

Washington Hotline



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Land grant institution libraries will be particularly interested in the 1990 farm bill, which consolidates and expands the statutory authority of the National Agricultural Library to serve "as the primary agricultural information resource of the United States." In addition to basic library functions, the NAL director is to "cooperate with and coordinate efforts among agricultural college and university libraries, in conjunction with private industry and other agricultural library and information centers, toward the development of a comprehensive agricultural library and information network." The library is also to "coordinate the development of specialized subject information services among the agricultural and library information communities."

The NAL director may "(1) make copies of the bibliographies prepared by the National Agricultural Library; (2) make microforms and other reproductions of books and other library materials in the Department; 3) provide any other library and information products and services; and (4) sell those products and services at such prices (not less than the estimated total cost of disseminating the products and services) as the Secretary may determine appropriate." This rather open-ended authority for fee-based services also allows NAL to collect and retain funds from these transactions, and to enter into agreements to receive funds from non-federal entities.

The library requested the enhanced authority, as well as establishment of a Board of Regents. House-Senate conferees generally followed the Senate NAL language and dropped the Board of Regents, which had been included in the House-passed bill, HR 3950. S. 2830, the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990, was given final approval by Congress in late October and signed into law (PL 101-624) by President Bush on November 28. Section 1606 of PL 101-624 amends the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.) by adding a new section 1010A, "National Agricultural Library."

Title XXIII of PL 101-624 is Rural Development, and contains several provisions relating to improvement of rural telecommunications, economic development, and information dissemination. A National Rural Information Center Clearinghouse is established at NAL to provide and distribute information and data about programs and services available to rural areas, with \$500,000 per year authorized from FY 1991-95. The Clearinghouse is to work cooperatively with the Extension Service in each state, use telecommunications technology to reach rural areas to the extent possible, and develop and make accessible a catalog of rural development programs.

The Rural Electrification Act definition of telephone service is updated to include reception as well as transmission, data as well as voice, and by expanding the conduit to encompass "wire, fiber, radio, light, or other visual or electromagnetic means." The Rural Electrification Administration, in acting as an information clearinghouse for electric and telephone borrowers on rural development, is to use NAL resources to the extent practicable.

(continued on next page)

Washington Hotline (cont'd)

In section 2078, the bill also instructs the congressional Office of Technology Assessment to (in the words of the conference report, H. Rept. 101-916) "analyze the effect of new information technology on rural America, the ability of rural citizens to acquire advanced technology, and recommend ways in which the Library of Congress may connect with rural citizens by computer to share information in the national library."



Prepared by Barbara Brown

*College Libraries Committee
Commission on Preservation and Access*

• **Evanston, Illinois.** The Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) Libraries (University of Chicago, University of Illinois, Indiana University, University of Iowa, University of Michigan, Michigan State University, University of Minnesota, Northwestern University, Ohio State University, Purdue University, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Pennsylvania State University) have begun a one-year program at Northwestern University to investigate the implementation of mass deacidification. The project is funded in part by the Council on Library Resources. The goal of the project is to provide the CIC libraries with a framework for implementing mass deacidification when it becomes technically and economically feasible. For more information about the project, contact: Sue H. Nutty, CIC Mass Deacidification Coordinator, Northwestern University Library, Preservation Department, 1935 Sheridan Road, Evanston, IL 60208, phone (708) 467-1379.

• **Lexington, Virginia.** The one-week preservation management seminar developed by the College Libraries Committee of the Commission on Preservation and Access and SOLINET for college librarians with part-time preservation responsibility will be offered for the first time on the Washington and Lee University campus, July 20-27, 1991. The cost of tuition, room and board, and materials will be \$1,200. Attendance is open to librarians throughout the nation, but registrants will be se-

lected on an application basis. The deadline for receipt of applications is March 15, 1991. Application information and description of the curriculum are available from: Lisa Fox, SOLINET, 400 Colony Square, Plaza Level, Atlanta, GA 30361-6301, phone (800) 999-8558, fax (404) 892-7879.

• **Washington, DC.** The Association of Physical Plant Administrators of Universities and Colleges has announced the schedule and speakers for the course it is offering in cooperation with the Commission on Preservation and Access, "Preservation of Library and Archival Materials," February 28-March 1, 1991, at the Holiday Inn Capitol, in Washington, DC. The keynote speaker will be Billy Frye, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost at Emory University. Other speakers are Donald G. Kelsey, University of Minnesota; Maureen Sullivan, Yale University; and Robert Burke, Charles Dunn, Nancy Gwinn, Michael Legue, Lawrence Stuebing, J. Andrew Wilson, and Howard Wink, all from the Smithsonian Institution. The purpose of the program is to foster better working relationships and an understanding of needs between librarians/archivists and physical plant administrators in an effort to improve the environmental conditions of library and archival materials. Registration is \$325 before February 1, \$375 after. Registration information is available from: APPA Seminars, 1446 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-3492, (703) 684-1446, fax (703) 549-2772.