer expertise in political, policy, prudential, ethical, or legal theorizing about the propriety of providing such access in particular cases.

Expertise in theorizing is surely not a requirement for being obligated to act as political advocate. It is not implausible to think that every citizen in a democratic society has some sort of obligation to be politically active—though it is not clear to whom such an obligation would be owed.

Still, it is reasonable to think that anyone who is obligated to advocate for other people is also obligated to have expertise in at least one relevant area. The lawyer’s obligation to advocate for her clients not only presupposes that she has expertise in the law, but also requires such expertise. The idea that someone could be obligated to advocate for other people without being obligated to have some expertise in the relevant area is, if not incoherent, substantively implausible as a matter of principle.

The problem, however, is that libraries are not fairly presumed to have any sort of relevant expertise. If libraries are obligated to have such expertise as a precondition for acting as a political advocate, then they violate this obligation every time they presume to advocate without expertise on behalf of patrons. On the assumption, then, that libraries have an advocacy obligation, they also have an obligation not to advocate until they acquire expertise in some relevant area—expertise that the library curriculum, as it currently exists, does not adequately provide.

**A Controversial Conception of Free Speech**

Compounding the difficulties with Article III is the fact that it requires libraries to defend an extremely expansive conception of speech rights. As the ALA elsewhere describes this conception: “The American Library Association condemns any governmental effort to involve libraries and librarians in restrictions on the right of any individual … to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas [and] rejects censorship in any form” (“The Universal Right to Free Expression,” adopted by the ALA Council, 16 January 1991).

Even if public libraries are obligated to play some sort of advocacy role with respect to free speech, there is still an issue of deciding which conception of free speech they are obligated to advance and defend. Conceptions of free speech are deeply contested among politicians, educators, judges and citizens in this country. Views on free speech in play among people in this culture, like views on other issues, range from very conservative to very liberal. Some sort of argument is needed for privileging one among these many conceptions vying for acceptance in the marketplace of ideas.

The idea that libraries ought to be defending the most expansive conception of free speech is hard to defend on democratic grounds. Most people in this society are in favor of some content-based censorship and believe that obscenity, disclosure of national secrets, corporate and commercial speech, and speech likely to create an imminent threat to public safety are all legitimately restricted by the state.

On this point at least, the holdings of the various federal and state courts are considerably more in harmony with the views of most people than the ALA’s expansive conception of speech rights. Indeed, the courts have long held that each of the categories of speech described in the last paragraph may legitimately be restricted by the state.

It is vitally important to remember here that public libraries are almost entirely supported with tax money. Taxation, as conservatives are fond of pointing out, is inherently coercive: the state does not ask whether you would donate some money to support public libraries; it requires you to contribute a percentage of your income to state coffers as a condition for staying out of prison.

The idea that a publicly-funded state institution has a duty to advance a conception of free speech in clear tension with ordinary views and well-established constitutional law is difficult to reconcile with commonly-accepted principles of democracy. According to such principles, the acts of publicly funded state agencies should be at least minimally responsive to the views of the citizens who fund them.
The ALA might be tempted to respond that the people and courts are simply wrong about their views of free speech. While this view might very well be true, library professionals have no way of knowing that because they do not have any special access to the truth on such issues. Again, there is simply nothing in a librarian’s required training that would confer any special authority on moral and political issues.

Summary and Conclusions

Both of the key ideas of Article III are vulnerable to serious concerns. The idea that libraries are obligated to act as political advocates on behalf of patrons is problematic because there is little reason to think that librarians as a class have the sort of expertise that would allow, much less require, them to advocate for other persons. The idea that libraries are obligated to defend the most expansive conception of free speech is difficult to reconcile with ordinary views about the proper role of libraries in a democratic society; it is hard to see how publicly-funded libraries in a democratic society could be obligated to defend views that most citizens, legislators, and judges reject.

Article III takes the ALA’s deeply contested and subjective views about speech and transforms them into a right that belongs to patrons—who were given no say about the acceptability of these views. It is one thing for a professional association to express a collective view about moral and political issues and act on that view; it is another thing to make it the basis of an institutional obligation owed to a public that largely rejects that view—especially when the institution is supported with tax revenues.

None of this, however, should be construed to suggest that librarians, either individually or collectively as members of the ALA, should not participate actively in the political process. The ideas and views of librarians are certainly every bit as deserving as anyone else’s. Rather, the point here is simply that there is a little intuitive justification for the claim that public libraries (as opposed to librarians) have an institutional obligation (as opposed to an institutional right) to advocate for a deeply contested conception of free speech on behalf of patrons.

While the ALA recommends that public libraries be guided by the principles of the Library Bill of Rights, there are just too many problems with Article III for any public library to justify adopting it as a policy. In the absence of some plausible justification for thinking the ALA’s expansive conception of speech rights should be attributed to the public that supports it, public libraries would do best to leave Article III out of their policies.
Dear Diary, You’ll never guess what happened. I won an essay contest and got into this huge library conference in Seattle for free. You’ve got to hear what I’ve been doing for the last three days.

**Day 1:** I hopped on the bus, armed with water, snacks, and notepad (required for all adventures), and headed downtown to attend my first conference. I was eager to find my people: other quirky, unique, and passionate public librarians who are hell-bent on youth services. Having never been to the convention center, I was surprised to see that every public space was crammed with art—much of it by local artists whose work I recognized from my museum-hopping in Seattle and Tacoma. At the registration booth, I was greeted by smiling people who set me up with my name badge and vinyl bag, already heavy with conference info, maps, and schedules, in addition to other library-related promotions from sponsors. So there I was, at the entrance to vendorland, with buttons and notepads and pens (oh, my!). With a record attendance of more than 10,000 librarians tooling around, I jumped into the mix, eager to see what there was to see. My first surprise was an Elvis sighting! Checkpoint gets the award for most hilarious vendor booth, with Elvis singing about automated checkout and beeping security gates at your library. He even posed with fans and, of course, I got a photo for my album.

