

SOLINET™

Volume 5, Issue 4
July/August 2008

SOLUTIONS

CONNECTING YOU TO THE VALUE OF MEMBERSHIP

FEATURING: SOLINET IS ITS MEMBERS by KATE NEVINS p. 2

SOLINET WELCOMES HOOSIERS p. 3

Infopeople p. 8

Gulf Coast
Update p. 9

Coping with
Change
p. 5

SOLUTIONS

CONNECTING YOU TO THE VALUE OF MEMBERSHIP

SOLINET SOLUTIONS is published six times a year by SOLINET, the Southeastern Library Network. Current and past **SOLUTIONS** issues are available in PDF form on the SOLINET Web site.

Please complete the [subscription](#) form to be included on the mailing list for *Solutions*.

SOLINET SOLUTIONS STAFF

Editor: Synthia Cole

Designer: Sam Mitchell

CONTACT INFORMATION

Web: www.solinet.net

Telephone: 800-999-8558; 404-892-0943

Fax: 404-892-7879

SOLINET, a membership organization founded in 1973, strengthens libraries and the communities they support through cooperation, leadership, and services.

SOLINET offers classes and training for library staff, preservation services, consulting, access to and support of OCLC products and services as well as discounts on electronic resources and library products.



Thirty-five years ago, SOLINET began to collaborate with and serve libraries in the Southeast. Over the years, that collaboration has expanded to include more regional and national partners who share SOLINET's commitment to improve access to information and facilitate effective library service to member communities.

That shared commitment has yielded significant improvements to librarianship. Together, we have made an extensive offering of continuing education classes available to library staff in face-to-face and online formats. Together, we have implemented innovative library programs like the Consortial Licensing Program, which relieves consortia of time-consuming tasks. Together, we have provided a wide range of preservation services to maintain members' unique collections. Together, we have secured the funding needed to ensure that library services remain available to patrons affected by hurricanes and other natural disasters, as with the Gulf Coast Public and Academic Libraries Projects. These are just a few contributions to the library field that SOLINET has made as a result of and on behalf of members.

SOLINET continues to grow in services and in membership. Since 1973, our membership has grown from 99 charter members to more than 3,400 information organizations. Once dedicated to serving libraries in the Southeast, SOLINET has expanded its reach to support libraries in the Caribbean and most recently the Midwestern state of Indiana.

I am so excited about the Indiana State Library's membership. The inclusion of more than 1000 libraries in the cooperative creates numerous opportunities for new and improved library services, for Indiana libraries and all SOLINET members.

SOLINET was founded on the premise that libraries can do more together than individually. Together, we have proven that philosophy to be true. SOLINET looks forward with confidence to another 35 years of serving you.



Kate Nevins, Executive Director



Indiana State Library Joins SOLINET!

By Synthia Cole, SOLUTIONS Editor



"The Indiana State Library strives to provide the best quality library services to all Hoosiers. This new partnership supports that strategic mission."

-Roberta Brooker, Indiana State Librarian

Indiana State Library is a member of SOLINET, the Southeastern Library Network. If this membership sounds exceptional, that's because it is. SOLINET was established to support information organizations in the Southeast. But this year, as the cooperative celebrates its 35th anniversary, SOLINET is transcending regional boundaries to service the needs of libraries throughout the United States, including the exceptional Indiana State Library.

Under the direction of Roberta Brooker, State Librarian, the Indiana State Library has succeeded in making its unique collections more accessible to the public. The Library, once one of the best kept secrets in Indiana, is pursuing new opportunities and partnerships that benefit not only the State Library, but Indiana's library community. One such opportunity is partnering with SOLINET. "This is an exciting opportunity for Indiana's library professionals to work with a nationally recognized leader in



Coping with Change

By Synthia Cole, SOLUTIONS Editor

THE ELECTRONIC AGE, with its continuous technological advances and Internet use, has dramatically altered the library landscape. So how can libraries maintain credibility as an information source? And how do librarians cope with the deluge of information needed to keep pace with rapid changes in the library field?

