Karen Stabler, NMSU Library, Visits Libraries in Northern Ireland

By Karen Stabler

The British Council, a private organization that promotes educational, cultural and technical cooperation between Great Britain and other countries, has supported five library study tours to Northern Ireland. The fifth such study tour took place from January 25 to Feb. 4, 1998. Twelve librarians and one archivist from the United States were invited to participate. The participants represented different libraries from different sections of the United States. Although the study tour included historical sites, a mini literary tour, and geographic sites, the focus was on libraries and librarianship in Northern Ireland. The participants visited sixteen different libraries. The following is a brief description of some of the libraries visited.

Queens University of Belfast founded in 1845 is one of three Queen's Colleges of the Royal University of Ireland. The library was built in 1865. It has a book collection of over 1.5 million volumes and circulates over 600,000 volumes a year. Like University libraries in the United States, the Queens Library is trying to do more with less. Emphasis is on access as opposed to ownership primarily because of the high cost of journal subscriptions. The library is also supporting several electronic resources. OCLC's FirstSearch and BIDS-ISI - online access to Science Citation Index, Social Sciences Citation Index, Arts and Humanities Citation Index, and Index to Scientific and Technical Proceedings are two of the major electronic databases free to the Queen's University community. In addition they have over 50 CD-ROMs and have electronic access to 174 journals published by Academic Press. To cut costs in Interlibrary Loan, the Library has developed a voucher system whereby each college is given a certain number of vouchers for interlibrary loans. The college determines which faculty and the number of vouchers each receives to order interlibrary loan materials per year. Each voucher is worth the cost of borrowing one interlibrary loan item. The result is that the university community is much more careful in what they order.

(continued p. 9)

NMLA events/deadlines

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NMLA officers & more

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from the president's paw

Maybe, by the time you read this, we’ll have had a little break from the hot weather! Or maybe it’s not really the weather, it’s just that NMLA is always in hot pursuit of excellence.

I really cannot say enough about the good folks who work on our behalf throughout the year, serving on the NMLA executive board. They chair committees, they testify at hearings, they participate in meetings across the state and across the country—they’re dedicated, intrepid, and tireless. They deserve a round of applause (but that’s hard to do in a newsletter—so all they get this time is my thanks!).

Being on the road a lot (always in search of a good buy on cat food, not to mention attending lots of meetings), I get many opportunities to reflect on where NMLA has been. We’ve had conferences in Farmington, Santa Fe, Albuquerque, and Las Cruces, to name a few. We’re headed to Carlsbad for the 1999 conference, and from there to Taos in 2000. We’ve had mini-conferences in Silver City, Alamogordo, Socorro, Espanola, and Truth or Consequences. Look for this fall’s mini-conference to be in Taos. We surely do get around!

And speaking of getting around, one person who has held a myriad of library jobs in this state and others, has finally come back to us. Ben Wakashige has been appointed as the new State Librarian by Governor Gary Johnson. Ben is no stranger to New Mexico and we’re glad to welcome him back to New Mexico. Congratulations, Ben!

I welcome comments and suggestions that you all may have for NMLA. It’s been about three years since the restructuring of the Association—is it working? What is the next step? What plans should we be making? Let me know—my e-mail is torcpl@riolink.com.

See you in Taos at the mini-conference! Ellanie
public library SIG update

The Public Library Special Interest Group is catching its second breath and is getting ready to do what Public Libraries do best: everything. At this time we are looking for ideas for presentation at both the Taos and Carlsbad conferences. One suggestion so far: "Storytelling Made Easy—with Props." This program is for all ages and all types of libraries as well as community groups. Any other suggestions?

At current issue we ask everyone to be aware of the possibility of forming Library Districts here in New Mexico. For detailed information, please see your current issue of The Municipal Reporter, or contact Carol Brey at Las Cruces or Joe Sabatini at the State Library. This issue definitely concerns all communities throughout the state and, therefore, concerns all libraries and librarians.