While exploring what seemed like miles of vendor booths, I met the guys who write and illustrate the comic *Unshelved* which, if you haven’t yet heard, is the comic about libraries. The second year of *Unshelved* was just printed in a collection entitled *What Would Dewey Do* (Dewey is the main dude) and I was able to chat with Bill and Gene about the comic and its popularity, especially at PLA. *Unshelved* has done for library reference and circulation desks what Dilbert did for corporate cubicle dwelling. And, I am now the proud owner of a half-read copy complete with autographs and a cute little squirrel drawn in on request. Jealous? Check out their Web page at [www.unshelved.com](http://www.unshelved.com) and “Get your nerd on,” as Dave Ballantine would say.

My place in the library world is in youth services, so I attended two talks that afternoon with a youth theme. There was a panel discussion on creating teen spaces in libraries, and I took notes for the high school library I’m working at now.

But, the highlight of the day was a great presentation by three very enthusiastic women—Renton Public Library youth services librarian Jerene Battisti, children’s literature consultant Kathleen Baxter, and King County Library System (KCLS) young adult selector Angelina Benedetti. These ladies gave intriguing book reviews for new fiction and nonfiction for grades five and up. There is a trend in new books toward the dark side for young adults, and it can be seen in nonfiction books for middle schoolers as well (topics such as fugitive slaves, plague, and shark attacks). It’s a sort of reality TV for the book world, the big difference being that the stories are usually based on real issues, events, and facts. It was really fun to see Kathleen pull everyone in the audience to the edge of their seats as she described the gore and grit of the books she reviewed. Who said all youth librarians have to be in their thirties with purple hair?!

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Day 2: It’s the Nancy Pearl Show! You go, girl! This gal is a strategic businesswoman. She’s right up there with Madonna and Oprah, and I predict she could very well become the world’s first wealthy librarian! With an action figure and one book selling strongly, word has it Book Lust 2 is on its way. Who knows what she’ll do next! Will there be a movie?

I realized late in the game that PLA was a prime spot to solicit donations for Page Ahead, a Seattle literacy organization that gives new books to at-risk youth of all ages. I am an “honorary volunteer” for Page Ahead and was able to gather about seventy pounds of books in my wheeled suitcase after two hours of repetitive inquiry at the many book publisher booths. Had I known that many vendors were hoping not to ship books back home, and that the usual protocol of donating to SPL had been called off this time due to the new library construction, I would have orchestrated a massive book rescue party. But, we do what we can, when we can. I was happy to see other folks (some from the iSchool) getting book donations for various schools and organizations around town.

“Librarian walks off with Space Needle—News at 11:00.” So, I’m not known for breaking the law (though it’s true, I did get a ticket for jaywalking in the U-District during fall term), but I had a close call at PLA.

It all started with the Space Needle. I met up with a youth librarian I used to work with, and as we were resting our weary bones at the close of vendorland, we saw a guy come around the corner and start taking down the signage and corner displays, as this part of PLA was finished. I turned to my colleague and said, “Wouldn’t it be cool to have one of those Space Needles?” Under the principle of “there’s no harm in asking,” I decided I’d ask. Presently, I was the proud owner of my very own Space Needle—thereby rescuing it from the dumpster, where it and seven others were headed. I’d even managed to swing a ride home (for me, my suitcase, and my new find), while people from across the country took my picture because they thought it was a funny sight.

My pal watched my stuff as I made one final stop before heading home, and as I returned to our spot, she was clearly distressed. Apparently, in my absence, some uptight ladies with walkie-talkies accused her and her husband of stealing the Space Needle. When she explained it belonged to a friend who was “in the restroom” (likely story), it didn’t sound very believable. After explaining to the walkie-talkie ladies about being legitimately given the darn thing, and complaining about our being wrongly accused, we got some jargon about liability and storage for future PLA use (do let me know when PLA will be in Seattle again—by my calculations, it will be somewhere in the neighborhood of 2012). Yep, you guessed it—no more Space Needle for me. It’s a shame, really, but as my pal said, “It makes for a good story.”

Day 3: 8:30 A.M. Saturday, and I’m listening to a lecture (yeah, send the morning person!). I heard a talk entitled “Building a Cultural Community through Library and Museum Partnerships.” I then went to “How to Be the Nordstrom of Public Libraries” and learned how customer service makes all the difference in retail as well as libraries. But the best of all was the last.

“Librarians are sex symbols—really!” So says Sherman Alexie, self-proclaimed “poet, writer and sexual harasser of librarians,” so it must be true. The closing talk was a touching and humorous account of Alexie’s various idiosyncrasies and various mental states in which he expanded on his attraction to near-sighted, obsessive-compulsive people like us. He said only one thing that wasn’t funny, but still noteworthy: Alexie is currently teaching at the University of Washington (which is exciting for those of us planning electives). Alexie says, “People are like books: We want to keep reading the really good ones again and again. I’ve read my wife a hundred times.” I’m sure that all of us who really love books can appreciate the sweetness of this statement. And, for the rest of us, here are his closing words: “There are two things I’m really passionate about: basketball and books. So, if you love basketball and books, I’m probably sleeping with you.” And, to that, we gave a standing ovation.

