

InULA

Innuendo

Tips on successful conference attendance

by Kristine Brancolini

Most librarians have a favorite horror story about attending a national conference. I have my own. In July 1976 I arrived in Chicago for the National Conference of the American Library Association. I had been vacationing in California, so when I stepped out of the terminal at O'Hare the heat and humidity were overwhelming. I immediately wanted to go home, but I was pre-registered for the conference and another librarian was waiting for me at the hotel. I had tons of luggage and couldn't face a

hotel shuttle bus, so I took a taxi downtown. When I arrived at the hotel, my roommate was out; in four days I was to see her twice, except when she was sleeping. I had done some preplanning and tentatively knew which programs I wanted to attend. I spent quite a bit of time walking among the conference hotels; I was too intimidated to try the shuttle bus. Although I had planned a full schedule of program attendance, I failed to note the distances between hotels and discovered that several times I was unable to make it on time to a meeting. By

the time I arrived late, all the seats were taken and people were spilling out the door. By the end of the second day I was exhausted; I spent the morning of the third day recuperating in my air conditioned room. That was the first time I spoke with my roommate. She was sleeping in after a particularly grueling night of partying with former library colleagues. I was a relatively new librarian who didn't know anyone at the conference except my roommate. I had expected to spend more time with her, at

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From the Editor

by Emily Okada

My computer tells me it is 2:59am—no, make that 3am. I've just finished entering most of the copy for this issue of the *Innuendo*. I live in fear of a power surge or some other bizarre electrical phenomenon that will wipe out the last two hours work. I tend to get paranoid this time of night/morning/whatever.

This is our "Going-To-Conference" issue. Many of us could not attend the program that InULA sponsored last Fall where Kris Brancolini, Sylvia Burbach and Lynn Smith shared their conference-going savvy. Their tips and observations make up the bulk of this issue. Nancy Totten contributes her thoughts on conference-going and Jean Miller reports on the IU Librarians' Day that took place in May. Becky Cape presents the second in her series of VAX mail tips in the "Did You Know..." column.

This is the last issue of the year. Although the 1987-88 Publications Committee will put together the first issue of the next volume that comes out in September, this is the one we say our farewells in. It has been an in-

teresting year for us. We worked well together, deciding what kinds of articles we wanted to publish, holding group editing sessions where we discussed the merits of dashes as opposed to semicolons and experienced the power of the red pencil. (I'm still not sure what a dangling participle is, I don't really know what an undangling participle is, but thank goodness Mary Krutulis, Becky Cape and Anne McGreer do!) This year we also managed to get library wide participation in the committee; I'm not sure if Jean Miller in Kokomo, Steven Schmidt at IU-PUI, or Nancy Totten at IU-Southeast knew what they were getting into when they volunteered to be on the committee, but readers may have noticed that each one of them has written an article this year! Karen Nissen ended up staying on the committee even after she left the IU Libraries; since her husband does the layout and pasteup for the *Innuendo* she's been doing a lot of proofreading and runs the camera ready copy to and from the QuickPrint shop!

This is the official end of

my second and last year as editor; I learned a lot and my typing has really improved! I had a great time, I might even start to miss these all-nighters (I was so sure I'd seen the last of them when library school was over). Well, now my computer tells me it is 3:31am, I tend to get too nostalgic this time of night/morning/whatever. I guess it's time to save to disk & Esc....

Emily Okada is Reference Services Coordinator Undergraduate Library Services, IU-Bloomington

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Time management at an ALA annual conference: Reading the program, visiting the exhibits

by Sylvia Burbach

How many times have you returned home exhausted from an ALA Annual Conference, promising yourself that you will never let that happen again? One of the best ways to enjoy the conference and to benefit from everything it has to offer is to carefully plan your personal timetable before you get caught in the maelstrom. Although many activities can be scheduled prior to the conference (committee meetings, meal dates, etc.), some planning should take place just after you register and before you rush off to your first event. The key element in this phase of time management is the acquisition of a personal copy of the conference program.

The Program

The most obvious use of the program is for locating meetings. In addition to the complete daily listing, which comprises about half of the three hundred page program, are two time-

saving devices. Each program includes a pastel-colored section of pages referred to as the "Calendar Insert," giving an overview of the major programs and events with extra space for you to note other meetings of interest. Also look for the page marked "Location of Meeting Rooms." It lists full names, acronyms, addresses, and phone numbers of each building, plus the location (by name) of each meeting room. I suggest keeping both the latter page and the calendar insert with you and leaving the rest of the bulky program in your hotel room.

