

MCB

THE MASS COMMUNICATION BIBLIOGRAPHERS' NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER



Vol. 2, No. 2, March 1989

Association for Education in Journalism
and Mass Communication

Letter from the Chair

Welcome to all of our new members for whom this will be the first issue of the newsletter. Editor Dennis Brunning (Arizona State) reports that number of AEJMC members and others have recently checked off our group on the AEJMC membership registration forms with more on the way! I hope that you become active by participating in our projects, letting us know your ideas, attending our meetings, and sending columns to Dennis.

Mary Allcorn (Missouri) says that she has begun to receive papers for our paper session at AEJMC. The session topic is "Mass Communication Bibliography in the Age of New Technology: CDROMS and other Electronic Formats." The call for papers appeared in the AEJMC newsletter and other sources. May 1 is the deadline.

We would really like to have a large attendance at our paper session/business meeting at the annual AEJMC conference in Washington, DC, August 10th through the 13th. Our session is scheduled from Friday, August 11th from 8:15 a.m. until 9:30 a.m. The business meeting will be held the same evening from 7:15 until 8:45. We had a great attendance in Portland and hope for even more people in D.C.

You may still receive our newsletter if you are not a member of AEJMC by filling out the registration form and including your 45.00 check payable to AEJMC.

If you have any comments or questions, please write to me at the following address: Journalism Library, 100 Journalism Building, 242 West 18th Avenue, Columbus, OH 43210. You may also call me at (614) 292-8747. I'd like to hear from you!

Until next time...

Eleanor Block
Ohio State

University of Missouri Underground Newspapers on Microfilm

The University of Missouri-Columbia recently completed a project to preserve on microfilm issues of underground newspapers not known to have been preserved on film. The staff of the Journalism Library researched issues and prepared them for microfilming in a project that took over three years. Over 120 titles, 10,255 pages, were filmed. Dates of issue range from the early 60's through the late 70's. Titles included are almost all from the United States and Canada, with states from all regions of the country represented.

The term underground or alternative press has come to be applied in western nations to a variety of legally published periodicals aimed at certain minority and dissident groups. They are usually distributed through irregular channels. The newspapers included in the collections microfilmed are for the most part newspapers published by the counterculture and minority cultures that emerged in the 1960's. Their members perceived that the national press was indifferent or hostile to minority or dissident group activities and beliefs. They responded by founding newspapers and magazines of their own, an "underground press," that rapidly attained solid minority audiences. Among titles included are issues of the Activist (New York City), the American Communist (Oakland, CA), the Berkeley Fascist (Berkeley, CA), the Chicano Student Movement (Los Angeles), the Free Press Underground (Columbia, MO), the Free for All (Madison, WI), the Peacemaker (Cincinnati), the Rag (Austin, TX), and the Worker's World (New York City). While some issues may have already been preserved on microfilm in other collections, these issues film at Missouri have not, thus representing unique microfilm holdings.

continued on next page

The effectiveness of the basic first amendment freedoms that allow the free marketplace of the ideas to function is represented by these newspapers and magazines. The existence of the toleration of diversity of opinions and ideas will eventually result in the triumph of truth and those ideas that are right for society at the time are concepts essential to the free marketplace of ideas. As the Hutchins Commission on Freedom of the Press stated in 1947, "Valuable ideas may be put forth first in forms that are crude, indefensible, or even dangerous. They need the chance to develop through free criticism as well as the chance to survive on the basis of ultimate worth."

Numbers of books and articles about the underground press have been written. The newspapers preserved on microfilm by the UM Libraries represent a substantial addition to the files of underground newspapers that have been preserved and should provide a resource for scholars.

Mary Allcorn
University of Missouri

Purdue Catalogs C-Span

The Purdue University Public Affairs Video Archives has now cataloged over 5,000 C-SPAN programs aired in 1987 and 1988. The Archives, which operate independently of the Washington based Cable-Satellite Public Affairs Network, was established to record, catalog, and distribute all programming on both C-SPAN networks for educational use. Through the Archives educators have access to an inexpensive, licensed, cataloged video record of the nation's public affairs.

Since the Archives began operation in September 1987, over 1000 catalogs and duplicate tapes have been distributed to teachers and school libraries nationwide. Many journalism and mass communications professors have purchased tapes and found them to be very valuable for teaching and research. C-SPAN has aired many congressional hearings and forums on new technology and issues in broadcast and cable regulation. There have also been many speeches and panels on the media coverage of the election and on ethics in journalism. The Associated Press Managing Editors panel, "At the Feeding Frenzy," with Robert Wallach, Geraldine Ferraro, and Wendel Phillips is an example. Some professors have used hearings as assignments in public affairs reporting classes. The 785 hours of campaign coverage provides opportunities to evaluate how the event took place and how it was covered in other news outlets.

In addition to distributing duplicate tapes for educational use, the Archives also catalogs all C-SPAN programming.

The first catalog published in 1988 contained descriptions of over 3,000 programs. The second volume published in February 1989 includes descriptions of another 2,000 programs which aired in the last six months of 1988. The catalog is arranged chronologically by type of program and by subject. The communication today section will be of particular interest to journalism and communication professors. Since C-SPAN covers so many speeches, hearings, and conferences, as well as the floor proceedings, the Video Archives' catalogs are public affairs chronologies as well as finding aids to the video collection. Within the foreign affairs and defense category, for example, one can see the development of the INF treaty beginning with the Gorbachev visit to the United States, to the committee hearings, through the Senate debate.

