This document presents a "bibliographic timeline" spanning 25 years of the American Library Association (ALA), Office for Literacy and Outreach Services (OLOS). For each year (1968-1996), one or more major activities, resolutions/ALA proceedings, and/or publications involving library service to the disadvantaged are identified. Highlights include historic developments in literacy programs; funding; policy; training; collections; information dissemination; publications; and personnel. A list of the OLOS Committee Chairs (1970-1996) and OLOS Committee and Subcommittee members (1970-1996) are provided. (AEF)
25 YEARS OF OUTREACH

A Bibliographic Timeline

of the

American Library Association,
Office for Literacy and Outreach Services

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TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."
OLOS History
A Bibliographic Timeline

1968 In June, the ALA Council, upon recommendation of the Committee on Organization, established the Coordinating Committee on Library Service to the Disadvantaged, to consist of an uneven number of members totaling no more than eleven.


1970 From the American Library Association Proceedings:

From the $50,000 in escrow, the Executive Board allotted...$3,000 to the ALA Coordinating Committee on Library Service to the Disadvantaged for study and recommendations on the formation of the Office of Library Service to the Disadvantaged and Unserved as called for by Council.

Committee Charge:
To gather information concerning activities of all ALA units involved in developing and promoting expanded programs of library service to the disadvantaged; to propose, coordinate, and evaluate various Association activities to insure maximum effectiveness; to suggest further areas of Association involvement to the appropriate units of the Association for their action and implementation; to develop and promote programs of action cutting across unit lines.

Statement of Purpose:
The objectives of the Office are to ensure that all urban and rural poor have convenient access to library service that they recognize as meeting their needs, and to ensure that librarians and others have access to information to help them achieve the above goal, and are motivated to develop effective programs of action.

Staff Liaison: Ruth Warncke

1971 From American Library Association Proceedings:

Resolution on Office for Library Service to the Disadvantaged and Unserved:

Whereas, Council, last year in Detroit, voted to establish an ALA Office for Library Service to the Disadvantaged and the Unserved; Whereas, financial support for libraries in the future will be largely determined by their response to library service to the disadvantaged which represents the highest priority of our national government; Whereas, ALA responsibility for this service has been reaffirmed time and time again as a major priority of this association; therefore be it Resolved, that Council reaffirm its support for the establishment of an ALA Office for Library Service to the Disadvantaged and recommend to the Executive Board that this office be funded in the 1971-72 budget.

Staff Liaison: Ira Phillips appointed


An ALA Committee on Library Service to the Disadvantaged was created in 1968 to gather information concerning programs of library service; to propose, coordinate, and evaluate
various programs; and to suggest further areas of Association involvement for action and implementation. The Committee requested a two-year extension of life, and the New Directions Committee recommended an Office for Social Responsibilities which would carry major responsibility for library service to the disadvantaged.

During the 1969-1970 period, 43 articles on library service to the disadvantaged appeared in ALA publications, and no fewer than a dozen committees and three round tables were involved with one or more aspects of such service. Several other units of the Association were participating informally and indirectly in the development of related activities. In 1970 ALA voted to set up an Office for Services to the Disadvantaged, to carry on the functions formerly assigned to the Coordinating Committee.


The ALA Coordinating Committee on Library Service to the Disadvantaged presented a resolution instructing Council to reaffirm its support for the establishment of an ALA Office for Library Service to the Disadvantaged....Committee Chairman Vincent Aceto accepted Israel Fishman's suggestion that the title of the office be changed to Office for Library Service to the Disadvantaged and Unserved, and the resolution passed after endorsements from several members.

1972 Advisory Committee to the ALA Office for Library Service to the Disadvantaged reestablished as a Standing Committee by Council in June, to consist of eleven members and a chairperson to be appointed annually.

Committee Charge revised: To offer policy guidance to the Office; to advise and assist the office in establishing programs and priorities; to examine and assist in coordinating the various relevant programs and activities within ALA; to recommend new programs; to provide a channel through which membership may make recommendations; and to issue reports and engage in such other activities as are appropriate to the promotion of library services to the disadvantaged and unserved.

Library Service for American Indian People subcommittee established.

Charge: To promote the development of American Indian library services by serving as a focal point within ALA for issues related to American Indian library services; to encourage the implementation of ALA policy “Goals for Indian Library and Information Services;” to work with other ALA units to encourage the publication of bicultural materials, effective programming, the development of library personnel; and to advocate for increased funding for American Indian library services.

1973 Consultant List and Consulting Services subcommittee established.

Charge: To identify a list of people who could serve as consultants; to revise current consultant list in terms of names and format.