As I discussed the current landscape of the library profession with Cal Shepard, Manager of Consortial Outreach (leader of SOLINET's Consulting Services Program) and Karen Brown Letarte, Consultant for Library Planning and Effectiveness, I discovered their passion for libraries and readiness to help library staff through challenging times.

Q: SOLINET's Consulting Services Program has provided assistance to libraries for nine years. How do you maintain the program's effectiveness amid ongoing changes in the field?

CS: We respond to input from our members about consulting assistance in specific areas. For example, many members expressed a desire for help with re-engineering their libraries and requests for workflow analysis have been constant. So, we started looking for a consultant with the expertise needed to advance the program appropriately. The environment for cataloging is changing rapidly and in large ways. Karen's deep expertise with cataloging not to mention her experience with process redesign, positions us to help libraries cope with change effectively.

Library users have a lot of options for gathering information. Therefore, library staff need help to stay relevant in the information age. We will continue to evaluate the Consulting Services Program and expand our resources as needed to serve member needs.

Q: Given these changes, do you have any particular concerns?

KBL: Yes, brain drain! Like many others in the field, I am concerned about the wave of retirements that will affect not only the professional ranks, but also support staff.

We've been fortunate to have enjoyed a long period of relative stability where we've retained librarians for 20 or 30 years. We've also taken the contributions of our dedicated and knowledgeable support staff for granted. As technology continues to drive change and redefine roles and user expectations, duties that were formerly the province of librarians are now delegated to support staff. Inadequate compensation for the level of work performed and the lack of opportunities for advance-

ment in the support staff ranks pose significant challenges for retention.

Q: What additional assistance can SOLINET's consultants offer to help members deal with impending change?

KBL: SOLINET's consulting team can help libraries plan for and manage change strategically and proactively through the services we provide. Our staff embodies a wide range of experience and expertise, offering members a wealth of resources to draw upon. Retooling, re-skilling, and reengineering are becoming increasingly important as

libraries move further into the digital arena. Our consulting services team can provide assistance to members through the various stages of these processes.

CS: What continues to blow my mind is just how useful it can be for library staff to have an objective observer come in and help them! The important word here is "objective." As observers, we often see what no one else sees. And, as an "outsider," we can say what no one else feels comfortable saying. We're very good at dealing with the 300-pound gorilla in the living room!

Q: As a new SOLINET consultant, what difference do you hope to make in the Consulting Services Program?

KBL: One of the most important attributes that SOLINET brings to our members is the "local touch." By developing a network of consultants that can provide customized services to meet each member's specific needs, SOLINET provides the local touch with a global reach. My hope is to expand our areas of expertise so that we can support members in achieving their goals and offer the best possible services to library users.



SOLINET's Consulting Services Program provides rock-solid answers for library staff, especially during challenging times.

Q: Do you think members have misconceptions about SOLINET's Consulting Services?

CS: I think that some members may think consulting is too expensive or is just for large libraries. The fact is that consulting can help libraries of all sizes, and it's not that expensive when you look at the alternative! Workflow and reengineering projects help libraries save money so they can pay for themselves. Other types of projects, such as preservation and resource sharing, can help libraries do what they cannot do by themselves.

I'd like for members to think of SOLINET as their partner. We work with our members to help them create better libraries. And I know we are effective—as our evaluations regularly show. Our consultants are very, very good at what they do. Most of them are librarians, and they understand the environment in which libraries operate.

We offer realistic solutions and make recommendations that are feasible. Here are comments from some of our members about our services:

"We wanted an outside facilitator who knew libraries and who could keep our discussions on track and productive. Kate Nevins did all of this! She gave our group the "jump-start" that we were looking for. She met and exceeded our expectations."

-Carla Beasley, Assistant Director, Planning & Facilities, Forsyth County Public Library, Cumming, GA

"We are excited about the focus, observations, and adjustments we have made and will be able to make in our department as a result of the consultant's assessment. I highly recommend it."

