

Letters

Making new books available quickly

To the Editor:

I hope you will let me comment on an article that appeared some time ago in *C&RL News*: "Patron access to on-order and in-process titles," by Elizabeth Ten Have and Denise Forro (December 1992). In it the authors note: "In the past this type of assistance was relatively unknown in academic libraries. A search of the library literature shows that even in today's automated libraries, with the benefits of integrated systems, this is a fairly unique service. Many libraries do not offer access to materials that are waiting for cataloging, let alone items that are on order."

I believe, through a glitch in *Library Literature*, two articles (and perhaps more) that dealt with browsing and circulating newly acquired, uncataloged books have been lost to researchers. As the author of one of the articles, "Backlog to Frontlog" (*Library Journal*, September 1, 1969), I would like to amend the record. Daniel Gore, then librari-

an of MacAlester College, adapted my approach for an academic environment. He published an article in *LJ* (September 1, 1972) with the great title, "In Hot Pursuit of FASTCAT."

For browsing (and many books are selected by browsing), my Frontlog System shelved uncataloged books in a public area in "accession" number order. Gore added the appropriate LC classification prefix letters to divide the Frontlog/FASTCAT book by broad subject categories.

The Orange (NJ) Public Library still uses the Frontlog System. All adult books awaiting cataloging are on public shelves available for browsing and borrowing. I suspect even in academic libraries newly published books circulate better than older books.

In this era of "Customer Service" we all should consider making new books browsable and available for circulation.—*Marvin H. Silken*, The U.N.A.B.A.S.H.E.D Librarian ■

instruction in academic or research libraries, originality, timeliness, and quality of writing.

Eligibility: Publications include journal articles, books, and book chapters. Submitted publications may be authored by one or more individuals, a group, organization, or committee. BIS publications are not eligible for consideration for the award. Publication year is defined as September through August of the year preceding the year the award is given.

Submission procedure: Submit a two-page summary, a copy of the publication, and nomination form (available from the committee chair) to: Lori Arp, University of Colorado, Norlin Library, Campus Box 184, Boulder, CO 80309-0184; (303) 492-3901.

Deadline: December 1, 1994.

Oberly Award for Bibliography in Agricultural Sciences

The biennial Oberly Award is given in odd-numbered years for the best English-language bibliography in the field of agriculture or a related science.

Award: The cash award and citation are made possible by a fund established in 1923

by colleagues in memory of Eunice Rockwood Oberly, late librarian of the Bureau of Plant Industry, United States Department of Agriculture. The award is administered by the ACRL Science and Technology Section.

Eligibility: English-language bibliographies in the field of agriculture or a related science compiled during the two-year period preceding the year in which the award is made.

Criteria: Bibliographies submitted for award consideration are judged on accuracy, scope, usefulness, format, and special features: explanatory introductions, annotations, and indexes. To be eligible for the 1995 award, a bibliography must have been published in 1993 or 1994. (*Ed. note:* See page 471 for tips on preparing award-winning bibliographies.)

Submission procedure: Nominations may be made in the form of a letter and should point out the reasons the bibliography should be considered for the award. A copy of the bibliography should accompany the nomination. Send nominations to: Mike Haddock, Oberly Jury Chair, 3005 Wilson Ave., Manhattan, KS 66502-3257; (913) 532-7418.

Deadline: December 1, 1994. ■