Staff Liaison: Jean E. Coleman appointed


The Office for Library Service to the Disadvantaged has three publications for sale. Single copies may be purchased for 20 cents in stamps plus a self-addressed mailing label. The three publication are: Reflections on Library Service to the Disadvantaged by Clara S. Jones;

The Office for Library Service to the Disadvantaged during 1975 was engaged in the following major activities:

1. A literacy project, launched in cooperation with seven other units of ALA, in which librarians and educators will write a manual for librarians on methods of planning library and community programs to educate for literacy and literacy maintenance.
2. A continuing project to focus the attention of the nation's "small" libraries on "reaching out" to service the disadvantaged in their communities.
3. A continuing consultation activity of the OLSD. Within the last ten months OLSD has been a consultation resource for: The Northwest Regional Library System in North Carolina, Advisory Committee for Urban Relationships of the Boy Scouts of America, Leadership Training Institute - Florida State University, American Indian Health Service, Council for Higher Education in Newark, N.J., Kentucky Library Association and the Appalachian Adult Education Center.
4. Publications OLSD sponsored are: Goals for Indian Library and Information Service; Multi-Ethnic Media; Selected Bibliographies in Print; Principles for the Development of Programs: Library Services to the Disadvantaged; Reflections on Library Service to the Disadvantaged; Chicago's Study Unlimited: College Courses in the Library; Library Services to Farmworkers - The Need for a Survival Information Center - 1974; eight bibliographies entitled A Single Society of Diverse People


The American Library Association's book entitled Literacy and the Nation's Libraries will be available by June 1977. This book was written as a result of an ALA project on literacy which was funded by the Office of Education in 1975.

....the director of OLSD [was invited] to conduct three one-day workshops on the "Role of Libraries in Literacy and Lifetime Learning" in Kansas during December.


OLSD has cooperated with an ad hoc committee of the Asian-American Librarians Caucus in conducting a limited survey on the availability of public library services for Asian Americans in areas where the U.S. Census figures have indicated significant Asian American populations.

OLSD has a new subcommittee... on Library Service for Appalachian People.

1977 Changed Library Service for Appalachian People subcommittee to Library Service to Rural Poor and Appalachian People

Minority Concerns ad hoc subcommittee formed.


Eight units of ALA [OLOS included] contributed to planning and writing this manual.
[From the] Acknowledgments:
At any time, day or night, Jean Coleman was there to give invaluable help in analysis of the manuscript, the collection of data, and perceptive review and criticism. Her assistance and support, encouragement and patience, and contributions made it possible to complete the manual.


Both reservation and urban Indian communities have continued to demonstrate their interest in developing local Indian library services. Recognition of the need for the improvement of urban Indian library services has been demonstrated in several cities, including Chicago and Grand Rapids, Michigan. Members of the Chicago Indian community, ALA, the staff of the Office for Library Service to the Disadvantaged, the Chicago Public Library, and the National Education Association have met to discuss the creation of a library planning strategy. Realization of this goal would lead to the development of specific proposals for addressing the information needs of Indians in the Chicago area.

Under the leadership of Elsie Wong of the San Francisco Public Library the Bibliography Committee completed its first project, *Asian Americans: An Annotated Bibliography for Public Libraries.* The bibliography was published by ALA's Office for Library Service to the Disadvantaged in the summer of 1977.


ACONDA made what was supposed to be its final report to the council on July 3, 1970. Among the ACONDA recommendations were the following: 2. An office for Social Responsibility (changed by council to Office for Library Service to the Disadvantaged and Unserved) should be established.

Offices concerned with the disadvantaged and with research were established, but funding for these and other priorities pinpointed by ACONDA proved to be difficult to obtain and sustain.


Through the Office for Library Service for the Disadvantaged, the Association, with a grant from the Lilly Foundation, is carrying out a Literacy Training Project. The plan is to instruct 200 librarians and trustees in the teaching of reading and the development of library literacy programs. This cadre will train other librarians in local situations.

1979 Lyman, Helen Huguenor. *Literacy Education as Library Community Service.* Library Trends. 28 no.2 (Fall 1979) 193-217.

LIBRARIES LITERACY LEARNING - The rallying cry of the American Library Association’s poster ... describes the focus of many library literacy programs at the end of the 1970s. The poster further states: "21 million Americans are functionally illiterate. Libraries across the country are doing something about it."

Although the major development of library literacy programs occurred in the 1960s and 1970s, some concern was evident in the 1950s.
In 1978-79 more than seventy-one library systems in twenty-three states and the District of Columbia reported their activities to the Office for Library Service to the Disadvantaged.

Certainly, during these years membership activities on numerous committees, continuing education opportunities at conference programs and workshops, and the leadership of ALA have been important factors in bringing information and help to the library profession.

Since 1974 special programs and workshops have been sponsored at ALA's annual conference by [other committees] and Office for Library Services to the Disadvantaged (OLSD). The OLSD Advisory Board and staff have provided leadership within the association and the profession through active formation of literacy projects. ALA's support has been evident in nationwide promotion, publication of materials, and development of continuing education opportunities. Several recent efforts of national impact made under the direction of OLSD have included: The initiation, publication and promotion of a manual for librarians, Literacy and the Nation's Libraries; a Directory of Literacy and Adult Programs; and a Literacy Training Project.

