

Continuing Education—XII

Many people think of continuing education as an umbrella term for all types of formal or informal training and development programs, activities, courses, workshops, etc., that academic librarians may attend in the hope of making themselves better qualified, more satisfied, and perhaps even more secure in their professional roles.

Thus, continuing education means different things to different people. To all, however, it should signify a two-way street, where the traffic going one way is made up of employers, educators, and associations that are cognizant of the needs of their constituencies and are offering the means to fulfill these needs, and in the opposite direction it consists of individuals who have been made aware of and are accepting these opportunities for further growth.

A relatively new challenge for academic librarians is the phenomenon of formal bibliographic instruction, which requires a knowledge of assessing needs, interviewing, planning, advertising, and selling and the ability to teach library skills to students and faculty.

In order for the academic librarian to wear this new hat with its band reading "Teacher" in the bibliographic-instruction library classroom, continuing education must come to the rescue and equip the new teacher with the arts that are lacking.

However, continuing education should not be considered as a panacea for all of our dilemmas. It should not be thought of as a bandwagon for all to hop on, but, from all of us, it should deserve better than lip service.

AACR II Committee Invites Suggestions for Implementation Checklist

The Ad Hoc Committee on AACR II Implementation Studies is seeking to compile a checklist of questions that libraries might consider when designing plans for implementing AACR II (e.g., Will we need more staff? How will we inform our users?).

Richard M. Dougherty, chair of the committee and director of libraries at the University of Michigan, reported to the ALA Executive Board at its Midwinter Meeting that the committee wished to create such a checklist.

The committee now invites librarians representing all types and sizes of libraries to suggest questions for the list. These should be sent to: Mary Jo Lynch, Director, Office for Research, American Library Association, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.

Continuing education is as important to the grass roots academic librarians as it is to their supervisors, department heads, and top administrators; it crosses all strata of academic librarianship.

Fortunately, many librarians, library schools, library associations, and library consortia subscribe to the concept of lifelong learning (or, if you will, continuing education) and have made great strides in various ways to offer instruction to all who seek to keep up with the times, but there is still a long way to go for the coming of age of this concept.—*Timothea F. McDonald, College Library, Suffolk University.*

Editor's Note: Timothea F. McDonald is a member of the ACRL Bibliographic Instruction Section's Continuing Education Committee, a part-time reference librarian in the College Library at Suffolk University, and is a doctoral candidate in continuing education in the Department of Community College and Continuing Education, School of Education, Boston University. ■■

ACADEMIC LIBRARY PROGRAM

The Academic Library Program, a program developed by the Association of Research Libraries in cooperation with the Association of College and Research Libraries, is seeking applicants for the consultant training component of the program.

The Consultant Training Program will prepare selected academic librarians to serve as consultants to libraries conducting self-studies. Up to twenty consultants will be trained each year for the next five years.

The training program will involve a two-week consultation skills workshop followed by a six-month to one-year consultation project with an ARL staff member serving as co-consultant. This project will require ten to twelve days of the trainees' time. Altogether, trainees will spend twenty to twenty-two days away from their present positions. Upon completion of the training, an individual will be eligible to work with libraries operating Academic Library Program self-studies.

The first group of consultants will be selected from nominations and applications submitted by May 31, 1979. Application forms are available from: the Office of Management Studies, Association of Research Libraries, 1527 New Hampshire Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20036. ■■