

# LIBRARY INSTRUCTION ROUND TABLE NEWS

*The purpose of LIRT is to advocate library instruction as a means for developing competent library and information use as a part of life-long learning.*

**LIRT**

December 2003 volume 26 no.2

issn 0270-6792

## From The President

Stephanie Michel: michel@up.edu

Fall semester, with its deluge of new students and new classes has flooded my library. The first rush is finally past, allowing time for reflection and strategizing about how to do it better next time.

This fall was presaged by a busy summer full of travel and conferences, including an intense five days in Rhode Island attending the ACRL Institute for Information Literacy Immersion program. If you have not attended an Immersion program, I highly recommend the experience. The Immersion program will challenge you to think critically

---

## INSIDE

### Mid-Winter - San Diego

Meetings Schedule .....	p. 3
Discussion Forums .....	p. 7
Bites with LIRT .....	p. 8
LIRT Annual Program .....	p. 3

### Columns

### Articles

Teaching and Learning in Libraries .....	p. 6
--	------

LIRT News is published quarterly (September, December, March, June) by the Library Instruction Round Table of the American Library Association. Copies are available only through annual ALA/LIRT membership.

URL: <<http://www.baylor.edu/LIRT/lirtnews>>

Editor: Caryl Gray, College Librarian for Human Resources,  
University Libraries, Virginia Tech  
PO Box 90001 Blacksburg, VA 24662-9001  
*cegray@vt.edu*

**Contributions to be considered for the March 2004 issue must be sent to the editor by February 15, 2004.**

Send claims to Pat Jackson, OLPR, 800-545-2433, X4281,  
American Library Association, 50 E. Huron Street,  
Chicago, IL 60611.

All material in the LIRT News is subject to copyright by ALA.

---

## Check These Out

Kuh, George D., and Robert M Gonyea. "The Role of the Academic Library in Promoting Student Engagement in Learning." *College and Research Libraries* 64.4 (July 2003): 256-82.

Loertscher, David, and Blanche Woods. ~~"You Need the Library to Meet Standards."~~ *School Library Journal* 49.6 (June 2003):Supplement 6-7.

Moore, Melissa. "If You Build It, Will They Come? Reaching Out To Faculty Through Information Literacy Instruction." *College and Research Libraries News* 64.7 (July/August 2003): 455-7.

*Editor's Note:* Thank you Cynthia for your contributions to *LIRT News* and particularly the "Check This Out" column. Over the years you have alerted us to many articles of interest that not only provoke thought and discussion but also enhance our roles as instruction librarians. I would like to welcome Sharon Ladenson as a contributor to *LIRT News* and thank her for accepting the responsibility of this column. Welcome aboard, Sharon!!!

<http://www.baylor.edu/LIRT/lirtnews>







## Teaching and Learning in Libraries Under the PATRIOT Act: Slate For LIRT Office, 2003-2004 A Very Short History of Library Surveillance

There are times that politics have had a definite impact on the way that libraries do business. We are in the midst of one of those times now. According to Attorney General John Ashcroft, there is a new enemy in the War on Terrorism – the American Library Association. Since the PATRIOT Act was signed into law (October 2001), the American Library Association has voiced objections to certain provisions - those that impact patron privacy and the freedom to read. The ALA has worked hard to bring attention to these concerns and has been vocal in its opposition. In a recent speech promoting new legislation that would strengthen and extend the Act, Ashcroft "...accused the country's biggest library association and other critics of fueling 'baseless hysteria' about the government's ability to pry into the public's reading habits."<sup>1</sup>

What the ALA specifically objects to is Section 215 of the PATRIOT Act which allows the FBI to request patron records with search warrants issued by a secret FISA court. Librarians are prohibited under this broadened FISA statute from informing the patron that his records have been investigated.<sup>2</sup> In addition to greater access to library records, law enforcement agents are permitted to intercept (through various means including wiretaps and log filters) real-time Internet usage and e-mail at public workstations, and seize library computers' hard drives (again, with FISA-issued search warrants.)