During 1979, OLSD with foundation funds conducted three Literacy Training Workshops at Bloomington (Indiana), Denver, and Syracuse (New York). At these 4-day workshops, 122 librarians from 35 states were trained in the techniques of establishing programs to teach basic literacy skills to disadvantaged adults. This training model can be adapted to different situations and serves as a guide for library science educators and continuing education programs.


In 1979 the trend toward libraries' and librarians' active participation in literacy programs for persons of all ages accelerated.

ALA's Office for Library Service to the Disadvantaged and its Advisory Committee give particular and continuing attention to the illiteracy problem. OLSD provides leadership, resource materials, training, liaison with libraries, and national literacy organizations, counseling, and coordination of relevant programs within ALA. It stands in the forefront of ALA literacy effort.

During 1979 ALA further solidified relations with national literacy organizations with similar objectives or "kindred purposes," when Laubach Literacy International (National Alliance for Literacy Advance) and Literacy Volunteers of America, Inc., both with headquarters in Syracuse, New York, became national affiliates. OLSD's Director serves on their Boards of Directors.

The Literacy Training Project conducted by the American Library Association, Office for Library Service to the Disadvantaged, was the major training event of the year and one that should have far-reaching influence and results. The LTP was funded by the Lilly Endowment Foundation. Its instructional plan and content were formulated in 1978. As had been envisioned, it was a follow-on to the ALA published manual Literacy and the Nation's Libraries.

During 1979 three LTP workshops under the direction of Jean E. Coleman, Director of OLSD, and with a team of six experienced consultants and three reading specialists as instructors, were held to train librarians....
The program profiles collected and published in the Directory of Learning and Literacy Programs by ALA OLSD contains a wealth of facts, ideas, and answers to many librarians' questions. They illustrate the state of the art at the end of the decade and document the increasing activity that developed during the 70s.

1980 In July, Office for Library Service to the Disadvantaged changed to Office for Library Outreach Services

Committee Charge revised:
To offer policy guidance to the Office; to advise and assist the Office in establishing programs and priorities; to examine and assist in coordinating the various relevant programs and activities within ALA; to recommend new programs; to provide a channel through which membership may make recommendations; and to issue reports and to promote any other activities that will improve the quality of library service to the rural and urban poor and to ethnic minority groups.

Statement of Purpose revised:
The Office has a threefold statement of purpose: to promote the provision of library service to the urban and rural poor, of all ages, and to those people who are discriminated against because they belong to minority groups such as American Indians, Asians, Blacks, Latinos/Hispanics, Appalachians; to encourage the development of user-oriented informational and educational library services to meet the needs of the urban and rural poor, ethnic minority groups, the underemployed, school dropouts, the semiliterate and illiterate and those isolated by cultural differences; to ensure that librarians and others have information, access to technical assistance, and continuing education opportunities to assist them in developing effective outreach programs.


The Directory represents a first attempt by the Advisory Committee to the Office for Library Service to the Disadvantaged (OLSD) to survey the current outreach services being offered to the community by public libraries in the United States. The information was gathered from libraries in thirty-four states and represents 410 different outreach programs.

The Directory of Outreach Services in Public Libraries brings together descriptive profiles of library programs that were being offered in 1978. The data was collected and assembled by OLSD prior to the vote for Proposition 13 in California (June 1978).

OLSD becomes OLOS. American Libraries. (July/August 1980) 423.

Committee on Organization Chair Arthur Curley told Executive Board his group recommended changing the name of the Office for Library Service to the Disadvantaged to the Office for Library Outreach Services. The board took no action, suggesting Curley get the feeling of Council. Curley explained to Council that "disadvantaged is a denigrating term; outreach not perfect, but preferable." Councilor and Board Member E. J. Josey voiced his approval and Council adopted the change.


American Indian Library Association will affiliate officially with ALA and probably with several of the Indian organizations as well. It will work in close cooperation with the ALA Committee on American Indian Library Services. The American Indian Libraries Newsletter, begun at about the same time as the WHC conference planning process, will provide a medium for the Association's official communications.
As 1980 ended, an unsolicited proposal for United States Department of the Interior implementation was in the works prepared by members of ALA's Indian Subcommittee.

The past and present Chairmen of NCLIS, many of its members, and especially the Deputy Chairman, who also chairs the Indian subcommittee, have given he kind of whole-hearted interest and support without which Native Americans could not have progressed this far in attaining the kind of library information access that other Americans enjoy.

1981 Minority Concerns and Cultural Diversity Committee established.

Charge: To provide a forum for addressing, debating, discussing, and resolving problems and issues of concern that affect ethnic minority librarians and culturally diverse groups within ALA, ALA affiliates, and the profession. To work closely with and serve as a liaison to relevant ALA committees, division boards or committees, other membership units, the ALA affiliated ethnic minority caucuses and associations, culturally diverse groups, round tables, task forces, and ALA liaison staff, particularly the Office for Library Outreach Services. To plan and implement training programs, activities, and special events; to develop materials designed to recruit, retain, and promote the advancement of people from culturally diverse backgrounds into and within the profession. To provide Council and Membership with reports of information needed for the establishment of policies and actions related to the interests and concerns of ethnic minority librarians and culturally diverse people. To establish contacts and serve as a resource to community organizations, publishers, educational institutions, authors, illustrators and others whose purpose and activities are designed to serve the needs of ethnic minority librarians and culturally diverse people. To promote the development of multilingual and multicultural materials, collection services, and public information items.

