

As Schumacher says,³ we need the freedom of

³Schumacher, *ibid.*, p.61.

lots and lots of small autonomous units, and at the same time the orderliness of large-scale—possibly global—unity and coordination. ■■

ACRL issues for the 80s

ACRL's two presidential candidates offer their views on the Association's future.



Thomas Kirk



Hannelore Rader

This presentation of statements from ACRL's candidates for vice-president/president-elect is an information service for ACRL members. Many of the issues and concerns facing ACRL are discussed informally at meetings, but this does not provide a national forum available to all members. These statements provide the basis for an informed choice when you receive your ballot next month.—*Sharon J. Rogers, ACRL president.*

Thomas Kirk:

I have just returned from Washington, D.C., where I participated in the activities and meetings of the Midwinter meeting of the American Library Association. As I write this statement of candidacy my thoughts of those meetings are very much on my mind. ACRL is a vital and active organization. The many committees, task forces, and sections of the Association are hard at work addressing important professional and organizational issues. The planning process which our recent ACRL presidents began is well underway and we can expect to

see the fruits of that effort in the coming years. In addition to ACRL organizational planning I observed many committees focusing on professional concerns such as College Library Standards, a new model statement on bibliographic instruction, library legislation, and the planning of programs for this and next year's annual conferences, to name just a few.

In the context of ACRL's strength I believe that my task, should I be elected, is to see that the planning effort already underway is completed. In the past I have watched the noble planning efforts of one president get lost when they left office. I believe we have a good effort underway and I am committed to seeing that planning process continue during my tenure.

There is one aspect of the Association which has not received much attention and I believe will need serious consideration over the next few years. That issue is how to best represent the concerns and interests which are primarily those of a particular type of library. The reorganization of the ACRL Board of Directors, if approved by the membership, and other proposed changes in ACRL will weaken the role of the type-of-library sections within ACRL. But I am not interested in just preserving those sections. Instead I want the Association to explore and experiment with ways of strengthening members' participation in activities and programs which focus on type-of-library concerns. ACRL must not lose the capacity to speak effectively for the interests of a particular type of academic or research library.

The Association, however, should not spend all its energies on organizational concerns. ACRL has as its mission "the enhancement of library service, in the broadest sense, to the academic and research

communities." ACRL is addressing these concerns through development of standards and model statements, development of library legislation, provision of continuing education programs, and many other activities. One subject that I would particularly like to see the Association address in the coming years is the changing role of academic librarians in an evolving automation environment. As I observe the current academic library scene no issue seems more critical to strengthening our ability to serve the information needs of our communities. Unless we can effectively implement the use of new computer technology, which includes reorganizing our libraries to accept the technology, the academic library will be supplanted by alternative information delivery systems.

While the impact of library automation on libraries and librarians is a subject of particular interest to me there are no doubt other issues of interest to ACRL members. It is my intention, if I become an officer of ACRL, to use my position to see that membership concerns get reviewed by the appropriate units within ACRL. I am particularly concerned that section issues get the appropriate attention of the ACRL Board.

This commitment to an open and responsive ACRL does not mean that suddenly the things you or your ACRL unit want done will immediately be accomplished. What I can offer is the challenge that you actively participate in the work of the Association. We need the active participation of all of ACRL's members. In turn I will make every effort to see that the Association remains open and responsive to its membership in the context of ACRL's ongoing planning effort.

Hannelore Rader:

At this time, ACRL is a financially sound organization with the largest membership of any ALA Division. As an organization ACRL is dynamically dealing with important issues within the academic library profession and higher education. This is being accomplished through the formation of liaisons with many professional organizations, through planning and implementing successful national conferences, through the sponsorship of appropriate and much needed professional publications, and through addressing staff development and other needs of academic librarians using continuous needs assessments.

