

Excerpts from SCLA's Past Newsletters

October 1945

This bulletin makes its first appearance to you with the hope that the activity of the Suffolk County Library Association may be more closely allied with your library. Through the medium of this pamphlet the activities of the libraries in the county may be brought to the attention of fellow associates and trustee members.

Memberships for the SCLA may be renewed...Individual dues are \$1.50.

December 1945

Librarians who were unable to attend the meeting at the Mason General Hospital missed one of the most unusual sessions ever sponsored by the SCLA.

Col. Cleve C. Odom, Commanding Officer of the Hospital gave a sincere and impressive greeting of welcome to Suffolk and Nassau librarians. He mentioned briefly the history of the Institution and stated that Mason General Hospital had cared for Army patients from all theatres of war. Col. Odom outlined the type of treatment used for nervous illness and strongly stressed the importance of speech for all patients with the remark, "we watch all our expressions of speech, particularly with the men as they first come into the hospital."

Mr. William Chait, Second Service Command Librarian presented an interesting talk related to the direction of army library service. He explained in detail the history of organized hospital and camp libraries...For all public libraries and librarians, he advocated the following changes in public service:

1. Use of lounge chairs, plenty of them for all readers
2. Many small end tables with ash trays
3. Smoking privileges granted to all users of the library room
4. Excellent lighting system preferably fluorescent lights

February 1946

Patchogue Library has a Record Collection

The encouraging comments given by Miss Helen MacDonough, Librarian at the Baldwin Public Library, at a SCLA meeting, interested Mrs. Muriel Wiggins in starting a record collection at the Patchogue Library. To date Patchogue is a pioneer in this movement within Suffolk County...The records circulate for seven days, not renewable, for a fee of ten cents, and five cents a day is charged as an overdue fine...The collection was begun with eight albums and has now reached the total of 29, 3 albums have been donated. Over a period of four months, the circulation was 166, while the rental fees have amounted to \$18.80. Four records have been broken, but the cost of all but one was cheerfully paid.

April 1946

Membership in the SCL Association

If you have not expressed a desire to become a member of the SCLA will you consider the advantage of a membership in the Association?

June 1946

American Library Association

The ALA Conference will be held at the Hotel Statler, Buffalo, New York, June 16th to 18th...Mr. John Mace will appear at one of the sessions as a guest speaker. His topic for the ALA will be "What About Europe's Youth-Is It Ready For the New Atomic Era?"

The Amityville Public Library will be responsible for the Union Catalog List for June 1946.

September 1946

Personnels

Mrs. E. Offult is not acting librarian at Mason General Hospital Library, Brentwood, NY. Mrs. Offult has replaced Miss Helen Detweiler who is now serving with the Army unit in Japan.

Library Highlights

Babylon Library-Miss Gladys Conklin, librarian, reports that the Record Collection which was added to the library in May 1946 has continued to grow. The turnover has been more than satisfactory and no accidents have occurred.

October 1946

The annual fall meeting of the SCLA will be held on November 6th at the Hotel Kensington, Sayville...Replies must be returned by November 1st, this is a request of the hotel management due to the food shortage.

December 1946

Merry Christmas greetings to each and every member of the Suffolk County Library Association...Our special request to Santa was to have the bindery strike settled so that, maybe, our long lost books will be returned. However, we are not too hopeful about the result of that one. Better ask for something simple, such as all the patrons remembering the title and author of that book which they can barely wait to read.

January 1947

Library Emergency Relief Bill

We do not have to point out to you how important this bill is to every library in the state. If the law makers will be convinced of the importance of library service to the community and to people of New York State. New York State spends less per capita for library service than Georgia or Louisiana yet we of the Empire State pride ourselves on our educational system and consider these southern states rather backward.

February 1947

Newsnotes From All Over

The new Blue Point Library according to an announcement from Mrs. Marjorie LeCluse, Librarian, has received a gift of venetian blinds from Mrs. Fred Hillman...

The Patchogue Library has nice new windows in the Children's Room. We hope that will give better light and ventilation.

