Wired to the World

— by *Ralph Lee Scott*

A frequent question I get is how to find out about and subscribe to the various Internet discussion groups called "listservs." There are, it seems, thousands of these mail groups in existence today, with more being formed every week. They cover topics from "soup to nuts," or, more appropriately, from "AAUP-L to Z3950IW." Of special interest to librarians on the Net are the following groups:

ACQNET (Acquisitions Librarians Network); ALAWON (The ALA Washington Office Newsline); BI-L (Bibliographic Instruction Discussion List); CDROM-L (CD/ROM usage in Libraries); CIRCPLUS (Circulation issues for libraries); COLLDV-L (Collection Development Issues); CONSERVATION DISTLIST; COOPCAT (Cooperative cataloging projects); EXLIBRIS (Special Collections); FEDSIG-L (Federal electronic information); GOVDOC-L (Government Documents Librarians); ILL-L (Inter-Library Loan Forum); INFO+REF (Reference Librarians); IR-L (Information Retrieval); LM_NET (School Library Issues); LAW-LIB (Law Librarian Issues); LIBADMIN (Library Administration); LIBEX-L (Library Exhibits); LIBPER-L (Library Personnel Issues); LIBPLN-L (Academic Library Planning); LIBREF-L (Library Reference Issues); LIBRES (Library Research); LIBSUP-L (Library Support Staff Issues); MAPS-L (Map Librarians); MEDLIB-L (Medical Librarianship); NCLA-L (North Carolina Libraries); PACS-L (Public-Access Computer Systems Forum); PAMNET (Physics, Astronomy, and Math Librarians); PUBLIB (Public Library discussion list); PUBYAC (Public Library, Young Adult and Children's Issues); RLIN-L (Research Library Information Network discussion); SERIALST (Serials processing in Libraries); SLAJOB (Special Library Association Job List); STUMPERS-L (The Name Says It All); VETLIB-L (Veterinary Medical Library Issues); VIFLIS (Library School Faculty and Students Issues); WIML-L (Issues Relating to Women In Music Librarianship).

If I missed your favorite library lists, I'm sorry!

In general, to subscribe to these discussion lists you must send an e-mail message to the "LISTSERV" or "POSTMASTER" at the site where the list is maintained. In the body of the message, you generally include the message "SUB" or "SUBSCRIBE," followed by your name (some lists do not need a name). You must, of course, send your address in the e-mail letter for the mailer to know where to send the messages. Most e-mail systems on the market automatically send your address in the header of the letter. For example, to subscribe to PACS-L at the University of Houston computer you would:

To: LISTSERV@UHUPVM1.UH.EDU
From: LBSCOTT@ECUVM1.ECU.EDU
SUBSCRIBE PACS-L (Ralph Scott)

Some lists have a gatekeeper who passes on who can join the list. LM_NET is a list of this type. To subscribe to this kind of the list you need to send a message to the gatekeeper:

To: PMILBUR@EIS.CALSTATE.EDU or
MIKE@ERICIR.SYR.EDU
From: LBSCOTT@ECUVM1.ECU.EDU
Add to LM_NET LBSCOTT@ECUVM1.ECU.EDU
NAME: RALPH SCOTT

It is also important to know how to end the listserv messages that you have subscribed to. Otherwise you will remain on the list and receive lots of unwanted mail for the rest of your existence. In most cases to clear you name from the mailing list, send a message to the site that maintains the list (Hint: keep a record of where that site is!).

To stop messages send:

To: LISTSERV@UHUPVM1.UH.EDU
From: LBSCOTT@ECUVM1.ECU.EDU
UNSUBSCRIBE PACS-L (Ralph Scott)

In some cases you send the message "SIGNOFF" to the host computer instead of "UNSUB." Do not send this message to the list itself, but instead send it to the "LISTSERV@...". Posting to the list itself sends your message to the many people on the list, who now have to read your plea!

If you want to send a question or message to the people on the list, you must send the following e-mail message:

To: LM_NET@SUVM.BITNET
From: LBSCOTT@ECUVM.BITNET
Type the text of your message here!

This will send your message to everyone on the list! Other types of messages can be sent to the "LISTSERV." For example, you can stop and start mail when you go away by sending the command "SET LM_NET NOMAIL" to the "LISTSERV." Some other options are: SET ACK or SET MSGACK (acknowledges messages back to you when received); SET REPRO (sends you a carbon copy back); SET NOACK (turns off acknowledge feature described above); REVIEW (gives a description of the list contents; produces a list of all the people subscribed to the list); SET DIGEST (provides the list in digested (compressed) form); SET MAIL (turns mail back on after using NOMAIL option); LIST (sends you back a list of all the list groups on the host computer).

Featured Internet Site

In each future "Wired to the World" column, I will discuss an important Internet site that I have found useful. With the coming of winter weather, this issue features a site that gives information on the latest road conditions. It is a World Wide Web site, so point your favorite browser to: **http://www.truckers.com**

Here you will find information on highway safety, speed traps, and a state-by-state listing of road conditions. Some states (such as Illinois and Indiana) provide hourly text updates of driving conditions. This can be very helpful to patrons traveling during the holidays. A few states (California and Texas) have live cameras that show the traffic load on Interstate highways updated every few minutes. Other states have more medium term information. The North Carolina Department of Transportation, for example, has posted information on NCDOT Highway project notices. This way you can check to see if construction will hamper you travel.

I have found this site very helpful when traveling. It the type of thing libraries can do for the public that makes them information providers rather than just material warehouses. When bond referendum time comes, people often remember things like this that the library provided. Internet access is a good way to win friends over to the library!

Instructions for the Preparation of Manuscripts for *North Carolina Libraries*

1. **North Carolina Libraries** seeks to publish articles, materials reviews, and bibliographies of professional interest to librarians in North Carolina. Articles need not be of a scholarly nature, but they should address professional concerns of the library community in the state.
2. Manuscripts should be directed to Frances B. Bradburn, Editor, **North Carolina Libraries**, Media and Technology, State Dept. of Public Instruction, 301 N. Wilmington St., Raleigh, NC 27601-2825.
3. Manuscripts should be submitted in triplicate on plain white paper measuring 8 1/2" x 11" and on computer disk.
4. Manuscripts must be double-spaced (text, references, and footnotes). Macintosh computer is the computer used by **North Carolina Libraries**. Computer disks formatted for other computers must contain a file of the document in original format and a file in ASCII. Please consult editor for further information.
5. The name, position, and professional address of the author should appear in the bottom left-hand corner of a separate title page. The author's name should not appear anywhere else on the document.
6. Each page should be numbered consecutively at the top right-hand corner and carry the title (abbreviated if necessary) at the upper left-hand corner.
7. Footnotes should appear at the end of the manuscript. The editors will refer to The Chicago Manual of Style, 14th edition. The basic forms for books and journals are as follows:

   Keyes Metcalf, Planning Academic and Research Library Buildings (New York: McGraw, 1965), 416.
   Susan K. Martin, "The Care and Feeding of the MARC Format," American Libraries 10 (September 1970): 498.

8. Photographs will be accepted for consideration but cannot be returned.
9. Upon receipt, a manuscript will be acknowledged by the editor. Following review of the manuscript by the editor and at least two jurors, a decision will be communicated to the writer. A definite publication date cannot be given since any incoming manuscript will be added to a manuscript bank from which articles are selected for each issue.
10. **North Carolina Libraries** holds the copyright for all accepted manuscripts. The journal is available both in print and electronically over the North Carolina Information Network.
11. Issue deadlines are February 10, May 10, August 10, and November 10. Manuscripts for a particular issue must be submitted at least 2 months before the issue deadline.