Speaking only for myself, I can say with absolute certainty that I do not love basketball.
As professional organizations, the Washington Library Association (WLA), Pacific Northwest Library Association (PNLA), and American Library Association (ALA) share similar values and generally cooperate quite closely. Occasionally, however, confusion and conflict arise over how deep that cooperation should go, as I found out last year.

At the WLA's annual business meeting, I introduced a “Resolution Reaffirming the Principles of Intellectual Freedom in the Aftermath of Terrorist Attacks.” Because this resolution was based on one adopted by ALA at its 2002 midwinter meeting, I expected some debate but a fairly easy vote. I was taken aback when WLA members objected loudly and strongly, saying that the resolution was unnecessary because WLA had already spoken on the issue. Even though the WLA executive board adopted a reworked version of the resolution two months later titled the “Resolution Defending Privacy and Confidentiality as Essential Components of Intellectual Freedom,” the initial reaction of WLA members was like a bucket of cold water dumped on my head: I had learned the hard way that WLA is not a subsidiary of ALA. WLA's members insist that the association take its own positions and not automatically adopt those of the larger organization.

From its beginnings, WLA was involved with, but independent of, ALA. Among its founders were several librarians who had been active in ALA, including Judson Jennings, a former ALA president. WLA's initial legislative plan (1934) stated, “Washington was glad to join with other states in presenting a state-planning program for libraries, in harmony with the National Library Plan, prepared by the American Library Association.” (1, p.19) The plan quoted ALA standards, but the resolution's language clearly reflects an independent attitude.

In 1941 WLA became an ALA chapter, thus earning representation with voting power on ALA's governing council. The current WLA bylaws state in Article II, Section 3, “The WLA is a Chapter of the American Library Association in order ‘...to promote general library service and librarianship within its geographic area, to provide geographic representation to the Council of the American Library Association, and to cooperate in the promotion of general and joint enterprises with the American Library Association and other groups.’ ” (2) This language is quite similar to the ALA's own bylaws on relationships with chapters, suggesting that the two bodies cooperated in developing it. WLA members have often taken leadership positions within ALA and lent support to ALA legislative and public relations efforts such as Banned Books Week.

For its part, ALA regards WLA as an independent body but works to encourage “a sense of identification between the national Association and the 57 ALA Chapters.” (3) The chapter relations committee, which advises the ALA Chapter Relations Office (CRO), has identified the following principles for partnership with the chapters:

- Chapters are autonomous and have unique priorities and needs.
- ALA and the chapters are business partners.
- Chapters voluntarily associate with ALA and are dues-paying members of ALA.
- State chapters participate in governing ALA.
- ALA serves each chapter.
- ALA priorities are not adopted without chapter support.
- The committee advocates within ALA for the chapters.
- Membership growth in the chapters and in ALA is a continuous goal.
- ALA units may develop mutually beneficial strategic relations with chapters.

Michael Dowling, current director of the CRO, told me that in 1963 ALA revised its bylaws to require chapters to have constitutions and bylaws that do not conflict in principle with ALA's constitution and bylaws. As a result, several state library associations that discriminated against people on the basis of race were dropped as chapters until they reformed their constitutions. (4) The bylaws also delegate “final authority within the ALA in respect to all programs and policies which concern only the area for which the chapter is responsible provided they are not inconsistent with any programs and policies established by the ALA Council.” (5, p.28) For more information on chapter relationships with ALA, many illuminating documents are available at: www.ala.org/ala/ourassociation/chapters/chapterdocuments/chapterdocuments.htm.
So, how does this balance of sympathy and independence work out in practice? Dowling pointed out that ALA often acts decisively when state chapters bring forward issues of national importance. For example, ALA’s work to stop UCITA (Uniform Computer Information Transactions Act) began when several chapters reported that similar bills were being introduced in their legislatures. (6) ALA also asks state associations to “get the word out” when national events require librarian involvement. This is especially important because, as the CRO says on its website, “A national organization is not as influential with individual lawmakers as a senator’s or representative’s own constituency. Presenting local library needs to elected officials is a vital chapter activity.” (7)

The USA PATRIOT Act (Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism) is a clear example. WLA was one of the first to respond to ALA’s USA PATRIOT Act resolution, thanks to our former chapter councilor, Susan Madden. ALA has recognized the efforts of many library and intellectual freedom champions in our state, including Margaret Chisholm, C’Ceal Coombs, Herbert Mutschler, Maryan Reynolds, John Veblen, Barbara Dority, Deborah Jacobs, Susan Madden, Florence McMullin, Candace Morgan, Cher Ravagni, Michael Wessells, Bill and Melinda Gates, Sharon Hammer, Lethene Parks, Amory Peck, Eleanor Ahlers, Gladys Lees, and Irving Lieberman.

The WLA and the ALA have a joint membership initiative for library school students. According to Erika Johnson, administrative assistant for ALA CRO, at least 222 students have bought $25 joint memberships since December 2000. (8) My literature searches did not turn up any reports of conflicts or even friction between chapters and ALA, but examples such as mine are unlikely to appear in the library press.

Until the WLA and other state and provincial organizations grew strong enough to hold their own conferences and take up library advocacy, the PNLA was the lone organization (since 1909) representing library interests in Washington state. The PNLA’s current projects reflect its regional focus: a website, which includes a job list; the Young Readers’ Choice Award; an Intellectual Freedom Fund; and an annual conference. PNLA members come from five Northwest states and two Western Canada provinces.

