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PVLR (ALA Report)

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Electronic Publications Dominate PVLR Talk

by Corrie Marsh (George Washington University)

The Publisher/Vendor Library Relations Committee focused much of its discussion at June's ALA Annual Conference in Chicago on issues related to electronic publications.

First it was reported that the highly successful *Newsletter on Serials Pricing Issues* henceforward will be available in electronic format

only. Created by PVLR's Subcommittee on Serials Pricing Issues to address to the serials crisis, the popular newsletter, primarily available to subscribers via BITNET, previously had

been made available in paper format upon request, but photocopying charges soon overwhelmed local and ALA resources.

ALCTS' watchdog committee for scholarly communications issues also heard reports on CD-ROM publications from Bobby Ferguson, State Library of Louisiana, and Peggy Johnson, University of Minnesota. Ferguson, chair of the ALCTS AV Publisher/Distributor Library Relations Subcommittee, indicated that her group has collected copies of library policies concerning

licensing agreements of non-print materials, including CD-ROMs. The group will be addressing contracts and licensing agreements for non-print materials. Johnson reported on her March 1989 *Technicalities* article, which dealt with CD-ROM standards, funding, and contracts, and an RLG document containing a checklist

publications included (as always) serials pricing, although discussion was relatively brief, and a change in PVLR's meeting structure. The audience's attention was directed to "Do serials vendor policies affect serials pricing?", a series of essays in the Summer 1990 issue of *Serials Review*. PVLR members agreed that the topic addressed therein

should receive wider discussion; chair Helen Reed indicated that she would refer the issue to the appropriate Resources Section and Serials Section discussion groups.

Finally, the annual meeting marked a change in PVLR's

The survey, which addressed libraries' OPAC facilities, has been reviewed and discussed (most unfavorably) on the PACTEL electronic bulletin board.

for use in reviewing licensing agreements for CD-ROMs.

Then committee members solicited input from the audience comprised largely of acquisitions/collection management librarians and vendors, regarding a survey of libraries by Meckler Publishing. The survey, which addressed libraries' OPAC facilities, has been reviewed and discussed (most unfavorably) on the PACTEL electronic bulletin board. PVLR plans to share with Meckler concerns expressed at the meeting.

Topics other than electronic

meeting habits. Previously, the committee has conducted a closed meeting on Saturday afternoon and an open meeting on Monday morning. Responding to concerns expressed by the ALCTS and ALA hierarchy, PVLR will now conduct its Saturday meeting as an open, "working" meeting, as necessary going into executive session to discuss confidential matters; the Monday morning meeting will continue as an open, "reporting out" session for actions taken as a result of executive session items. ☛