-Connie Foster, Head, Dept. of Library Technical Services, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY

With more than 3,400 information organizations in its membership, over 35 years of experience, and an extensive network of nationally recognized consultants, SOLINET is uniquely positioned to help libraries of all types and sizes in a broad range of subject areas. For creative, cost-effective solutions, contact SOLINET Consulting Services today!



Cal Shepard and Karen Brown Letarte discuss Program strategies.



More Training = More Options

By Synthia Cole, SOLUTIONS Editor

What happens when the educational resources of one organization are joined with another? More opportunities become available. That's precisely why SOLINET's Educational Services Program and California State Library's Infopeople Project are partnering—to broaden training opportunities for both members and non-members.

Currently offering a catalog of more than 720 courses on administration, marketing, programming and a comprehensive selection of library topics, SOLINET's Educational Services Program is expanding its course offerings to include workshops and webinars from California State Library's Infopeople Project. "We are excited to enter into this education exchange project with Infopeople. Our members will benefit from having access to class offerings from Infopeople, and their members will have access to SOLINET's online classes at member rates," said Heather Dray, Educational Services Manager.

Infopeople offers courses on a broad range of subject areas including:

- Library Grantwriting
- Understanding, Accommodating and Attracting Boomer Patrons
- Universal Design: Finding Assistive Features Hidden in Mainstream Technologies

Continuing education and professional development are key elements in improving library operations. "Being able to offer new sorts of training options through our partnership with SOLINET helps us fulfill our promise to deliver high quality training to the California library community. This is, we hope, 'the start of a beautiful friendship'," said Holly Hinman, Infopeople Project Director.

For more information about this project, please visit www.infopeople.org.



A teenage patron surfs the net at New Orleans Public Library-Martin Luther King branch.



From Temporary Needs to Permanent Solutions:

Library Service Update Along the Gulf Coast

By Cheri Smithson, Gulf Coast Planning and Grants Coordinator
Photography by Tracie Morris Schaefer

Three years after the devastating storms of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the redevelopment of communities along the Gulf's 442 miles of recovering coastline continues. There, temporary library branches are housed throughout Louisiana and Mississippi in modular trailers equipped with Internet-ready, wireless laptops. Delivering their own powerful punch, these facilities are providing essential technologies to residents who have no other access to computers.

Recognizing the tremendous need to keep communities connected in the aftermath of the storms, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation awarded a \$12.2 million Gulf Coast Libraries Project grant to SOLINET in June

2006. Today, the deployment of 164 computers located in 17 temporary facilities and four bookmobiles have single-handedly raised the profile of the region's public libraries by offering residents up-to-date technical solutions, in addition to further integrating library systems into their community.

Recovery Ripples Through the Region

The grant has expeditiously helped cities and towns get back on their feet. "The insertion of vital technologies in temporary public libraries has played a crucial role in the continuity of operations and recovery for businesses, government agencies, and our citizens," reports Irvin Mayfield, Board Chair of New Orleans Public Library. The arrival of new technologies is being celebrated across parish and county lines as Project milestones rolled out at a steady pace. Last month, the Plaquemines Parish Public Library ferried its new grant-funded wireless bookmobile to the town of Buras, Louisiana, where residents went nearly three years without library service after Hurricane Katrina.

In Hancock County, Mississippi, the Pearlington temporary library computers are always in use by patrons who pay bills online, apply for jobs and complete housing applications.

Meanwhile, in the remote Parish of Cameron, Louisiana, the library system marked the one-year anniversary of operations for two temporary branches—the first facilities installed by the Project in February 2007. Children's programming is particularly abundant including virtual field trips, Wii games, summer movie nights, online homework tutoring and weekend karaoke competitions.

