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And They Were There-Reports of Meetings- Transborder Library Forum 2000 and KLA Academic/Special Section Conference Review

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And They Were There

Reports of Meetings — Transborder Library Forum 2000 and KLA Academic/Special Section Conference Review

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Transborder Library Forum 2000 Meets in Albuquerque (March 23 and 25, 2000)

Report by **Sharon A. Moynahan** (Catalog Department, University of New Mexico) and **Claire-Lise Bnaud** (Head, Catalog Department, University of New Mexico)

The 10th annual meeting of the **Transborder Library Forum**, or **Foro Transfronterizo de Bibliotecas**, took place in Albuquerque between March 23 and 25, 2000. The FORO promotes cooperation among librarians on the Southern and Northern borders of the United States and is beginning to attract interest and membership from librarians elsewhere in Latin America. The US/Mexico border region is of primary interest. Participants included librarians, vendors, publishers, and policy makers whose discussed library border issues, the transfer of information and knowledge across borders, and the sharing of information.

This FORO took to heart its theme "Beyond our Borders: Interconnections." From the keynote address by **John Wirth** to the dinner address by **Michael Gorman**, borders disappeared, regionalism prevailed, and connections were made. Participants from the United States, Mexico, Canada met to discuss issues common to libraries, regardless of nationality, in the age of globalization.

Sessions covered a multitude of topics, ranging from the political and sociological, to the technical and naturally, to librarianship. Two pre-conference workshops covered risk-taking and preservation. Following are some highlights of the many sessions that took place.

John Wirth, Gildred Professor of Latin American Studies at **Stanford University**, introduced the themes of globalization and regionalism by pointing out that finance, the Internet, and especially the environment are not constricted by man-made borders and nation-states. While a nation-state is absolute, a region is more natural, created by natural geography or populations. Regionalism is a good place to practice for globalization. The smaller scale solutions are more manageable and can be tested. Wirth does not advocate "one state," but he does feel that regions should be given the authority and autonomy to solve their own particular problems, because they are best able to identify locally workable solutions. Globalization may redefine citizenship. Examples included the **Deming/Columbus** school district's policy of allowing a number of Mexican children to come north to school. National and state policies put an end to a practice that had worked for decades. Similarly, initiatives among game wardens, **NAFTA**, and the planned border cities of San Geronimo and Santa Teresa are all working to solve regional problems and improve life in general. The next plenary session addressed the status of librarianship in the borderless community. Speakers were the presidents of four library associations: **Martha D. Castro**, president of the **Asociacion de Administradores de Recursos Informativos**, **Susan DiMattia**, president of the **Special Library Association**, **Sarah Long**, president of **ALA**, and **Nahum Perez Paz**, from the **Asociacion Mexicana de Bibliotecarios, Asociacion Civil**.

Ana Cristan, from the **Library of Congress** held a hands-on session on the **Subject Authority Cooperative Program (SACO)**. Unlike other cooperative authority control projects, participation in SACO does not require training and revision. Libraries from around the world can submit proposals for subject headings to the **Library of Congress**, who will evaluate and establish these headings. Cristan described the process and encouraged participants, especially those from Mexico, to submit entries.

Another session covered teaching and cooperation. **Ronald Wyllys**, professor at the **University of Texas School of Library and Information Science**, described a Web-Based Library and Information Science program, which essentially aims at offering the library degree through Web-based courses. Wyllys explained the steps that went into preparing the course. The program looks promising. **Verla Peterson**, of the **Branigan Library in Las Cruces**, described her experience teaching a two-day seminar on basic reference resources to Mexican librarians. While the experience was rewarding, she felt that more time is needed for this kind of teaching. **Danelle Crowley**, from the **San Antonio Public Library**, described a study she conducted in Mexico and Cuba about how libraries establish subject headings. Basically, the study found that there was no standard way or printed thesauri for subject headings. However, efforts are being made to follow some of the practices established by the Library of Congress.

Another session was devoted to International Experiences for Librarians and Partnerships for Libraries. One of the best ways to connect is to travel and work in another country. A program moderated by **Martha McPhail** of **San Diego State University** described opportunities for foreign employment and offered advice to librarians who wish to experience another culture and work environment. **Michael Dowling**, Director of the **International Relations Office of ALA**, described ALA's programs for international cooperation involving library employment and opportunities with international organizations. He stressed the value of networking globally. Sara Long, president of ALA, explained the Sister Library initiative. Using anecdotes to illustrate how small the world has become, and pointing out that immigrants tend to settle in places where they already know someone, she described a program that pairs up public libraries in the US and Mexico. Ideally, a US library serving a significant Mexican-American population from one region would be paired with a library from the town of origin in Mexico. Finally, **Martha McPhail** recounted the joys and frustrations of her six month stay in El Salvador including the nitty-gritty of what it takes to work for six months in another country.