The long-range planning and review process, begun approximately five years ago under the energetic leadership of the ACRL Board, is beginning to show tangible results. The Association is becoming stronger, more responsive to membership needs, and has begun to align itself more closely with higher education objectives. Task forces and committees have been formed to address new and continuing concerns of the membership, especially as related to the impact of constantly-changing technology on information issues.

It will be a challenge for the next ACRL Presi-

dent and the Board to keep ACRL strong and vital in the immediate future, yet flexible enough to address newly emerging information, technology, and education issues. At the same time, ACRL must continue to be aligned with ALA goals and objectives while addressing ACRL's many membership needs. Another important task for the next ACRL President and Board will be to keep ACRL membership strong and vital by involving as many members as possible in association activities, and to provide members with adequate resources for this. Both ACRL services and activities must continue to be based on members' needs in order to keep present members and to obtain additional ones.

As President of ACRL, a challenging and exciting task which involves three years of commitment to hard work for the candidate, I would continue the process to strengthen the Association by supporting previous planning efforts, while aggressively addressing new technology issues facing college and research libraries. I would try to strengthen and increase ACRL membership by working very actively with the ACRL chapters to bring some of their dynamic energy back into the Association. Through my active membership in ACRL for 16 years, which provided me with experience on committees, task forces, chapters (Michigan and Wisconsin), and sections (EBSS, BIS, CLS), and through my service on ALA Council, other ALA committees and divisions, I have obtained a clear perspective on ACRL's role and its importance as a major part of ALA and academic

First rare book in space

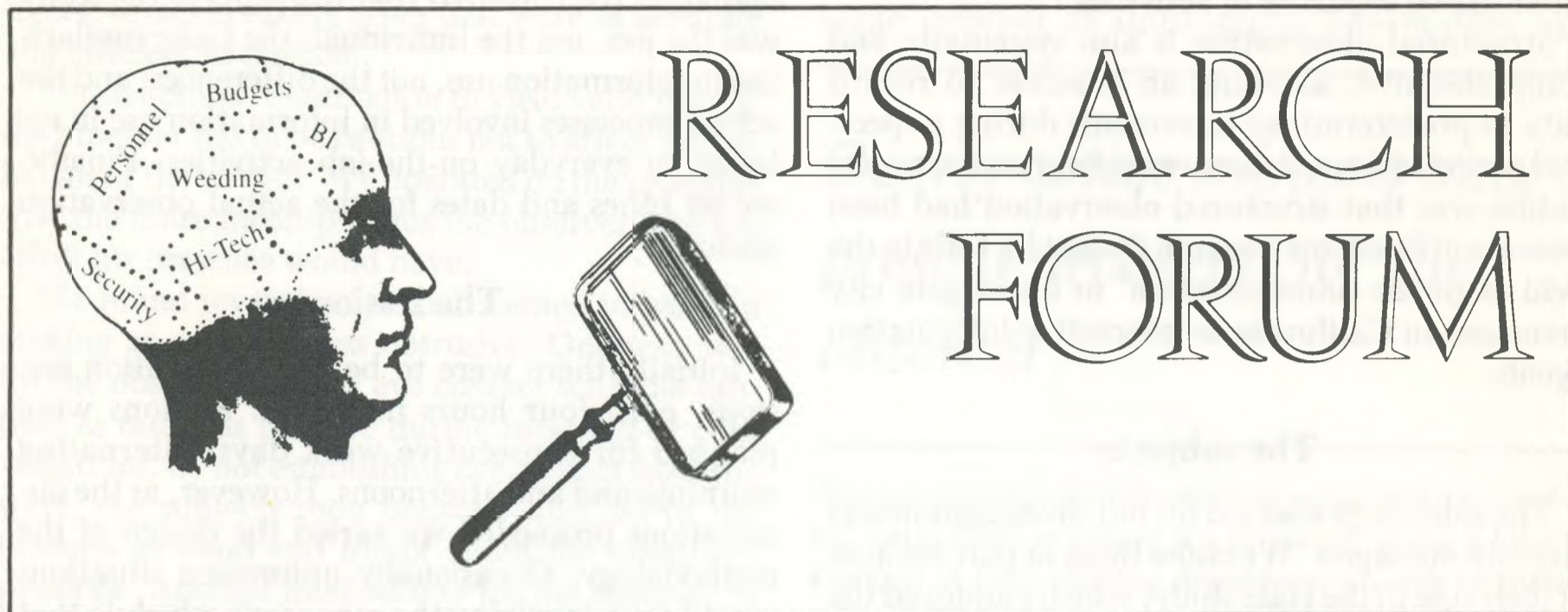
An 18th-century Greek and Latin edition of Hippocrates' *Aphorisms* belonging to the History and Special Collections Division of the UCLA Biomedical Library traveled in space with Anna Fisher, one of the astronauts who flew aboard the Space Shuttle *Discovery* launched from Cape Canaveral on November 8, 1984.