March 1947

Mrs. Muriel S. Wiggins, Corresponding Secretary, explained the need of saving money received from dues for the future purchase of a new case for the Union Catalog.

Therefore it was decided at a meeting of the Executive Board to purchase a pig bank to be presented at each meeting... of the Association. The money collected would pay the expenses of sending out the Bulletin. Mrs. Wiggins donated the bank which was named "Figaro" by Miss Jones, Vice President. The money collected from two meetings of the Executive Board and the Spring meeting amounted to \$10.77.

Miss Mills reported that the Library Emergency Relief Bill had failed to pass the State Legislature.

News Notes From All Over

The alterations in the Children's Room of the Patchogue Library are nearing completion. Fluorescent lights are also being installed throughout the entire building.

A group of interested citizens are planning to found a library in Holtsville. Mrs. Marjorie LeCluse, who was responsible for the beginning of the Blue Point Library, has conferred with them several times suggesting ideas and advice.

April 1947

News Notes From All Over

Latest word from Albany seems to indicate that there is still some hope of the Library Emergency Relief Bill passing the Legislature before it adjourns some time this month.

Most legislators are willing to admit that libraries do need help, but will promise nothing definite.

The Bay Shore Public Library is responsible for the typing of the March Union Catalog cards.

May 1947

Library Furniture For Sale

Miss Viola K. Fitch of the Brooklyn Children's Museum has written a letter announcing that as their library is being reorganized, they have several pieces of library furniture for sale:

Charging desk	\$75
Dictionary Stand	\$15
Atlas Stand	\$50
Book Display Case with Bulletin Board	\$50

News Notes From All Over

Mrs. Mecia Frailey, Librarian, announced that the Brentwood Public Library will celebrate its tenth anniversary this month. The SCLA extends its congratulations and its best wishes for the continued growth and service of the library.

Mrs. Esther Giminez, Assistant Librarian at the Islip Public Library, was married on May 29th to Mr. Frank Scott Keenan. Mrs. Keenan will continue her work at the library. We all wish her much happiness.

The alterations in the Patchogue Library have been completed. A new children's Room boasting of an asphalt tile floor and an acoustical ceiling is now open. The color scheme of pale yellow and green brings the spring indoors.

June 1947

Figaro, the Bulletin pig bank, was passed around at the meeting and was fed quite well. Mrs. Muriel S. Wiggins of the Patchogue Library, editor of the Bulletin announces that Figaro collected \$6.30 in contributions...

Our readers will be interested to know that the library furniture advertised in the last issue of the Bulletin was immediately purchased by Mrs. Mercia Frailey of the Brentwood Public Library. We are quite proud of such quick results as they prove the usefulness of our Bulletin.

September 1947

News Notes From All Over

Miss Miraim Mills, president of the SCLA and Librarian of the Bay Shore Public Library, was married on August 19 to Raymond Louis Mallett. Mrs. Mallett will continue her work in the library and the couple will make their home in Bay Shore.

October 1947

News Notes From All Over

Figaro, the Bulletin Pig, was nicely fed at the Fall meeting. An analysis of his diet revealed that he collected \$8.44. Such hearty meals will insure the continuence of the Bulletin.

November 1947

Members of the Suffolk County Library Association and the Suffolk County School Librarian's Association assembled for an entertaining meeting at Leo Gerard's Inn in Huntington. After dinner, Mrs. Miriam M. Mallett welcomed everyone and made several short announcements. Figaro, the Bulletin Pig, was passed and collected a sizable dinner consisting of \$7.88. The Mrs. Mallett introduced Mrs. Frances Fullerton Neilsen, children's book author, guest speaker for the evening. Mrs. Neilsen suggested that well written modern fairy tales and adventure stories could replace omnipresent comic books.

December 1947

...The Library Demonstration Bill, which has been introduced in the U.S. Congress gives librarians an opportunity to help other people help themselves. The American Library Association is asking the librarians of the New York State to spend 3 cents to aid the 1,477,000 people without library service in our state. As library extension has failed in the state legislature, it is most important that we endeavor to gain the support of our congressmen for this bill...The main objective of the Library Demonstration Bill is to stimulate State and local interest in libraries. It is not the purpose of the Bill to provide library service to all areas without it or inadequately served, but to demonstrate what can be done to establish permanent library service for those areas.

