

Newsletter #45

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THE PROSTITUTION OF INFORMATION

The practice of FREE library service is being challenged again. This time, computer-based services priced beyond the hard-times budgets of free libraries today are being offered as lure. And "intellectual freedom" free-traders bite hard: "How," they ask, "can we deprive those users who will pay extra for these services?" Cxxtices curtailed in libraries? Nowadays, when most folks have trouble paying overdue fines, can we pretend that fee charges for services will not deny service to many?

Can libraries that charge fees for service confidently continue to rely on good will and tax support from the public? Do service fees constitute double taxation on an already overburdened taxpayer? Will push for federal funding guarantee free services? SRRT supports library workers involvement at ALA to struggle to oppose any

In The Works

On Friday from 2-4 p.m. we will have a SRRT membership and business meeting (see schedule). The meeting will include reports from the SRRT task forces and discussion of the issues of fees for library service and of the implementation of the racism and sexism resolution.

At that meeting, you may also sign up to monitor ALA activities and to staff the SRRT booth in the exhibit area. Any actions or issues you wish to bring to the SRRT membership can be raised at this meeting.

On Monday from 4:30-6 p.m. there will be another membership and business meeting with a discussion of conference activities to that date and a plan for the remaining days.

SRRT Action Council will meet twice during the conference - on Friday from 4:30-6 p.m. and on Tuesday from 12:30-1:30. Everyone is welcome.

If you are here in Detroit at the Conference, get involved! Important social issues for the future of our profession will be discussed during the conference.

ACTI~~O~~ CONCIL, 1976-77

CLEARINGHOUSE, 1976-77

BARBARA J. FODD, University of Illinois Library at Chicago Circle,

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