The ALA Yearbook: A Review of Library Events 1981

Members of ALA's Subcommittee on American Indian Library Services made several technical assistance trips, attended conferences and held meetings with BIA/I.S. Dept. of the Interior officials and staff of Indian-controlled organizations. Sherry Ann Hokanson, Librarian at the Yr'kinia Nation's Cultural Center at Toppenish, Washington, and Dennis Reed of the Los Angeles County public Library System's Indian Center provided, on behalf of the ALA Subcommittee and the American Indian Library Association, a multimedia workshop program and booth consultation about library information services at the National Indian Education Association national conference at Portland, Oregon, in October.

Lotsee Smith, Jean Coleman, and Virginia H. Mathews met several times during 1981 with officials of the USDI about the resources assessment proposal made under ALA auspices early in 1980 to determine the status and potential information resources for American Indian decision makers.

The American Indian Libraries Newsletter - thinner and now published only three times a year - remains the only carrier of its kind of new ideas, models, and encouragement for Indian library development. The Subcommittee will continue to push for the USDI project while searching for funds from the private sector in order to step up its technical assistance program.


For the cost of United Parcel Service rates to and from Chicago, any library may borrow a demonstration book and film collection from ALA. These materials were developed for a series of literacy workshops sponsored by the association's Office for Library Outreach Services, formerly named the Office for Library Service to the Disadvantaged, and are now circulating to libraries interested in improving literacy skills for youths and adults. The
collection of about 400 titles includes a number of professional readings, bibliographies of
materials, samples of tutorial guides, student workbooks, and simply written materials for
pleasure and information. (16)

The ALA Yearbook: A Review of Library Events 1982

Financial Constraints...Within the American Library Association itself, the realities of
economic difficulty mirrored the national condition. The spirited response to the proposed
closing of ALA's Office for Library Outreach Services, whose past activities have done
much to stimulate the development of service approaches designed to address the needs of a
wide range of adult constituencies previously untouched by library programs and activities,
reflected the larger dialog over the wisdom of curtailing and eliminating programs and services
focused at the root causes of economic and social disadvantage. The response of
membership to this threatened contingency provided indication that this important resource for
adult (and other constituency) services would continue its involvement in seeking pertinent
approaches to enhancing the effectiveness of library services...

Obituary: Meredith Bloss - Chair (1973/1974), Committee on Library Service to the
Disadvantaged

...He was an influential member of the ALA Ad Hoc Committee on Library
Service to the Disadvantaged, which drew up the plans for and urged the
establishment of the Office for Library Outreach Services...

1983 The ALA Yearbook of Library and Information Services: A Review of Library Events 1983

ALA and the OLOS subcommittee co-sponsored a pow-wow and ceremonial dance at ALA
Conference....Lotsee Patterson Smith, President of ALA, recognized Jean Coleman and
Virginia H. Mathews for their unique contributions to the cause of Indian libraries.

ALA and the OLOS Subcommittee are planning to identify and disseminate information
about technical assistance available to the tribes against the day when they begin to receive
money appropriated under H.R. 2878.

At ALA, Jean E. Coleman, Director of the Office for Library Outreach Services, was active
in the Coalition [a group of nine organizations including ALA, B.Dalton, and CONTACT],
seeks $300,000 to launch a literacy awareness campaign to recruit volunteer program managers
and tutors and in soliciting funds for its activities. ALA has published a brochure describing
the Coalition's objectives.

Plans are under way for a preconference at the American Library Association Annual
Conference in 1984 at Dallas on library literacy education, to be held in Denton, Texas and co-
sponsored by the Office for Library Outreach Services.

1984 The ALA Yearbook of Library and Information Services: A Review of Library Events 1984

...President Ronald Reagan signed the amended LSCA legislation, the bill included a new Title
IV providing for library service for Indian tribes. The bill is the first title ever to provide for
public community services for Indian people....Unstinting and dedicated support was provided
by the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science through its Deputy Chair,
Bessie B. Moore, and its associate director, Mary Alice Hedge Reszetar; and by the ALA
through Jean E. Coleman, Director of its Office for Library Outreach Services, and Ellen
D. Cooke, Director of its Washington Office.
The American Indian Library Association and the ALA’s Committee on Library Service for American Indian People expect to be able to help develop a plan for training and technical assistance for the tribes—especially for those that wish to submit long-range plans and apply for special grants.

...the ALA Indian libraries committee and AILA sponsored a daylong workshop preceding the ALA Conference in Dallas. “After the Oral Tradition: Native American Resources” ... planned by Lotsee P. Smith.