January 1949

Westhampton Free Library gets \$15,000 from Judge Harold R. Median, who was recently appointed United States District Judge of the Southern District of New York.

An advisory committee has been appointed by the Association of Comics Magazines Publishers. This committee will take positive steps toward improving comic magazines and make them useful in the medium for education.

February 1949

Miss Alma Jones announced that the new card catalog for the Union Catalog service had been received and placed in the Patchogue Library. Since this equipment is the property

of the association, the Board voted to have an insurance policy written to cover its protection in case of fire.

Mrs. Maureen Anderson, has been appointed acting librarian of the Kings Park branch library. This branch unit is under the supervision of the Smithtown Library. During the year 1948, the following statistics were tabulated, registered borrowers 307 and total circulation 4,323.

March 1949

A drive to assure a measure of security to libraries within the state was officially opened March 1st...The objective at present is the passage of the Wilson-Mahoney bills calling for a grant of \$2,000,000. These bills were introduced last year but died in committee...[the goal] is to obtain financial support so that libraries may have the "minimum financial security necessary to support democracy."

News Around the County

The first floor of the Patchogue Library was recently redecorated with a color combination of sage green and white.

December 1949

The Bellport Memorial Library voted to become a member of the Union Catalog Service...This makes the total of twelve libraries in Suffolk county active members of the Union Catalog project.

January-February 1950

The Library State Aid Bill will be introduced in the New York Legislature, Monday, February 27, 1950.

With reference to state aid, "All competent groups studying the problem agree that there is no adequate remedy that does not involve substantial increase In the present pittance of State aid—under a pre-Civil War formula—grants totaling \$50 a year to some libraries and \$100 to others. New legislation is necessary."

News Around the County

The Sayville Library won the second prize of \$3.00 for a place of business in the Sayville Garden Club's contest for Christmas decorations. The winning decorations centered upon the theme of "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer."

April-May 1950

The news which brought hope for a bright future to all the plans librarians and their friends have worked for was the signing of the Library State Bill by Governor Dewey on March 30, 1950...This law is the culmination of several years' intense effort on the part

of librarians, trustees, legislators and other interested persons and represents what is without question the most progressive and liberal state assistance program existing in the United States today...Now that the bill is passed all supporters of the County Library System will have to cooperate to form the Suffolk County Library Service so as to meet the requirements necessary to receive State Aid Funds.

December 1950

Libraries in Print

Glamour magazine for November had an article on librarianship as a career, entitled "Today's Librarian has a Lively Life" which librarians are now having reprinted as an aid to recruiting. The article paints librarians a much more glamorous picture than does Beatrice Vincent in "Make Mine Success" recently published by Doubleday. She mentions their "protective coloring" and says that "librarians are practically invisible to the naked eye." She further says that "many an earnest scholar has received a nasty shock when a pale gray librarian materializes out of a murky alcove like a dryad from the hole of a tree." She offers suggestions for correcting this by dressing the "the most vibrant colors in the business world." So the public can expect at Christmas to have their eyes knocked out by librarians appearing in flame red and holly green.

News Notes

The Smithtown Library was moved to its new site with no damage except a few cracks in the walls. Books remained intact on the shelves during the hour long trip.

This bulletin has been mimeographed thru the kindness of Mr. Samuel K. Munson, Superintendent of Sayville Public Schools.

January 1951

Mrs. Elinor Haff, editor of the Bulletin, reported that \$12.02 had been collected in "Figaro" at the fall meeting for the maintenance of the bulleting.

The Union Catalog

Mrs. Milton Wiggins, chairman of the Union Catalog, and her staff give many hours to checking the Union Catalog lists and says that time could be reduced if librarians would check their lists for misspelled words. (misspelled spell m-i-s-p-e-l-l-e-d)

April 1951

The question of the wisdom of continuing the policy of sending each issue of the Bulletin to every public and school library in Suffolk County was discussed. It was suggested that the mailing list could be curtailed by mailing one copy only to each library and Library Board.