As we debate the pros and cons of the PATRIOT Act and its impact on the way that we teach, learn, and serve our library users, it may be helpful to remember that this is not the first time that librarians and the federal government have argued over the right of intellectual freedom in a democracy. Over the last sixty years, that right has been repeatedly tested in times of national crisis. From World War II, to the McCarthy era, through the Cold War, to the War on Terrorism, academics and librarians have been called upon to take a stand.

In 1942, J. Edgar Hoover attempted to acquire the personal papers of author Boris Brasol, who was suspected of pro-fascist leanings, from the Library of Congress. Brasol had donated the collection to the Library with the restriction that they not be made public until 1953. Archibald MacLeish, Librarian of Congress, politely refused Hoover's request and choose to honor the restrictions that Brasol had placed on the special collection. Hoover backed-down.<sup>3</sup>

During the McCarthy era, librarians fought for intellectual freedom on two fronts: protecting patron privacy and protecting their collections from censorship. In one incident in 1950, Ruth W. Brown, a librarian at the Bartlesville Oklahoma Public Library was fired for keeping

"subversive" periodicals in the collection. Brown's dismissal was controversial at the time. Brown was a civil rights activist and a founding member of a local group affiliated with the Congress of Racial Equality.<sup>4</sup> Brown's dismissal and its aftermath became the basis of a popular anti-censorship movie, *Storm Center* (1956), which starred Bette Davis. It is also chronicled in Louise S. Robbins' book, *The Dismissal of Miss Ruth Brown: Civil Rights, Censorship, and the American Library* (University of Oklahoma Press, 2000.)

From 1973 to 1989 the FBI conducted a "Library Awareness Program." This program was a surveillance operation conducted in public and academic libraries across the United States. The goals of the program were to restrict foreigners' access to unclassified scientific information in libraries and to recruit librarians and library staff into reporting on the use of scientific information by foreigners, especially Russian or Eastern Europeans.<sup>5</sup> This program, T\* (0 9 312 \_w(ln.rutgera94 Th[k,(Asso-7T] 0.082 Twer



---

Join us for BITES with LIRT in

San Diego, California  
January 10-11-12, 2004

Once again, LIRT is organizing groups for lunch at modestly priced restaurants during the ALA Midwinter Meeting in San Diego. This is your opportunity to meet and enjoy a meal with other librarians interested in library instruction. . The local arrangements group has selected three excellent restaurants as locations for Bites with LIRT (see list below). Restaurants details, including websites, reviews and directions will be posted on the LIRT web site.

LIRT welcomes anyone who has an interest in instruction from all types of libraries. You need not be a member of LIRT to participate. We hope you will join us during this opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences about library

*<http://www.baylor.edu/LIRT/lirtnews>*



Dear Tech Talk— Some staff in our library have been touting the virtues of “metasearching” across a variety of library databases. It’s an intriguing concept, but personally, I have some reservations. It seems to me that taking this approach with library databases is rife with problems. How should we deal with this new search potential? Muffling Murmurs of Metasearches

Dear MMM— Metasearching has existed on the web for several years and is exhibited in search engines such as DogPile (<http://www.dogpile.com>) and c|net’s Search.com (<http://www.search.com/>) – enter a search and search results from multiple Internet search engines are returned, a particularly effective approach to use when searching for obscure information. To a certain degree, metasearch functions are available in more specific Internet resources such as Amazon.com. Enter some keywords, and search results may contain information from a variety of formats – books, music, videos, etc.

So, what happens when someone uses library databases? Most often, s/he is faced with a myriad of choices – the online catalog, a long list of proprietary databases, a list of non-proprietary Internet resources, and more. If s/he is fortunate, s/he might be able to narrow the options to a specific content area – where s/he will be faced with another list of choices – albeit a smaller list. Or, perhaps s/he is familiar with a resource used in the past; it may or may not be a good choice for the current research needs, but at least it’s a known quantity.

