Research Forum

for completed or ongoing research

sponsored by

Research Committee
College and University Section
New Jersey Library Association

May 4, 1995
2:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

NJLA Annual Spring Conference
Atlantic City, New Jersey

Anne C. Ciliberti, William Paterson College of New Jersey
Recipient of NJLA College and University Section Research Award

"Collection evaluation and academic review," Library Acquisitions: Practice & Theory, Fall, 1994

An academic library collection evaluation methodology conceived and planned within the broader context of assessment is described. Focusing on the evaluation of a library's collection of special education and counseling monographs, the pilot methodology calls for several collection-centered and client-centered evaluation techniques. The OCLC/ AMIGOS Collection Analysis CD, selected as one collection-centered evaluation method, is described, and its value as an evaluation tool for monographic holdings is discussed.

George W. Cooke, Franklin Lakes Public Library

"Building local history collections through guided autobiography," American Libraries, October, 1994

Building on techniques developed by Dr. James Birren of UCLA, and others, a method has been devised for using written autobiographies, particularly for elders, in a library program setting. The method enables elders to discover patterns in their lives and also prepare a written record for local history collections.

As the population of elders grows, libraries need to consider special support services to this population.

My research in this area is ongoing with plans to reach into public schools and involve young people with their elders.

Gloria Dinerman and Constance Hudock, The Library Co-Op, Inc.

"Library facilities for the mentally challenged," Online information 94 - Proceedings

Library facilities for the mentally challenged adult are a rarity in the United States. Although educational professionals have proven beyond doubt that intellectual and physical stimuli can vastly improve the quality of life of the mature population afflicted with mental retardation, there has been a decided lag in the development of libraries and resource centers that energize the dormant potential of adults with learning disabilities.

There is so much supportive assistance for the retarded child, and so much neglect of the retarded adult who has been shunted aside by a society whose dynamics are propelled by youth.

In June 1993, The Library Co-Op, Inc., was commissioned to develop a library for the North Jersey Development Center (NJDC), a residential complex for adults with developmental disabilities. This paper is the story of our intense research for comparable facilities and our plans for the rehabilitation of a library setting that is now unique, serviceable and very special to its users.

Rhonda J. Marker, Rutgers University Libraries

"The shelflist: useful tool or dust collector?"

With the proliferation of automated systems in the smallest as well as the largest libraries, the issue of whether or not to continue to maintain a card file such as the shelflist has taken on great importance to many libraries. This paper examines the functions of a shelflist, how these functions are performed by individual libraries, and the role of automation in performing those functions. While this paper sets out the issues to be considered when deciding to keep or discard a card shelflist, each library's use of the shelflist will differ. To illustrate the variety of approaches that a library can take, three New Jersey libraries' experiences with a shelflist are described. Their cases demonstrate how each library must make its own assessment, based on its policies and practices with regard to the shelflist, of whether to keep a card shelflist or rely on an automated system.

G. Karen Merguerian, Seton Hall University

"Information policy in the Clinton administration: a mid-term assessment"

This presentation examines and assesses government information policy in the Clinton Administration.

When the Clinton Administration came into office, statements made by both the President and the Vice President indicated a willingness to broaden citizen access to government information. In addition, the Administration was enthusiastic about the possibilities for government information distribution using electronic means, such as bulletin boards and the Internet. Libraries, as well as other organizations committed to wide access to information, were cautiously optimistic about the new Administration's agenda, and approved of the importance that the information issue received in the early days of the Administration's term.

What is the state of government information access after the Clinton Administration's first two years? Should libraries continue to be optimistic? This paper attempts to evaluate the Administration's progress to date, and concludes with a discussion of implications for New Jersey libraries.
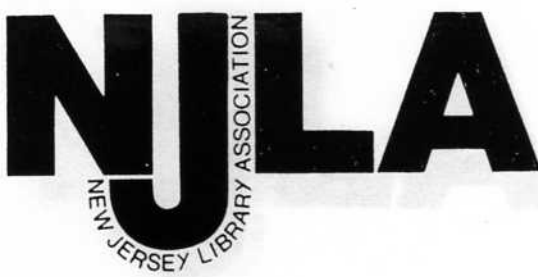
Richard E. Stern, Seton Hall University

"The impact of Internet on scholarship"

The introduction of computers and networks into the conduct of scholarship is precipitating a transformation as monumental as that which occurred with the development of the printing press. The strength of this transformation is clearly manifest in developments on the Internet. In spite of a groundswell of interest in the Internet in academia, there is a scarcity of studies of the impact of the Internet on scholarship. The goal of the proposed research is to begin to fill that void by measuring citations to the Internet among the footnotes and references in the refereed journal literature. Citation of the Internet will provide an indication of the extent to which scholars value the information they derive from the Internet. The library and information science literature will be the discipline examined, owing, in part, to the pioneering use of the Internet by librarians and other information professionals. This research is at the stage prior to data collection. The presentation will include discussion of (1) the methodology for uncovering cites to the Internet, (2) choice of discipline to be studied, and (3) implications for the practice of scholarship in citing the Internet.