



Newsletter for
Librarians and Management

The One-Person Library

Volume 17, Number 4

August, 2000

IN THIS ISSUE...

Thinking About...

..... The Importance of Conference Attendance 1

Conference Reports

..... Special Libraries Association, Part 2..... 3

Congratulations

OPL Founder Guy St. Clair Honored 7

Introducing OPL's Newest Correspondent

Janet Mente of Rome Covers the Mediterranean
and Southern Europe 7

Coming Events 7

Around the World 1

Knowledge Management in Small Special
Libraries: A Seminar with Olga Wise in Berlin . 8

Around the World 2

Being "Solo"—The Israeli Case 8

Around the World 3

Odes to Public Libraries 9

Around the World 4

Two Health Libraries in Israel..... 10

Words of Inspiration 11

Feedback

You have been asked to make a plan for
converting your "standard" Corporate Library
(books, periodicals, etc) to a "Cyberlibrary/
Virtual Library" (no books or magazines,
minimum hardcopy reference collection)?

What Would You Do? 12

What Would You Do?

A new OPL in a brokerage firm received a
request for a non-company related book.
The request is entirely for personal use. She'd
love to help and hates to turn away any
request since she's trying to promote the library.
What do you recommend? 12

THINKING ABOUT...

The Importance of Conference Attendance

By Judith Siess, Editor, *The One-Person Library*

Another library conference season is about over. How many professional conferences did you go to? How many continuing education courses or workshops did you attend? How many new contacts and librarians did you meet? How many vendors did you talk with and let tell you about their products?

Did you answer "one" to the above? Good. "More than one?" Even better. "None?" Shame, shame on you! Conferences are the one single best way for OPLs to combat the loneliness and professional isolation that is one of their primary complaints about their situation. This is also one of your best chances to update yourself on the latest trends, techniques, controversies, and ideas in the library world. It is also the easiest way to shop for books, databases and WWW offerings, reference materials, software and hardware, automation solutions, and almost anything else you might need for your library. One-stop shopping at its best.

There is no shortage of conferences to choose from. Each professional association has at least one conference per year. These are usually affordable and sessions are presented by a combination of members and invited speakers. For-profit companies such as publishers and consultants sponsor other conferences. While these tend to be more expensive, they attract some of the best thinkers, experts, and speakers and often give you a different perspective. There are also conferences that center on technology. These are not as library-oriented as the others, but feature the cutting edge of hardware and software and give you a very good view of the future.

You say you can't afford to go to a conference? Nonsense. You really can't afford not to go. You

IN THIS ISSUE...

SLA Conference, Part 2

has no official Solo division in its organization of librarians. The Israel Society of Libraries and Information Centers (ISLIC) is the country's official organization of all librarians, and anyone, OPL or other, can become a member. As of now, all attempts to establish a Solo division within ISLIC have been unsuccessful. So, while the SLA has a Solo Librarians Division with an active listserv and Australia's ALIA has OPAL, Israel has a list of only about 70 OPLs registered together with their essential details, including email address, phone number, etc., but unconnected by any association and lacking any meaningful activities. Communication between the people on the list is on a personal basis rather than through official events or electronic listserv. The only organized event to have taken place to date was last year, when ISLIC arranged a seminar for OPLs, which, incidentally, was attended by only 30 people. Needless to say, the 70 registered OPLs do not represent the entire OPL population of Israel; there are undoubtedly many more who are simply not aware of the possibility of formal dialogue with other OPLs. Hence it is practically impossible to estimate the number of OPLs in Israel and to obtain a full picture of their workplace, their relationships with the organizations they work for, their marketing strategies, efforts to promote the information centers they represent, etc.

A look at the 70 registered OPLs reveals the following cross section: OPLs work in almost every type of organization—high-tech companies (Tescom, Nice), medical organizations (Rabin Medical Center, Maccabi Health Services, geriatric hospitals), government ministries (Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Science, Ministry of Tourism), industrial firms (Haifa Chemicals, Ormat Industries), engineering firms (TAHAL Group), educational institutions (junior high and high schools), financial institutions (banks), research institutions (Technion R&D Institute in Haifa, Development Studies Center in Rehovot), and military divisions of the IDF (Israel Defense Forces).

The above is only a partial list of organizations registered in our file which have an information center with an OPL. Below is an example of an OPL, chosen because of its unique library, which is one of a kind in Israel. I will report on other interesting OPLs in Israel in the future issues.

Library of the Development Studies Center, Rehovot, Israel

The library of the Development Studies Center (DSC) is the Depository Library of the World Bank in Israel (there are 34 libraries throughout the world participating in the World Bank Library Program).