For the newcomer I also recommend a thorough reading of "How To Use This Program." The bewildered librarian will find some valuable information, most notably a key to ALA acronyms and news of program changes, in this section. Daily information on conference happenings and highlights is featured in *Cognotes*, the official con-

ference newsletter produced by Junior Members Round Table volunteers. Refer to the "General Information" section of the program for information on this and other topics such as child care, library school reunions, and the message center.

As long as I can remember, Gale Research Company has offered free shuttle bus service to all ALA conferences. This service, as well as information on local transportation, is also described in "General Information."

Last year's program offered a new and unfortunate twist in reading the daily schedule of meetings. Each listing began with the date, time and location of the program or meeting. This was followed by some blank space, then the program description followed by more blank space. The official title of each listing was printed last in bold face type and was often mistaken for the beginning line of each description. Unfortunately, this mis-reading led many librarians to the wrong place for the right meeting.

The Exhibits

Although your time in committee meetings and programs must be carefully scheduled, the exhibits can be visited at your leisure.

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Successful conference attendance, continued from page 1

least for meals. Instead I had breakfast with her on the third day and chatted with her while she prepared to go out to dinner that evening. I was lonely and miserable, and I hadn't been able to attend many of the programs that interested me most. I have since discovered that there is a better way....

The Conference

Thorough planning for all aspects of the trip maximizes the benefits of conference attendance. It is particularly important to know as much as possible about the conference and the conference city before you arrive. For a large conference like the ALA Annual Conference, the best sources of information about both are the pre-registration packet and articles in association magazines or journals, such as *American Libraries* and *College and Research Libraries News*. Study this material thoroughly, especially if you have never visited the conference city. People who are active in the association also have additional useful information. For example, ALA committee chairs receive a listing of all committee meetings and locations.

Be flexible. No matter how well you plan your activities, you will find yourself making modifications. On the schedule sheet included in the pre-registration material, sketch in at least two activities for most time slots. If one program is not what you expected or over-crowded, you can go to your second choice. Make sure the second choice is in the same hotel or nearby.

Study a map of the conference area. For a small conference this may only be a three-block area. For large conferences in large cities, however, conference hotels and the convention center are usually spread out across an area that requires transportation or lots of walking. I no longer hesitate to use the shuttle buses, but continue to walk most places. I also take taxis, particularly in the evening.

Roommates

Some conference attendees can afford to room alone, but most room with at least one other attendee. Three factors should determine your choice of roommate. The first is personal habits. Are you a smoker? If not, do you mind having a roommate who is? Do you

stay up late reading? If you go to bed early, would you be bothered by a roommate who reads until 3am? How do you feel about calisthenics in your room at 6am? The second factor to consider is finances. What kind of budget will you be on? Do you want to stay in one of the most expensive conference hotels or one of the least expensive? Will a room be adequate or do you need a suite? Finances are also a factor if you plan to eat at least some meals with your roommate or do some sight-seeing together. The third factor is style of conference attendance. Although my Chicago roommate in 1976 was compatible with regard to the first two factors, we were decidedly incompatible with regard to the third. As an experienced librarian who had held several jobs across the country before coming to Indiana, she viewed the ALA Annual Conference as an opportunity to renew her contacts with former colleagues. She was also very active in the organization and presented a paper at the conference. Therefore, she was extremely busy throughout the entire conference. I, on the other hand, was new to the profession and had much more

free time. I now room with two librarians who share a compatible conference-going style. We attend programs and committee meetings separately, but frequently meet for lunch or dinner and usually reserve time for sightseeing together. There is an advantage to rooming with two other people rather than just one. With three people, at least two usually want to do the same thing. I brought my five month old baby to last summer's ALA conference in San Francisco. Consequently, I was not as free as usual to attend receptions and other evening social events. However, my two roommates could still attend with each other.