The PNLA no longer pursues legislative advocacy in Washington state, such efforts being left to the state organization. Sandy Carlson, former WLA representative to the PNLA, characterized the ALA as huge and very politically active at the national level, WLA as smaller but still quite politically active at the state level, and the PNLA as still smaller and strictly educational. The three organizations’ conferences are small enough that attendees can see each other more than once by attending all three; but large enough to appeal to a variety of interests, including those of college and university libraries. According to Carlson, the PNLA’s trend away from legislative activity helps its conferences become venues for education and relaxation rather than occasions for work. (9)

I have come to see the WLA’s position vis à vis the ALA as leading on state legislation, following on national legislation, and helping to channel national resources to libraries on the state level. The WLA also acts as a training ground for library people wishing to get involved at the national level. The WLA’s relationship with the PNLA is more on the social level of mutual support for colleagues elsewhere in our region. WLA members who have time and energy to contribute to one other organization now have a clear choice—I hope they will choose both!

References

Join colleagues from around the Pacific Northwest to enjoy the fruits of this major annual event to be held in Wenatchee, 11 August to 14 August 2004. You’ll find “A New Season” of information, ideas, networking opportunities, and fun events at this first-ever joint Washington Library Association and Pacific Northwest Library Association conference.

Whatever your library affiliation, WLA and PNLA promise something to stimulate your thinking, advance your agenda, and fill in your gaps. Come listen to keynote speaker Steve Hanamura, President of Hanamura Consulting, address “Understanding the Dynamics of Generational Differences” to gain new insights into working with a changing clientele and workforce. Participate in half-day preconferences focused on virtual reference or the dynamics of diversity. Concentrate your energies on programs pertinent to your current work—or branch out and explore an entirely new way of working. Create any mosaic of meaningful programs you wish by choosing your favorites from these promising topic tracks:

• In the technology and computing track, explore emerging technology in libraries, portals that offer one-stop shopping, digital video in your library, funding sources for digitization projects, integrating those mysterious personal digital assistants (PDAs) into your library, and managing digital copyright issues.

• If you are looking to increase your public service skills, check out the reference track for programs on finding legal, medical, historical, and government resources.

• If community or political concerns are foremost for you, try the Friends and outreach track, where you’ll learn how to fund that new library building, lobby better, link into ALA’s leadership and strategic planning process, better use your volunteers, reach out to rural libraries, and discover new ways to communicate with your elected officials.

• Administrative and planning interests are met in the management track, which includes topics like CIPA and filtering, making the career transition to administration, activities to energize your presentations, exploring the contents of a state-of-the-art leadership toolkit, and connections between e-commerce and libraries.

• Resource development ideas abound in the collections track, where you’ll learn about the electronic archiving of state publications, violence-free resources for a “gentle read,” the work of a well-known Washington photographer, the rich databases of four major library vendors, and weeding for a healthier collection.

• Re-energize on the youth services track by exploring how to provide better access to children’s materials, enhance early learning by supporting family literacy, celebrate diversity through the use of literature, enter the world of children’s author Gail Carson Levine, booktalk better, and collaborate with public and school librarians to provide the best curriculum-based resources.

2004 WLA Awards
The following awards will be presented at the awards luncheon during the joint WLA/PNLA conference in Wenatchee on 13 August at noon:

• WLA Emeritus Award: Susan Madden, nominated by Angelina Benedetti

• WLA Merit Award: Theresa Parsons, nominated by Brian Soneda

• WLE Employee of the Year: Martha Parsons, nominated by Donald Doran, board chair, on behalf of Richland Public Library board

• WLFFTA Distinguished Service Award (Trustee #1): Marilyn Allen, nominated by Donald Doran, board chair, on behalf of Richland Public Library board

• WLFFTA Distinguished Service Award (Trustee Award #2): Camas Library Board, Friends and Foundation, nominated by Davis Zavortink, director, Camas Library

Between programs, catch up with the professional (and not so professional) activities of your colleagues at special gatherings such as PNLA’s traditional corks event at the beautiful Ohme Gardens (Wednesday 6:00–8:00 P.M.); the WLA Interest Group meet and greet (Wednesday 8:30–9:45 P.M.); the Society Gaius Julius Solinus V. Washingtonius exposition of “improbable, absurd, and wacky findings” in libraryland (Wednesday 9:45 P.M.); a vendor reception (Thursday 5:00–6:00 P.M.); various WLA interest group meetings (Thursday 5:30–6:00 P.M. and Friday 11:30 A.M.–12:00); the YRCA breakfast (Friday 8:00–9:30 A.M.); the PNLA and
WLA presidents’ reception; and many other unique events.

Of course, you’ll need to take a break from your intense learning and exploration by joining colleagues for pure pleasure at events like a Lake Chelan dinner cruise (Thursday evening) on the Lady of the Lake, or an Italian buffet banquet featuring the shortest Shakespearean actors you’ll ever see (Friday evening).

For more information on the conference, including registration details, please see the conference website at www.wla.org/wlapnla2004. You can register early for the conference—and save some money!—until 10 July, or register by 4 August to ensure a spot at the table. To find out more about the conference’s host associations, see the PNLA website at www.pnla.org or the WLAs’ home at www.wla.org.

WLFFTA Distinguished Service Award (Friends/Foundation #1): Eleanor Farris, nominated by David Kennicott, Pierce County Library

WLFFTA Distinguished Service Award (Friends/Foundation #2): Friends of La Center Community Library and the Colf Family Foundation, nominated by Bruce Ziegman, Director, Fort Vancouver Regional Library

WLFFTA Distinguished Service Award (Friends/Foundation #2): Kirk Kirkland, Friends of the Washington State Library, nominated by Patience Rogge

Maryan E. Reynolds Scholarship Winner: Linda Johns, Information School, University of Washington

The awards committee members are Jan Walsh, Gina Rice, Jeannine Steffener, and Sharon Hammer, with Gail Willis providing advice and perspective.

