

New Hampshire

LIBRARY TRUSTEE

The Newsletter of the New Hampshire Library Trustees Association

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ENJOY THE
SUMMER

NHLTA SPRING CONFERENCE SCORES "A" SUCCESS



*Wisdom alone is true ambition's aim,
Wisdom is the source of virtue and of fame;
Obtained with labour, for mankind employed,
And then, when most you share it, best enjoyed.*

Alfred North Whitehead
(British Mathematician and Philosopher, 1861-1947)

"A remarkable conference! The keynote speaker was inspiring."

"Great organization, I had no trouble registering or getting to the sessions I signed up for."

"The topics were relevant to our community. "

"I learned a lot and hope to share...with the rest of my board."

The evaluations were nearly unanimous with praise for the 2011 Spring Conference that was held at the SERESC Center in Bedford on May 9th. The majority of attendees enjoyed the site, the sessions, the keynote speaker, and the food. There were suggestions on how to improve the various components that are being studied by the Education Committee for next year's conference. No rest for the weary, but oh, how satisfying to know that all the planning and organization were so overwhelmingly appreciated. Thank you, all attendees, for your active participation and enthusiasm.

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EVALUATION OF THE CONFERENCE SERESC, MAY 9, 2011

The Education Committee collected evaluation forms at the end of the day as people left. By sitting right there at the exit as they departed, it gave us access to many wonderful moments, comments, and a record-breaking collection of evaluation forms ever. **It broke records!**

It was a first for us, saying goodbye to each and every participant. It was just like a gathering of the "Clan." But it was a serendipity moment, giving time for thoughts and immediate comments from the participants. Their smiles said enough. But their statements said it all with their "thank yous" for providing such a wonderful conference; carefree parking, ease in locating the site, great technology, best breakfast and lunch ever provided, exceptional speakers, and co-mingling with over 300 comrades was a task to behold, but managed, and that too was **record-breaking**. We also interviewed a number of speakers, who were touched by the size of the crowds and their enthusiasm and thirst for answers by the participants.

We, at NHLTA, were walking on air by the end of the day. And that's a good thing, because it was the only way we were able to function. Airborne devices. Our expectations were grandly accomplished. No one in the everyday world would have any idea as to what it takes to develop a conference of this size and magnitude. It floored us in preparation and astounded us in its reality. It takes us almost a year of preparation to finalize what the results should be. There are thousands of little details that must be taken care of. So when something disturbs you when you are present, please think of the above statements of preparation trying to provide absolute perfection. We do our very best and are extremely proud of our conference at SERESC.

We believe that in finding SERESC, we have found a winner for holding our conferences. There is no place in this state that can handle the size of our group, nor has all of what it takes to provide what we need, that we had available to us on May 9, 2011. Thank you all for your support in this history making event.

A great big "THANK YOU" TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE WITHOUT WHOM THIS TASK COULD NEVER HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED.

Volunteers:
Christie Sarles
Craig Wark
Elizabeth Ives
Emma Smith
Marie Harris

NHLTA Board:
Connie Kirwin
Conrad Moses
Dave Hallenbeck
Sally Jones

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New Hampshire Library Trustee Newsletter Staff

Editor and Graphic Design: Carol Theoharous

The NHLTA newsletter is published quarterly. Contributions of articles, items for the Calendar of Events, and editorial correspondence are always welcome.

Please submit by September 1, 2011 for the autumn issue and send to Carol Theoharous via e-mail to cimit31@gmail.com.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am honored to have been elected to the office of President for the New Hampshire Library Trustees Association and look forward to a very productive and rewarding year. I will be working with a very dedicated Board of Directors who are committed to fulfilling the NHLTA Mission which is to educate you, the trustees, "to be knowledgeable and effective in order to serve, improve and promote New Hampshire public libraries."

Last winter, I wrote an article entitled *Vision Possible* and I am now pleased to say that some of those visions have already been realized or are in progress. For example, our website has been updated to include a new feature, FAQ's, which answers questions about library law, budgets, personnel issues and more. Minutes and newsletters from the past year are a click away. Continue to access the site for announcements, updates, and articles and photos of NH libraries. A revised manual "A Guide for Library Trustees" will be available online sometime this fall as well as in print. Log on to NHLTA.com today.

