



Rural Library Service Newsletter



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RLSC Commits to Research



Terry Weech (l), committee member, and John Head (r), committee chair, lead discussions at the Midwinter Rural Library Service Committee meeting in San Antonio on January 9, 1983.

Research was the central topic at the RLS meeting with committee member Lisa de Gruyter submitting a written proposal for a survey of rural libraries and rural library systems in the U.S. and Canada. Terry Weech then introduced a plan to create "an Incomplete List of Authors and Researchers Concerned with Rural Libraries Since 1979." Suggested candidates should be sent to him at the University of Illinois, 410 David Kinley Hall, 1407 West Gregory Drive, Urbana, Illinois 61801.

For the local level, Larry Barr announced that he will be examining methods by which rural librarians might be trained to conduct their own research studies.

Other issues considered were training materials and short courses for the non-professional; scholarships for rural librarians and trustees to attend ALA annual conventions; and a RLS-sponsored program for the Dallas ALA conference.

Also reviewed was the committee's long-range plans (see page 3).



Jim Edgar (striped tie), Illinois's Secretary of State and State Librarian discussed School/Public Library cooperation at the Midwinter RLS meeting. (Photo: Art Plotnik, American Libraries, Feb., 1983)

Libraries: Coming Out of the Country

Public Library Association Conference
Baltimore Convention Center
Baltimore, Maryland
March 24, 1983

- 9:00 - 9:40 AM John Houlahan, Administrator, Northwest Regional Library, Sioux City, IA.
Topic--"An Overview of Rural Library Problems"
- 10:00 - 10:40 AM Henry Drennan, Special Assistant (Retired), Division of Public Library Programs, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C.
Topic--"Library Services to Older Americans"
- 11:00 - 11:40 AM Joseph Grunnenwald, Associate Professor of Marketing, School of Business, Clarion State College, Clarion, PA.
Topic--"Marketing Rural Libraries"
- 1:00 - 1:20 PM John Head, Associate Professor of Library Science, School of Library Science, Clarion State College, Clarion, PA.
Topic--"Research on Rural Libraries"
- 1:30 - 1:50 PM Bernard Vavrek, Professor of Library Science and Coordinator, Center for the Study of Rural Librarianship, School of Library Science, Clarion State College, Clarion, PA.
Topic--"Activities of the CSRL"
- 2:00 - 2:40 PM Ted Mendelsohn, Vice President, Information Services, Grolier Electronic Publishing Co., New York, NY.
Topic--"The Electronic Countryside"
- 3:00 - 3:40 PM Daniel Suvak, Director, Walsh College, Canton, OH.
Topic--"Books-by-Mail: The Threat and Promise"
- 4:00 - 5:00 PM Kristin Woolever, Visiting Assistant Professor of English, Allegheny College, Meadville, PA (Formerly Project Coordinator, Titusville Community History Project, Benson Memorial Library, Titusville, PA).

Janet Stuckey, Librarian, Benson Memorial Library, Titusville, PA.
Topic--"Programming the Humanities in Rural Libraries"

For registration information contact: PLA/ALA
50 E. Huron
Chicago, IL 60611

Future Plans Outlined by RLS Committee

At the 1982 American Library Association Conference in Philadelphia the ALA/PLA/SMLS Rural Library Service Committee adopted the following missions, goals, objectives and strategies.

MISSION: To make available to those responsible for rural library services, at all levels, including nondegreed personnel and trustees, information useful to rural library administration, and to evaluate the results of providing that information

GOALS

To identify what information would be most useful for rural library practitioners and governing bodies, and what media would most successfully disseminate this information

To establish a process by which useful information is made available for ready comprehension and application by rural library practitioners and governing bodies

To ensure that training and continuing education is available for rural library practitioners and governing bodies

OBJECTIVES

To study the information needs of those responsible for rural library service and recommend subject areas and kinds of information needed by ALA Los Angeles, 1983.

To study methods of disseminating needed information to library practitioners and recommend a plan of action by ALA Annual Conference, 1984.

To continue presenting conference programs and to immediately establish a rural libraries discussion group

To establish an information network based on the findings of the studies of information needs and dissemination methods, by ALA Annual Conference, 1985.

To study the availability of, subject matter of and participation in current training and continuing education programs for rural librarians, and make recommendations by ALA Los Angeles, 1983.

STRATEGIES

Review the five-year LSCA plans of the sixties and seventies and do a regional cross-section survey of rural librarians to identify the subject areas of needs

Survey a two-tiered, cross section sample of approximately 15 state library agencies 10 regional library agencies, and 40 rural libraries to ascertain status quo.