Hotels

Although you will probably not spend much time in your hotel, selecting the wrong one can have a severe negative impact on your conference-going experience. Of course, price is a factor. Large national conferences usually offer a wide range of hotel prices. However, study the map showing hotel locations. An inexpensive hotel that is far from the convention center or the conference headquarters may be less of a bargain than it appears. In addition to price and location, you may want to learn more

about the services offered by the hotel; consult a *Mobil Travel Guide* or a *AAA Travel Guide*. This had never occurred to me until last summer. As mentioned previously, I brought my baby to San Francisco. One evening my roommates went to a reception and out to dinner. My baby and I attended the reception, and went back to the hotel for dinner. When I arrived at the hotel I discovered that the

**"Through careful
planning librarians
can turn a professional
obligation into an
enjoyable opportunity"**

coffee shop was closed for the day. The hotel's more formal restaurant would have been inappropriate for an infant. I returned to my room, thinking that I could call room service for an expensive but convenient meal, only to discover that the hotel did not have room service. By that time I was desperate. I tried the newsstand; nothing but juice and candy. I asked at the front desk about a casual restaurant that might be nearby and still open. There were none. I ended up getting back into a taxi and going to one of the larger conference hotels with a 24-hour coffee

shop. This may be an extreme case, but I wish to stress that price is only one factor you should consider when selecting a hotel.

Some librarians stay at hotels that are not designated conference hotels or with friends. Although these can be inexpensive alternatives to conference hotels, I do not recommend them for inexperienced conference attendees. It is much easier to meet new people and explore the conference fully if you are staying at a conference hotel. When staying with a friend, particularly one who may live far from the conference site, there is always a temptation to socialize with your friend and skip many conference activities.

Committee Meeting Etiquette

In order to become active in a national organization, committee activities are essential. Committee activities are evaluated best through observing meetings. The American Library Association has determined rules for individuals who would like to observe committee meetings. Other national organizations publish similar guidelines. For the ALA rules, see the conference program under "General Information." Executive meetings and oth-

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Successful conference attendance,

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er closed meetings are listed with an asterisk in the program; do not attempt to observe these meetings.

The following ground rules appear under "Observers to Meetings:"

- 1) Notify unit chairpersons in advance, if possible, that you plan to attend;
- 2) Keep in mind the obligations of committees and boards to transact Association business;
- 3) Remember that space restrictions often make it impossible to accommodate observers.

These are the rules, but the reality of committee meeting observation is somewhat different. I have never notified a committee chair that I wanted to observe a meeting earlier than five minutes before the meeting was scheduled to begin. I have never been the only observer and observers have always been welcome. I have never been turned away from a committee meeting because of limited space.

Observing a meeting provides the observer with useful information about the current activities of the committee as well as an op-

portunity to meet the committee chair and members. I also regularly attend the meetings of committees that interest me, although I do not want to become a member of the committee. Attending their meetings enables me to remain informed about their activities and often participate in the discussion of committee business. Some committees encourage observers to participate in discussion others do not.

Through careful planning librarians can turn a professional obligation into an enjoyable opportunity to learn about new developments and innovations in our field, meet interesting people from other libraries, and become active in a professional organization. Remember that no one spends every minute attending programs and committee meetings. Set realistic goals for the conference and include some time to socialize and see the sights.

Kris Brancolini is Assistant to the Dean of Libraries IU-Bloomington

Did you know?

by Rebecca Cape

Here's another VAX-mail tip:

Use a distribution list if you routinely need to send messages to the same group of people. That way you type the message once and it is automatically sent to all the persons named on the list.

At the main AIE menu type E to enter the VMS operating system. The prompt in this system is a \$. At this prompt type CREATE [filename.dis], then carriage return <CR>. The file name can contain up to eight letters and must end in .DIS. After pressing the <CR> the \$ does not reappear. Type in the electronic mail address of each person on your list, pressing <CR> after each address. When finished, press CTRL Z to save the list. The screen should look something like this:

```
$ create Innuendo.dis
gold::smith
gold::jones
gold::doe
```

It's a good idea to add your own address to the list so you have a copy of the message as well.

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Notes From InULA

by Mary Popp, President, 1987-88

It is hard to believe that the InULA year is nearly over. This has been an active and busy year with two major areas of emphasis. The first area of emphasis was reviewing what we now do. Committees worked on new ways of planning for scholarships and fund-raising and on a review of the Research Incentive Grant Program. Membership recruitment and retention was the focus of scrutiny from members-at-large, resulting in a constitutional amendment proposal and a membership recruitment plan to be put in effect Fall 1988.

Our second area of emphasis was on involvement of members university-wide. The Continuing Education Committee's project was co-sponsorship of the Librarians' Day in Indianapolis. A mail auction was held for the first time to make it easier for all our members to take part. The election slate for 1988-89 contains names from throughout the state.