An independent, non-governmental organization, the DSC is located in Rehovot, a city situated about 30 km south of Tel Aviv. Its main activity is to organize

post-graduate courses for mid-career professionals from various parts of the world who are engaged in economic and social development activities in their countries of origin. They visit Israel for a period of a few months having been sent by their respective governments.

The library has been in existence for about 35 years, and during the last 10 years has been under the direction of Devoira Auerbach. It is well organized, and has a total of about 30,000 titles – 80% in English, 5% in Spanish, and 15% in Hebrew. As a depository library of the World Bank, every publication of the bank reaches the DSC library. An OPL, Devoira is directly responsible to the management of the institution, but exercises full independence in making professional decisions. She has no problem "justifying" her job or the necessity of the library in the framework of the organization.

The library is an integral part of the educational institution and the curriculum. It provides a needed service for the students as well as external users. Devoira has her hands full not only with documentation of all the library material, including a high percentage of "grey literature," but also with giving a personalized service to the users.

This kind of OPL in Israel is unique because there is no need for the librarian to engage in any "marketing" or "promotion" in order to justify his job. As we know, most OPLs do have such problems in their work. My coming reports will discuss other OPLs who face considerable difficulties in "marketing" their positions and maneuvering themselves within the organizations to which they belong.

/A/B/A

AROUND THE WORLD 3 ODES TO PUBLIC LIBRARIES

**by Zapopan Muela, Monterrey,
N.L., Mexico, June, 20, 1995**

This set of verses was written for radio spots to encourage children to visit and read in the Nuevo Leon, México public libraries. It was written at the Invitation of the Head of the Red Estatal de Bibliotecas Públicas de Nuevo León (Nuevo Leon State Public Library Network).

Dedication

To Carolina Muela Rodriguez

I
The blind person would like to see
the one who sees would like to read

and you who are not blind
and are able to read
come to the public library,
from its books a lot more
you will learn.

II

My parents learnt
from their teachers
their teachers learnt
from other teachers
And where have all the teachers learnt from?
From schools and libraries.

III

When kid he/she drank from its waters
When younger he/she drank from its waters
When grownup he/she drank from its waters
When older he/she is still drinking from its waters
Finally he/she died, but the waters kept uprising
from the eternal spring source of knowledge:
the library
let us drink from its waters!
satisfy our thirst!

IV

In Ancient Era
it lived in its houses.
In Modern Era
still lived in its houses.
In Contemporary Era
it kept on living in its houses
In the Nuclear Era
still keeps on living in its houses
Today like in History
knowledge lives in the libraries
let us go after it.

V

Out of clay, papyrus or wax
in boards, rolls or tablets,
out of parchment, vellum or palimpsestus
in duplex, triplex or multiplex codices
out of manuscripts or printed paper
hard or softbound
out celluloid
in microformats or diskettes
out of silica and laser
in CD-ROM or online
in any time
in any form or material
but the book keeps on being the king.

VI

At home we learn to walk and to speak
at school we learn to read and write
but in the library we learn

to fly to outer space
to travel through time
to know our planet,
people and nature around us
from here and far away.

VII

I opened the doors from the past,
also I opened the ones from the present
and also I am able to open the doors from all
the rivers and seas, hills and mountains
jungles and forests from all over the Earth;
also I am able to open the ones
from all the planets, satellites and galaxies
I could open them yesterday,
I can do it today,
and I can do it tomorrow
since I am immortal
I am the key of knowledge
I am your library
come and take me
and open all the doors
your imagination wants.

/I\B/I\

AROUND THE WORLD 4

Two Health Libraries in Israel Excerpts from a report by Dalia Kleinmuntz, Evanston (Illinois, USA) Hospital

Dalia's first impression was that Israel "is not a third world country," especially in the area of technology, medicine, research, and computers. "The health care has been controlled by a HMO type system for years and years, started under political parties, [but] now state health insurance. It is a lot more like the British system. It provides access to doctors, but scheduling is slow, long waits to get tests done, etc. The way some cut through the system is to contact a surgeon privately, for a separate fee. ...the care is first rate."

Hospitals tend to be more 'regional, and thus large. The hospital where I visited two libraries is situated in the outskirts of Tel-Aviv, in the town of Petah-Tikvah, which is one of the original early settlements started in the 1880s. This is an 'old,' well-established hospital (est. 1936). It [has] 1600 beds and covers all specialties, including a very active transplant unit."

Karen Azulai is the librarian at the Women's Health Information Center in the Women's