Outlook for the Future

With support from the Gulf Coast Libraries Project, libraries along the Gulf Coast are now equipped with the technological muscle and know-how needed to provide access to patrons at previously unattainable levels. Project manager, Mary Ellin Santiago says the Project will not slow down as it enters its third year because the mission is as important as ever. "Our goals will include installing more computers, employing more residents, witnessing groundbreaking for rebuilding initiatives, and the opening of new libraries where the permanent replacement of public access computers will conclude our work. She added, "Free access to technology will always be of inestimable value. By fulfilling an essential need that no other service provides, these libraries will continue to flourish long into the future."



A patron browses through the fiction selection at Harrison County Library System- Gulf Port branch.

SOLINET would like to thank the following members for their contributions to the restoration of library services along the Gulf Coast:

- Alamance County Public Library
- Buncombe County Public Library
- Central Rappahannock Regional Library
- Chapin Memorial Library
- Charleston County Public Library
- Chesterfield County Public Library
- College of Charleston Library
- Davidson College
- Dillard University
- First Regional Library
- Gaston-Lincoln Regional Library
- Hampton County Library
- Kershaw County Library
- Knox County Public Library System
- Laurens County Library System
- Lincoln Parish Library

- Live Oak Public Libraries
- Maitland Public Library Staff Association
- Nashville Public Library
- Newport News Public Library System
- Old Dominion University
- Owensboro Community & Technical College
- Prince William Public Library System
- Putnam County Library
- Regent University Library
- Salem Public Library
- Tingley Public Library
- Transylvania County Library
- University of North Carolina at Greensboro
- Waynesboro-Wayne County Library System
- Yazoo Library Association



Meet The Board

An upclose and personal view of...

George Gaumont

By Synthia Cole, SOLUTIONS Editor

Name:

George R. Gaumont

Title:

University Librarian

Library Name:

Odum Library

Education:

BA in History, University of South Carolina; MA in Library and Information Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; PhD in Library and Information Science, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

First paid job:

During high school, I worked as a grocery clerk. After college, I became an officer in the U.S. Navy. I attended college on an NROTC academic scholarship for all four undergraduate years, so I had a four-year military obligation after graduation. This was during the Vietnam War. I was fortunate, however, to be assigned to the Atlantic Fleet, not the Pacific. I served on two ships and one shore assignment before resigning my commission to attend graduate school.

First paid job in a library:

Reference librarian at the University

of North Carolina at Wilmington was my first paid job in a library. It was a new position that was created because the school was growing. My wife and I were happy to return to a coastal city on the East Coast, especially since we had left Virginia Beach before moving to Illinois.

Greatest achievement:

Accreditation by the American Library Association (ALA) of the Master of Library and Information Science Program (MLIS) at Valdosta State University (VSU) is my greatest achievement to date. I was fortunate to be associated with an excellent faculty who worked very hard for five years to progress through the ALA accreditation process. My personal association with the project was fifteen years—from the initial planning committee meeting at VSU to the Committee on Accreditation's decision at ALA in Washington, DC.

What attracted you to the library profession:

I was most attracted to the academic environment. I had originally planned on becoming a history professor. Those plans changed after my military service. When I started looking for graduate

schools to attend, I found out that the job market for historians was extremely tight. I had stayed in contact with my history adviser at South Carolina, the professor for whom I wrote my senior thesis. He advised me not to get a PhD in history but suggested other options, one of which was librarianship. I applied to several library schools, made campus visits, and eventually decided on Illinois because of the program's academic ranking and the support for graduate student families. We had a good experience. I think my son will always remember flying kites at the edge of the cornfields behind graduate student housing. He was three years old at the time.

Last books read:

My Life in France by Julia Child with Alex Prud'Homme (Knopf, 2006)

Last eBook read:

Judgment of Paris: California vs. France and the 1976 Paris Tasting That Revolutionized Wine by George Taber (Scribner, 2005)

I have a Kindle so I read a lot of eBooks. I think Amazon has nearly perfected the eBook reader.