A UCLA undergraduate and medical school alumna, Fisher had asked to take something with her that represented the UCLA School of Medicine. "We were attracted by the notion of finding a symbol of medicine's historical linkages between what is ancient and enduring and what is new and swiftly changing," said Dean Mellinkoff of the UCLA School of Medicine.

The 1765 edition of the *Aphorisms* is in very sound condition, according to Victoria Steele, head of the History and Special Collections Division. "It's an attractive duodecimo bound in full leather with a coat of arms stamped on the upper and lower boards. The paper is white and fresh and shows no signs of embrittlement whatever."—*From the UCLA Librarian, December 1984.*

librarianship. If elected, my first priority will be to work closely with all ACRL units, other ALA units, and higher education groups to address jointly the challenges facing libraries and higher education.

Editor's note: Thomas Kirk is the librarian of Berea College, Kentucky. Hannelore Rader is director of the Library/Learning Center at the University of Wisconsin, Parkside. ■■



Structured observation: How it works

By Jack Glazier

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The project described in this article was originally reported at the ALA Library Research Round Table's Research Forum in Dallas and again at the College and University Libraries Section of the Kansas Library Association in Topeka in October 1984. The research project¹ itself was designed and implemented by Robert Grover, dean of the School of Library and Information Management, Emporia (Kansas) State University, and this author. The project was planned 1) to test structured observation as a research methodology which can be used for research in schools preparing library and information professionals, and 2) to determine the information use patterns of a specific target group as a study of information transfer theory.

Information flow

Greer has developed a model² in which the transfer of information assumes identifiable patterns influenced by the environment encompassing the social roles of the individual information user.

¹Robert Grover and Jack Glazier, "Information Transfer in City Government," *Public Library Quarterly* 5(Winter 1984):9-27.

²Roger C. Greer, "Information Transfer: A Conceptual Model for Librarianship, Information Science and Information Management with Implications for Library Education," *Great Plains Libraries* 20(1982):2-15.

That environment includes patterns of information generation, dissemination, and utilization, as well as a specialized vocabulary, and pertinent names and places singular to the individual's subsociety.

Although Greer's information transfer model provided a theoretical suprastructure, research was still needed to detail more clearly the patterns of information transfer for various subsocieties. Appropriate and innovative methodologies are essential for research of this type. Consequently, one early objective was the development of a methodology for research designed to map the patterns of information transfer for specific subsocieties that would be as workable for graduate students and faculty as for practitioners in the field.

Structured observation

The primary methodology selected was structured observation. Structured observation is a qualitative research methodology that has been used by the social sciences for several years. It is a methodology in which an event or series of events is observed in its natural setting and recorded by an independent researcher. The observations are structured in the sense that pre-determined categories are used to guide the recording process. It is a methodology that, although not used to our knowledge for library research in this country before, seemed to us to be particularly well suited for information transfer research as we had envisioned it.

As a qualitative research methodology, struc-