What's in progress? ListServ for trustees which is similar to the NHAIS used by library directors, will be another means of communication. You will be notified when it is ready to use.

The Education Committee will be developing a program for library visits which will help trustees in several ways. Trustees might request a visit from members of the Board of Directors to discuss areas of concern or to get answers to questions. BOD members and library trustees will also have an opportunity to get to know each other through a face to face exchange of information about their Boards. Tours of libraries are nice too. We are working to establish networking groups comprised of libraries in neighboring towns and coop areas too.

At our May 2011 Conference, NHLTA outgoing President Conrad Moses



Adele Knight, Newly elected President of New Hampshire Library Trustees Association

announced that conferences will be held at SERESC in Bedford again in 2012 and 2013. It is a great place to hold a conference. The layout of the building, the food, the service, the location and the parking are all superb. As the dates for the conferences draw near, you will be informed of content through flyers, the newsletter and our website. We guarantee good speakers and programs and look forward to seeing you there.

Please feel free to call or email me or any one of the NHLTA directors with questions or concerns, or to share thoughts and ideas. We are here for you and your libraries and welcome the opportunity to work with you.

Adele Knight

BIOGRAPHY

Adele has a knack for saying the right words at the right time. She has quickly been recognized as a leader and NHLTA is delighted to welcome her as its new President. Her love for libraries extends beyond the enjoyment of books. She believes that "libraries in each community should be recognized as an essential service organization and information center."

Adele joined the NHLTA Board in October 2008, and served as Vice-President for the past two years and as Chair of the Governance Committee. She has written articles for the newsletters, including her "Vision Possible" in the Winter 2010-2011 issue in which she presents ideas and ideals for library trustees. She has an ever-broadening vision of how NHLTA can affect and influence current trustees and those of future boards.

A long time resident of Dublin, Adele has been on the Board of Trustees at Dublin Public Library for the past 14 years, eight as Chair. She was Chair of the Steering Committee for the DPL renovation and expansion which broke ground in 1999. She also is a member of SCORE, a non-profit organization that

provides counseling and training for small businesses. Adele likes to keep active physically and mentally, a process she describes as "good for the brain." She swims, walks, goes RV camping and boating.

She was instrumental in inaugurating and establishing the first-in-the-state informal regional meeting for library trustees in order to discuss issues, exchange ideas, and form social contacts. She reasons, "sometimes it goes beyond the meetings. Trustees will call or email others for answers to questions or to provide information to the rest of the group. The key is informality and anyone can bring up any subject." She encourages more trustees to create their own regional get-togethers.

Our new President "would like to see every trustee in the state become a member of NHLTA for exchange of ideas and knowledge." Her affinity for organization, communication, and technology has prepared her toward the realization of her goals as she leads the NHLTA in its mission of trustee education and motivation. As Adele cheerfully points out, "I like interacting with people and spreading the good word about libraries."

MESSAGE FROM STATE LIBRARIAN

The New Hampshire legislative session this year was a challenge for the Department of Cultural Resources. This Department has three divisions: the State Library, the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts, and the Division of Historical Resources.

In House Bill 2 (HB2), two amendments of the House of Representatives budget proposal had a direct impact on the Department of Cultural Resources. The first amendment to HB2 included the elimination of the Department of Cultural Resources with functions of that department moved to other departments in state government; the State Library would be under the Secretary of State's office, the Arts Council would be eliminated, and the Division of Historical Resources would be moved to the Secretary of State's Office.

The second proposed amendment to HB2 was to reduce the funding for the State Library van services. The funds which are provided by the federal government through the Library Services and Technology Act would be re-distributed to other State Library functions. Currently there are 4 library vans on the road each day delivering to 319 libraries throughout the state. The van service is the backbone of New Hampshire Interlibrary Loan and permits resource-sharing among New Hampshire libraries.

In 2010 the State Library vans delivered 800,000 items to

New Hampshire libraries. The New Hampshire Library Association mounted an effort to inform the Senate Finance Committee that the van service was necessary and that eliminating it would greatly impair our public libraries. Without the van service many libraries would not be able to provide some requested materials to their patrons. The members of the Senate Finance Committee understood this message and removed the amendment from their budget proposal.

There is currently a House and Senate Committee of Conference that is working to reconcile the differences between the House passed budget HB1 and the Senate passed budget. The difference is about 75 million dollars. We do not expect that there will be a provision in the compromise budget that eliminates the State Library van service.