"**Serials and Electronic Resources: Current Issues/NASIG Update**," moderated by **Fran Wilkinson**, Interim Associate Dean, **University of New Mexico General Library**, featured three speakers who highlighted issues of serials and consortia. **Ann Okerson** of **Yale University**, reviewed several trends and a goal: 1) the move from print to electronic resources; 2) the change from copyright

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to licencing; 3) the growing power of consortia; and 4) management of this change. **Birdie MacLennan** of the **University of Vermont** explored the educational and training needs for the new global information environment. She discussed the need to constantly re-train in order to design and implement strategic policies which meet this challenge. She stressed the value of becoming acquainted with changes in related fields and jumping in and learning from others. Networking, conferences, and professional associations all offer opportunities to learn the new technologies. **Nancy Gomez** of the **Universidad de Buenos Aires** provided an overview of access to primary documents in the sciences in Argentina. She described the progress and the needs of the information community as well as several efforts to provide timely and complete access to scientific information.

Other workshops covered such topics as: Social Science Resources, Library Services for Prisoners, Web Resources from Mexico and Latin America, Cooperative Cataloging Projects, OPACs and Internet Resources, Border Environmental Issues and Information Resources, American Indian Libraries and Initiatives, and Border Health Issues and Information Resources.

In the closing session, **Michael Gorman**, noted writer and Dean of the Library at **California State University, Fresno**, moderated a discussion on the future of **FORO**. The tenth **FORO** has seen an extension of the borders. So far, the **FORO** has been a flexible association of border librarians with a flexible structure. Members of the session debated the pros and cons of: meeting once every two years; having a more planned approach such as membership dues, etc.; being associated with other Mexican and US library associations; or how far from the border shall the meeting take place. If the organization grows, some of the informality will fall by the way side. No consensus was reached but a taskforce was appointed to conduct a survey. The **FORO** is at a juncture: will it stay small or will it become a more typical organization?

In addition to the workshop and presentations, there were also cultural, entertainment, and shopping opportunities. Noted poet, essayist and short fiction writer **Simon Ortiz** conducted a literary reading and book signing ceremony. As the conference hotel was located in Old Town, Albuquerque, participants had easy access to the varied shops, restaurants, and galleries of Old Town. Each evening ended with a reception providing all members the opportunity to mingle. **FORO** will meet in Hermosillo, Mexico next year.

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KLA Academic/Special Section Conference Review (April 12-14, 2000)
Jenny Wiley State Resort Park, Prestonsburg, Kentucky

Report by **Ruth T. Kinnersley** (Coordinator, Access Services, Western Kentucky University Libraries and Treasurer of the Kentucky Library Association Academic Section)

It has become a tradition to hold the **Joint Spring Conference** for the Academic and Special sections of the **Kentucky Library Association** and the **Kentucky Chapter of the Special Library Association** at one of the State Resort Parks in Kentucky. An accompanying tradition is for casual dress, as befits a park setting. These two popular tra-

ditions, combined with the theme "Millennium Madness: Technology Trends in the Year 2000" resulted in over 120 attendees at this year's conference, held April 12-14 at Jenny Wiley State Resort Park near Prestonsburg, in the mountains of eastern Kentucky.

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The theme of technology permeated the meetings, beginning with the pre-conferences. **Patrick Davison of Hazard Community College** and **Cindi Trainor of the University of Kentucky** presented "TLC for your PC." Those present learned tips and tricks to keep their personal computers operating at maximum efficiency, and also learned some options for locking patrons out of essential files and operating systems on public-access PCs. **Winn Theirl, from the University of Kentucky Medical Center Library**, presented "Teaching the Basics of the WWW: A Guide for Librarians."

The Conference proper began on Thursday, which was devoted to sessions presented by **T. Stephen Eggleston**, a technology consultant, trainer, and public speaker with the **Eggleston group**. The sessions centered around the Internet, as the speaker challenged us to re-think our views of the Internet as an information tool, so that we might understand it better and use it more effectively. Session 1, "Critical Thinking and Organizational Tools (Skills) for the Communications Age," described the shift from linear thinking (the traditional model for formal learning) to non-linear thinking, which has been fostered by the Internet. The speaker presented models and suggestions for improving non-linear thinking skills, and gave examples of the efficacy of non-linear thinking in a variety of situations, particularly in library settings. Mr. Eggleston discussed the impact of the new thinking methods in the second session: "The Internet - Why it is on Par with the Wheel, Fire and the Printing Press." He was particularly insightful as to how the Internet differs from other information resources librarians are accustomed to. Rather than concern ourselves with how the Internet is (or is not) organized, we should instead focus on mastering the tools for accessing information available via the Internet, i.e., search engines.