2004 Friends Forum

Friends of libraries from every corner of the state will flock to Ellensburg’s Hal Holmes Community Center on Saturday, 23 October 2004 for the third biennial Friends Forum, presented by the Washington Library Friends, Foundations, and Trustees Association (WLFFTA) and WLA Grassroots! Interest Group. Brian Sonntag, Washington’s state auditor, will be a featured speaker at the event, which is scheduled to begin at 10:00 A.M. with greetings from Jeannine Steffener, WLFFTA chair. Sonntag will discuss how Friends groups can keep on the right side of the law in their relationship with their libraries, and will answer questions from the floor.

The forum provides an opportunity for Friends to network with their colleagues. As a way to share ideas for successful activities, seven Friends groups will present “cameos,” short talks on programs or events they have sponsored. Table talks on topics such as fundraising, advocacy, and organizing a Friends group will also be presented.

WLFFTA will post information concerning the forum on its Web page (www.wla.org/wlffta) in late summer, and will send a brochure to libraries via U.S. mail.

The forum is $25 for WLA members and $35 for nonmembers, and includes morning coffee and a light lunch. For more information, contact Patience Rogge at rogge@olympus.net or (360)385-6975.

2004 WALE Conference: “Catch the Wave to Your Future”

If you feel good about yourself, you’ll be better able to help people who come into your library. That’s the message of Michael Meines, featured this year at the WALE conference. If you “Catch the Wave to Your Future,” you’ll discover why finding what floats your boat can advance your career, and how you can reach for the sky to make your dreams come true!

The conference will be held in Ocean Shores, 7 October to 9 October 2004, and is for all library workers.

Featured speakers are:

Jennifer Kutzik (“Finding What Floats Your Boat to Advance Your Career”)

Michael Meines (“Positive Selfishness—It’s All About You!”)

Helen Thayer (“Reach for the Sky: Make Your Dreams Come True”)

Leslie Rule (“Ghost Writer—An Inside Peek at an Author’s Files on the Ghosts Among Us”)

Butch Henderson (“Anchor Your Humor”)

There will also be breakout sessions on careers, change, continuing education, outreach, children’s services, collection development, reference, intellectual freedom, Web searching, cataloging, and more.

Four scholarships to support attendance at this conference are available. For program, registration, and hotel information, see the conference website at www.wla.org/wale/conferences.html. Early registration deadline is 2 August, so register soon and catch that wave!
The Washington Library Association has among its thirteen diverse interest groups one known as the Reference Interest Group, or RIG. RIG’s co-chairs are Catherine Haras, a reference librarian and instructor at Highline Community College; and Anne Bingham, a reference and instruction librarian at the University of Washington. Haras spoke with Alki about RIG and its place in WLA.

Michael Wood, for Alki: You come from a strong communications background. What path led you to co-chairing RIG?

CH: I was a freelance writer for years, copywriting and working in advertising. My background is in journalism. I liked the pace of that world, but it was so commercially driven, and I burned out. There was no time for reflection—and not a lot of opportunity to do research, either, given the news cycle. Still, I didn’t want to be a teacher. And that’s ironic, because I’m spending most of my time as a librarian teaching! It was the wide open nature of librarianship that essentially appealed to me. I had worked with news researchers—fact checkers—before. Most were librarians. They always seemed to be the ones who loved their job.

Alki: In your view, what is the world of reference like today? How do you see your job?

CH: This is a very exciting time to be in the profession. If we are truly living in an information economy, then anyone associated with information who knows what they are doing is going to find good work sooner or later. That includes librarians. Critical changes are happening in our field—information literacy, digital reference, roaming reference. I find teaching information to be very compelling. Right now, reference is simply more exciting than any other professional route I could have taken. I see my job as multi-tasking—I’m a teacher, a graphic designer, a researcher, a collection developer. I’m never bored.

Alki: What is “reference”?

CH: Reference is a “cat in the bag.” When you say the word “reference,” are you talking about service at a public desk? About doing research for somebody at a special library or corporation? About academic reference, which has a very strong teaching component? The notion of reference is that you serve so many different populations of people and can deliver the service in multiple and creative ways.

So how do you know you are doing the best job? That’s the central quandary in reference, isn’t it? You can ask your customers if they got what they needed, and they may say, “Yes!” but we don’t really know the degree to which that is true or not. The whole point of RIG is to keep up with reference any way that it’s happening.

The literature says that reference is dying, and that we correctly answer the questions asked only half the time. But the experiences of RIG members I talk to suggest otherwise, that reference is vital but highly qualitative: You can’t really measure it, but you sure can tell whether your model is working or not. And reference is as much about the model as it is about the library. RIG wants to attract more academic, school, and special librarians. And we aren’t trying to be the last word in resources as much as we are trying to connect different models of reference. RIG is all about people.

Alki: With co-chair Anne Bingham, you have established a beachhead of sorts at the University of Washington Information School, with a RIG student representative there full time this year in the person of Shireen Deboo. What does RIG have to offer MLIS students?

CH: We have a lot of members from the iSchool. One of the things that RIG is trying to do is to get our members to mentor MLIS students. Grad students need to know what their options are in the state. Anne Bingham and I think Washington librarians have a responsibility—and could do a better job of-reaching out to iSchool students so that new graduates can make informed decisions about their careers. Mentoring is critical if we want to grow WLA.

Alki: Can RIG be of practical help to reference librarians in dealing with all the professional choices they face in the new century?