Our fund-raising activities were especially successful this year. The National Library Week Book Sale Committee added a preview

sale and changed a number of procedures. Their efforts worked! The sale netted \$3,584, making InULA much more solvent. The auction brought in \$1,347, a new record, to fund Research Incentive Grants next year.

Research Incentive Grants were given to Dave Frasier for work on his Russ Meyer bibliography, to be published by McFarland in 1989 and to Betty Hanson for her study of the McGill University Library School. The Board is now deliberating on applications for the final grant of the year. The *Innuendo* has a new look and has become a substantive quarterly publication. Members learned about library instruction videotapes and successful conference attendance at this year's programs.

All of the InULA members who participated in the variety of InULA activities during 1987-88 have made this a most successful year. The committees, under the leadership of their hard-working chairs — Rosann Auchstetter, Kris Brancolini, Jackie Byrd, Mary Krutulis, Emily Okada, Pat Riesenman, JoAnn Switzer,

and Maudine Williams—accomplished great feats. The Executive Board—Erla Beck, Julie Bobay, Sylvia Burbach, Wendell Jhonting, Fred Musto, and Andrea Singer—provided InULA with leadership, vision and reality for some of my more unworkable ideas. To all of you I offer my heartfelt thanks. It's been a year to remember.

Mary Popp is Bibliographic Instruction Coordinator, Undergraduate Library Services, IU-Bloomington

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**ALA Annual
Conference**

**New Orleans
July 9-14**

InULA Treasurer's Report

Fred Musto,
Treasurer, 1987-88

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| Balance | |
| 9-1-87..... | 3160.20 |
| Receipts | |
| Dues..... | 892.00 |
| Book Sale..... | 3688.05 |
| Auction..... | 996.30 |
| Dividends..... | 124.45 |
| Other..... | <u>147.49</u> |
| Total..... | 5848.30 |
| Expenditures | |
| Research Grants..... | 782.00 |
| Dean's Fund..... | 500.00 |
| Social & Program..... | 424.41 |
| Publications..... | 630.18 |
| Nat. Library Week..... | 82.70 |
| Service Charge (CU)..... | 25.50 |
| Miscellaneous..... | 88.71 |
| Other (IU Alumni Assn) | <u>501.99</u> |
| Total..... | 3035.49 |
| Balance | |
| 6-1-88..... | 5973.01 |

*Fred Musto is Reference Librarian
Reference Dept. IU-Bloomington*

Let's eat

by Lynn Smith

I attended the Special Libraries Annual Conference in New Orleans in 1983 and although I'm not sure I can give a good description of New Orleans cuisine, I can say that while I was in New Orleans I ate some of the best food I have ever eaten and had a great time doing it.

My impression of eating in New Orleans was that there were three distinctive types of cuisine—Cajun, French, and seafood (some prepared Cajun style, some prepared French style, and some not in any particular style other than being the wonderful kind of seafood one just can't get in Indiana).

Like most visitors to New Orleans I had a guidebook of the great restaurants. However, I only went to one of them. For the most part they were very expensive, and one had to have reservations made well in advance. My guidebook recommended breakfast at Brennan's. I couldn't get in for breakfast so I had dinner at Brennan's—the food was extraordinary, but so was the bill.

Rather than eating in the world famous restaurants I ate in a variety of small "hole-in-the-wall" kind of places around the French Quarter. I don't remember the names of any of them but I always had good food. If you've ever been to New Orleans you know the French Quarter is gloomy, and run down looking, and everything seems to be covered with mildew—that also describes many of the restaurants, cafés, and bars. However, no matter where I ate, the food was good (and often reasonable), the atmosphere was unique, and the surroundings often entertaining.

My recommendations for eating include seafood gumbo—you can get it everywhere (and I did). I found it never quite looked or tasted the same twice but was always delicious. There were Mufaletta sandwiches (kind of a New Orleans submarine sandwich) and some kind of fried pastry (I can't remember the name) which tasted like the elephant ears you get at the state fair only better [editor's note: maybe she's talking about beignets]. And try the hot praline ice cream sundaes which are so good I can't even describe them. When I think back to my visit to New Orleans, I don't remember very much at all about the SLA conference. Mainly I remember eating all this wonderful food!