I want to thank all of the library trustees, librarians and library supporters who have helped communicate the importance of the van service to our elected officials. We at the state library will keep you informed about new developments affecting the state library and library services in general from the legislature.

Thank you.

Michael York, State Librarian
New Hampshire State Library

THREE NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The NHLTA Executive Board welcomes three recently elected members, Marcia Burchstead of Intervale, Kathy Meserve of Newton and Bob Gilbert of Brentwood. We are privileged to have these dedicated, energetic new directors on board.

Marcia has been a trustee at the Bartlett Public Library for the past 5 years. She has notable experience in marketing, public relations, and communications. She wrote a weekly town column for the *Conway Daily Sun* and handles publicity for a number of organizations.

After a brief interval, Bob Gilbert is back on the Board of Directors. Bob was formerly a Vice President of the NHLTA and is currently serving on the Education Committee. He is a long time trustee for the Mary E. Bartlett Library in Brentwood where he has served as Chair and as a valuable leader in its building expansion projects.

Kathy has assumed leadership roles in school and

community activities wherever she has been a resident. A retired registered nurse, Kathy volunteered as school librarian, was active with the Friends groups and served as alternate to the Gale Public Library board of trustees for a number of years before election to that board.

The NHLTA board is always changing in its outlook and is open to ideas and growth. NHLTA is an organization that has many talented, highly trained individuals who are at the forefront of their community. Members and those who consider joining the association are encouraged to attend orientations, workshops, and conferences. Board meetings are open to the membership and those interested in attending are welcome.

WELLBEING

*Connect with Others-Be Physically and
Mentally Active-Take Notice, Be Curious-
Keep Learning-Give of Yourself, Smile*

TRIBUTE TO TERRY KNOWLES DURING 2011 NHLTA SPRING CONFERENCE

We, who have known Terry for many years, have recognized her amazing knowledge in the field of Charitable Trusts and have relied on her as the valuable resource that she is. However, it's not her intelligence that draws people to her, it's her cheerful and humble attitude that is her charm. NHLTA has taken this opportunity to acclaim her worth to not only this organization, but grateful heeders of her advice throughout New Hampshire.



Terry Knowles with plaque

Terry Knowles has been registrar of Charitable Trusts in the Department of the New Hampshire Attorney General since 1981. She is president-elect of the National Association of State Charity Officials and serves on the board of directors of the National Council of Nonprofit Associations. Ms. Knowles authored a bench reference for the New Hampshire Probate Court system analyzing the Uniform Management and Institutional Funds Act, and has written a number of articles including *A Brief History of Charitable Regulation* and *The New Community Benefits Law*. She is also a member of

the Government Oversight and Self-Regulation Work Group. She is an adjunct professor of Political Science at UNH, teaching in the Master of Public Administration program.

Terry Knowles has taught workshops and been a presenter at nearly all the conferences held by NHLTA. Many come to the conferences to hear and meet her. And it is to their advantage as has been vouched for over the many years Terry has worked with NHLTA.

Kudos! Encore!

Comments on her session at this year's conference:

"WOW! What a workshop! As a new trustee/treasurer I had a ton of questions going in. I recieved all the answers, plus answers to questions I did not even know I had! I also found out where to turn for future questions/problems. Thank you NHLTA and thank you Terry Knowles."

"Terry Knowles knows her stuff and did not hesitate. I think we need a *Terry Knowles Pocket Reference*."



Adele Knight and Jean Abbott



Adele Knight and Ann Fabrizio

Newly-elected NHLTA President Adele Knight enjoyed her first official duty which was to present Certificates of Appreciation to outgoing board members Jean Abbott and Ann Fabrizio. A well deserved commemoration for their many years of service, this observation noted the depth of contributions both Jean and Ann added to the success of NHLTA.

Jean Abbott of Dalton served as Treasurer, Vice President, President, and Past President on the Executive Board. As a member of that board, she helped with the annual

awards presented by NHLTA to deserving library trustees, libraries, librarians, and Friends groups.

Ann Fabrizio of Twin Mountain has been on the Executive Board for many years during which she was Secretary, Treasurer, Bookkeeper, Website Coordinator, and liaison to the American Library Association.

Many thanks to these two excellent dedicated women who have given their time, talent, and knowledge with great enthusiasm and selflessness.

OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS HONORED AT SPRING CONFERENCE





AROUND THE LIBRARIES

Northfield: Hall Memorial Library (condensed from *Concord Monitor* article by Tara Ballenger May 11, 2011)

Social studies teacher, Dan Clark, bequeathed the proceeds of the sale of his home to the library. The library now has \$57,000 to spend on anything for the library. Clark's will specified that it be used for capital projects, not operational expenses like books and salaries.

Mary Ahlgren, librarian, remembers, "He really didn't enjoy reading at all. The library isn't only for people who like to read, it's a place for people to come together." There's a chess club, knitting club, art class, and "first Mondays, where locals have been invited to talk about criminology and ghosts."

Ahlgren's mind is already on ideas on how to spend the money. She visualizes ceiling fans to cut cooling costs, a new furnace, and possibly some gardens outside to provide an extension of the community space. It will be up to the library's board of trustees to decide how to spend the money (with a little help from their librarian!)

Submitted by Sally Jones

Half an orange tastes as sweet as a whole one.

(traditional Chinese proverb)

SUMMER READING PROGRAMS - CSLP

The summer reading program themes for most libraries that I found online appear to be the same and the reason for this is the formation of a consortium of states working together to combine resources for cost effectiveness. Called Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP), this organization meets annually to create reading themes for children, teens, and adults. CSLP hires outstanding vendors to prepare promotional materials and arranges to have these on hand for participating libraries.

2011 Children's Theme — "One World, Many Stories"

2011 Teen Theme — "You Are Here"

2011 Adult theme — "Novel Destinations"

CSLP began in 1987 when ten Minnesota regional library systems developed a summer library program for children, choosing a theme, creating artwork and selecting incentives that public libraries in the region could purchase and use. State libraries and systems continue to join and CSLP continues to evolve, but its guiding principle remains the same; librarians sharing ideas, expertise and costs to produce a high-quality summer reading program for children.

The next CSLP annual meeting will take place in Hershey, PA on April 10-12, 2012.



Friends Louise Price and Jodi Tochko with Sancho and owner Mark Lutton



Director Myra Emmons demos disc cleaning service

Brookline Public Library

The Friends of the Brookline Public Library held their spring book and bake sale on May 7th with a few innovations to stimulate interest. The Brass Bandits, a talented high school group led by "old man" Jim Hill, provided musical entertainment, while two spring "kids" - two bucks - were used to promote the end-of-the-day "Two Bucks a Bag" sale. Under typical New England spring weather - sunshine, clouds, rain, and HAIL! - the event was well attended and financially successful. The Friends use the spring and fall book and bake sales to support the Library's summer reading program, all museum passes, and additional programs and purchases as needs arise.



Oh, yes, and there were lots of books, too!

Loring Webster

Chair, Governance Committee

COPIER CONTEST

A Brother Intellifax 1270e Fax/Scan/Copy/Print machine has been donated by Phillip M. Grant at New London Copy Specialists, Inc. to be presented to the winner of the library that sends a letter describing the most compelling reasons for its need. This functional desk model measures 14.9" x 15.2" x 8.5". Please send letters describing why your library should win this machine and you may be the lucky owner of a practical addition to your office output. Only NH libraries are eligible.

Letters to: NHLTA Copier Contest, PO Box 617, Concord, NH 03302.

Deadline for letters is September 15, 2011. Good luck!

5 Myths About the 'Information Age'

By Robert Darnton

Confusion about the nature of the so-called information age has led to a state of collective false consciousness. It's no one's fault but everyone's problem, because in trying to get our bearings in cyberspace, we often get things wrong, and the misconceptions spread so rapidly that they go unchallenged. Taken together, they constitute a font of proverbial nonwisdom. Five stand out:

1. **"The book is dead."** Wrong: More books are produced in print each year than in the previous year. One million new titles will appear worldwide in 2011. The latest figures for the United States cover only 2009, and they do not distinguish between new books and new editions of old books. But the total number, 288,355, suggests a healthy market, and the growth in 2010 and 2011 is likely to be much greater. Moreover, these figures, furnished by Bowker, do not include the explosion in the output of "nontraditional" books—a further 764,448 titles produced by self-publishing authors and "micro-niche" print-on-demand enterprises.

