

Learning What's New from Library Newsletters: A Selected List of North Carolina Resources

by Gillian M. Debreczeny

Library newsletters, the subject of this selected list, are an often overlooked resource for keeping up with what is going on in the profession. They can provide information about programs and innovations that do not always get written up for publication in the major professional journals and will not be included in periodical indexes. Some of them can be a surprisingly good read for general information on a wide variety of topics. Many of these newsletters are produced to inform local patrons and sometimes to raise funds, but they also can be of interest to other librarians looking for ideas. North Carolina library newsletters come from academic, public, and special libraries as well as from interest groups of the state library association. Although many lively examples are available, library staff newsletters intended for internal use have not been included in this article.

Sadly, some excellent titles have ceased publication. Newsletters often depend on the availability of an enthusiastic local editor and support from the library administration. They may be among the first to suffer from funding cuts. In December 1995, the *Public Image* from the Neuse Regional Library suspended publication after the departure of its editor Dwight McInvaill. Having begun publication in September 1988, it was designed to educate public librarians in the importance of public relations for their systems. Over the years its scope was broadened to include a wide range of articles on professional topics; circulation rose to over 1,200 across the United States and abroad. Regrettably publication has not yet resumed. The North Carolina Foreign Language Center has published a modest folded-sheet newsletter since 1988, which will cease to exist in June 1998 when the Center loses its federal funding. The *NCFLC Quarterly* publicized a vital and unique service, and information services in North Carolina will be the poorer for its, and the Center's, demise.

Despite the loss of some valuable publications many exciting and interesting newsletters continue to flourish. The following listing is a limited sampling of the many library newsletters currently being published in North Carolina. It has been compiled from recently received newsletters in the library of the School of Information and Library Science and the North Carolina Collection at UNC-Chapel

Hill. It is not a complete listing of UNC-CH current holdings and does not include titles that have ceased publication. Each entry includes title, frequency, editor, address, telephone number, e-mail and URL where available, subscription information, and a brief annotation on the contents of recent issues. Unless otherwise stated, comments refer to the latest issue available. The author would appreciate hearing from editors of newsletters who would like to be considered for any future listing.

♦ Academic Libraries

Appal Notes

1-2 times yr. Editor: Patty Wheeler. Address: Belk Library, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC 28608. Tel.: (704) 262-2186. E-mail: wheelerpn@appstate.edu URL: <http://www.library.appstate.edu/home/> To receive: E-mail or write to editor. Also available on homepage.

The latest 6-page issue highlights the Library's assessment efforts including information on patron surveys, a serials review, the revamped book approval plan, the Wisconsin-Ohio Reference Evaluation Project, a monographic vendor review, the Library's collection analysis project, and an evaluation of services offered by the Music Library. Much practical information designed for campus users.

Duke University Libraries

3 times yr. Editor: B. Ilene Nelson. Address: Duke University Libraries, Box 90193, Durham, NC 27708-0193. Tel: (919) 660-5816. E-mail: bin@mail.lib.duke.edu Subscription inquiries to the editor at the above addresses.

Latest 28-page issue highlights the library's international collections with articles by the Ibero-American Bibliographer and the resource specialist for Slavic studies. There is an article about foreign resources on the Web and a selection of poetry by George Elliot Clarke. An elegant publication printed on glossy stock with an informative content aimed at researchers, library users, and potential donors.

Focus: the NCSU Libraries

3 times yr. Editor: Terrell Armistead Crow. Address: North Carolina State University, NCSU Libraries, Box 7111,

Raleigh, NC 27695-7111. To receive: Call the editor at (919) 515-5882.

Thirty-two pages of information on recent developments in the library, exhibits and fund raising, and profiles of new staff members comprise the latest issue of this newsletter. It is well illustrated with many photographs. The last two volumes present a lively picture of the many projects and initiatives underway at NCSU. For campus users and potential donors.

Hunter's Clarion

Irregular. Editor: Becky Kornegay. Address: Hunter Library, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC 28723. Tel.: (704) 227-7307. To receive: Request from director at address above.

An example of a small (6-page) newsletter that combines information on recent developments in the library, collections available, library hours, events, and fundraising. Designed for campus users.

LIBRARY COLUMNS: Walter Clinton Jackson Library

Irregular. Editor: Betty Morrow. Address: UNC-Greensboro, 1000 Spring Garden St., NC 27412-5201. Tel.: (336) 334-5781. E-mail: betty_morrow@uncg.edu To receive: E-mail editor.