*Lynn Smith is Library Planning and Budget Officer
IU-Bloomington*

Restaurants in New Orleans

Carolyn Tynan (Undergraduate Library Services, IU-Bloomington) got some restaurant recommendations from her sister Gale who works at Tulane University in New Orleans. Gale reports that a "...native New Orleans person really thinks that of all the nice restaurants Commander's Palace is worth the money." Most of the restaurants listed below cannot be reached by street car. We recommend checking a directory and a city map once you arrive in New Orleans.

Nice Restaurants (ie. no shorts!)

Commander's Palace 1427 Washington (Garden District) Everyone says it's great. Allow \$25 - \$30 Recommend going to Garden Room for Jazz Brunch Reservations [editor's note, a recent visitor to New Orleans recommends calling long distance now for reservations] • **Mr. B's** 201 Royal (French Quarter), Reservations • **Brigtsens** 723 Dante (Uptown), can take street car • **L'Eagles** 545 Julia • **Cafe S'bisa** 1011 Decatur • **Gautrau's...**

Po-Boys (these are a big deal in New Orleans—submarine sandwiches) [editors' note: sounds like Lynn Smith's Mufalettas]

Norby's 678 Laurel (Uptown) • **Parasol's** 2533 Constance (Uptown) • **Domilise** 5240 Annunciation (Garden District)

Seafood (very casual)

Jack Dempsey Seafood 738 Poland • **Liuzza's** • **Mardina's** • **Frankie & Johnny's**, esp. for crawfish • **West End Café**, esp. for crawfish • **Bart's**, 800 Lakeshore Drive (on Lake Pontchartrain) nice place to see the lake and sailboats • **Copeland's**, Spicy Cajun food, can take street car

Miscellaneous

Camallia Grill on S. Carrolton, can take street car

Did you know?

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To use the distribution list, go to the AIE main menu and enter VAX mail. Type in SEND at the MAIL> prompt. When the "To:" appears on the screen enter @[filename.dis] <CR> and continue as usual. You can use this list every time you want to send a message to this group.

To delete this list from your directory, go into the VMS operating system and type in DIR <CR> at the \$ prompt. All the files in your directory will be displayed. At the next \$ prompt enter DELETE <CR>. "File:" will appear on the next line and there you should enter the file name exactly as it appears in the directory, followed by <CR>.

Watch *Did You Know...* for more information about e-mail and the Library Information and Reference Network (LIRN).

For questions or comments, contact me at 335-2452 or gold::gibson.

Becky Gibson is Assistant Curator of Manuscripts, Lilly Library IU-Bloomington

Conferences: Why Bother?

by Nancy Totten

"I go for the food, mostly."

"To party, of course."

"To get away from my husband and children!"

"Well, it looks good on my resume...."

These are some of the responses I got when I asked my colleagues around the state this question: Why do you go to conferences and professional meetings? While these responses were delivered tongue-in-cheek for the most part, all of us probably can identify with one or another of them. Parties and solitude and unusually sumptuous dinners are often happy by-products of conference-going. But, for me, the real reason for going to a conference, the reason which justifies the sometimes extraordinary effort required to get there, is that it provides me with a change in perspective—a change in the way I see the profession, and especially in the way I see my role within it. It is all too easy for us to become embroiled in our own particular problems—a growing array of recalcitrant machines, a space crunch that won't quit, the hiring, firing, and

scheduling of an infinity of student workers—that we sometimes lose sight of the larger picture. Even with attention to library literature, it is easy to lose track of professional issues and trends, of new technologies and products. Conferences and professional meetings provide an opportunity, through exhibits, formal presentations, and personal interaction, to re-connect with ideas and issues—and most important, with people—we may not have encountered since library school! The exhibits, especially at larger gatherings, are wonderful—magical gardens of delight. Even if we cannot afford, or have no need for the latest edition of Britannica or the MLA Bibliography on CD-ROM, or the beautiful oak shelving that tilts and swivels and does other tricks, it is good to know that those things are out there, and to see them operate. Knowing what is out there (especially what is new) in the available universe of library products and services provides us with a valuable broadening of our perspective, one that will pay dividends in more

informed planning and product decisions. And the formal presentations—the lectures, panels, demonstrations, and workshops—are, in my view, even more valuable than the exhibits. These sessions often provide us with specific practical suggestions which help us solve some of our particular problems: we learn new ways to save space; whether and how to charge for special services; guidelines for working with student assistants; which new photocopy machine requires less maintenance; where to get solid information about legal liability in libraries; and on and on and on. We learn new things and see old things in new ways. We find new solutions to old problems, or find that there are no new solutions—that we are doing about as well as anyone else.