2. **"We have entered the information age."** This announcement is usually intoned solemnly, as if information did not exist in other ages. But every age is an age of information, each in its own way and according to the media available at the time.

3. **"All information is now available online."** The absurdity of this claim is obvious to anyone who has ever done research in archives. Only a tiny fraction of archival material has ever been read, much less digitized. The vast output of judicial decisions, regulations and reports by public bodies remains largely inaccessible to the citizens it affects. Google estimates that 129,864,880 different books exist in the world, and it claims to have digitized 15 million of them—or about 12 percent. Despite the efforts to preserve the millions of messages exchanged by means of blogs, e-mail, and handheld devices, most of the daily flow of information disappears. Digital texts degrade far more easily than words printed on paper. Brewster Kahle, creator of the Internet Archive, calculated in 1997 that the average life of a URL was 44 days. Not only does most information not appear online, but most of the information that once did appear has probably been lost.

4. **"Libraries are obsolete."** Everywhere in the country librarians report that they have never had so many patrons. At Harvard, our reading rooms are full. The 85 branch libraries of the New York Public Library system are crammed with people. The libraries supply books, videos, and other material as always, but they also are fulfilling new functions: access to information for small businesses, help with homework and afterschool activities for children, and employment information for job seekers (the disappearance of want ads in printed newspapers makes the library's online services crucial for the unemployed). Librarians are responding to the needs of their patrons in many new ways, notably by guiding them through the wilderness of cyberspace to relevant and reliable digital material. Libraries never were warehouses of books. While continuing to provide

books in the future, they will function as nerve centers for communicating digitized information at the neighborhood level as well as on college campuses.

5. **"The future is digital."** True enough, but misleading. In 10, 20, or 50 years, the information environment will be overwhelmingly digital, but the prevalence of electronic communication does not mean that printed material will cease to be important. Research in the relatively new discipline of book history has demonstrated that new modes of communication do not displace old ones, at least not in the short run.

I mention these misconceptions because I think they stand in the way of understanding shifts in the information environment. They make the changes appear too dramatic. They present things ahistorically and in sharp contrasts—before and after, either/or, black and white. A more nuanced view would reject the common notion that old books and e-books occupy opposite and antagonistic extremes on a technological spectrum. Old books and e-books should be thought of as allies, not enemies. To illustrate this argument, I would like to make some brief observations about the book trade, reading, and writing.

Last year the sale of e-books (digitized texts designed for hand-held readers) doubled, accounting for 10 percent of sales in the trade-book market. This year the sale of e-books is expected to reach 15 or even 20 percent. But there are indications that the sale of printed books has increased at the same time. The enthusiasm for e-books may have stimulated reading in general, and the market as a whole seems to be expanding. New book machines, which operate like ATM's, have reinforced this tendency. A customer enters a bookstore and orders a digitized text from a computer. The text is downloaded in the book machine, printed, and delivered as a paper-back within four minutes. This version of print-on-demand shows how the old-fashioned printed codex can gain new life with the adaption of electronic technology.

To use an example from my own experience, I recently wrote a printed book with an electronic supplement, *Poetry and the Police: Communication Networks in Eighteenth-Century Paris* (Harvard University Press). It describes how street songs mobilized public opinion in a largely illiterate society. The reader can study the text of the songs in the book while listening to them online. The e-ingredient of an old-fashioned codex makes it possible to explore a new dimension of the past by capturing its sounds.

One could cite other examples of how the new technology is reinforcing old modes of communication rather than undermining them. I believe that some historically informed reflection could dispel the misconceptions that prevent us from making the most of "the information age"—if we must call it that.

Robert Darnton is a professor and university librarian at Harvard University. This essay is based on a talk he gave in April, 2011 at the Council of Independent Colleges' Symposium on the Future of the Humanities, in Washington.