CH: All reference librarians are affected by the culture of the place where they serve. The size and location of their library will drive their approach to reference. The fact is, there are all kinds of reference models. I think it is healthy for reference librarians of all stripes to keep in touch with the variety of experiences their colleagues in other types of libraries are having—including poor or bad experiences. Cross-pollination is a good idea when you talk about reference. It’s enlightening to see how people across the state are handling specific problems—what their best practices are. If they
are academic, how do they manage course-embedded instruction? How do they work with faculty? If they are public librarians, how are they reaching out to patrons beyond the desk? Are certain reference models less effective than others given their demographic? Does digital reference really work in a small library? I want to know about reference everywhere in Washington!

**Alki:** What can RIG membership actually do for the reference librarian?

**CH:** Networking is the lifeblood of any interest group. The variety of experiences is profound. Once you start looking at best practices, you realize that there is so much work to be done to spread the word among reference librarians in our state that they are not alone. There is some level of disconnect among reference librarians in Washington. I don’t think everybody knows what everyone else is doing. Anne and I saw this at the 2003 conference in Yakima. At the RIG business meeting, we decided to poll members and see what they wanted to see at the 2004 conference. Librarians reported all these pressing information needs their patrons had. They wanted presentations on “gov pubs,” legal research, virtual reference, consumer health, Northwest history. And here we thought these issues had been covered already by former conferences! But no one had thought to ask them.

**Alki:** Will RIG address some of these issues at the upcoming WLA/PNLA conference?

**CH:** Hopefully! RIG will do five presentations at WLA/PNLA in Wenatchee this August. For instance, we are going to have Cass Hartnett from the University of Washington, Robin Haun-Mohamed of the U.S. Government Printing Office, and Marilyn Von Seggern from the Washington State Library, as well as Lily Wait from the University of Idaho. These are all people who are associated in some way with government publications—Robin is with the GPO and Cass is head of government documents at the University of Washington. They are going to come and do presentations that will highlight significant government Internet resources for data.

**Alki:** RIG is at a membership high point right now. How do you reach your members?

**CH:** The first thing we did was to update our bylaws, get a student rep at the iSchool, and think about growing the membership. How we did that is by marketing ourselves with emails, and redesigning our Web page. Our newsletter is going out quarterly. Anytime that we found any sort of intelligence about reference, say, virtual reference classes that were being offered by the Washington State Library, we would email. We sent out thank you cards to our new members. And our membership went up by about 30 percent. You have to keep reminding people that you are out there.

**Alki:** What’s it like being an IG rep at WLA board meetings?

**CH:** There is a genuine willingness on the part of members to bring their IG interests to the group collectively—they report on what is happening with their groups, and they are listened to. The IG representatives bring any ideas or concerns to the board; the WLA board officers get input from the IGs to implement long term strategy. I think the relationship is organic.

The point to make about the interest groups is that they determine the texture of the organization. The interest groups are small but critical cadres of people who are interested in what are, usually, singular issues. They are responsible for bringing those issues to the attention of the association and, in turn, communicating association strategy and direction back to their respective interest groups. You might say we have a confederacy of interest groups. Each one propels issues germane to some aspect of librarianship across the entire organization. It is a fact that some groups are more proactive than others.

**Alki:** Is RIG like some sort of reference trade guild?

**CH:** That’s a really good way of putting it. I think it is more guild-like…we are not trying to be the last word in resources. Most people who are coming to the WLA conference in Wenatchee do reference of some kind or another, even if they’re not reference librarians. Everyone has their own bag of tricks. Our job is to be a focal point to come to for issues related to the library association. Because we are not specifically topic-centered, this can be a challenge. But as I said before, we are about the people.

**Alki:** And the people bring the content with them to RIG, to be shared?

**CH:** Yep.

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**A Confederacy of Interest Groups**

WLA interest groups (IGs) act semi-autonomously. IGs elect their own officers, manage their own finances, and write their own bylaws. An IG coordinator represents the IGs at WLA board meetings. IGs coalesce around specific areas of library practice:

- **CAYAS**........ Children’s & young adult services
- **CDIG**......... Collection development
- **GRASSROOTS**! Political advocacy
- **IFIG**......... Intellectual freedom
- **OLE**......... Outreach & literacy
- **RIG**......... Reference services
- **SAM**......... Management & supervision
- **SRRT**......... Social responsibility
- **TSIG**......... Technical services
- **TRIP**......... Information technology
- **WALE**......... All library workers
- **WALT**......... Trainers & training
- **WLFFTA**....... Trustees, friends, & foundations
WLA is a resource for Washington libraries and the people that make them great. Why be a participating member? We’re glad you asked! The association . . .

- is inclusive, exposing members to the diversity of the library community—diversity of jobs, variety of library types, and different geographical locations, services, and citizenry.
- offers opportunities for personal growth, leadership, and professional growth.
- is fun and develops camaraderie and a sense of community/friendships.
- offers scholarships and mentoring for students attending library school.
- members are a fount of library humor.
- offers informal consulting opportunities.
- through its conferences, workshops, and other trainings, is an outstanding resource for continuing education.
- is a place to network—to share expertise and to make connections.
- members engage in legislative advocacy in support of all types of libraries.
- offers ways to travel beyond the walls of your workplace.
- is a place to recognize there really is a library community in Washington state.
- offers interest groups that encourage narrowly focused, collegial interaction.
- promotes a vision of professionalism.
- has economic benefits that include reduced costs for trainings and conferences, joint memberships, discounts, and more.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CONTRIBUTORS

