



WHCLIST Annual Meeting 1998
and
***ACTivate*: Think Globally, Act Locally**

Thursday, August 6 - Sunday, August 9, 1998
The Hyatt Regency ♦ Phoenix, Arizona

What happened in Phoenix, cont'd.

Information Sciences (NCLIS), Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA), and ALA.

The keynote speaker at lunch Friday was Dr. Ching-chih Chen from Simmons College. She spoke of China. One of her helpful comments was, "When you know you don't know, then you're beginning to know something." She said that in 1996 there were more people in the America Online community than there was in San Francisco. The Internet is transforming our lives in a variety of ways: communication, the dissemination of information, how we learn, how we build or design, how we do research, and the environment. She updated the audience on the progress of networked information in this country. After lunch, WHCLIST participants were treated to a report by Mary Costabile from the ALA Washington office. She described the library issues that of her experience developing a multimedia CD-ROM information product on the First Emperor are to be addressed by Congress this year. She related the story of Congressman Blagojevich as an example of how grass roots lobbying and the ALA Library Legislative day work. Two representatives of the Tucson-Pima Public Library offered information on their library's outreach philosophy in an exhilarating talk that closed out the afternoon meetings.

Friday night's reception took place at the world-renowned Heard Museum which features the art and artifacts of Native Americans of the Southwest United States. After touring the museum and enjoying the food, the WHCLIST and ACTivate participants heard a panel presentation about advocacy and partnerships. Richard Akeroyd offered some insight on the goals of Melinda and Bill Gates' Library Foundation. Dan Shilling of the Arizona Humanities Council provided food for thought as he spoke about awarding humanities grants and how some foundations provide funding for collaborative efforts only. The panel was guided by Diantha Schull, Executive Director of Libraries for the Future. Other panelists were Peter Pearson, Executive Director of The Friends of the Saint Paul Library in Minnesota, who lobbies and raises funds for the library, and Diane Frankel, Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Saturday's activities started early with a breakfast featuring Clifford Lynch, Director of the Coalition for Networked Information (CNI). Dr. Lynch's talk was "Developments in Networked Information and the Role of CNI." He explained that instead of being an advocacy group, CNI's role is to conduct research and present information to the public on technology issues before Congress considers any legislation. Later that morning Jorge Schement, of the Benton Foundation and a professor at Penn State Uni-

versity fascinated the audience with facts included in his upcoming book, *From the Wired Commons to the Wired Castle*. He talked about Americans' appetite for media, not only now but after the Depression when 82% of U.S. citizens owned radios. Schement shared interesting statistics on information devices, relating that the average household includes 2.5 persons, 2 TVs, and 5 radios. This emphasis on private entertainment has resulted in a decrease in public participation by the average American. After many depressing facts, Schement challenged his listeners to take on the following challenges: 1) librarians need to serve the private (or home) library as well as the public; 2) we should embrace the entire information scope (don't think only of those who don't have access to the Internet, worry about those who don't have telephones); and 3) library educators should train information society leaders (who are not always librarians).

The final gathering of the annual conference was the business meeting on Sunday morning. All of the resolutions presented were passed. The full text of those resolutions can be found at the WHCLIST web site. The first resolution recognized the excellent work of Merrillyn Ridgeway and David Snider. Their hard work resulted in a fabulously successful and well-run meeting. Thank you!



Alice Hagemeyer, Alberto Rios, Sara Jane Cate, Chris Wixtrom

"Be It Resolved That...."

Delegates to the Annual Meeting seriously considered many issues faced by libraries, their users, and staffs. Seven resolutions resulted from the deliberations.

Resolution #1 was a courtesy resolution for conference organizers Merrillyn Ridgeway and David Snider and the many volunteers.

Resolution #2 deals with the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Title VI funding, presently under consideration by Congress. The resolve clause is that WHCLIST "urges that the U.S. Congress pass FY 1999 appropriations for ESEA Title VI at \$400 million."