Next book you'd like to read:

Empires of the Sea: The Siege of Malta, the Battle of Lepanto, and the Contest for the Center of the World by Roger Crowley (Random House, 2008). It is already downloaded in my Kindle.

Last movie seen:

No Reservations

Favorite food/restaurant:

I enjoy low fat/low salt cuisine, preferably cooked at home. I like to think of myself as an amateur gourmet cook. My wife and I have been cooking together for years. We adopted a healthy lifestyle nearly forty years ago after my father had a heart attack at a young age. It is a struggle to eat calorie-laden and over-salted restaurant food. Generally I prefer to cook adapted French cuisine. My wife and I read a plethora of cooking and wine magazines each month.

Dog or cat?

Dogs bark at and bite runners. Our family has had many cats over the years, but none currently. Our adult son, however, has two dogs.

Last vacation:

We frequently vacation in Hilton Head, South Carolina in the spring and fall, when our academic calendars allow us a little free time.

Favorite website:

I seem to consult so many each day. I particularly like MSN.com for its breadth of coverage, but also scan several national and regional newspapers.

Hobbies:

Running and cooking

Heroes/person you'd like to meet:

I'd like to meet Marcus Tullius Cicero, so he could tutor me in Latin.

Fantasy job:

World famous chef

What do you like most about your library?

I had a hand in building more than half of it. Odum Library was built in 1970 as the second library for Valdosta State University. (Eleanor Roosevelt dedicated the first in 1941.) We more than doubled the space in 2004 after a major addition. Now our library is open,

accessible, and contemporary in user space with ample computer labs, group and individual study space, and a coffee shop. We are heavily used 24/5 (closed Friday and Saturday nights) and have regained that "center of campus" role often ascribed to academic libraries. It is a pleasure to see students flow through the library. I like that feeling the most.

What have you learned from being on the SOLINET Board of Directors?

I have learned that there is strength in collaboration.

What are you looking forward to doing as a Board leader?

I'm looking forward to helping to manage our future organization. With our changing business model there are many challenges and opportunities for us.

One hundred years from now, what do you want people to remember about you?

I'd like for people to remember my contributions to Georgia librarianship.



**Odum Library
Valdosta, GA**



'08 Presidential Debate

Two of three presidential debates of 2008 will be hosted by SOLINET member institutions. These historical events will take place:

September 26 at the University of Mississippi
(aka Ole Miss)
Gertrude Castello Ford Center for the Performing Arts
Oxford, MS

"We are very honored and excited to be hosting the first presidential debate, and we also look forward to all the wonderful educational opportunities that will be offered along with the debate at our university and in our community of Oxford. Here is the link to the debate guide, which the Libraries prepared to support the debate."

-Julia Rholes, Dean of Libraries

http://apollo.lib.olemiss.edu/center/subject_guide/debate/intro.

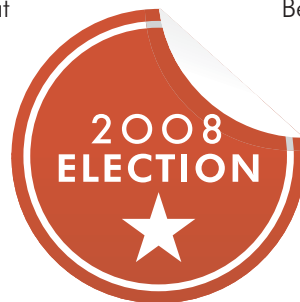
October 7 at Belmont University
Beaman Student Life Center
Nashville, TN

"Across the Belmont University campus there is great excitement, tremendous pride, and deep honor that Belmont has been chosen to host this event.

Virtually everyone on campus has been involved in the preparations in one way or other, and the library is no exception. We have created links to a number of informative sites related to the election process and candidate positions."

-Earnest Heard, Library Director

<http://library.belmont.edu>



Click here to see political and social science resources available from SOLINET.





SOLINET Congratulates Lt. Governor, Mitch Landrieu Winner of Library Journal's "Politician of the Year" Award

Louisiana's Lt. Governor, Mitch Landrieu has been an avid supporter of SOLINET's work to re-establish and rebuild public library services in communities that were damaged by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005. He attended opening ceremonies for many temporary libraries, including those in the most rural locations in southwest Louisiana, in Cameron Parish. In addition, he has made libraries in the Gulf Coast Libraries Project part of his "Road to Recovery" speeches.