From the client’s perspective, it’s no wonder s/he resorts to the Internet for information needs – it’s so easy!! The issues of getting overwhelmed with information or not finding high quality information are minor in comparison to the convenience of – just performing one search and finding something that is “good enough”.

At the 2003 LITA National Forum, the last keynote David Seaman (Director,

Digital Library Federation) discussed the concept that libraries have many excellent “silos” of information resources and services; and now libraries need to focus on the integration of these resources and services. One way to work toward that integration is through the use of metasearching (also called federated searching, broadcast searching, or distributed searching).

So is metasearching – as it applies to library electronic resources – just a glorified implementation of the Z39.50 standard? The Z39.50 protocol – still in use today – focuses primarily on searching multiple online catalogs, where the fields available for searching may vary from system to system, but the underlying database is almost always based on MARC. Metasearching goes beyond the online catalog. Z39.50 technology can be used when implementing a metasearch system, but these systems tend to make use of XML technology. Gassie, et. al, provide a very good definition of metasearching – “One search, simultaneous access to multiple databases or information sources irrespective of search engine protocol, platform, product or vendor.” So the online catalog is one of many resources that might be simultaneously searched.

How does it work? At an elementary level, imagine a “magic box” that sits between the end user and a variety of library databases. Initially, the end user sees a search form or perhaps selects a specific content area (Biology, Interdisciplinary, Sociology,

and it may also be addressed with resolution issue associated with the selection of databases.

- € The end user doesn't learn effective search strategies – this issue, too, may be of more

End User Features		Administrative Features
Basic	Advanced	
Accuracy Deduping Filtering/Sorting Ranking View Search Progress Fielded Searching Link to Native Database	URL Linking Complex Searching Personalization Stored Search History Email Alerts Context Sensitive Help Categorization of Results	Communication Protocol Seamless Authentication Interface Customization Operating System Platform Process for Updating Wrappers Standards, e.g., XML Authentication

Metasearching is clearly not the final solution to the effective integration of "siloes" resources and services, but for now, it is one of the major pieces in the puzzle and one that is worthy of examination by librarians in all types of libraries.

Additional Resources:

Dorman, David. "Technically Speaking". American Libraries (August 2003): 76-78.

Gassie, Lillian W., Catherine B. Soehner, and Christy Hightower. "In Search Of. . . Metasearch Tools". Presented at the LITA National Forum, October 2-5, 2003, Norfolk, VA <http://www.ala.org/LITATemplate.cfm?Section=Programs1&Template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=44101>

Luther, Judy. "Trumping Google? Metasearching's Promise". Library Journal (October 1, 2003):36-39.

Minkel, Walter. "Metasearching Comes of Age". School Library Journal (January 2002): 33+

Needleman, Mark. "The NISO Metasearch Workshop". Serials Review (Autumn 2003): 256-257. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0098-7913\(03\)00057-1](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0098-7913(03)00057-1)

NISO Metasearch Initiative. <http://www.niso.org/committees/MetaSearch-info.html>

"NYPL Using MuseGlobal Wares". Library Journal (March 15, 2002): 27.

Open Directory – Reference: Libraries: Library and Information Science: Software: Federated Searching [http://dmoz.org/Reference/Libraries/Library\\_and\\_Information\\_Science/Software/Federated\\_Searching/](http://dmoz.org/Reference/Libraries/Library_and_Information_Science/Software/Federated_Searching/)

Seaman, David. "From Isolation to Integration: Major Trends in Digital Libraries". Presented at the LITA National Forum, October 2-5, 2003, Norfolk, VA [http://www.ala.org/Content/NavigationMenu/LITA/LITA\\_Events\\_and\\_Programs/LITA\\_National\\_Forum\\_2003,\\_Norfolk,\\_VA/Keynote\\_Sessions/Keynote\\_Sessions.htm](http://www.ala.org/Content/NavigationMenu/LITA/LITA_Events_and_Programs/LITA_National_Forum_2003,_Norfolk,_VA/Keynote_Sessions/Keynote_Sessions.htm)