May-June 1951

News Notes

Miss Kathleen Kenny, Librarian of Babylon H.S. Library reports that this years Babylon Tulip Queen is a member of the H.S. Library Club and that the department has had quite a lift when one of the quiet, studious book worms turned into a celebrated beauty.

October 1951

Mrs. Haff said that the work of getting out the Bulletin was too much for one library to have to assume. Miss Hallock was delegated to look into other means of publishing this paper.

December 1951

On Election Day, November 6, 1951, the people voted to have the Town of Smithtown take over the Library which includes the building, the land and the books. This proposition was carried.

April 1952

The Executive Meeting of the SCLA was held at the Islip Library on March 21, 1952 at which time there was a discussion of the possibilities of a county library bookmobile.

May 1952

There is some three million dollars available in State-Aid funds now, and Federal Aid legislation is being framed. To bring Suffolk county Library with its Bookmobile into reality will require the combined efforts of both the librarians and the supervisors acting on a program approved by the Board of regents...

February 1953

Mr. MacDonald reported that the Committee on State Aid for a Suffolk County Library had reached an impasse and had tabled their operations temporarily.

May 1953

Lindenhurst follows Central Islip in organizing a new public library. The opening will occur in the relatively near future, and staff members are needed.

The Treasurer's report finds us with a balance on hand of \$102.52 but with only 36 dues-paying members as of April 7th. Our dues at \$1.50 are very reasonable and there must be many members of the association who have neglected to pay dues this year.

March 1954

Regional Library Plan

Mr. Verschoor advises that about half of our public libraries in Suffolk have written expressing their interest in considering a Nassau-Suffolk Regional Library Plan. I have had letters from Bellport, Coram, Sag Harbor, among others....

Vacationing

Miss Rosetta Terry, President of the Patchogue Library is on vacation in Florida. Mrs. Roger Conklin, trustee of the Huntington Public Library, is touring Africa for two months. Mrs. Clara Allen of Islip is reported fattening in Deland, Fla.

June 1954

Figaro is a contented pig again. He received \$10.97 at his last appearance at the luncheon meeting. He assured the publication of the bulletin. Make his acquaintance at the next meeting.

July 1954

During three weeks in May-June, I attended a course of military instruction at the Anti-aircraft and Guided Missile School, Fort Bliss, Texas. It was emphasized to the students there that Russia has the power to deliver the atomic bomb attack upon our country and is only checked by our own potential to strike back. Air Defense and Civil defense is essential today and is not taken seriously by our whole civilian population.

The complacency of the Long Island summer in the Huntington Public Library is going to be disturbed by an exhibit on Civil Defense. We are distributing free the leaflet You and the Atomic Bomb. Such a bomb may fall in Suffolk. If one should fall in Nassau or the New York Metropolitan area, it would greatly affect our lives on Long Island.

Charles F. McDonald,
President S.C.L.A.

News From the Libraries:

Sayville-Construction will begin next week on a \$50,000 addition and alteration to the library which was voted last August. The first set of bids had to be rejected.

December 1954

Figaro-Our favorite SCLA china pig is tinkling merrily with the music of new coins these days, having received a gift of \$3.00 by mail during the summer, and being fed with \$12.00 at the dinner meeting.

April 1956

Dues Are Now Due, How About You?

Out of a potential membership of around 200, only about 20 people have paid their dues. It would seem that a professional organization could do better than that.

May 1956

Steering Committee Appointed

...Part of their job will be to investigate the advantages and/or disadvantages of the county or regional setup for Suffolk County.

March 1957

Positions Open

Position open now at Bridgehampton Library. Hours: 12 hours per week in Winter, 20 hours per week in summer. Salary: \$1000 per year plus free apartment. Contact Mr. Everett C. Foster, President, Board of Trustees, Sagaponack, L.I.

