

# NEWSLINE

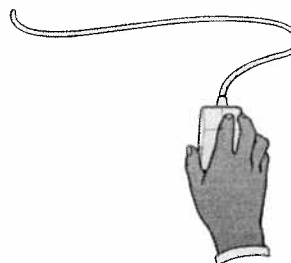
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Newsletter MANITOBA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION 606 - 100 Arthur St. Wpg R3B 1H3

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## CONTENTS

- 1. MLA NEWS ..... 1
- 2. NEWS ..... 2
- 3. CALENDAR ..... 4
- 4. JOB ..... 4



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### 1. MLA NEWS:

#### ★PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

There is a whiff of spring in the air and with the prospect of spring comes the promise of renewed life. Just as nature moves from one season to another, so too does our organization. The wheel has almost turned its full circle since I assumed the presidency and its time for the next generation of volunteers to bring their talents to bear. Last time I urged you to consider running for a position on the MLA executive. You have had time to think it over and now is the time to act.

Three directorship positions are available as well as the position of secretary and the position of vice-president/president elect. Due to the unexpected resignation of the current vice-president we will also be filling the position of president. We all have busy lives and could easily say I don't have the time or energy to take on an extra roll. But some of us must

to ensure we have a collective voice when needed. Don't be shy! Get your nominations in! I look forward to seeing a full slate of candidates and serving as past-president with a new mix of talented individuals.

On another front, planning is underway for Conference 2000. An initial meeting has been held and regular monthly meetings are being scheduled. Administrative matters such as site selection and confirmation of dates are on the verge of completion. The task of determining a conference theme is being tackled with vigor. As in the past, other library and library related organizations have been invited to work with MLA in planning and successfully executing the conference. MLA is particularly pleased to welcome representatives from Public Library Services on the planning team.

Regardless of the theme that is chosen, now is the time for you to make suggestions for workshop topics and dynamic speakers. What are the issues you are facing in the workplace or as a user of libraries

and would like addressed? Have you or a colleague attended presentations by speakers whom you feel have a message worth repeating? Are you aware of a potential presenter in your organization or workplace who deserves a wider audience? Now is your opportunity to shape the content of the conference and make it truly relevant to your circumstances.

The ability to have fun is another important aspect of library work so don't neglect to suggest social activities and speakers who can provide us with that important component. Contact Kenlyn Collins or any other member of the MLA executive with your suggestions.

Just to let you know, our featured speaker at the AGM on May 8 will be Pat Routledge. Pat has the ability to make even MARC coding exciting (I kid you not, this was a comment from one of her recent workshop participants) so who knows what will be in store for us?

**Jo Ann Brewster**

### ★ELECTION TIME!!

You will notice nomination forms at the end of this newsletter. Please take some time to consider running for office for your Association.

These are trying times for libraries world-wide: budgets are being squeezed by the ever increasing costs of serials; the Canadian dollar is snowboarding to Stygian pits; governments don't seem to know about the importance of libraries (a continual continuing education project for us); soothsayers predict the demise of the library with the advent of more and more electronic media (just another media folks); and staff shortages and staff training needs constantly nip at our heels. And on and on. What to do?

Well, one way to try to take some control is to make an impact locally, with your local library association. MLA offers you the opportunity to make such an impact. We are just beginning to plan the next conference in 2000 with other Manitoba library associations. We are also planning to offer some

creative sessions during the year as well to provide continuing education for our members. We must be vigilant in protecting and nurturing libraries and library workers, our wonderful provincial resource.

In short, MLA can offer you the opportunity to give direction to the way Manitoba libraries work together. Please consider volunteering your name, your time and your talent!

**Norma Godavari**

## 2. NEWS:

### ★MANITOBA STATUTES

#### **Selling access to legal Web site: Manitoba follows Saskatchewan's lead**

Andrew Hubbertz  
Head of Government Publications  
University of Saskatchewan Libraries

The Government of Manitoba, according to a recent article in the *Free Press* (18 February, "Access fee to legal Web site isn't fair to public: lawyer") is offering provincial statutes on the Internet for \$275 a year. The federal government and most provincial/territorial governments offer such services free, as the article points out. However, for several years Saskatchewan has been operating a fee-based service, much like Manitoba's, so readers of the *Free Press* may be interested to learn something of the Saskatchewan experience.

Internet access to the Statutes of Saskatchewan is offered by the Queen's Printer for \$95 a year.

According to information obtained under the Saskatchewan Freedom of Information Act, the Queen's Printer has sold a total of 570 subscriptions. Some of these -- it is unclear how many -- are trial or complimentary subscriptions. Of the 570, fully one third have been purchased by Saskatchewan government agencies for their own use. Non-governmental subscribers come to fewer than 300, mostly lawyers.