Tennant, Roy. "The Right Solution: Federated Search Tools". Library Journal (June 15, 2003): 28-2

(Footnotes)

1 Gassie, Lillian W., Catherine B. Soehner, and Christy Hightower. "In Search Of. . . Metasearch Tools". LITA National Forum 2003, October 2-5, 2003, Norfolk, VA. <http://www.ala.org/LITATemplate.cfm?Section=Programs1&Template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=44101>

As always, send questions and comments to:

Snail Mail: Tech Talk  
Billie Peterson-Lugo  
Moody Memorial Library  
P. O. Box 97143  
Waco, TX 76798-7143

E-Mail: [Billie\\_Peterson@baylor.edu](mailto:Billie_Peterson@baylor.edu)

### Library Instruction Round Table Committee Volunteer Form

If you are interested in serving on a LIRT committee, please complete this form and mail it to the Vice-President/President Elect of Lirt:

Cynthia Akers, University Libraries and Archives  
Emporia State University, 1200 Commercial,  
Campus Box 4051, Emporia, KS 66801-5092  
620.341.5480

Email: [akerscyn@esumail.emporia.edu](mailto:akerscyn@esumail.emporia.edu)

Name and Title:

Telephone (work):  
(home):

FAX:  
email:

Institutional address:

Home address:

Please list committee preferences from 1 -11, with 1 being the most preferred:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Learner             | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations/     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conference Program        | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Continuing Educatio       | <input type="checkbox"/> Research              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Liaison                   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Long Range Planning       | <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching, Learning,   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter                | <input type="checkbox"/> & Technology          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nominations, Organization | <input type="checkbox"/> Transition to College |
| <input type="checkbox"/> & Bylaws                  |  |

---

**Adult Learners** - Assists library professionals to understand, find information or promote ideas on learning styles, teaching methods, and training resources most often associated with adult learners.

**Conference Program** - Plans the LIRT program for the ALA Annual Conference. Makes arrangements for speakers, room, handouts, and activities during the program.

**Continuing Education** - Conducts research and develops plans, actual materials, and directories to further the education and help meet the information needs of librarians engaged in user education.

**Liaison** - Attends and reports to LIRT Steering Committee and members about committees within ALA involved in library instruction activities. Distributes to conference attendees a listing of instruction-related programs and meetings at ALA Conferences.

**Long Range Planning** - Develops short and long range plans for LIRT. Implements planning and operations for the activities of

LIRT. Chaired by president-elect.

**Newsletter** - Solicits articles, prepares and distributes the LIRT newsletter. The Executive Board of LIRT serves as the Editorial Board for the LIRT newsletter.

**Nominations, Organization & Bylaws** - Reviews, revises, and updates the organization manual of LIRT. Recommends to the Executive Board, and through it to LIRT members, the establishment, functions, and discontinuance of committees and task forces. Maintains the Constitution and Bylaws of LIRT and recommends amendments to those documents. Prepares a slate of candidates for LIRT offices and maintains records on procedures, candi-

### **Publications**

Establishes, maintains, and disseminates LIRT Publication Guidelines. Solicits ideas for publications and advises as to the appropriate means for publication.

### **Research**

Identifies, reviews, and disseminates information about in-depth, state-of-the-art research concerning library instruction for all types of libraries. Pinpoints areas where further investigation about library instruction is needed.

### **Teaching, Learning, & Technology**

Identifies and promotes use of technology in library instruction, with special attention given to technologies that enhance learning and can be easily adapted to a variety of different learning environments.



Library Instruction Round Table News  
c/o Lorelle Swader  
American Library Association  
50 E. Huron Street  
Chicago, IL 60611