Submitted by Betsy Solon

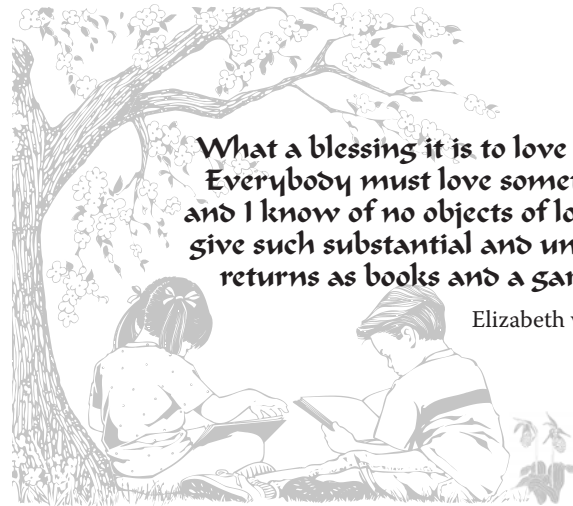
ORIENTATIONS

Details of the orientations planned for September in Conway, Hooksett, Newport, and Seabrook are on the back page in the Calendar. Bottled water and cookies will be served along with a thorough introduction to your responsibilities. INDISPENSABLE for new trustees and those who would like a refresher course.

DRAFT MINUTES

Ann Edwards clarified her statement given at the NHLTA Annual Conference.

"When the DRAFT minutes are approved at a meeting—the DRAFT minutes can be discarded. If there are many or significant changes between the DRAFT and the APPROVED minutes it would be best if the DRAFT minutes were saved. It could solve a great deal of problems at a later date if the approved minutes are questioned."



**What a blessing it is to love books.
Everybody must love something,
and I know of no objects of love that
give such substantial and unfailing
returns as books and a garden.**

Elizabeth von Arnim

SCHOLARSHIPS

Part of the responsibility of NHLTA is to help deserving people achieve goals in the library world. This is through scholarship money that is available for workshops, conferences, college library courses, and modular library courses.

Please contact: Betsy Solon, Treasurer

2 Shady Rock Road, Brookline, NH 03033

E-mail at elsolon@yahoo.com or call 603-249-9453

Scholarship information is also available on NHLTA website: www.nhlta.com

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Sea shells
2. Burma
3. Virginia (Virgin Queen)
4. Chili peppers

ONLINE NEWSLETTER

The newsletter is now available online at NHLTA.com as well as in hard copy sent to each dues-paying member of NHLTA.

Editorial on POLICIES

I was reading an article titled *Problem Patrons in the Public Library: Can Anything Be Done?* by Kimberly A. Hallquist in the May 2011 issue of *New Hampshire Town and City*. It is well written and referred to dormant dangers when policies are not in effect to cover situations that can emerge with problem patrons. This, in turn, caused me to think about the vital importance policies play in the running of a library.

Trustees have a good deal of responsibility and one way to alleviate problems is insurance. And what better insurance than to have a policy in place that will refer to potential dangers, provide a decision, and leave you safe from worry. Policies are a safeguard. They have all the answers to "what if" questions. Trustees need to be aware of any problem that can arise from any direction.

Does this mean that you are inundated with policies? Yes, it could and should. Actually you can categorize and lump some topics together to make it easier for developing and implementing your policies.

What if? Think of all the problems that can arise and create a policy for each one. Brainstorm! There are no bad ideas in brainstorming and think of the issues that will crop up. It's a lesson in logic. What will have to happen in order to reference one policy that in turn will develop into the next logical step and so on until you have prepared for every possibility?

Establish the policies. Publish them. Advertise them. They are the bridge between what may happen and what you have decided to do in case it happens. Read up on possible problems in libraries? What are your policies regarding laws and implementing them? Oh yes, most importantly, show your policies to legal counsel to ensure that you are in compliance with federal and state regulations.

Policies are your best insurance, your chief defense, and your best friend who will back you in any conflict. Be detailed, be careful, and be fair.

WANTED

The project for using snapshots of all 235 libraries in NH for the NHLTA Website is still in effect. Please send photos by email to Connie Kirwin at: cfk@tds.net.

PHILOSOPHY?

"God is dead" - Nietzsche.
"Nietzsche is dead" - God.

To do is to be - Descartes
To be is to do - Voltaire
Do be do be do - Sinatra



BROWSINGS OF A BIBLIOPHILE

GRAMMAR FOR SMART PEOPLE

You know how much I enjoy dictionaries. Well, I just found, on a recent trip to Pennsylvania, a new style book ... *Grammar for Smart People*. This is a user-friendly guide to speaking and writing better English. Yes! Any book that talks about words is a book for me.