Alki: The Washington Library Association Journal is published three times per year (March, July, and December). Each issue centers on a theme selected by the Alki Editorial Board. Themes of upcoming issues are announced on the WLA website and in the editor’s columns. Articles should be in-depth examinations of issues of importance to Washington libraries. All works should be original. Unsolicited contributions and off-theme articles are encouraged but will be published based on the needs of specific issues. Submissions are edited. The editor and the Alki board make the final decision on any submitted material. Deadlines for submission are January 15 for the March issue, May 15 for the July issue, and October 15 for the December issue. We prefer article text be submitted as digital files in .doc or .rtf format. Also, we prefer that artwork be well-composed glossy black and white 35mm prints. However, we can accept some alternatives: ASCII text transmitted as an email message, in email attachments, or on a PC-formatted 3.5-inch diskette, Zip disk, or CD-ROM; and artwork transmitted as .tiff or .jpeg files of adequate resolution. Please include informative captions with artwork. We recommend that you contact the editor before submitting artwork. Artwork will be returned on request; otherwise it will not be returned. Typical article lengths range from one to three Alki pages, including artwork. A three-page article with no artwork contains about 2800 words. News items about personnel changes, professional organizations, awards, grants, elections, facility moves or construction are included in the “Communiqué” column as space permits. Columns are regular features about library service or operations. Columns are typically pre-assigned to a designated person. Anyone interested in submitting material for a specific column should contact the editor. Alki retains electronic representation and distribution rights to its contents. Alki reserves the right to re-use text, photos, and artwork in subsequent issues, with notification to the submitters, if possible. Otherwise, all rights revert to the authors.
Navigating library school felt strange and complex to me, even though I’d already worked in libraries for more than thirteen years, already felt profoundly committed to what I understood of them, and already knew just what I wanted to do once I earned the MLS. Frequently I entertained questions about how my classes, lectures, readings, and assignments related to what I would really do in libraries. And, as I approached graduation, I wondered just where to focus my energy to increase my ability to actually find a job.

While many library school assignments involved research in, and working with, the university library collections, other assignments directed me to contact beyond the university campus. For example, an assignment might begin with the words: “In a library of your choice, survey…or interview…or critique…” I was not familiar with every library in the Seattle area. How could I choose? Or, an assignment might challenge me to compare and contrast how things were done in two different libraries. Which two libraries? Or it would say, “Develop a bibliography to serve children from 7 to 9 years of age.” Imaginary children? Which children? Or with library management class case studies I would wonder, in a given circumstance, what would a real manager do in a real library? Resolving these dilemmas would have been much easier had I been able to call on someone with real-life library experience.

Well, I successfully completed each assignment, eventually graduated, and got a public library job. Some years later, when I learned of the iSchool Alumni Association’s Project Network, I decided I would become the person I had wished for years before—I would become a mentor.

What does a mentor do? Whatever the student and mentor agree on. For me, it ranges from commenting on assignments after grading, coaching for interviews, reviewing resumes, and generally supporting my student’s efforts. We communicate mostly by email, with at least one in-person meeting. I point out early on that I am no sage, no arbiter, and no authority. I am sharing my opinion, based on my experience. But I am working in a public library, something they are striving to do.

I was matched with two of my student-mentees when they were close to graduation, and therefore much of our mutual effort went toward their final projects, their portfolios, and the job search. I coached them through interviews, shared questions that I had answered when I had applied for jobs, and shared questions I had used when I had hired librarians. We talked about the question behind the question. What do employers really want to know? We thought of ways to highlight the students’ special traits and individual skills. We discussed timing and dress and decorum. We did a little role-playing. Kirsten Freeman-Benson told me that the mentor/mentee relationship was “vital to my eventual success at landing a job. It is invaluable for a novice to be able to get the perspective of a professional in the field.” Today, both of my former mentees are children’s librarians in public libraries.

My current match is Tomi Whalen, a distance MLIS student working as a library assistant in the Little Boston Branch of Kitsap Regional Library System. She professes her goal is to be a branch manager—just as I currently am. We have met twice. She has toured Everett’s two libraries, has met staff members, and has evaluated our workplace. Tomi commented, “Spending time with Liz gave me food for thought about where my skills in library and information science might lead me.”

We exchange emails through which I consider her questions through the lens of my day-to-day experiences, imagining the scenario in my library with certain patrons and staff. After Tomi has worked on an assignment and turned it in for grading, I may review it from the perspective of having lived through such an event that had turned out well—or that hadn’t.

The secret value of mentoring is this: The mentor gains as much as, and possibly more than, the protégé. I revel in the luxury of an outsider’s view, the opinions of someone beyond this library’s walls. I enjoy the blessing of fresh ideas, often untested and outside-the-box, from someone whose life may be very different from mine. Through the student’s viewpoint and experiences I learn new ways of doing things and see new professional directions. I also often marvel at the technological skills that come so easily to the students. I hear my own thoughts, and revisit what I know or think I know. I appreciate seeing someone progress and succeed, knowing I played a small part.

And, if I’m lucky, I gain a new friend.
Mark Twain has written that “truth is stranger than fiction, but it is because fiction is obliged to stick with possibilities; truth isn’t.” Truth has gotten only stranger since Twain’s time, and fiction is still struggling to keep up. Fortunately, some creative fiction writers are providing some fascinating mirrors we can hold up to our weird world.

Making eccentricity a theme is perhaps strange in itself, and assembling these reviews made me wonder if these books had any bearing on each other at all. There are, however, a few similarities these books share—they are all generally brief, they have all been published in the new millennium, and they are all at least a little unorthodox in their use of language or traditional narrative structure.

Beyond these similarities, the works go their own way. Some are slangy and fast-paced, others are perceptive and low-key, most reflect the mind-boggling variety and complexity of our times and society. These books received some good reviews when they came out, but my hunch is that they are languishing on the shelves of your libraries. Take a look at these books for an idea of how strange, and how true, today’s fiction can be.