In 1997-98, subscriptions to the service brought the Government of Saskatchewan \$32,570, roughly half of it derived from sales to other government agencies -- essentially money transferred from one government account to another.

This pattern is virtually the same whenever governments sell information, including Statistics Canada data, meteorological data from Atmospheric Environment Service, and digitized topographic maps from Natural Resources Canada. In particular:

- Governments never recover more than a small fraction of the cost of providing the service, often netting out at zero or less when overheads like marketing and negotiating of license agreements are factored in;
- Governments would rather sell information at a high price to a small number of "must have" users, than at a low price to many users;
- Government itself is the largest consumer of government information.

If Manitoba follows this pattern, and it certainly will, citizens will be deprived of easy access to the law for the sake of highly dubious revenues. As the *Free Press* reports, 80 percent of people involved in family law matters in Ontario represent themselves, and the situation in Manitoba is probably not much different. How important it is, therefore, that these people have ready access to the relevant provincial law.

Keep in mind, as well, that in our highly mobile society legal problems may cross jurisdictions. Someone in a family law case may need access to the laws of other provinces. A Manitoban needing the Nova Scotia *Child Abduction Act* has free access to it at <http://www.gov.ns.ca/legi/legc/index.htm>. A Manitoban needing the Saskatchewan *Children's Law Act, 1997* has few alternatives to travelling to one of the larger libraries in Manitoba with a comprehensive legal collection. There may be no more than a half dozen of these, mostly in Winnipeg. Those of us in Manitoba and Saskatchewan have free access to the laws of Nova Scotia and most other provinces. Is it not fair that people in those provinces have access to the laws of Manitoba and Saskatchewan as well? It is ironic that we have easier access to the laws of Ontario, Nova Scotia,

even Arkansas and California, than to those of our own provinces.

In the Middle Ages, laws passed by Parliament were inscribed in parchment rolls and proclaimed by town criers. With the invention of printing, the new technology was soon utilized to improve publication and dissemination of the law.

We now witness a second revolution, as electronic dissemination, particularly on the Internet, makes it possible to publish and distribute information more rapidly, more widely, and more cheaply than before. Governments are taking advantage of the new technology, and it is fair to say that the distribution of all government information is going massively electronic. It is lamentable when government sees nothing more in this than an opportunity to generate a few dollars.

Governments pass laws with the intent of influencing the behavior of individuals, corporations, and governments. For that reason, *rule of law* includes the widest possible *publication* of the law, a fact understood in the time of Hammurabi but regrettably forgotten in some parts of western Canada.

Judging from the Saskatchewan experience, selling access to laws on the Internet will bring the Government of Manitoba a few thousand dollars a year. Given *free* access, the statutes and regulations could be made available online in schools and libraries throughout the province, and in every home or office with a computer and an Internet connection. Does anyone know of a cheaper or more cost-effective way to promote democracy?

#### ★UofA SLIS PLACEMENT SURVEY, 1997

The School is pleased to report the results of its survey of 1997 graduates, their 10<sup>th</sup> annual placement survey. In 1997, 31 students graduated with the Master of Library and Information Studies (MLIS) degree from the University of Alberta, of whom 25 responded to this survey (an 81% response rate, which is similar to the year before). The 1997 Survey was conducted in June and July 1998, a little over a year after the students had graduated.

### Summary:

The rate of placement of MLIS graduates from the University of Alberta has remained relatively stable over the past five years, with 22 out of the 25 graduates (88%) from 1997 reporting employment in library and information services at the time of the survey. Almost all respondents obtained their first job within six months of graduation. As in earlier years, however, only half of those working full-time held permanent positions. Also as in earlier years, two-thirds of responding graduates worked in one or more temporary positions at some point since graduation.

The most frequent employers of currently employed 1997 graduates were post-secondary libraries, accounting for almost half of all placements, with another third employed by public and government libraries. For the first time in the history of the annual placement survey, a significant number of responding graduates found employment in the United States. The most common way in which graduates learned about available positions was through electronic listservs, followed by word of mouth and the School's job board.

For more information, please contact Alvin M. Schrader or Michael R. Brundin at the

School of Library & Information Studies  
3-20 Rutherford South  
University of Alberta  
Edmonton AB T6G 2J4.