April 1957

On Thursday, April 4th Mr. Duane Hawkins called a meeting of the SCLA County Library Steering Committee to form a County Library plan. It was an evening of sleet, snow and rain..After an excellent dinner at the Henry Perkins Hotel and a period of discussion, at Mr. Hawkins request a subcommittee of librarian members to work out a plan so that the whole committee would have something tangible to work with at its next meeting.

October 1957

The Patchogue Hotel, Main Street, Patchogue will be the scene for the annual fall meeting of the SCLA. Price of the broiled chicken dinner will be \$3.45.

April 1958

SCLA Institute Program: Cooperation

The final meeting on May 8 will be the climax of the Institute. At this time the Suffolk County Plan will be fully discussed and all questions answered...This county plan, a federation of libraries, will help you give better service to your patrons without interfering in any way with your library or your budget.

This, the 5th SCLA Institute, will be one of the broadest and most ambitious Institutes your Suffolk County Library Association has planned. It is also the most important, for not only the nature but the future of better library service in Suffolk County hangs in the balance. The final outcome will depend on YOU.

April 1961

Annual Institute: May 17, 1961

Place: East Hampton Public Library

[Highlights]

Panel Discussion: "Our Challenging Teenage Patrons"

“Shortcuts in Library Procedures”
“How to Obtain Adequate Financial Support”
Cost of Institute: 50 cents per person
Cost of Dinner: \$4.75

May 1962

On Wednesday, May 23rd, the Institute “New Directions in Library Service” will be held at the Huntington Public Library...Don’t forget to close your library for the day so that all staff members may attend the Institute.

October 1962

The new Suffolk County Community College will be host to the SCLA at their Fall meeting on November 1, 1962. Those who arrive early enough will have a guided tour of the college campus, opened in 1961, from whence will come the hundreds of students who will pour into our libraries and strain our resources. Dinner at seven promises to be delightful French cuisine.

April 1963

On Thursday, June 13, 1963 the SCLA has arranged a meeting to discuss any problem areas of your library’s relations with Civil Service.

Spring 1963

Progress Report from the Suffolk Cooperative Library System

The Suffolk Cooperative Library System has just completed its first year in operation. During its first year, SCLS has provided delivery service twice each week to member libraries in all parts of the county covering an area about 100 miles long and 18 miles wide. A staff of 25 has been carefully selected.

...Centralized book ordering for member libraries began in January. IBM equipment has been installed to handle not only the book ordering and billing program, but also certain parts of the cataloging and processing program.

Available Exhibits

Atoms in Action

One of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission’s newest free traveling exhibit. Exhibit explains the many peaceful uses of atomic energy...

Fall 1963

College Use of Public Libraries-The Problem in Suffolk County

The dramatic changes in the socio-economic structure of Suffolk County have introduced problems that librarians of the area have yet to face. The population explosion, the increase in housing and school construction, the expansion of industrial development and

the decrease of agriculture have already begun to affect public libraries...It requires no genius to realize that library facilities in the county are grossly inadequate...The library situation in Suffolk County is critical. The problem of student use of the public libraries is but one manifestation of the crisis. No immediate solution to the problem is apparent...Until the status of all libraries can be significantly improved, certain policies may be required which on the surface will appear to be retrogression. Certain libraries-public and academic-may be forced to restrict access to their collections and to limit their services to convince the appropriating bodies of parasitical institutions of the need to develop their own resources and service.

The Public Library and the College Student

The public libraries in this area have been finding it very difficult to keep up with the post-war population explosion. Despite an extraordinary growth in our library resources, we are still struggling to provide adequate library service for the hordes of students up to the high school level who invade our libraries daily after school, turning them into beehives of scholarly and social pursuits.

Recently we became aware of a new invasion, one by our booming local college population. The older colleges have greatly expanded, branches have been established, new colleges have been organized. Much to our dismay, however, we have discovered that the college libraries have not kept pace, and are, to put it mildly, quite inadequate.

Winter 1964

The Public Library: Adults Only

What is the best solution to the problem of student use of public libraries? Why put a sign on the door of your public library—"For Adults Only!"