Mrs. Hollingsworth’s Men by Padgett Powell
Houghton Mifflin, (134 p.) 2000
Mrs. Hollingsworth sits at her kitchen table in rural Mississippi and finds her mind wandering imaginative-ly, if somewhat recklessly, through the tenuous connections between her personal history, Civil War history, and contemporary American preoccupations. She begins a grocery list that appears to have more to do with mental instability than with mundane sustenance. The list essentially grows into the book’s narrative in a series of vivid daydreams and remarkable associative leaps that touch on Southern literature, Confederate general Nathan Bedford Forrest, media executive Roopit Mogul, holograms, and Mrs. Hollingsworth’s forgotten husband and her meddling daughters. This strange narrative seems driven by an unspoken need to come to terms with the new Southern male, and it resolves on an empathetic note of love lost and regained. This is a most unusual, inventive, and satisfying novel. Powell’s other novels are also well worth reading, particularly Edisto, a boy’s coming-of-age story that follows a more traditional narrative approach.

Samuel Johnson Is Indignant by Lydia Davis
McSweeney’s, (201 p.) 2001
The publisher calls these short pieces “stories,” but the majority of them are more like thematic or linguistic meditations, psychological zingers, found objects, and poetic insights. Most of the stories are told in just a page or two, while some run fifteen to twenty pages. Davis looks unflinchingly at people, things, and relationships, and her keen eye and flat narrative voice unite these diverse pieces, as she incisively reveals the inner worlds of her characters’ lives and their glancing interactions with each other. Daily life is made over in these unusual, attentive, and honest explorations.

Pieces of Payne by Albert Goldbarth
Graywolf, (214 p.) 2003
If I had to pick, I’d say this was my favorite book of 2003—a manic and Whitmanic embrace of the multitudinous interconnections between ourselves and the world around us. This crazy-quilt
narrative begins with a professor and an ex-student, who has since become a good friend, going out for a drink (or seven). The storyline is not especially dramatic, though it does gradually reveal the character's familiar domestic and health crises. The real treat here is Goldbarth's enthusiastic plunge into the mundane, the arcane, and everything in between, as he manages to weave together Dickens, Melville, the sciences, news of the weird, comic book superheroes, medicine and breast cancer, lust and adultery, astrophysicist Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin (of the title), and much more. The book is copiously footnoted—to the point that the narrative notes make up half the length of the book and have their own story to tell. Goldbarth assembles a rich pastiche that accurately reflects our information-overloaded culture, and he does so with wit, flair and astonishment. This is an exuberant book.

**You're an Animal, Viskovitz** by Alessandro Boffa
Knopf, (176 p.) 2002

Viskovitz reappears as a different animal species in each story of this creative and unique book. You'll learn about the diverse and specific challenges that face the snail, sponge, scorpion, bee, dormouse, tapeworm, and more, as Viskovitz inhabits each of these in Boffa's comedic imagining of the "survival of the fittest." With relaxed dialog and tone of voice, Boffa uses biological terminology to humorous effect in his descriptions of Viskovitz's power struggles with the fellow males of his species, and in describing his successive attraction to Ljuba—the female of his dreams. Many other authors have written collections of linked short stories, but Viskovitz's metamorphoses from story to story and species to species is unlike anything else I have encountered. This is an unusual and enjoyable diversion.

**Dot in the Universe** by Lucy Ellmann
Bloomsbury, (196 p.) 2004

The first thing you're likely to notice in this novel is the CAPS FOR EMPHASIS Ellmann uses throughout the book denoting Dot's sharply critical, but insightful, ranting. Dot Butser lives with her husband John in their home on the English seaside. She collects tea cozies, cooks great meals, likes to have sex with her husband, and socializes with her elderly female neighbors as she assists them with such things as cutting their toenails. But things begin to spin out of control when Dot is involved in a hit-and-run accident and John gets drawn into the world of porn. These and other significant developments are colloquially and matter-of-factly conveyed, without dwelling on them or making a fuss. This allows for some outrageous plot development. The hit-and-run, for example, gives Dot a taste for blood and she begins to quietly murder her elderly neighbors, but somehow without turning the reader against her. Many more outlandish adventures await you in this briskly paced tale that is breezy, irreverent, and loaded with humorous existential observations.

**What Ever** by Heather Woodbury
Faber and Faber, (331 p.) 2003

What Ever is an amusing and ambitious screenplay-like novel, rich in regional dialect and generational slang. This is wide-ranging Americana that includes (among other things) the teen rave scene, the road novel, Southern housewives, new-age wiccans, ex-hippies, corporate executives, prostitutes, drug abusers, reality TV, the ghost of Kurt Cobain, and the outspoken and vigorous senior citizen Violet Smith and her poodle Balzac. Thematically, the story follows the exploits of several main characters as they struggle to find love, and to identify, follow, or return to their dreams. There is much duplicity, and the book ends in an amusing nod to Shakespeare's madcap comedies of mistaken identity. Woodbury's facility with dialogue brings her characters to life, but this verisimilitude occasionally makes for long stretches of foul language. The story culminates in Seattle where teen raver Clove Carnelian has climbed to the top of the Space Needle. For the young or hip at heart.
WLA Thanks 2004 Sustaining Members
Graphic Arts Center Publishing Company … Library Systems, Inc. …
ProQuest Information and Learning … Territory Titles

... and 2004 Nonprofit Members
Friends of Aberdeen/Timberland Library … Friends of Federal Way Library …
Friends of Jefferson County Library … Friends of the Olympia/Timberland Library …
Highline Association of Library Technicians (HALT)

... and 2004 Institutional Members!
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Fort Vancouver Regional Library…Gonzaga University, Foley Center …
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