### 3. CALENDAR:

★Saturday MAY 8, 1999

#### MLA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The MLA Annual General Meeting will take place with a pizza luncheon in Room 230, Engineering Building, University of Manitoba. Here's the scoop so far:

1 to 2 PM - Pat Routledge will speak (working title is "Lessons my Dog Has Taught Me" which will deal with humour in the workplace. The exact title may

change as she also has a cat who will demand equal, if not top billing).

2 to 4PM AGM

We look forward to seeing all of you then. For updates to this, and other up-coming events, check our Calendar website at <http://www.mla.mb.ca/calendar.html>



### 4. JOB:

#### ★LIBRARIAN - HAPNOT COLLEGIATE

**Deadline Date: March 31, 1999**

Flin Flon is a community in Northern Manitoba with approximately 10,000 residents; located 500 air km north of Winnipeg. Community services include modern schools, hospital, cultural organizations, service clubs, sport facilities, the great outdoors, and most of all, friendly people!

The Flin Flon School Division No. 46 invites applications for Librarian at Hapnot Collegiate, starting the Fall term 1999.

Hapnot Collegiate is a S1-S4 High School with 625 students and 42 professional staff. Responsibilities include, but are not restricted to, all duties associated with the operation of a school library, supporting Library Technicians in 3 elementary school libraries and working collaboratively with administration, staff and the Library Secretary.

Qualifications : Must have a degree in Library Science from an accredited library school and a demonstrated knowledge of electronic media.

Salary range : \$30,000 - \$42,000 with an attractive benefit package.

Please forward resumes including three (3) recent references to:

Mr. Dan Reagan  
Superintendent of Schools  
Flin Flon School Division No. 46  
30 Adams Street  
Flin Flon MB R8A 1A8  
Phone 204 687-9658 Fax 204 687-3517

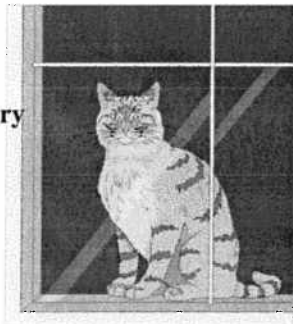
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*The opinions expressed by the contributors to the Manitoba Library Association do not necessarily reflect the position or official policy of MLA.*

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Send your news to:  
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ngodava@cc.umanitoba.ca



*To sign up for the MLA Listserv, send the command  
sub mla-news yourfirstname yoursecondname  
to listproc@cc.umanitoba.ca*

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**DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL/MAY 1999 ISSUE**  
**IS WEDNESDAY APRIL 21, 1999**

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**THE FOLLOWING ARE THE OFFICERS OF THE MANIT  
LIBRARY ASSOCIATION:**

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**606 - 100 Arthur Street**  
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**E-mail: pnielson@ilos.net**

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Web Site: [www.mla.mb.ca](http://www.mla.mb.ca)

*For information on your membership or missing issues of Newslines,  
please contact the MLA office at 943-4567.*

# MANITOBA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

## Call for Nominations

Nominations are invited for the following positions on the Manitoba Library Association Executive Committee:

### **President/Past President\*** (2 year term)

Presides at meetings of the Association and of the Executive Committee

*\* Due to the unforeseen resignation of the current Vice-President/President-Elect, the position of President-Elect is included in the call for nominations. The successful candidate will assume the Presidency of the Association at the executive change-over.*

### **Vice-President/President-Elect** (3 year term)

As Vice-President, assumes the duties and responsibilities of the President in the President's absence. Serves one year as Vice-President, one year as President and one year as Past-President.

### **Secretary** (2 year term)

Keeps minutes of all Association meetings.

### **Directors** (3 vacancies, 2 year term)

Directors assume responsibility for a committee and/or activity of the Association.

### **President, Westman Division** (1 year term)

The President presides over all meetings of the Division and is charged with the general management of the affairs and operations of the Division.

**For more detailed information, please consult the MLA Bylaws at [www.mla.mb.ca/bylaw.html](http://www.mla.mb.ca/bylaw.html)**

Please mail or fax nominations on the form that follows to:

Nominations Committee  
Manitoba Library Association  
606 - 100 Arthur Street  
Winnipeg MB R3B 1H3  
Fax: 942-1555

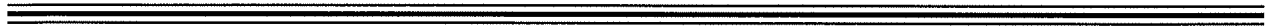
**NOMINATION FORM**  
**MANITOBA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

**1999 - 2000**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, being a member in good standing of MLA,  
nominate \_\_\_\_\_  
for the position of \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**STATEMENT OF NOMINEE**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, being a member in good standing of the  
MLA, agree to let my name stand in nomination for the above stated position.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Nominees should attach a brief biography and statement of aims.*

Deadline for nominations: **April 7, 1999**