

RTSS Sponsors Automation in Technical Services Seminar at Southern Pines

As a direct result of the RTSS membership survey on what topics RTSS members wanted discussed more, on April 9 and 10, 1981, the Resources and Technical Services Section of NCLA sponsored a Symposium on Automation in Technical Services, which was held at the Sheraton Inn, Southern Pines, N. C. The Symposium, attended by 142 registrants from North Carolina, Virginia, and South Carolina, featured speeches by Richard Boss and Susan Epstein, as well as concurrent sessions on automated acquisitions, cataloging, and circulation, and concurrent sessions on retrospective conversion, COM Catalogs, and locally designed systems. The meeting concluded Friday, April 10 with a panel discussion on "The Present and Future of Networking and Resource Sharing in North Carolina and the Southeast," a topic arising directly from the focus on automation.

Richard Boss, one of the two featured speakers at the general sessions, is Senior Consultant of Information Systems Consultants, Inc., of Bethesda, Md. and Boston, Mass., and author of *THE LIBRARY MANAGER'S GUIDE TO AUTOMATION* (1979). Susan Epstein, the other main speaker for the general sessions, is Special Assistant to the County Librarian, Los Angeles Public Library System. In 1974 she installed the first COM catalog in the country.

At the conclusion of the meetings evaluation forms on the Symposium were returned by approximately two-thirds of those attending. The forms showed that those attending were pleased with the symposium meeting its objectives, with the new knowledge they gained, with the value of the information they gained, and with the physical arrangements and schedule. Those filling out the evaluations suggested a wide range of topics for future symposia: on-site visits by small groups to see actual automated systems in operation; visits to vendors with seminars to meet with their research and development personnel; demonstrations by vendors of library hardware and software; and mock sessions on cost evaluations for system selection. Other topics included archive tape processing, on-line patron access catalogs, system design, more about TRLN, and conversion projects.

The aim of RTSS this Biennium has been to present programs of immediate interest to the membership. If anyone has more suggestions for future programs, please contact the Executive Committee of the Resources and Technical Services Section.