The third session, "The Internet as a Publishing Medium," considered the importance of using the Internet for publicizing the library. The session highlighted the speaker's expertise in this area, as we learned some basic truths about Web site construction and maintenance which were quite sensible, but not obvious. Mr. Eggleston reminded us that the biggest expense in having a Web site is not creating it, but maintaining and updating the content. Other helpful tips included ways to keep statistics on who is visiting; being "highly visible" to search engines; and completely re-designing the Web site each time it undergoes major revision. Mr. Eggleston also discussed some basic do's and don'ts for structuring Web sites, with helpful examples.

In the final session, entitled "Building a Web Site - from the Ground Up," Mr. Eggleston demonstrated the actual mechanics of creating a Web page, and

provided further basic tenets for effective Web site creation. Throughout the day, participants were encouraged to ask questions and provide input to make sure topics relevant to the audience were discussed. Mr. Eggleston lived up to his reputation as one who "has developed innovative and elegant solutions to many of the complex problems facing the typical computerist and would-be computer user," and to his motto, which is "technology should set you free, not make you crazy."

After a profitable Thursday with one speaker, Friday was devoted to concurrent sessions, which provided attendees with three time slots to choose among nine presentations. In "Rethinking the Reference Desk for the New Millennium," **Carol Parris (University of Kentucky Law Library)** discussed how one of the most basic and standard services we provide, reference assistance, must adapt to current factors such as technology, customer service expectations, productivity, and availability.

Tyler Goldberg (University of Louisville) and **Pam Burton (East Carolina University)** presented "Training for Technical Competency," in which they examined two models for training library staff for technical competency: 1) a separate technical training unit within the Systems Department, and 2) a library-wide team approach to technical training. The advantages and disadvantages of each model were discussed.

Keith Belton of SOLINET and **Eric Weig of the University of Kentucky** presented "Developing Digital Library Programs," in which they discussed the need to shift from a project-oriented perspective on digital resources to a larger perspective which considered the integration of traditional library processes and workflows into the digital environment. The presenters also examined the requirements needed for such a shift in perspective.

Judith Wulff (University of Louisville) and **Elizabeth Smigielski (National Library of Medicine)** presented how the **University of Louisville** and area hospitals are looking at ways to cooperatively manage health information across institutional boundaries. They provided an overview of health informatics, the role of the National Library of Medicine in funding and training, how librarians fit into the picture, the current project in Louisville, and future plans in their presentation: "Integrating Health Information at the Louisville Medical Center."

Joseph Miller of the University of Kentucky School of Library and Information Science presented the results of a survey of ARL libraries in "Provision of Local Assisted Access to Selected Internet Information Resources by ARL Academic Libraries." The survey examined how these libraries created access to selected Internet

resources for patrons (generally through Web-based systems), including the administration, institutional support, and organizational structure of these systems.

In a different approach to how technology affects librarians and patrons, **Carol Brinkman of the University of Louisville** and **Darla Bressler of Western Kentucky University** discussed how they developed a mentor and protege relationship in "Mentoring Relationships for the New Millennium." They presented some of the issues which were dealt with in the mentoring relationship (some of which involved technology), and also examined how the use of technology enhanced the ability to communicate and interact, even though they were in physically distant locations. Their mentoring relationship was established through the **Kentucky Library Association MAP (Mentor and Protege)** program, which assists recently hired librarians in adapting to the demands of their jobs.

Three presenters from the **University of Kentucky Medical Center Library**, **Stephanie Allen, Rick Brewer, and Mary Vaughn**, addressed the issues surrounding electronic journals. They covered collection development, technical aspects of acquisition, activation/registration of subscriptions, working through aggregator services, and issues related to online catalog and Web site access to electronic journals in a session entitled "Thousands of Journals, but Nothing to Read? Managing Online Titles at the Chandler Medical Center Library."

In "Guidelines for Digital Library Production: KCVL Kentuckiana Digital Library," **Eric Weig and Beth Kraemer** from the **University of Kentucky** discussed the best practice guidelines prepared by the **Kentuckiana Digital Library group**, as part of the **Kentucky Commonwealth Virtual Library (KCVL)** digitization project. They examined the process involved in creating the guidelines, and how they can be used by librarians around the state.

Haiwang Yuan of Western Kentucky University reviewed the process by which the University Library developed its Web site in his presentation "Keeping a Large Library Web Site Up-to-date Takes More Than a Dream Weaver." He discussed how the advance of Web technology and editing software has improved the ability of the Web team to maintain the site, although he stressed the continued need for human input in improving and developing a site that serves the needs of its users.

Between the sessions and the section and round table business meetings, we had opportunities for developing professional contacts during meals, receptions, and outdoor activities. The KLA Joint Spring Conference provided the perfect blend of professional development, association business, and fun!

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