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FYI

ALA ASSOCIATION FOR LIBRARY COLLECTIONS AND TECHNICAL SERVICES SERIALS SECTION ACQUISITIONS COMMITTEE 1990 MIDWINTER MEETING, CHICAGO JANUARY 7, 1990

by **Jana Lonberger**, Head, Serials Control Dept., Georgia Institute of Technology Library, Atlanta GA 30332

The ALCTS Serials Section Acquisitions Committee reviewed progress on the drafting of guidelines for performance evaluation of serials vendors at its meeting on January 7, 1990. Preliminary work on this project was based on the format followed in *Guide to Performance Evaluation of Library Materials Vendors*, a document developed by the ALCTS Resources Section Acquisitions Committee, which focuses on evaluation of monographic vendors. It was noted that comparison of serials vendors is particularly difficult, due to the relatively small number of serials vendors available and to the nature of the orders placed through them. Evaluation of serials vendors should focus on comparing an individual vendor's performance against a library's needs. The Committee hopes to have a rough draft ready for review at the 1990 Annual Conference. Work also continues on an extensive glossary of acquisitions and serials terms. Originally intended as an addendum to the vendor evaluation guidelines, the glossary has generated much interest in the serials community and is currently under preparation as a separate entity. A draft will be completed this spring and distributed to various groups for comment.

In other business, committee members voted to co-sponsor, with the AAP/ALCTS Joint Committee Subcommittee on Serials Marketing, a program on marketing of serials for the 1991 annual conference. Committee members were urged to comment on the Serials Marketing Subcommittee's draft of a serials marketing survey, and to volunteer their institutions as test sites for the survey.

Acting on a request from the ALCTS RS Acquisitions Committee, the Committee also agreed to work on revising an unpublished document on handling of library orders for serials and periodicals.

Biz of Acq

continued from page 11

instances of publishers' failure to supply prepaid orders and/or publishers' supplying grossly inferior products. With this documentation, PVLIR is able to pursue the issue with the individual publisher and/or the U.S. Postal Service, if appropriate. Truly bogus publications, after all, constitute mail fraud.

PVLIR's second mechanism was developed to address acquisitions librarians' complaints in the aggregate. For years now the committee has maintained and distributed a list of imprints believed to be operated by Frank and Michael Gille—otherwise known as the "Gille list." As noted above, the committee was originally established to deal with many, many complaints librarians had regarding Gille publications. The availability and distribution of the list has broadened general awareness of these imprints.

Along with PVLIR's efforts, several vendors circulate "publisher not supplied" (PNS) lists which are somewhat analogous to the "Gille" list. In addition to the PNS category, these lists usually include publishers which are "apply direct" (AD). The general idea is that the AD publishers are legitimate organization which will not work through vendors, so the library must "apply direct." Unfortunately, the "publisher not supplied" category is rather more slippery. It is difficult sometimes to tell whether the vendor has found the publisher to be unreliable or just difficult to work with.

The main problem with both PVLIR's "Gille" list and the PNS lists circulated by the firm order vendors is keeping them updated and current. Many of these bogus publishers fold operations under one name in one state and re-appear six

continued on page 32