Does this sound harsh? Cruel? Or even mean? Consider then the changed state of public library service today. First, the public library has an obligation to provide books and services for adults.

What would the public library be like without service to children? Since no young people would be served, there would be more space to seat adults...

The weary librarian can do the job he's paid for instead of cautioning talkative youngsters while tracking down the 12th paperback copy of "The Red Badge of Courage."

In conclusion, the public library has an important responsibility in being of the utmost service to adults. To prevent the public library from becoming a moldy, little-used curiosity, it must enter much more fully into the life of the adult community...The public library has too often become a large children's library by default. Let's put the emphasis back where it belongs.

Spring 1964

From Misgivings to Maturity

A History of the Suffolk County Library Association

Spring 1967

A poll of 7 Suffolk libraries now occupying new buildings has turned up a number of pro and con comments ...Static electricity from carpeting, for instance. Nobody realized how uncomfortable the tiny shocks from all that lovely carpeting might be. Huntington hopes some day to conquer the problem with additional humidity control. Northport has tried a special spray for the carpeting. Bay Shore has covered door-knobs with non-conducting jackets. But the complete and scientific answer has not yet been found.

May 1967

West Islip Public Library place book displays in the West Islip Branch of the Bank of Babylon with the theme "The Library is a family center of entertainment." Barbie dolls depicted a mother with books on cookery, sewing and interior decoration. A Ken doll for the father highlighted books on car repair, home improvement and photography.

Fall 1967

Statistics Statistic Statistics

Riverhead serves the largest area-approximately 100 square miles

Port Jefferson's geographical area is the smallest-3 square miles

Most populous district served is Smithtown with 100,000 people

Largest operating budget was approved in Huntington \$328,118 for the coming year

Smallest was Baiting Hollow at \$750

Highest tax rate was Port Jefferson Station at 73 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation

Smallest was Coram with 13 cents.

December 1967

Professional Salaries-In order to bring salary schedules for Junior Librarian and Senior Librarian I into line with salaries being paid in other libraries In the New York Metropolitan area, the committee recommends:

- a. Junior Librarian: \$7,800-10,200 with minimum increments of \$390 each
- b. Senior Librarian I: \$8,800-11,600 with minimum increments of \$440 each.

Spring 1968

Mrs. Robert Sheridan speaking on "The Clerk of the Future," is a former business woman who now spends a great deal of time doing volunteer committee work...She told her audience that computers were bound to modify the work of the clerk of the future, but that actually this meant more demanding and stimulating jobs ahead for them in the library. She said, "And we must remember that there must be a human element, even though machines—that a warm, thoughtful human being is needed in spite of computers." Incidentally, Mrs. Sheridan herself, attired in a green linen dress and a striking flowered hat, was a good example of the rule that speakers should be as attractive as possible to look at—a "spoonful of sugar to help the message go down."

March 1969

Mr. John Savage, Director, reports that the construction of the North Babylon Public Library is almost completed.

Mr. Richard Lusak, Director Port Jefferson Station, reports that the construction of his library is well under way with a target date for completion of June, 1969.

Mr. William Menear, Director South Huntington Public Library, informs us that construction is coming along as expected.

January 1971

Statement of the SCLA on the Commissioner's Committee on Library Development Report Presented at the NYLA Hearing November 12, 1970:

...The pitiful spectacle of this misplaced concern for economy, balanced against the threat to our planet's survival posed by our crass commercial exploitation and waste of every resource and the horrible devastation by our war machine makes us despair. Is this any way to insure the survival of democracy and freedom?

The Babylon Library is blazing a new trail by being the first library in Suffolk County to purchase a telescope to be used from time to time in providing opportunities for interested people in that library district to see some of the special spectacles in the heavens that only a telescope can reveal.

Winter 1972

SCLS-The First Ten Years by Guenter A. Jansen, Director

In this period of controversy, when the role of the Suffolk Cooperative Library System is viewed so divergently by differing elements in the County, when there is talk of the establishment of a County library with State and County funding, when there is fear of System or County takeover, with continued distress over some of the provisions of the direct access requirements, a possible loss in local autonomy, and an increased need for funds by the System, with the member libraries being asked to pick up an ever larger share...