Review examples of information dissemination currently functioning on state, local or regional levels which emerge from study to identify units of ALA, federal programs, state library agencies and regional and local libraries which could serve as components of a network, and useful methods of networking.

Include questions on training and continuing education in surveys.

To promote the exchange of information and insights among (often isolated) rural practitioners and governing bodies

To make available to all rural library practitioners an on-going training and continuing education program, by ALA Annual Conference, 1985.

To devise ways in which rural library practitioners and governing boards can be encouraged and enabled to meet and correspond on local, state and national levels, and to begin a program by ALA Los Angeles, 1985.

Develop a continuing education program in conjunction with the information network, in cooperation with ongoing group from the White House

Present a tentative plan to involve rural library practitioners in meetings outside the immediate local area and obtain ALA approval to seek funding by ALA 1983.

Obtain funding by ALA 1984.

Program in place by ALA 1985.

MISSION: Identifying needs for and encouraging research and statistics collection relating to rural libraries, from a basis of the needs of users and potential users and their perception of the library, to provide a basis for improving rural library services.

GOALS

OBJECTIVES

STRATEGIES

To describe rural libraries and their constituencies in the United States and Canada, including number, distribution, population served, services offered, funding and personnel

To write a research proposal, by ALA Los Angeles, 1983, for a major study of rural libraries in the U.S. and Canada.

To obtain funding for this major study, and a researcher to carry it out, by ALA Annual Conference, 1984.

Appoint a subcommittee to report at ALA Midwinter 1983 with a preliminary draft.

Using preliminary draft, obtain approval to seek funding from SMLS Executive Board, PLA Board, and ALA Executive Committee before ALA Los Angeles, 1983.

Investigate funding sources and apply for funding by ALA Midwinter 1984.

Finalize funding with approval from all concerned executive bodies, by ALA 1984.

Issue a call for researchers and review applications at ALA Midwinter 1984.

	To complete this study and publish the results, in a form useful to rural library practitioners and governing bodies, by ALA Annual Conference, 1986	Begin study after ALA 1984. Review preliminary results and contact prospective publishers, clearing through SMLS, PLA and ALA Publishing Committees, ALA Midwinter 1985. Approve manuscript and complete publishing arrangements, ALA 1985.
To create a national research agenda for rural librarianship	To develop a research agenda for rural librarianship, by ALA Los Angeles, 1983 To revise the research agenda, in the light of the study findings, and ongoing research, by ALA Annual Conference, 1987.	Appoint research subcommittee at ALA Philadelphia, 1982, to consult with PLA Research Committee and develop an agenda. Research subcommittee to revise agenda in light of study during 1986.
	To devise a means of updating the major study of rural libraries by ongoing collection of rural library statistics by ALA Annual Conference, 1987.	Identify organizations already collecting related statistics and explore with them possibilities of including needed rural library statistics.
To identify and publicize funding sources for rural library research	To identify funding sources for rural public library research at all levels, and make this information available, by ALA Los Angeles 1983, with annual updating.	Compile list with help of PLA Research Committee and ALA Office for Research Obtain appropriate approval to make list available through PLA Office and <u>Public Libraries</u> Update by research committee annually.
To identify and encourage present and potential rural library researchers	To identify present rural library researchers and publicize their efforts, by ALA Los Angeles 1983, with annual updating	Review public library literature and social science literature and contact library schools and practitioners to compile list. Obtain appropriate approval to make list available through <u>Public Libraries</u> and PLA Office. Update annually.

	To identify graduate students and practitioners with an interest in public libraries, make them aware of the research needs of rural libraries, and provide them with funding information, by ALA Los Angeles 1983, with annual updating.	Solicit interested students, researchers and practitioners in <u>Public Libraries</u> and other journals to compile mailing list, and send copies of researchers and funding lists. Update annually. Sponsor annual open house at Midwinter and Annual Conference for those interested in rural library research.
To educate local librarians to conduct research for their own needs	To study methods by which local librarians can be taught to conduct research for their own needs, and produce a recommendation by ALA Annual Conference 1985.	Include study of research in survey of information dissemination and continuing education, below.
	To have research training program for local librarians in place by ALA Annual Conference, 1987.	Include training in practical research in information network and continuing education program, below.
<u>MISSION:</u> To monitor the actions of other groups (including legislative bodies, government agencies, other organizations, and other groups within ALA) to determine their effect on rural library service and to voice our concerns to those groups		