It is here, too, that we hear of emerging issues—artificial intelligence and expert systems, scholars' workstations and the demise of the traditional library—issues which will shape our future, and which we do not often have the time or the occasion to grapple

with at home. We also have the opportunity to hear speakers of international stature such as Isaac Bashevis Singer or Maya Angelou talk to us not of libraries, necessarily, but of the business of life. They remind us that the library world is a small part of human endeavor; we get a fresh perspective of our place in that endeavor.

As stimulating and rewarding as the exhibits and formal presentations are, the most valuable part of attending a conference, for my money, is the informal interaction with colleagues that occurs over dinner, in the elevators, on the tours, and in the hallways between sessions. Here there is a candor not present in other kinds of professional interactions. Here we let our hair down and reveal what we really think of the latest OCLC enhancement or the new association president or the theme of next year's conference. Here we learn of failed circulation experiments, outreaches that didn't work, marketing ploys that were too successful. Here we learn an ingenious solution to one of our own problems, or of promising research in a field we're interested in. We discover that our library is not the only one with a resident faculty curmudgeon, and we

happily exchange curmudgeon stories. We catch up on the professional (and perhaps personal) lives of people we haven't seen since the last meeting. We reconnect with the profession and the people in it in a way we never would have if we'd stayed at home.

When we go home, we go with a new outlook, a changed perspective, which allows us, at least for awhile, to work on our particular problems and challenges with fresh energy

and insight.

Obviously not everything about every conference is wonderful, or even worthwhile. Occasionally the programs are mediocre, the food awful, the parties boring. But I have never come away from a library conference without that sense of renewal, that new perspective, which is for me the real reason for going.

Nancy Totten is Head of Readers Services IU-Southeast

IU Librarian's Day

by Jean Miller

This year's Indiana University Librarians' Day was held May 25 at the new University Conference Center at IUPUI. Sponsored by the Indiana University Library Faculty Council and InULA, this gathering provided opportunities for making and renewing acquaintances, recognizing special librarians, and learning.

Several people said their public goodbyes to Dean Elaine Sloan and paid tribute to her contributions to this library system; InULA's Mary Popp presented Dean Sloan with a check for

\$500 for the Dean's Development Fund. Also, it was announced that Barbara Fischler of IUPUI was named 1987 Librarian of the Year by ILA.

Larry Griffin, IUPUI-Fort Wayne, moderated an open forum on the Report of the Promotion and Tenure Review Committee. A panel reported on NOTIS implementation. Discussion groups on several library issues were held.

IU President Thomas Ehrlich was the keynote speaker. Reiterating his One University theme, he pointed out that we are one university library system and an extraordinary one at that.

Jean Miller is Reference Librarian, IU-Kokomo

Time management

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The exhibits have grown considerably. Comparing the 1982 and 1987 exhibitor listings, the number has grown from 1,000 to around 2,500 exhibits! Changes in the field and related industries have also changed the image of the exhibits.

High-tech, chrome-and-plush-carpet environments are no longer the exception.

Booth exhibitors are listed in the program alphabetically and can be located by booth number on a map of the exhibit hall floor plan.

A little pre-planning will guarantee that you see everything you want before it all becomes a big blur.

In addition to previewing the latest publications and technological innovations at the exhibits you can meet authors and illustrators at their respective publishers' booths. Check your program under "Meet the Stars" for a full listing arranged alphabetically by publisher.

A visit to the exhibits also provides good entertainment for non-conferee traveling companions. Free exhibit badges are available on-site at the ALA registration counters and are required for entry to the

exhibit hall. "Freebies" are always a big item at the ALA exhibits. Current popular treasures include children's literature posters, memo pads, pens and the occasional book. One of my greatest thrills was meeting Isaac Asimov, where he autographed a free, hard-back copy of his latest book. Although many tote bags are available, the most coveted is the Baker and Taylor version, which features their literary cats. On the last day of the exhibit many exhibitors sell their wares at reduced prices.

Remember, everything that you pick up at the exhibits usurps precious space in your luggage. For your convenience, ALA offers package-wrapping and postal services in the same building as the exhibits.

Sylvia Burbach is Assistant Head, Cataloging, IU-Bloomington