Spring 1972

Guenter A. Jansen, Director of the Suffolk County Cooperative Library System, has announced the signing of a \$164,169.67 five year contract for the lease of a third generation computer system...The new system, an NCR Century 100,...will replace Suffolk's Univac 1005 which has been in operation since 1964.

Spring 1973

The Nixon budget for 1974 calls for no money for libraries and his administration is also seeking to rescind the appropriated money for 1973. Therefore, we must look to our own New York State Legislature for library aid.

Video in Suffolk Libraries

Huntington Public Library provides information and recreational TV in the form of videocassettes. Patrons may choose from a large selection of materials of 3/4" cassettes which may be played in the library on a color TV set with wireless earphones, thus causing no disturbance to other patrons in the reading area.

One of the most important aspects of video in libraries by soon be realized: the cable... We already have six cable companies, all autonomous entities, unwilling or unable to cooperate among themselves. Until we can solve this problem, it will be impossible to transmit a page from the Long Island Collection at the East Hampton Library to a patron urgently waiting to see it on his TV screen in Huntington.

Winter 1973

Remember when "long hair" meant classical – "jazz" was performed in a speakeasy and "rock" meant a lullabye? Music and musicians have changed and so have their concert halls. The vibrations are now being seen, heard and felt at your local library.

Spring 1974

What do you say to a Deaf Legislature by Guenter A. Jansen

As one wag put it upon the recent completion of the 1974 Session of the New York State Legislature, "The only library bill which passed was the obscenity bill." For sheer cynicism, this year's Session has to have set some kind of a record. Any bicameral legislature that can pass unanimously a bill helping the blind and physically handicapped in one house, while never reporting the same bill out of committee in the other, despite the fact that one of the most powerful members of the majority party introduced it in the house, is clearly showing that it is more interested in playing games and making points than in passing meaningful legislation, at least insofar as libraries are concerned.

Winter 1975

A national computer network for all college and university libraries, still in the talk stage, would make feasible a radical change in scientific journal publication...

1975 was a very lean year for library legislation. The economy was so bad that there was very little money to go around and there was certainly no money for libraries. According to Kenneth Lavallo... aide to State Senator Giuffreda, the outlook for 1976 is even more bleak.

Summer 1977

Computers are tools, exciting tools, designed to serve man's needs... Perhaps some librarians feel that no matter how ubiquitous the computer had become, they would, nevertheless, be content to see its use expand in business, science or machine—in short, anywhere except the library. But like Alice they grew curiouser and curiouser... What is the librarian's role in the new field? It certainly is not necessary for every librarian to

“run” computer searches...Like any tool, computers too have their limitations. One young man at the Institute argued the need for substantial improvement. He asked for Farrah Fawcett-Majors’ telephone number but the computer was unable to supply the information-at least not yet.

June 1979

[It was announced] that Jacob Javitz and Edward Kennedy were co-sponsoring a library support bill at the Federal level...Bill is subject to change and no action will be taken on this in the near future.

March 1980

The public support for libraries is really good in Suffolk County judging by the recent passing of a \$1.7 million dollar building program for the Mastic Moriches Shirley Community Library; and extension plan for the crowded Riverhead Library; an addition to the Emma S. Clark Memorial Library; the fine new quarters presently being renovated for the Patchogue-Medford Public Library; and the proposed addition to the Mattituck Free Library.

June 1980

Letter to Mr. George Meyer, County Personnel Officer, Suffolk County Civil Service
Dear Mr. Meyer:

The Suffolk County Library Association wishes to add its weight to the growing protests against the administration of Civil Service tests which control the access to employment and advancement for librarians.

We not only object to the validity and relevance of the written exams themselves, but also wish to register our serious concern that there should be the necessity for a test at the professional level.

June 1981

Upon inquiring about when the Librarian I test would be given again, we received verbal report from the testing division indicating they “did not feel the need to give a new test at this time.” We shall continue to work toward seeing that this test is given on a regular basis...At present no test results are being released by the state due to litigation that the Suffolk Civil Service is involved in re the legality of charging \$5 filing fees.