The April 1996 issue has nine pages and includes items on a music collection, the new online book requests and renewal services, electronic reference sources, the Kelmscott and Gogmagog Presses, Internet resources subject guides, local technical experts training, and staff news.

WINDOWS

2 times yr. Editors: Tanya Fortner and Marcella Grendler. Address: Friends of the Library, Academic Affairs Library, CB# 3902, UNC-CH, Chapel Hill, NC 27514-8890. To receive: With membership in the Friends of the Library (\$25). Correspondence to Liza Terll at the above address.

An eight-page newsletter aimed at potential donors with articles on donated collections, and donors, a report on the UNC Tar Heel Bus Tour to introduce new faculty and staff to the state, and short news briefs on UNC-CH's library events. Well laid out and illustrated with photographs.

♦ Public Libraries

Check it Out: A library newsletter supported by the Friends of Rowan Public Library

Quarterly. Editor: Marian Lytle. Address: Rowan Public Library, 201 West Fisher Street, P.O. Box 4039, Salisbury, NC 28145-4039. Tel.: (704) 638-3000. URL: <http://www.lib.co.rowan.nc.us> To receive: Contact editor at above address.

Four pages with a pleasing font and several photos and graphics. It publicizes upcoming programs and reports on the Rowan Public Library's special mention in the 1997 *Library Journal*/Gale Research Library of the Year Award competition. Includes the new RPL Logo to be found on the library's home page.

Friends of the Chapel Hill Public Library Newsletter

Monthly. Editor: Margery Thompson. Address: Friends of the Chapel Hill Public Library, 100 Library Drive, Chapel Hill, NC 27514. Tel.: (919) 968-2777. URL: <http://www.community.citysearch.com/FCHLibrary> To receive: With membership in Friends of the Library (\$10)

Four page of news about upcoming events, an-

nouncement of the Library Foundation's Needs Assessment Task Force, introduction of new staff member, and announcement of children's events. Illustrated with photos.

Happenings: Asheville-Buncombe Library System

Monthly. Editor: Deborah Compton. Address: Friends of Buncombe County Libraries, P.O. Box 18132, Asheville, NC 28814. Tel: (704) 255-5203. To receive: With membership in Friend of the Buncombe County Libraries (\$6).

Four pages announce hours, upcoming programs, and awards to the library to improve service. Includes an article on how books are selected for the library. Illustrated with graphics. Format will be changing shortly.

PLCMC News

Irregular. Editor: Sharon M. Johnston. Address: Public Library of Charlotte & Mecklenburg County, 310 North Tryon Street, Charlotte, NC 28202. Tel.: (704) 336-2801. To receive: With membership in Friends of the Library. Address as above, attention Sharon Johnston.

Latest issue available (Fall 96) is an 11x 25-inch folded 6-page imaginatively laid-out newsletter on glossy stock with many photos. It is designed for Friends of the Library and highlights grants and gifts received. It also publicizes the work of the library, services and programs offered, and profiles library staff.

♦ NC Library Association Interest Groups

Ms Management: A Publication of the Roundtable on the Status of Women In Librarianship

Irregular. Editors: Rex Klett and Anne Thrower. Address: Klett: Mitchell Community College, 500 West Broad St., Statesville, NC 28677. Tel: (704) 878-3271; Thrower: Richmond County Public Library, 412 East Franklin St., Rockingham, NC 28397. To receive: With membership in NC Library Association and \$5 for membership in Round Table to: NCLA, c/o State Library Association, 109 E. Jones Street, Raleigh, NC.

Six-to eight-page newsletter illustrated with graphics and occasional photos. Issues contain reflections from members on a wide range of issues, reports of workshops, and recommended reading. The November 1996 issue includes an interview with Elinor Swaim recounting how she became interested in libraries, and the work she has done on their behalf.

♦ Special Libraries

NCSLA Bulletin

Quarterly. Editors: Andrea Rohrbacher and Kristen Roland. Address: Glaxo Welcome, 3030 Cornwallis Rd., RTP, NC 27709. Tel: (919) 483-1816 e-mail: alr36770@glaxowellcome.com URL: <http://ils.unc.edu/ncsla> To receive: Membership in national Special Libraries Association. Contact Ginny Hauswald, Winston-Salem Journal News Library, P.O. Box 3159, Winston-Salem, NC 27101. Tel.: (336) 727-4071. E-mail: vhauswald@w-s-journal.com Also available from NCSLA homepage at above URL.

Twenty-one pages including advertisements. Area group reports and student group reports contain much information about special library activities in North Carolina, as do the minutes of meetings. Information on upcoming meetings and employment opportunity information are included.