1985 *The ALA Yearbook of Library and Information Services: A Review of Library Events 1985*

...activities reflecting AILA’s goals included sponsorship with the American Library Association’s Office for Library Outreach Services (OLOS) Committee on Library Service for American Indian People of programs at the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago....AILA and the OLOS Committee on Library Service for American Indian People also sponsored their Third Annual Pow-Wow at an ALA annual conference.

In cooperation with the OLOS subcommittee, AILA published the *American Indian Libraries Newsletter* during 1985.

1986 Coleman, Jean Ellen. *ALA’s Role in Adult and Literacy Education.* Library Trends. 35 no.2 (Fall 1986) 207-217.

The word outreach became a label for the process of extending library services and programs to nontraditional library users.

The concern and interest of some librarians in the late 1950s and 1960s gave rise to the ALA Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT) and also, in 1969, to the ALA Coordinating Committee on Library Services to the Disadvantaged. After two years’ work the committee recommended the development of an office to continue their efforts. In 1970 the ALA voted, at its annual conference, to establish an Office for Library Service to the Disadvantaged (OLSD). At the ALA annual conference in 1980, the council voted to change the name of the office to the Office for Library Outreach Services (OLOS). The OLOS advisory committee members requested a change to identify a process for reaching out to nontraditional library users rather than using the label ascribed to a specific population. The office was opened in September 1973 with the primary objective being “to ensure that all urban and rural poor have convenient access to library services that they recognize as meeting their needs.” The program direction OLSD (and later OLOS) took was defined as: “(a) education, within libraries, for literacy and the maintenance of literacy skills; (b) the provision of life-centered ‘survival’ information and referral [services]; (c) promotion of library outreach services...”

On the heels of the library field’s involvement with the U.S. Office of Education’s Right to Read (R2R) project, ALA began to discuss the library’s role in activities for those people identified as adult functional illiterates. OLSD (OLOS) and PLA obtained a grant from the Bureau of Library and Learning Resources, the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Office of Education to develop a handbook for librarians about their role in literacy activities. The project involved representatives from eight ALA units and experts from the fields of reading, adult education, and literacy volunteer groups. The book, *Literacy and the Nation’s Libraries*, written by Helen H. Lyman, was well-received by those librarians who wanted a guide to help them develop literacy programs.
...the next program undertaken by OLSD (OLOS) was to train a cadre of librarians who would act as trainers for other library staff members and trustees. OLSD obtained a large grant to conduct the training from the Lilly Endowment Inc.

...grant funds enabled OLSD to develop model collection of materials for adult new readers that librarians could review as a basis for starting collections in their libraries.

A post-conference workshop cosponsored by OLOS, to bring together library literacy program administrators, library school faculty and trustees was held in Philadelphia following the 1982 ALA Annual Conference.

In 1984 a preconference training workshop sponsored by OLOS, designed for public and state library staff and trustee members was presented in Denton, Texas.

The affiliation by the ALA Council of two national literacy organizations, Laubach International and the Literacy Volunteers of America was sponsored by OLOS.

In 1981 the ALA brought together eleven national volunteer, private, and public sector organizations to organize the Coalition for Literacy and OLOS is the coordinating unit.

The ALA Yearbook of Library and Information Services: A Review of Library Events 1986

American Indian librarians, the American Indian Library Association. ALA’s Office for Library Outreach Services (OLOS), the OLOS Subcommittee on Library Service for American Indian People, and the U.S. Department of Education, Division of Library Programs all referred tribal requests for technical assistance to the TRAILS Program....To assist this process, the ALA/OLOS Office in the future will have a significant role to play in serving as a clearinghouse of Indian resource librarians, and library agencies and individuals who are responsible for service to ethnic minorities—especially direct service to American Indian libraries.

The OLOS Office was instrumental in making the American Indian Libraries Newsletter available to tribal leaders, Indian librarians....it still remains as a major vehicle in reaching the audience of supporters in Indian country and the library profession.

ALA and the OLOS Subcommittee on Library Service for American Indian People became involved in 1986 in planning for the ALA President’s Program: “Diversity: The Challenge to American Libraries.”

The Ethnic Materials Information Exchange Round Table (EMIERT) serves as a source of information on ethnic collections, services, and programs....that deal with the key issues of ethnicity and librarianship: maintains a liaison with the Office for Library Outreach Services (OLOS)....

In cooperation with OLOS, the Membership Committee produced the first EMIERT brochure and distributed it in New York.

OLOS should continue to request and disseminate information from ALA-accredited library schools about courses which focus on services and materials for cultural minorities. This survey should be completed regularly at five-year intervals. If possible, information could be combined OLPR recruitment surveys.
The OLOS Advisory Committee should continue to survey, identify and publicize existing minority community library programs that might assist library policy makers in providing relevant minority programs and services.


Jean E. Coleman, since 1973 director of what is now the Office for Library Outreach Services (OLOS), resigned from ALA effective Nov. 28 to return to her home in New York City. Executive Director Thomas Galvin expressed appreciation for the services and many contributions Coleman made during her 13-year tenure. "We are grateful to her for the leadership she provided ALA in assisting its members to carry out programs and activities in OLOS areas of interest and concern," Galvin said. Helen Wright, assistant director of new program planning in Publishing, will serve as acting OLOS director until a new director is found.


