

faculty about library matters. Henry Stewart, assistant dean, Old Dominion University Libraries, surveyed the role and makeup of faculty library committees in Virginia academic libraries.

In November the chapter will meet with the Virginia Library Association at the Homestead. David Kaser, professor of library science, Indiana University, will speak on the subject "The Two Faces of Librarians in the Twentieth Century."

• The WISCONSIN ACRL CHAPTER held a winter conference at Mount Telemark, Cable, Wisconsin, on February 15-16. The conference theme was "Your Job, How to Love It—Not Leave It." Dennis Mannering, president of Options Unlimited, Green Bay, gave a keynote address entitled "Attitude Assessment and Job Satis-

faction." Mannering also conducted a "hands on" workshop on the factors that influence employee morale. Don L. Tolliver gave a sneak preview of the now classic University of Wisconsin System Library Study.

On September 27-28 the chapter will hold its fall conference at the Quality Inn, Madison. The theme will be "Evaluation of Library Services." Featured speakers will be Thomas Galvin, University of Pittsburgh; Michael Gorman of AACR 2; Arthur Tannenbaum, New York University; Carolyn Snyder, Indiana University; Jeff Gardiner, ARL office; and others. Contact Linda Olson or John J. Jax, Pierce Library, University of Wisconsin-Stout, Menomonie, WI 54751; (715) 232-2128. ■■



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The process of amending the public printing and documents portion of the *United States Code* (Title 44) will have passed the hearing stage by the time this issue of the *News* reaches the mails. The current review of Title 44 may lead to the single biggest change in federal publishing laws since their inception in 1895.

Revision of Title 44 raises a number of fundamental questions. What should be the role of the federal government in generating, producing, and disseminating information? How centralized should the federal printing and publishing capability be (i.e., should there be a central Government Printing Office)? Who should pay for government information (should it be supported by tax monies or user fees)? What should be the balance between government-supported and commercial services relating to federal documents? What should be the future of the Depository Library System?

A key question for libraries is federal support for the depository libraries program. Thirteen hundred libraries serve as depositories for federal documents. The selection and processing of federal publications on a monthly basis usually entails a sizable commitment of staff time and effort for these libraries. Providing access to the documents often requires additional expenditures for bibliographical assistance, supplemental indexes and research aids, microform printers, and readers. If the federal government has an obliga-

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tion to make the information it generates widely available, should it not go beyond merely providing "free" publications and help underwrite the expenses of the depository operation? In other words, shouldn't the government provide additional assistance to depository libraries in the form of training, equipment, toll-free access to government agencies, etc.?

The government's role in printing and publishing is another issue Congress must face. Is there a need for a massive government printing and publishing complex? Some argue that government publishing should be contracted out to commercial firms by competitive bidding or the like. This alternative is not necessarily incompatible with the depository program, since the government could furnish libraries with book coupons redeemable for commercially published government materials (along the lines of the food stamp program).

"Political" factors, as well as complex philosophical issues, make the job of revising Title 44 a tough one. Chief among the political factors is the sheer size of the revision effort required. The more complex the bill, the more difficult it is to get interested parties to agree. Among the interested groups are: libraries, the information and printing industries, federal departments and agencies, the Government Printing Office, government publicists, the Joint Committee on Printing, and committees in the Senate and House. To arrive at a major legislative package that accommodates the needs of such diverse groups is the challenge.

By late September we should have a much clearer idea of how the political and policy issues were resolved in the final version of the bill placed before the House and Senate. ■■