

This report should bring you up to date and refresh your memories regarding ongoing projects.

WINTHROP NEWS

We are preparing to close out the books on FY96 while beginning the new fiscal year. This presents a challenge for the new Secretary Bookkeeper. As we did not receive the requested transfer to the "Administrative Expense" line item of the budget, there are items which we need immediately. Warren, for example, had to have someone buy a typewriter ribbon for him.

The bills you sign at the June 18th meeting will not be the last ones - the final call for FY96's bills is July 12th. PLEASE COME IN AND SIGN THE LAST BILLS BEFORE THAT DATE.

We did receive the requested transfer for \$92.00 into the "Elevator Maintenance" budget and the \$3500.00 for the last week of full-time staff payroll. Of course, just before we received the payroll funds, the Town Accountant instructed us to pay that week out of next year's appropriation, so we don't need the full \$3500.00 and a good part of it will be returned.

Rearrangement is occurring on the main floor once again. An attractive display vehicle* for YA paperbacks has been purchased and additional signage will soon appear. Now that we have a decent materials budget I am increasing efforts to publicize our services. Relocation of the hard copy periodicals to the second floor and the placement of a table for "ADULTS ONLY" in the space made available there is also being considered.

The free computer from the State will be arriving momentarily.

NOBLE NEWS

I was somewhat disappointed in NOBLE's 2nd Tech Expo, held June 4th, mostly due to lack of vendor participation, I think, but several staff attended and saw things that they wouldn't ordinarily get a chance to view. Ellen Nickerson and Mary Ann Blair liked the graphical presentation of EBSCO periodicals on PC, and I liked Netscape. Rich Allen and Steve Crosby also attended. NOBLE is about to mount GEAC Release 2.5, which changes all circulation functions. Training sessions are being attended. Mary Ann Blair and Nancy Walsh also attended a workshop on mysteries, Rich Allen went to Worcester to learn about creating technical service web pages, and I have been continuing to attend ERLAC (Eastern Regional Library Advisory Council) meetings,

* The circular display towers attracted much positive comment even before being filled. A year or so ago the YA collection was relocated around the corner (after the elevator) and suffered a 50% reduction in use. Although costly, the towers can also hold videos, and I expect an immediate increase in circulation once stocked. Attractively displayed collections are used more frequently are thus cost effective.

most recently at the Hingham Public Library. Although far to travel, it was the most informative ERLAC meeting that I have attended. Please ask me about Hingham at the meeting!

Elizabeth Thomsen, Member Services Manager of NOBLE, has authored *Reference & Collection Development on the Internet*, published by Neal Schuman.

STATE NEWS

The Massachusetts House passed a 2.2 million dollar funding bill for the STRATEGIC PLAN, which dramatically reorganizes the state's regions, and particularly the one in which we live, the Eastern Region. The Senate passed 1.1 million. A conference committee will negotiate the final figure. Interim planning committees will go ahead regardless of the amount passed. Please recall that the newly created Eastern Region will be comprised roughly of the MVLC (Merrimac Valley Library Consortium) and NOBLE networks. Contracts will be through several much smaller (basically contract administering) offices and not the present Andover, Wellesly, Bridgewater, etc. sub-regional library centers, although one or more of these may decide to become an office. Boston will be a region of its own. Services that we currently rely on such as the Children's movie and summer reading programs, as well as daily delivery service will no longer be procured through Boston, but be reestablished and renegotiated with the new region and the new office. There will be some personnel displacement and there is anxiety about continuity of services during the time when current contracts end¹ and the new region is just getting off the ground.

Also, Senator Hicks has filed a new \$160 M library construction bond bill. Ninety (90) legislators have already signed on their support of this extension of the recent Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program, which would encompass a ten year period and offer a grant round every 18 months. The Board of Library Commissioners feels that there is a good chance that this initiative will pass. This should provide motivation to complete our *Building Program Statement* and request funding for handicapped accessibility to the Hyde Room and needed interior renovations.

Enclosed you will find *Libraries for Everyone*, printed by the state. I feel it's an excellent presentation of the library's view and role in providing materials. I plan to make a serious try at our Selection and Usage Statement (required by law) this summer.

¹Daily truck delivery is contracted out via bid by current Eastern Regional at RPI.