The Social Responsibilities Round Table Action Council of ALA approved the following testimonial to the work of Jean Coleman in outreach during her work for the ALA Office for Library Outreach Services:

...She therefore fully represented the original concerns of ALA in proposing the many outreach organizations and diverse programs under the OLOS umbrella.

American Library Association 1987 Annual Report

The Office for Library Outreach Services (OLOS) and PIO published a new pamphlet, "Literacy, Libraries and You," advising how individuals and organizations can support literacy efforts. More than 8,000 have been distributed to community groups.

The ALA Yearbook of Library and Information Services: A Review of Library Events 1987

Sibyl E. Moses became the new director of the Office for Library Outreach Services following the resignation of Jean Coleman.


At an Office for Library Outreach Services Advisory Committee program, "Developing Minority Leadership for the 1990s and Beyond," panelists and audience joined in offering practical suggestions. Education makes the difference, said U.S. Air Force executive Stella Guerra at [the] OLOS program on leadership.

1989 Literacy Assembly established.

Charge: To establish a focal point with ALA that will emphasize the Association's continuing commitment to literacy beyond divisional and unit membership committees; to provide an opportunity for broad representation of the membership and affiliated groups to exchange information and share ideas, identify concerns and omissions, and coordinate programming; and, to develop and promote strategies for increased literacy activity within the Association.

ALA and Bell Atlantic ... A Partnership to Fight Illiteracy. The New Library Scene. 8 (Oct. 1989) 6.
...the ALA and Bell Atlantic joined forces to create a family literacy project to improve the basic reading skills of hundreds of parents and children, create a network of trained family literacy providers, and encourage the development of similar, community-based programs nationwide.

1990

ALA Minority Fellowship Advisory Board formed.

Library Service for American Indian People subcommittee changed to Library Service for American Indians.

Charge: To promote the development of American Indian library services by serving as a focal point within ALA for issues related to American Indian library services; to encourage the implementation of ALA policy “Goals for Indian Library and Information Services;” to work with other ALA units to encourage the publication of bicultural materials, effective programming, the development of library personnel; and to advocate for increased funding for American Indian library services.

Update ... Libraries Selected for Bell Atlantic/ALA Literacy Project. The New Library Scene. 9 (Apr 1990) 14.

In addition to the $5000 grants, other components of the Family Literacy Project include a literacy fair, a training seminar for librarians/literacy specialist teams, an ALA Clearinghouse of family literacy materials, and an awards program honoring the most outstanding family literacy initiatives developed by participating libraries.


A report compiled by the American Library Association's Office for Library Outreach Services (ALA/OLOS) examines the association's activities for the last four years in promoting library services to African-Americans, Native Americans, Asian-Americans, and Hispanic-Americans. OLOS director and report editor Sibyl E. Moses said that the report can be used by a wide range of library agencies. "This report is not only a record of where ALA has been, but a tool for deciding where to go," she said.

This report provides evidence that the ALA has taken responsibility to make its members aware of these societal changes and to support the profession in planning and responding to changing realities.


The Advisory group recommended the compilation of a report that would summarize the involvement of ALA units in activities associated with programs and services to minority groups. The ALA Office for Library Outreach Services, in consultation with ALA staff and membership, compiled a Preliminary Report on Minority Activities in ALA, 1986-1989, and based on further input, has produced this final version.

Minority Involvement in ALA Surveys: The Office for Library Outreach Services, with the Committee on Minority Concerns, is conducting a "Survey of ALA Members Holding Elected and Appointed Positions." The results will provide the profession with data on the involvement of minority librarians in ALA leadership and the involvement of ALA leaders in ALA's minority activities and concerns.
First ALA Minority Fellow Plans to Build Tribal Library Network: An Interview with Robin Kickingbird.

Selected from a field of 37 candidates, ALA's first Minority Fellow, Robin Kickingbird, begins a one-year appointment at Headquarters....The fellowship program is coordinated by ALA's Office for Library Outreach Services....The stated goal of the Minority Fellowship program is "to develop a cadre of minority librarian leaders by providing opportunities for minority librarians to gain in-depth understanding of association management and national professional issues."

1991  Friends of Library Outreach subcommittee formed.


Sibyl Moses, director of ALA's Office for Library Outreach Services (OLOS) since 1988, resigned Dec. 31.

In announcing the resignation "with great regret," Executive Director Linda F. Crismond pointed to Moses's many accomplishments including implementation of a minority fellowship program that brought the first fellow, Robin Kickingbird, to ALA last year. Crismond also lauded Moses's efforts to strengthen ties between minority caucuses and associations such as REFORMA, the American Indian Library Association, the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association, and the Chinese-American Librarians Association.

Under Moses's direction, OLLOS has also administered the Bell Atlantic/ALA Family Literacy Project and begun a publication series. She introduced the newsletter Empowerment to keep library services to low-income people at the forefront of our professional agenda, and under her tenure the Minority Concerns Policy was approved and added formally to the ALA Handbook.