<u>GOALS</u>	<u>OBJECTIVES</u>	<u>STRATEGIES</u>
To identify the scope of interests for monitoring (e.g. legislation, funding, access, telecommunications), the groups within that scope, and the most effective methods for monitoring	To define the scope of our interests by ALA Midwinter San Antonio 1983.	Discuss with RLS Membership at 1982 ALA convention what experience they have had in monitoring and acting upon legislative activity at either a state or national level.
	To identify groups with fall within that scope by ALA Los Angeles 1983.	Discuss with relevant individuals (PLA, SMLS, ALA officers) during ALA 1982 which groups might be monitored and by whom.
To monitor groups of interest and ensure that they are aware of rural library needs	To devise a plan for monitoring and information and implement it by ALA Annual Conference 1984.	Identify procedure for reacting to a legislative action, i.e. designate monitor, define level of reaction, instigate reaction to most pertinent groups/individuals, monitor response.

Rural Expert Prepares Reading List

The Keynote Speaker for the Seminar "Rural Human Services: Issues for the 80's" held at Briar Cliff College, Sioux City, Iowa on September 18, 1982 was Gregory D. Cusack, Executive Director of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference. The NCRLC describes its mission as "bringing the perspective of faith and the insight of research to dioceses, parishes and communities of rural America in stewardship of natural resources, rural ministry and community development."

Mr. Cusack was asked by the Rural Library Service Newsletter to prepare a "starter list" of works concerning rural issues. In response he suggested the bibliography Land Stewardship Project, and also cited the following other titles:

The Lean Years, by Richard Barnett
(Simon & Schuster)

World Hunger, by Suzanne Totan (Obis)

American Farmers: The New Minority, by
Gilbert Fite (Indiana)

How the Other Half Dies: The Real Reasons
for World Hunger, by Susan George
(Allanheld, Osman & Co.)

Global Reach: The Power of the Multi-
national Corporations, by Barnett &
Muller (Touchstone)

Land Stewardship Project you may write:

Gregory D. Cusack, Executive Director
National Catholic Rural Life Conference
4525 NW Beaver Drive
Des Moines, Iowa 50522
Telephone - (515) 270-2634.



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Incomplete bibliographic citations listed above and in the following bibliography are the result of our decision to print the list as we received it from Mr. Cusack. It also should be noted that the views expressed in the works listed by Mr. Cusack do not necessarily reflect the opinions or the positions of the Rural Library Service Newsletter. The Land Stewardship Project bibliography appears on the following page. For more information about the NCRLC or the

The Land Stewardship Project

Crisis In Eden, Frederick Elder, Nashville, Abingdon Press, 1970.

Entropy: A New World View, Jeremy Rifkin

Environmental Ethics: Choices for Concerned Citizens, Albert J. Fritsch

Let the Earth Bless the Lord, edited by C.A. Cesaretti and Stephen Commins, NY Seabury

The Development of American Agriculture: A Historical Analysis, Willard W. Cochrane

The Gift of Good Land, Wendell Berry

The Unsettling of American, Wendell Berry, San Francisco, Sierra Club Books, 1977

The Wooing of Earth, Rene Dubos, NY Charles Scribner's Sons, 1980

Bent World: A Christian Response to the Environmental Crisis, Ron Elsdon,
Downers Grove, Ill: Intervarsity Press, 1981

The American Cropland Crisis, Wendell Fletcher and Charles Little, American Land
Forum, 1982

Green Paradise Lost: Re-Mything Genesis, Elizabeth D. Gray, Wellesley: Roundtable '79

Farming the Lord's Land, Charles P. Lutz, ed., Augsburg Publishing House, 1980

Small is Beautiful, E. F. Schumacher, NY Harper and Row, 1973

Ecology and Religion in History, David and Eileen Spring, Ed., Harper and Row, 1974

A New Ethic for a New Earth, Glenn C. Stone, NY: Friendship Press, 1971

Earthkeeping: Christian Stewardship of Natural Resources, Loren Wilkinson, ed.
Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 1980.

Building a Sustainable Society, Lester R. Brown, Norton, 1981

The Global 2000 Report to the President, Department of State, Washington, D. C.
July, 1980.

Food First, Frances Moore Lappe and Joseph Collins, Boston; Houghton Mifflin, 1977

A Sand County Almanac, Aldo Leopold, Ballantine, 1970.

Wilderness and the American Mind, Roderick Nash, New Haven, Yale U. Press, 1973.

New Roots for Agriculture, Wes Jackson, San Francisco, Friends of the Earth, 1980.

The Land, Walter Brueggeman

Farmland or Wasteland: A Time to Choose, R. Neil Sampson, Rodale Press, 1981.