Comments, suggestions, even a good debate can be directed to Nancy Osterberg at ruidosol@zianet.com or FAX 505-258-4619. I can even be reached by telephone at 505-258-3704, or in person at the NM State Library sponsored Cataloging workshop in Ruidoso on July 30 and 31.

Nancy Osterberg
Ruidoso Public Library


- President Mary Frances Campana, Intel Corp. 893-6670
- President-Elect Judith Bernstein, Parish Memorial Library, UNM 277-5912
- Secretary Jenifer Fell, Dona Ana Community College Library 527-7675
- Treasurer Victoria Agee, Agee Indexing Service 823-1565

Linda Morgan Davis, Public Relations Chair
Rio Grande Chapter SLA 262-7158

nmla directories

NMLA directories for 1998/99 were mailed out in June. This year's directory does not include the State Library's "list of libraries" in order to save space. If you have not yet received the directory, and you are a current member, please notify: Marilyn Fletcher, Center for Southwest Research, Univ. of New Mexico General Library, Albuquerque, NM 87131. e-mail: mfletcher@unm.edu. If you were a paid-up member by the end of May 1998, you should have received the directory. Corrections to the directory may be sent to Marilyn Fletcher or to NMLA, P.O. Box 26074, Albuquerque, NM 87125 and Linda O'Connell will correct the database for next year's directory. Her e-mail is nmila@Rice.com.

Marilyn P. Fletcher
mfletcher@unm.edu

1998 spectrum initiative scholarship: new mexico recipients

The Spectrum Initiative Scholarship is a national competition. The following are only the names of the New Mexico recipients.

Name City
Myra Brown Las Cruces
Barbara Kenney Vargas Belen

Myra Brown
myra@lib NMSU

ew mexico library association newsletter
workshop: moving databases to the Web

Tired of viewing slick, graphically beautiful homepages with no content? The average homepage is less than 20 Kbytes of text - feature rich and content poor. If you would like substance behind your lovely front end, then learn what it takes to turn your valuable collections into gold mines of intelligence. On September 11, 1998 the Rio Grande Chapter of the Special Libraries Association will sponsor 'Moving Databases to the Web.' This half-day workshop focuses on transforming legacy data into valuable SGML/HTML/XML databases.

The workshop will be held at Access Innovations, Inc., 131 Adams NE, Albuquerque from 1-5pm. The fee for the workshop is $35 for RGC/SLA members and $45 for nonmembers. The workshop is a fundraising event for the Bea Allen Memorial Fund.

Contact Susan Magee at UNM, Parish Memorial Library (277-4908 or smagee@unm.edu) for more information about this informative workshop.

Yes, please register me for the Moving Databases to the Web workshop. Enclosed is my registration fee of: _______ ($35 for RGC/SLA members, $45 for nonmembers)

Name:________________________________________________________________________

Address:______________________________________________________________________

Phone: ___________________________ email: ___________________________________

Please send to: RGC/SLA, c/o Susan Magee, 931 Lucia SW, Albuquerque, NM 87105

scholarships available

The Education Committee invites applicants for the three following scholarships:

MARION DORROH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP, given annually in the amount of $1,500.00 for study toward an advanced degree at an ALA accredited school.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND, an award of up to $500.00 per semester for study in an undergraduate college program culminating in an associate's degree in library science which leads to certification or undergraduate or graduate study towards school librarian certification.

CONTINUING EDUCATION FUND, individual grants of up to $200.00 awarded to promote professional development through the attendance of workshops, conferences, and related activities.

More information and scholarship applications are available from the NMLA homepage, http://lib.nmsu.edu/nmla/scholarships.html

Submit applications or questions to: Nancy Turner, NMLA Education Committee Chair Branigan Public Library 200 East Picacho Las Cruces, NM 88001 phone: 505-528-4000 email: nturner@lib.nmsu.edu
Reward Excellence
Nominate a Colleague for an Award
http://lib.nmsu.edu/nmla/awards.html

♦ **Honorary Life Membership**
NMLA’s highest award given to individuals for outstanding contributions to the purposes of NMLA, for constructive accomplishment rather than longevity, not limited to librarians, may be given to anyone for helping NMLA and / or libraries in New Mexico.

