

# ACRL, 1978 National Conference

## New Horizons for Academic Libraries

Take the excitement generated by reliving part of our heritage—from Concord and Lexington to Bunker Hill and the Old North Church; combine that with the setting of a modern metropolis; throw in the fact that this is the center of the educational universe—with over 70 institutions of higher education in the metropolitan area, add to all of this a provocative four-day conference with outstanding speakers and a liberal distribution of contributed papers and time for visiting exhibits, and one finds a perfect setting for the November 8–11 ACRL 1978 National Conference at the Boston Sheraton Hotel in the HUB of activity. Conference and hotel registration information will be mailed in early summer, but please reserve those dates now!

For further information, please contact Julie A. Carroll Virgo, executive secretary of ACRL, at ALA headquarters, or George Parks, conference chair, at the University of Rhode Island. ■■

*At right, the Sheraton-Boston Hotel, headquarters for the ACRL 1978 National Conference.*



## Continuing Library Education—II

*This month's guest editor is Julie A. Carroll Virgo, executive secretary of ACRL. Before coming to ACRL, Virgo was the director of education with the Medical Library Association. She currently serves on the board of directors of the Continuing Library Education Network and Exchange (CLENE).*

The term "continuing education" encompasses a large variety of activities. Most commonly thought of, perhaps, are the short-term workshops or institutes that are presented by associations, library schools, and commercial organizations. As conceptualized by the ACRL Continuing Education Committee, the term includes not only these more formal activities but also experiences such as on-the-job problem solving, keeping up with the literature in the field, discussing a problem with a colleague, preparing a budget in a new or different way, writing a report, working on a project-oriented committee, developing interpersonal skills, and even visiting the exhibits at a professional meeting.

Continuing education is any experience that helps the individual perform better or with in-

creased satisfaction in a present job, or in a job to which he or she aspires.

Sometimes one hears the argument, "Why should I bother with professional development or growth? I do not receive additional salary increases or promotions if I do these things and my colleagues do not; or, my employer does not pay my way to meetings."

Such rewards as increased salaries, promotions, and tenure are external rewards that are certainly nicer to have than not to have. But more important are the internal rewards. The ever-changing interest in one's job, the intellectual stimulation of attacking old problems in imaginative better ways, the challenge of attempting new situations and stretching one's skills, contributing to a profession that is moving, fluid, and responsive—it is for these reasons that we need to develop continuously, to continue our education.

For some library staffs it is difficult to attend meetings because of cost, geographical distance, or because there is no one else on staff to provide service if someone is gone. Formal programs are not the only ways in which to nurture a fertile mind. Consider establishing a staff development