While working to increase the visibility of the Social Responsibilities Round Table's Coretta Scott King Award, Moses received personal praise from Coretta Scott King for supporting the Martin Luther King Federal Holiday Committee.


Nelson has worked as a supervisor and head of the Chicago Public Library's Special Extension Service and has extensive experience in adult education for citizen empowerment with the League of Women Voters' Citizen Information Service. She once directed the Learning Resources Center at the City Colleges of Chicago and started the first literacy program in the system.

She was instrumental in the founding of the Illinois chapter of the Black Caucus of ALA.

OLOS is the arm of ALA that promotes library services to the poor and to those who may be discriminated against.

Bell Atlantic Corporation and ALA have recognized six libraries in the mid-Atlantic region as "outstanding models of library-based family literacy projects." Chosen from 25 projects funded in 1990 by the Bell Atlantic...and administered by ALA's Office for Library Outreach Services...


In 1970, when the Office for Library Service to the Disadvantaged was created, I was a library school student at the Graduate Library School of the University of Chicago and working a few blocks away at the Chicago Public library’s Woodlawn Branch.

In ALA I found the kind of leadership that I needed to carry out an extremely challenging work assignment. The then-Office for Library Service to the Disadvantaged Office provided leadership for those of us in the field searching for ways to reach the unreached.

1993 Intergenerational subcommittee formed.


Cargill Inc. of Minneapolis has awarded the American Library Association a $50,000 grant to continue the Cargill /ALA Family Literacy Partnership program through this year. This partnership fosters the development of family literacy programs through community partnerships among public libraries, Cargill locations, literacy providers, and other community organizations.


Six rural Louisiana libraries are recipients of $3,000 grants to participate in the Viburnum/ALA Family Literacy Project. "Viburnum requested that the money be utilized in rural communities," said Mattye L. Nelson, director of the ALA Office for Library Outreach Services (OLOS).

Project team members, consisting of librarians, the literacy provider, and/or community agency, received training during ALA OLOS Family Literacy preconference prior to ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans.

The Viburnum/ALA Rural Family Literacy Project, established in 1992, is funded by the Viburnum Foundation, Inc. It joins librarians, education and literacy specialists, and other community agency programs that bring parents and children together to build reading and literacy skills as well as support for reading and educational activities that help break the intergenerational cycle of low literacy.


More than 150 projects have been developed since the Cargill/ALA family Literacy Project began in 1992. According to Margaret Monsour of the ALA Office for Library Outreach Services.

Bell Atlantic and ALA have achieved a successful partnership with one another by using the resources and expertise from both organizations to focus attention on a specific region of the country and to work with established local community agencies.

1994  **Friends of Library Outreach** subcommittee changed to **Advocates for Library Outreach**


A freestanding panel exhibit, titled "Read to someone you love. Literacy begins at home," is currently traveling to Bell Atlantic/ALA Family Literacy Project grant sites. The exhibit made its first appearance in March at the Free Public Library of Philadelphia.

The Bell Atlantic/ALA Family Literacy Project, established in 1989, is funded by the Bell Atlantic Foundation and administered by the ALA Office for Library Outreach Services. Through this public-private partnership, many communities have developed library-based family literacy projects by teaming up with agency partners at the local level.

1995  **Office for Library Outreach Services** changed to **Office for Literacy and Outreach Services**

June 28, Resolution on the 25th Anniversary of the Office for Literacy and Outreach Services:

Whereas, OLOS has been, for 25 years, the conscience of the American Library Association in fulfilling its mission to increase library services to the unserved and underserved; and

Whereas, OLOS has been the initiator of the American library Association's literacy efforts and continues to be a focal point for these endeavors; and

Whereas, OLOS has always been an advocate of full intellectual participation for all members of the public by continually and forcefully stating that all must be served regardless of language, cultural background, or ability to pay; and

Whereas, OLOS makes it possible for more minority librarians to be active in ALA through its liaison activities with the Black Caucus, REFORMA, the Asian-Pacific Library Association and the Council Committee on Minority Concerns and Cultural Diversity; and

Whereas, OLOS also helps countless other librarians find a voice for their social concerns through its work with the Social Responsibilities Round Table and the Ethnic Materials and Information Exchange Round Table; and

Whereas, through hundreds of conference programs, preconferences, institutes and workshops, OLOS has taught many thousands of librarians how to develop outreach, literacy, community information and intergenerational programs within their local communities; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the American Library Association affirms its commitments to the principles of equality and access to information that OLOS stands for; and, be it further

Resolved, that in the year 1996, the American Library Association celebrates the 25th Anniversary of OLOS and its accomplishments in literacy and outreach services.


ALSC and OLOS will hold a joint preconference, "Pursuing New Paths to Library Service: Intergenerational Programming"

Participants will learn to plan, conduct, and coordinate intergenerational programs through their library; develop the skills to document the importance of providing quality library service
to the "generations" inside and outside of the library, and come away with compelling, new ideas to set new outreach and intergenerational goals.