**Criteria:** Significant contribution to NMLA and its activities throughout the library career. Scope of activity beyond own work location; achievements and contributions to NMLA growth are known within the library community, as well as being recognized by other persons or entities in New Mexico.

♦ **New Mexico Library Leadership**
Awards made to librarians who have rendered outstanding service beyond the local community.

**Criteria:** Notable contribution to the advancement of libraries within the state; known and recognized in more than one community. Contributions of a nature that bring recognition and / or enhance the image of libraries in general within New Mexico. Activities and efforts that have helped other librarians improve their service capabilities.

♦ **Legislator of the Year**
Award given to a New Mexico state legislator who has demonstrated leadership in the advancement of libraries throughout the state.

**Criteria:** Notable legislative contribution to library funding, the issues of intellectual freedom, and/or access to library services.

♦ **Community Achievement**
Award for librarians (those certified or with a degree) for outstanding library service or achievement at the local level. Also may be given as NMLA’s recognition of an award from another source that has enhanced the library, and to the entire library community; thus to a local, school, or academic librarian who has received a community, regional, or national honor.

♦ **New Mexico Library Amigo**
Award made to an individual (friend, volunteer, trustee, board member, other citizen, or other non-certified personnel) whose work on behalf of the local library has resulted in significant progress and / or achievement for that library; or, in recognition of work in the promotion of library service within the state.

**DEADLINE:** Nominations and supporting letters are to be mailed no later than Friday, November 20, 1998, to:

Karen Stabler
P.O. Box 3516, UPB
Las Cruces, NM 88003
1999 conference in carlsbad

Plans are underway for the next annual conference in Carlsbad, NM on April 28-29, 1999. The theme will be "From This Millennium to the Next" with the logo representing the past and the future in terms of libraries.

The Carlsbad Local Arrangements Committee has been hard at work for three months now. They are planning some very exciting events. The Pecos River Village is the conference site, and it is pleasant and beautiful on Carlsbad Lake.

The Program Committee has also been working very diligently to find programs that will be of interest to all of NMLA's various segments. Several people have submitted programs to be considered. However, we are still looking for more — especially in the area of special libraries. There is still time to give suggestions and proposals. The last newsletter had the form to list the information that the committee needs.

Charlene Greenwood
CGreen2224@aol.com

New Mexico Library Association Award Nomination Form

Award Nominated For (please check one):

New Mexico Library Leadership
New Mexico Library Amigo

Community Achievement
Legislator of the Year
Honorary Life Membership

Name of Nominee

Address & Phone Number

Library Affiliation

Person Making or Supporting Nomination, Relation to Nominee

This nomination is made in collaboration with:

Summary of how nominee meets criteria for the award for which he/she is nominated (use extra paper if needed)

Please copy this form and give to others who would like to support this nomination.

Mail completed forms (no later than November 20, 1998) to:
Karen Stabler, Awards Committee Chair, P.O. Box 3516, UPB, Las Cruces, NM 88003
Office phone: 505-646-6172, email: kstabler@nmsu.edu
http://lib.nmsu.edu/nmla/awardsform
ala counselor report

ALA in Washington DC went very well, with more than 24,000 in attendance. Charlene Greenwood and I touched base at Council and Chapter Council meetings, and there were a number of other New Mexicans in attendance.

Council, as usual, did go on a bit, and we made sure to debate every word of every issue. My report follows, a sort of "Reader's Digest Condensed" version of the meetings.

Council I, held Sunday, June 28th, was mostly a housekeeping meeting, with minutes from Midwinter approved and nominations to various committees handled. William (Bill) Gordon, new Executive Director of ALA, gave his report on his first few months on-the-job. Bill Gordon is one of the most engaging gentlemen you can know or imagine, and he is reaching out to the membership with great warmth and enthusiasm. Each day, Mr. Gordon randomly selects an ALA member from the directory and calls her/him just to touch base and see how the members think the organization is going...so don't be surprised if you hear from this bright, charming man. He seems to be just "What the doctor ordered" for ALA.