March 1982

Microcomputers in a public library? You bet!! Microcomputers literacy is now available to the patrons of the Huntington Public Library. With the introduction of 2 Atari 800 16K to the Audio-Visual Department...The coin boxes attached allow 15 minutes for 50 cents which seems sufficient time for a selection of two programs, or for those who bring in blank cassettes to program their own.

March 1984

From the Great Ideas Department

Barbara Hoffman, Patchogue-Medford, is planning a Break Dancing workshop for Young Adults.

Summer 1984

President's Column

(Not-so-random) Recent Gleanings

President Reagan is (temporarily) unsuccessful in his attempt to impose lifelong censorship on those having served in certain high level government posts.

New York State Legislature assures us they understand the importance of libraries and are prepared to raise our level of funding—but fail to act to date.

Judy Neufeld

Autumn 1984

The legislation marathon has finally ended in victory for the Omnibus Library Bill...All local legislators voted for the bill and deserve our thanks...

Spring 1985

At a briefing session in Albany on Library Legislation Day, we told that there is plenty of money available this year. To date, there has been very little action on library legislation in Albany.

Summer 1986

Some 32 public libraries have an estimated 74 microcomputers available for in-library use by patrons..It's still too early to tell if microcomputers will become a permanent fixture in public libraries...By offering what appears to be a "modern" service, librarians may have discovered an effective public relations tool, if nothing else.

Fall 1986

Microcomputers may be ideally suited to catalog card production but you should probably not banish your typewriter from Technical Services, not trade in the photocopier that takes card stock...

The poor pay creates a vicious cycle. Good people are not initially attracted to the profession. Any young librarians in the profession are forced to work two or three jobs

just to survive. The lack of top-notch recruits coupled with the low pay of working librarians will sap life from tomorrow's libraries.

Spring 1988

I wish I could report that our specific goal—passage of the 1988 [Library] Omnibus Bill—had been achieved. Unfortunately, this was not the case. The final negotiated state budget included no increase in funding for libraries.

Fall 1990

SCLA and PLDA will present a program for all library employees entitled, "AIDS in the Workplace"... Many employees lack an understanding of how AIDS is spread and how it is not. AIDS could occur in your work setting and without your knowledge, managers and employees might act illegally and irresponsibly. On November 9th we hope to confront reality and face facts.

Summer 1991

This year, it was especially important for library advocates to speak out in support of libraries. It is vital that we keep our legislators aware of the key role that libraries play in their communities.

Spring 1992

Are you concerned about VDT's and radiation? If so, check out the Technical Services Division's program at the Long Island Library—Are VDT's Hazardous to Your Health?"

Spring 1994

A selection of programs from the 1994 Long Island Library Conference:

The Electronic Library: Next Steps

Sound Decisions: Why you Should Be Lending Software

Threats to the Federal Depository Library System

To Lend or Not to Lend: Interlibrary Loan of AV materials

One library supporter asked if we could keep in touch with Albany via email—could we travel the information highway during the next few weeks and continue the conversation about compliance with Chapter 917 which calls for full funding and was enacted in 1990?..."No, we could not," said one legislative aide. The legislators are not on the information highway. One legislator wondered, "What is this information highway all about anyway...where can you go with it...what value does it have?"

Spring 1995

A selection of programs from the 1995 Long Island Library Conference:

Impact of the Religious Right on Libraries: Censorship Activities

Impact of Technology: the Human Dimension

Getting Wired for the Net: Internet and Libraries

Winter 1997

The Technical Services Division conducted a workshop on DC Roms-from Soup to Nuts...[they] are planning a program on Technostress.

Fall 1998

Something fishy at Patchogue-Medford..

Saltwater fishing gear is the latest material to circulate at the Patchogue-Medford Library.

Spring 2000

While we were in Albany, the Assembly came out in support of the revised Libraries 2001 bill. The \$12 million bill...was decreased \$6 million, but the remainder of the proposal was accepted as written.