Just ask Richard Lederer, and he'll tell you what he tells everyone on the cover of this marvelous book: "*Grammar For Smart People* comes closer than anything else I've seen to achieving the ideal of a reader-friendly guide." It was written by Barry Tarshis, a communications consultant, who is the president of Grammar for Smart People, Inc., a Connecticut-based publishing and training company. In his introduction, the author states: "The idea of teaching people grammar without using the traditional grammar terms (nouns, verbs, adjectives, etc.) sounds intriguing, but I don't think it works: It's like teaching surgery without obliging students to learn the names of the organs the students will be removing or repairing." He also promises that using his book will enhance your appreciation of English, and give you more confidence in your ability to use the language more effectively in your business and your professional life. Okay!

Some excellent features include:

- Avoiding Pronoun Paranoia: How to know when you're right.
- Coming to Agreement: How to get subjects and verbs to agree.
- Points Well Taken: How to make your marks in punctuation.
- End Games: How to tame vicious verbs.
- Changing Times: Six grammar rules you can safely bend.

My favorite is *Changing Times* where he discusses the rule of never ending a sentence with a preposition. He tells us that this rule was advanced more than three centuries ago by John Dryden. Dryden, a Latin scholar, proposed the fact that prepositions are never found at the end of sentences written in Latin. According to Tarshis, the best bet is to read your sentence aloud and then decide whether to follow Dryden's advice. He quotes Winston Churchill's remark (following the specific rule of not ending with a preposition): "This is the sort of impertinence up with which I will not put." Whew! Makes sense to read your remark aloud.

My observation is that pronouns can be the most abused subjects of proper grammar. Let's talk about **subjective case** and **objective case** and look, briefly, at *I* and *me*.

*"I should have been an actress." I is in the subjective case, because I is the object of should have been.

*"Several trustees asked me about the deadline for a newsletter contribution." Me is in the objective case, because it is the object of the verb asked.

*One common question is: What is the correct response when you knock on a door and someone calls out, "Who is it?" You respond, "It's me." Grammatically, the correct response is, "It is I". Ah, but here is the answer: I is technically correct, but ... me is the natural choice in conversation and is considered acceptable in all but the most formal writing situations.

The I and me discussion can go on forever. Personally, it can get a little bit tedious. My advice: **Relax**. Unless you're writing a thesis or a note to the President, or a letter to your former English professor, say what you think, spell correctly, and mail it promptly.

There is one pet peeve I have that this book addresses so well. It's called Notional Agreement, which means that in some subject and verb situations, the verb can be singular or plural—depending upon your notion. Certain types of nouns and pronouns (such as team, group, committee, any, none) can take a singular or plural verb. Lately, I'm hearing all collective nouns taking the plural verb. Drives me crazy! Example: the team are; the committee are; the group are. This book gives you permission to make a choice. And, since you are the writer, the reader will usually go along with you.

This terrific book is filled with ways to express yourself, verbally and in writing, that communicate your thoughts precisely and without error.

I could go on and on. This is, without a doubt, the most useful, informative book of grammar that I've ever read. Find it. If you can't, call me or call Lil, and I'll lend you my copy.

Have a lovely, cool summer.

Emma M. Smith

Member, Education Committee



In summer, the song sings itself.

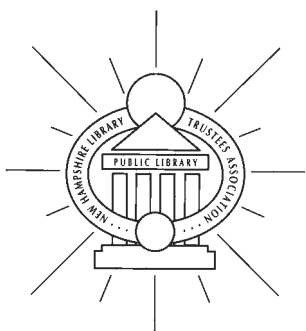
~William Carlos Williams

Q
U
I
Z

1. Once used as a currency in several parts of the world, what are cowries?
2. The Republic of Myanmar is better known as what country?
3. Which state is said to be named in honor of British monarch Queen Elizabeth?
4. The Scoville Scale is used to measure the heat of what?

Answers on Page 10

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, July 6 - NHLTA Monthly Board Meeting, 10:00 am
Local Government Center, Concord
(meetings are held on first Wednesday of each month)

Wednesday, August 3 - NHLTA Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 21 - Orientation, 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Conway Public Library, Conway

Wednesday, September 21 - Orientation, 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Hooksett Public Library, Hooksett

Tuesday, September 20 - Orientation, 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Richards Free Library, Newport

Wednesday, September 21 - Orientation, 5:00 to 8:00 pm
Seabrook Library, Seabrook

Monday, May 21 - 2012 Spring Conference,
SERESC Center, Bedford (save the date!)