Council II, held June 30th, included the treasurer's report. It's clear that ALA is financially sound, but the organization is large enough that the budget is only slightly clearer than that of the U. S.; so I must admit I did not follow every investment plan closely. There is a plan to increase conference registration fees by approximately $5 for future conferences but dues will not go up at this time.

We had a fascinating report from the Freedom to Read Foundation on all of the censorship challenges currently being debated in and out of court. New Mexico made this report in the presentation of the ACLU v. JOHNSON challenge. The foundation views this challenge as being almost identical to ALA v. PATAKI, a "mini-CDA" that was struck down last year in New York State.

A very complicated and controversial resolution was to be introduced in this session pertaining to the Boy Scouts of America excluding atheists and homosexuals from their ranks. The resolution was to sever all formal ties between ALA and the BSA due to the discriminatory practices of the scouts. However, there is not clear understanding of what "formal" ties we have with the BSA, and the resolution was tabled for further study. This one promises to be hotly debated in the future.

Council III, held July 1st, debated a resolution on ALA financial managers using only "socially responsible" investment vehicles. This resolution was also referred to committee for further study.

Next came extensive discussion on whether or not the requirements for a quorum at ALA membership meetings be reduced to 1/2 of 1%. There is a great concern (rightly so) that general membership meetings very rarely have a quorum present (1% of ALA membership, or approx. 500 people), so no business can be done. Of course this is frustrating for those who do attend and really renders the association "broken". However, there is equal concern that too small a number become a quorum and so would not be truly representative of the membership. The resolution to reduce the quorum failed, though I voted in favor.

Reports were given by various groups resulting mostly in verbal "consent" votes.

The meeting was concluded at approx. noon, and all councilors headed off to their own states and libraries, or as in my case, their own vacations and adventures.

Respectfully submitted, July 9, 1998,
Drew Harrington
At the Belfast Central Library, founded in 1888, we spent most of our time looking at the Special Collections, Newspapers, and the Irish and Local Studies Collections. In Special Collections, were first editions of John James Audobon's *The Birds of America*, and *The Viviparous Quadrupeds of North America* and other priceless books with emphasis on natural history. It was amazing to many of us how casually the rare books were handled. Librarians did not wear latex gloves and flipped through pages as if these books were regular books. This practice was typical at all the libraries visited. The Public Library has an extensive newspaper collection from Belfast, all the counties of Northern Ireland, and the Republic of Ireland. Since the peoples of Ireland are considered to be one of the most literate peoples of Europe, it is not surprising to find that this collection is well-preserved and highly used. The Irish and Local Studies Collections contained family histories, antique maps, and manuscripts of Northern Irish writers including Lynn Doyle and Amanada McKittrick Ros.

The Linen Hall Library is a private subscription library in Belfast City. The library dates back to 1788 and has an invaluable collection of old and new materials. The most interesting collection for most of us was the "Northern Ireland Political Collection." In 1968, Jimmy Vitty, then librarian was handed a political leaflet in a bar in Downtown Belfast and since then the library has been collecting leaflets, posters, Christmas cards, pamphlets, audio-visual items, and books on the "Troubles". Today they have about 80,000 items in this collection. In fact, the political parties such as Sinn Fein, Ulster Unionist Party, Ulster Democratic Unionist Party, Social Democratic and Labor Party, the Alliance Party of Northern Ireland, and others use this collection as their archives. They are digitizing part of this collection. The project is known as the CAIN (Conflict Archive on the Internet) Project and can be found at the following address on the Internet: http://cain.ulst.ac.uk.

The University of Ulster was established in 1985 and was created out of a merger of the New University of Ulster and Ulster Polytechnic. There are four campuses: Jordanstown, Coleraine, Magee in Londonderry, and Belfast. The participants visited two of the four campuses: Coleraine and Magee. At the libraries on these two campuses we were able to see several important digital projects. These libraries are working with the Linen Hall Library on the CAIN Project. The CAIN Project also serves as the gateway to other resources on the ethnic conflict including INCORE (Initiation Conflict Resolution and Ethnicity) where resources on various ethnic conflicts are digitized.