In appearances at other, non-library related events, Lt. Governor

Landrieu frequently highlights the importance of libraries as cultural centers in their communities, promoting their value and services in particular to local officials. He recognizes the need to increase access to technology throughout the state and sees libraries as an effective means to do so. His work to double state aid to public libraries in the 2007/08 fiscal year demonstrates his commitment to strengthening libraries in Louisiana.

Lt. Governor Landrieu frequently highlights the importance of libraries as cultural centers in their communities.

The attention Lt. Governor Landrieu gives to libraries as cultural and community assets speaks to local government officials, state legislators and administrators, and the general public. His support is powerful advocacy, reaching out to build awareness and recognition of the many ways that libraries serve and, at the same time, represent communities, now and in the future.



Technology @ the Library

By Bobbie Jo Nelson
Fulton County (GA) Library System



Many libraries are creating blogs to tell patrons and communities about their programs and events. However, I was curious if other Internet resources, such as social network services, are being utilized. Since Facebook is commonly used, I decided to search this application.

The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture at the New York Public Library has text entries about the current exhibits at the library and pictures of patrons interacting with the exhibits and librarians. In addition to a list of their hours and a general description of the library, the Barr Smith Library has their catalog and databases attached to their site. The Seattle Public Library System includes discussion questions on their page.

In addition to libraries, I found several organizations related to libraries using Facebook. For example, Library Journal has information about new books, summer reads and interviews by various authors. The public is using Facebook to prevent a library building that they

I found several organizations related to libraries using Facebook.

feel is an architectural landmark from being replaced with a new building. More than 500 members are sharing information about the status of the Buckhead Library and organizing efforts to keep their present library. Other organizations using Facebook to create a community include the American Library Association Members, NextGen Librarians and Library 2.0 Interest Group.

While some libraries have a simple page with contact information and a listing of events, others are including discussion questions about favorite books and quizzes. However, all are using this resource to reach out to their community.

Becky Ryder Wins Preservation Award

Becky Ryder, Head of Preservation Services at the University of Kentucky Libraries, was named the winner of the LBI (Library Binding Institute) George Cunha and Susan Swartzburg Preservation Award.

SOLINET congratulates her on receiving this much deserved recognition.

The Association for Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS) honored Ryder at an awards ceremony of the 2008

American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference that was held in June in Anaheim, California.

Ryder's outstanding contributions to the field of preservation garnered this award. SOLINET congratulates her on receiving this much deserved recognition.



Explore what's new at LexisNexis.

LexisNexis® Congressional Record Permanent Digital Collection
Considered the key primary resource for research of American history, public policy, business and economics, politics, international relations, and the law.

LexisNexis® Statistical DataSets
Create custom tables and charts from easily navigated, interactive statistical datasets

Praeger Security International Online and LexisNexis® Terrorism UPA Collections
Enable researchers to survey terrorism from both a historical and current perspective for a more comprehensive view.

To find out how LexisNexis can help you navigate to precisely the information you need, visit <http://www.solinet.net/Products and Services/Vendors/LexisNexis.aspx>.



ACADEMIC & LIBRARY SOLUTIONS

Library Research

Administration Solutions

©2007 All rights reserved. LexisNexis and the Knowledge Burst logo are registered trademarks of Reed Elsevier Properties Inc., used under license.

SOLINET
Members Enjoy
20%
Discount

FOR ALL YOUR LABELING NEEDS



Computype has been helping libraries with their labeling needs for more than 30 years.

- ◆ Bar Code Labels
- ◆ Spine Label Printers
- ◆ Spine Labels
- ◆ CD/DVD Labels
- ◆ Patron Cards
- ◆ Label Maker

SOLINET™
A NETWORK OF KNOWLEDGE

CALL 800.999.8558
VISIT www.solinet.net/computype
EMAIL orders@solinet.net