ALA's OLOS has received a $75,000 grant from the Viburnum Foundation to expand the Viburnum/ALA Rural Family Literacy Project. In Louisiana, the Viburnum gift resulted in the creation of multimedia adult literacy rooms, enhanced summer reading programs, and increased library usage, according to project director Carolyn DeBonnett.

**OLOS programs include:**

**Minority Fellowship Program.** OLOS manages the program and coordinates the recruitment of a fellow. ALA staff from OLPR, ALSC, and Human Resources serve on the Advisory Board.

**Bell-Atlantic ALA Family Literacy Project.** OLOS administers this project, which has established and is enhancing library-based family literacy initiatives in 20-25 public libraries in the mid-Atlantic region. The Communications Department, Public Library Association, and the Association for Library Service to Children are involved with OLOS in an advisory capacity.

**Cargill/ALA Partnership for Family Literacy.** Today this partnership project was launched in January 1992. Over 140 projects in more than 180 locations in 26 states and two international locations have registered with the American Library Association. Divisions within Cargill have pledged support for the project by committing funds to further supplement the corporation's lead gift of incentives for local offices to partner with their public library or other existing community agencies. These Divisions have approximately $125,000 in additional funds to equal more than $200,000 in corporate support for family literacy.

**Viburnum/ALA Family Literacy Project.** The Viburnum/ALA Family Literacy Project is a partnership between the Viburnum Foundation, Inc. and ALA. ALA has awarded eleven grants of up to $3,000 to rural public libraries in Louisiana to develop or enhance library-based family literacy projects. The project has been expanded to include rural libraries in New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. To date over $160,000 has been awarded to support library-based family literacy projects.

**Empowerment.** OLOS' Newsletter with news from OLOS liaison groups and information on conferences, meetings and current trends that pertain to the mission of OLOS.

**Advocates for Library Outreach.** OLOS constituent group whose mission is to further enhance the exciting outreach work done in the nation's libraries.

**Literacy Assembly.** OLOS promotes communication and coordination among all units involved in literacy and provides staff liaison support to the literacy Assembly where Divisions are represented. A major assembly activity is the revision of the ALA policy on literacy.

**Intergenerational Subcommittee.** An OLOS subcommittee designed to respond to the trends in library services across the generations. Library services and programs for elders, the disabled, youth and adults are the focus groups for this subcommittee.
OLOS provides staff liaison support to the OLOS Advisory Committee and its subcommittees, the Council Committee on Minority Concerns and Cultural Diversity, the Social Responsibilities Round Table, the Ethnic Materials and Information Exchange Round Table, the National Coalition for Literacy, the Advocates for Library Outreach, the Library Service for American Indians and the Intergenerational Subcommittees. OLOS also provides liaison support to the five ethnic librarians/library associations: Black Caucus of ALA, American Indian Library Association, Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association, Chinese American Librarians Association, and the National Association to Promote Library Services to the Spanish Speaking (REFORMA).


Matty Nelson, director of the Office for Literacy and Outreach Services (OLOS), departed effective May 1....[and] will be pursuing other interests. ...Nelson and her staff provided liaison for all of the minority and ethnic caucuses and affiliates of ALA as well as the Social Responsibilities Round Table and its committees and subdivisions. The Coretta Scott King Awards Breakfast was another of their responsibilities.

25th Anniversary of the ALA's Office for Literacy and Outreach Services. A program celebrating the 25th anniversary and a reception honoring past OLOS Directors, Committee Members and Champions. July 6, 1996, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., The Plaza, ALA Annual Conference, New York.
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# OLOS Committee and Subcommittee Members
## 1970 - 1996

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Julie V. Hunter
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Marian R. Shamu
Carol L. Shaffer
Brooke Sheldon
Elliot L. Shelkrot
Eileen Concannan Shimizu
Earl Shumaker
Bradley A. Simon
June Smith
Soo Young So
Sylvia Y. Sprinkle-Hamlin
Stephen J. Stillwell, Jr.
Helen B. Strader
Robert D. Stucart
Maureen Sullivan
Janet Suzuki
Binnie LaVerne Tate
Rhonda Harris Taylor
Pat Thomas
Bessie Condos Tichauer
Charles T. Townley
Arnulfo Trejo
Tamiye M. Trejo-Mechan
Elena Tscherny
Linda L. Tse
Mary Alice Tsosie
J. Daniel Vann, III
Bernard Vavrek
Jacqueline E. Wagner
Catherine Wallace
Ruth Warncke
Sigrid M. Washington
Kathleen Weibel
James C. Welbourne
Stewart L. Wells
Heather R. West
William S. White
Edward L. Whittaker
Sharon G. Womack
Margaret Wood
Mimi Robbins Wooten
Jan Wright
Katie Wright
Trellis C. Wright
Greitchen M. Wronka
Kenneth A. Yamashita
Christina Carr Young
Norma N. Yuch
Marie Zielinska

RPAP  80/81
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