The Archives will also publish complete name and organization indexes for all programs in the first two catalogs. Together these program and name indexes will represent an important cataloging contribution to the nation's public affairs record. These indexes will be purchased and utilized across the nation by school audio-visual centers, research libraries, teachers, and researchers who want to study the 1988 political campaign, the judicial nominations, or public policy in a wide range of fields.

The Archives is beginning a new educational program in which they will develop educational materials which can be distributed with the tapes to provide professors with additional information on the program and ideas and how it might be used in classes. Other new services expected in 1989 include limited transcript service for speeches, hearings, and congressional proceedings.

For further information, please contact Robert X. Browning, Purdue University, Stewart Center G-39, West Lafayette, IN 47907, (317) 494-9630

Robert Browning
Purdue University

Member Request

Dolores Jenkins (University of Florida) would like to know if any MCB members would like to organize (or have organized) library tours in the DC area at AEJMC. Comments should be directed to Dolores at the Reference Department, University of Florida Libraries, Gainesville, FL 32611.

ICA's Council of Communication Libraries

A sister group to the AEJMC Mass Communication Bibliographers Special Interest Group has been meeting informally since 1982 at the International Communication Association annual conferences. Tentatively named the Council of Communication Libraries, this group has sponsored a panel session each year (e.g., "Communication Resource Centers: Support Structures for Communication Scholarship and Research," "Infomania: Issues and Strategies in Database Searching for Communication Scholars and Professionals," "The Electronic Media Trade Press: An Academic Resource Examined"), and was instrumental, with others, in formulating the recently adopted ICA Bylaws changes that provide for the establishment of Institutional Councils in addition to the existing Divisions and Interest Groups of that organization.

This year's Council of Communication Libraries Forum topic is "Communications Publishing: A Prospectus," and is scheduled for Saturday, May 27, 2:15-3:45. (The conference is being held in San Francisco, May 25-29, Hilton Square Hotel. Call the ICA office at 512/454-0311 for registration materials.) The panel features representatives of four leading publishers of communication books and periodicals: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Routledge, Sage Publications, and Wadsworth Publishing. In their initial remarks, publishers will identify the significant, shaping trends that they see developing and will elaborate on the opportunities and problems that they feel are associated with these possible scenarios. Respondents representing the scholarly community (Peter Clarke, Dean, Annenberg School of Communications, USC) and academic libraries (Frances Wilhoit, Head, Journalism Library, Indiana University) will then offer comments from their perspectives and ask questions of the publishers.

A business meeting will follow the forum. Agenda items include determination of a name, a statement of purpose, an outline of proposed activities, and a definition of eligibility for membership. All members of the Mass Communication Bibliographers Special Interest Group are especially invited to attend; by joining together in both AEJMC and ICA, we, as information professionals, can cover multiple bases and markedly increase our visibility within the field. It is important that faculty, students, and professionals jointly explore the issues and pressures that converge at the point of access to the materials that form the substance of much communications scholarship. For further information or comment, please contact Carolyn Martin Spicer, Annenberg School of Communications, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA 90089-0281, phone 213/743-4114.

Carolyn Martin Spicer
University of Southern California

Newsletter Dues

At our second meeting the membership voted to assess a five dollar fee to defray the cost of the tri-annual newsletter. If you wish to receive the newsletter, please mail in your check payable to the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication with the accompanying registration form.

Attn: **Richard Burke**
AEJMC
1621 College Street
University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC 29208-0251

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Zipcode _____

Articles Welcome...

Your editor would like to hear from anyone who has material to contribute to the newsletter. The objective is always INFORMATION and we are open to just about anything that promotes a better understanding of mass media bibliography. Short or long articles, the opportunity is yours! We are especially interested in what's going on out there in the areas of networking and cooperation among bibliographers. How you are using new technologies is also a hot topic.

All submissions should be typed or submitted in ASCII or WordPerfect 5.0 format. Deadline for the March issue is February 15th. Please send all manuscripts to:

Dennis Brunning
Library 110
Arizona State University
Tempe, AZ 85287

Call for Convention Papers

The theme of the paper session this year is "Mass Communication Bibliography in the Age of New Technology: CD ROMs and Other Electronic Formats. This may include online searching, software, hardware, etc. Many of you are already using such formats and information on use, effectiveness, strengths and weaknesses. Please consider submitting a paper and presenting it at AEJMC.

The conference will be held from August 10th through the 13th in Washington, DC. The time and date of the session will be announced at a future date.

Please send your proposal by February 1st or your completed paper by May 15th to Eleanor Block, Journalism Library, 100 Journalism Building, 242 West 18th Avenue, Columbus, OH 43210. You will be notified of your acceptance. If you have questions I can be called at (614) 292-8747 between 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. daily.

Eleanor Block
Ohio State

Statement of Purpose

note: the following statement was adopted by the Mass Communication Bibliographers at our first meeting in Norman, OK., in August 1986. It is reproduced here FYI.

1. To encourage the development of bibliographic access to the literature of mass communication and data resources.
2. To encourage the development of special collections and archives of material necessary for the study of mass communication.
3. To evaluate collections of materials and data pertinent to the study of mass communications and to disseminate the evaluations.
4. To develop teaching programs and techniques to instruct the use of bibliographic tools in mass communication.
5. To encourage the sharing and exchange of information among mass communication bibliographers.

Mass Communication Bibliographers' Newsletter
Vol. 2, No. 2, March 1989
Dennis Brunning, Editor

The editor welcomes your suggestions for topics you would like to see addressed in future issues of MCBN.

505839
University Libraries
Reference Services
Arizona State University
Tempe, Arizona 85287-1006