Another important project is the Eurotext Project where selected European Union documents are digitized and made available for teaching purposes - http://eurotext.ult.ac.uk/.

We also visited St. Mary's College on Falls Road. Falls Road is within the area where Catholic working class families live. This is a small Catholic College established in 1900 by the Dominican Sisters. It has a strong interest in international studies and is very interested in developing exchange programs with other countries. Interest in internationalism is very strong in the Catholic community in Northern Ireland. The Library specializes in education, children's literature, and Irish Literature and Language and books in Gaelic.

Since many Americans have family roots in Ireland, genealogy is very popular. Two libraries have excellent collections for genealogy research. One library in Belfast City is the Public Records Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) and the other is in Omagh at the Ulster American Folk Park. At PRONI, one can find the tithe apportionment records; valuation records; maps, plans and surveys; poor law records; school records; church records; landed estate records; business records; solicitors records; and records of private individuals. They have a web site and its address is http://pron.nics.gov.uk. The library at the Ulster American Folk Park specializes in migration history, histories of Ireland and America in the 18th and 19th centuries, agriculture, industry and crafts, social customs and religion, and biographies and autobiographies. The library is building a database of primary source documents.
including emigrant letters, newspaper articles, shipping advertisements, passenger lists, and other important documents. They also teach courses on migration studies. At the Folk Park is an outdoor museum that tells the story of emigration in the eighteenth and nineteenth century on both sides of the Atlantic.

The Ulster Folk and Transport Museum in Holywood, County Down includes an archives to support its collection. The most interesting part of the tour to our group was the material in the museum relating to the ship Titanic. The shipbuilders, Harland and Wolff, gave their blueprints, pictures, and other documents to the museum. The museum also houses the BBC tapes of oral history of survivors of the ship. We listened to one tape of a Mrs. Russell who remembers making snowballs with the pieces of ice that were on the deck from the iceberg that the ship hit.

Two other public libraries visited were the libraries at Armagh, an ecclesiastical center for Europe, and the public library in Derry, the second largest city in Northern Ireland. The Armagh Public Library, founded in 1771 by Archbishop Richard Robinson, held many rare and valuable books. Although the library is very small, some of the treasures in the collection include Sir Walter Raleigh’s History of the World, 1614 and De Praeceptis Decalogi printed in Strasburg, 1488. They also have a first edition of Gulliver’s Travels with corrections made in Swift’s own handwriting. This is an excellent collection of medieval, 17th and 18th century manuscripts. Also very interesting was a collection of several miniature religious books that the clergy carried with them when they went from village to village. We also visited the Derry Public Library in downtown Derry. Here again was an outstanding collection of Irish newspapers and a collection of Gaelic books.

The study tour was only ten days long. The U. S. librarians received a general overview of the libraries from the Directors of each institution, and then met with all the librarians over tea, coffee, and scones. This gave each participant an opportunity to meet and discuss issues with their counterparts. The study tour ended all too soon but by then we had to say “Good-Bye”; we could even use the Irish expression, “Ach mor ort!” (Good luck to you).

I want to thank the New Mexico Library Association for a continuing education grant to partially support my participation in this study tour.
nmla newsletter contributions sought

The NMLA newsletter seeks news articles, ideas, interest groups, research, updates, etc. The deadline for the October/November 1998 issue is September 18, 1998. That issue should arrive in your mailboxes by mid-October.
Send submissions to Jackie Shane (UNM) at jshane@unm.edu; phone 505/277-5327.
Electronic submissions (e-mail or disk) in Word or Ascii are preferred. The editor reserves the right to edit contributions.

New Mexico Library Association newsletter

The New Mexico Library Association Newsletter (ISSN 0893-2956) is published six times a year (February, April, June, August, October, and December) Submissions can be sent via e-mail (preferred), on disk, or printed (double spaced). Electronic format is highly preferred.

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