

HEAR AND BE HEARD

The Education for Librarianship Committee's session October 7, 1981, was well attended by librarians and library educators from North and South Carolina. The program was designed to enable librarians and library educators to share concerns in round table discussion groups. A variety of perspectives emerged related to the following topics:

1. Types of continuing education offerings provided by library education programs.
 - A. Workshops on topics of current interest, e.g. 1½-2 days related to censorship, the handicapped.
 - B. Weekend courses.
 - C. Off-campus courses.
 - D. Evening courses.
 - E. Field-based courses and degree programs.
 - F. Non-credit "Friday Forums" and other lecture series.
 - G. Cooperative offerings with State Library and professional associations.
2. Continuing education needs of librarians.
 - A. Field-based courses are desirable due to commuting and time costs. A problem identified here is lack of resources at some off-campus sites.
 - B. Up-dates on changes in technology, e.g., computer applications, on-line searching.
 - C. Upgrading of administration and management competencies, management of archives; bibliographic instruction.
 - D. Identification of strong continuing education providers: library educators, practicing librarians, non-librarians, etc.
 - E. A clearinghouse for early identification of appropriate continuing education opportunities.
3. Competencies needed by the beginning librarian.
 - A. A theoretical background with practical experience in a library gained through field experience.
 - B. A broad liberal arts background.
 - C. Effective public relations skills.
 - D. Some felt more emphasis should be upon the "nuts and bolts," such as inventory, preventive maintenance, while others felt that the pre-service preparation must be "larger than the first job."
4. Place of practicum in a pre-service program.
 - A. Consensus that it is highly desirable, if not essential, for all types of libraries.
 - B. Should be carefully designed and personalized for needs of individual students.
 - C. Could be in various settings with exposure to different methods of operation.
 - D. Field trips, "shadowing" a librarian, perhaps a year of residency, were suggested methods.
5. Place of undergraduate pre-service program.
 - A. Most participants felt that this was not a desirable option.
 - B. Undergraduate degrees in information science, however, do have a place.