Table of Contents
THE
GOLDILOCKS
DILEMMA

TOO BIG, TOO SMALL, JUST RIGHT.

Is your library using the right online utility for its size? Sure, there are bigger online systems, but they aren’t necessarily the best match for every library. It might be time to take another look at WLN.

If your library is on the Internet, you can get to the WLN Online System quickly and conveniently with our new LINC software. Our flexible searching and new Windows-type features will help your staff work faster and more accurately. You’ll also find our flat-rate pricing a welcome alternative to the complex formulas and per-search charges typical of other online bibliographic utilities.

Although the WLN system has 9,400,000 USMARC records under full authority control, we admit we’re not the biggest. But biggest doesn’t necessary mean best fit, as Goldilocks found out. We think you’ll be happy with what you find on WLN. And we know you’ll be happy with the quality, personalized service and value we offer. Give us a call — we want to introduce you to WLN.

Contact us at 1-800-DIAL WLN,
360-923-4000 or info@wlnc.com to find out more.
Intellectual Freedom in an Age of Change

Challenges to intellectual freedom in libraries rage like brush fires throughout Oregon and the country. Two hot-button issues have seized the imagination of a considerable segment of library users and non-users alike.

The first concerns kids and librarians: Do librarians have an obligation to monitor what kids see on the Internet and place out of their reach books and magazines that someone somewhere feels they should not read?

The second concerns diversity in our collections: Are we obligated to provide materials representing all sides of controversial issues, even if doing so violates someone’s standard of decency?

Our traditional argument that we do not act in loco parentis does not play well in an environment where parents perceive dangers everywhere. Indeed, many parents are no longer willing to assume total responsibility for their children’s welfare.

It is said that it takes a village to raise a kid and that all villagers must play a responsible role in the kid’s upbringing. In our opinion and— we believe—that of most librarians, our professional role is to supply materials that enable villagers to play their roles in an informed manner. Few librarians believe their role is to side with one faction.

In this issue of the OLA Quarterly, Deborah Jacobs suggests that librarians have not done a good job of ensuring a diverse collection. They have self-censored in some areas and ignored others. Clearly, however, we have not failed entirely when not only the Oregon Citizens Alliance, but newly formed groups of librarians themselves, challenge our right to make certain books freely available or even buy them for our collections.

To allow some villagers to dictate the contents of our collections and decide how and to whom our books circulate violates our professional standards and flies in the face of our obligation to serve all segments of our increasingly diverse population. Further, it risks starting us down a slippery slope from which there may be no return.

We hope that this issue of the OLA Quarterly will shed some light on these issues.

Carole Dickerson, Guest Editor  
Lake Oswego Public Library

Larry R. Oberg, Guest Editor  
Mark O. Hatfield Library, Willamette University

Oregon Library Association  
1995-96 Executive Board

President • Deborah Carver  
The Knight Library, University of Oregon, 346-1892  
dcarver@oregon.uoregon.edu

Vice President • Ed House  
Albany Public Library, 967-4307  
housee@peak.org

Past President • Anne Billeter  
Jackson County Library, 776-7285

Secretary • Anne Van Sickel  
McMinneville Public Library, 434-7433

Treasurer • Donnetta Sheffield  
Kerr Library, Oregon State University, 757-7297  
sheffield@ccmail.orst.edu

Parliamentarian • Janet Webster  
Guin Library, Hatfield Marine Science Center, 867-0249  
websterj@ccmail.orst.edu

ALA Representative • Ronnie Lee Budge  
Jackson County Library, 776-7280

PNLA Representative • Carolyn Peake  
Lake Oswego Public Library, 635-0592

Member at Large • Carol Henderson  
Central Oregon Community Library, 383-7562

State Librarian • Jim Scheppke  
Oregon State Library, 378-4367  
jim.b.scheppke@state.or.us

OEMA Representative • Jim Hayden  
Redmond School District, 923-4900  
Jim_Hayden@bendnet.com

Academic Libraries • Barbara Jenkins  
The Knight Library, University of Oregon, 346-1925  
jenkins@oregon.uoregon.edu

Children’s Services Division • Brian Bond  
Coos Bay Public Library, 269-7307

Public Libraries Division • Jane Appling  
Newport Public Library, 265-5109

Trustees and Friends Division • Molly Stafford  
Eugene Public Library, 344-6342  
mollys@efn.org

The Oregon Library Association Quarterly is an official publication of the Oregon Library Association. Please refer questions and input regarding the quarterly to:

Denise Thompson  
OLA Publications Chair  
Corvallis-Benton County Public Library  
615 NW Monroe  
Corvallis, OR 97330  
phone 757-6964  
fax 757-6915  
denise.thompson@ci.corvallis.or.us

Graphic Production: Scott’s Writing, Editing & Typesetting  
2705 SW Pickford #26  
Corvallis, OR 97333  
mccannell@aol.com

Table of Contents

Access to Electronic Information .................. 2
Assuring Diversity in Our Collections............. 4
The Flame that Never Dies ....................... 5
Intellectual Freedom and the Oregon Legislature ... 7
Banned Books, Politics and Ethics ................ 9
OLA Position Paper on the OCA Initiative Concerning Gay Rights .................. 11
The Telecommunications Act of 1996: The Indecency of It All .................. 12
From the President .................. 13

Winter 1