

Section, with the approval of the Board of Directors of ACRL, may hold closed meetings or joint meetings with other sections.

Section 3. Quorum. Members of the Section present at an annual meeting shall constitute a quorum.

Article X. Amendments

Section 1. Proposals. Amendments to the Bylaws may be proposed by any committee of the Section or by petition signed by ten members of the Section. Proposed amendments shall be presented in writing to the chair.

Section 2. Procedure. Proposed amendments must be approved by the Executive Committee of the Section and by the Board of Directors of ACRL, following review by the ACRL Constitution and Bylaws Committee before membership can be notified of the proposed revisions.

Section 3. Voting. The Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at an annual meeting of the Section or by mail vote approved by two-thirds of the members voting. Notice of the proposed changes must be published not less than one month before final consideration. ■

Letters

To the Editor:

Thomas G. Reid Jr.'s vitriolic letter (March 1992) reveals the purblindness of his reactionary ilk. It is he who is either confused or hypocritical on the issue of ALA's position on the gag rule imposed by the *Rust* decision.

Reid conflates simply making referrals or providing information—what both librarians and health professionals do—with nefarious advocacy. *Rust* did not just “stop [federal employees] from saying one word in favor of abortion,” as Reid claims. It prohibited anyone receiving Title X funding from providing neutral information about it, even from pointing at the listings in the yellow pages.

For Reid's strained analogies to make sense, it would be illegal for staff in federally supported libraries to refer readers to books that contained racial slurs (*Huck Finn*) or sexual harassment (*Clarissa*), or to communist or anarchist tracts, or to publications of the Hemlock Society. Talk about PCI . . .

Moreover, *Rust* went further than a simple prohibition: it prescribed a unique, fixed statement that health professionals must utter if queried about abortion. This is more than censorship—it is political ventriloquism. Were such a positive injunction extended to the realm of political economy, we would be forced to mouth words devised by the Heritage Foundation and approved by presidential appointees.

All of this is precisely why it was legitimate and even necessary for the American Library Association to intervene in the *Rust* case on the side of freedom of expression—even for

federally funded operations.—Jeffrey Larson, *bibliographer, Yale University*

To the Editor:

I was glad to see the favorable account, written by Gail Junion-Metz and Ray E. Metz, of ACRL-New York's 1990 symposium. However, I was surprised by the shallow interpretation of my talk and astonished by the statement that I called upon publishers to practice “bibliographic birth control.” This is a phrase I would never use seriously and expresses a concept I would never support. I was ridiculing those who would advocate such an unlikely, simplistic, and counter-productive “solution” to the problem of information overload.—Mary Biggs, *Director of Libraries, Mercy College*

The authors respond:

The information on the New York meeting which we used in our *C&RL News* article was obtained from the Winter 1991 issue of the Metropolitan New York ACRL Chapter Newsletter. The article titled “Highlights of Access to Excess? Issues of the Information Explosion” contains a two-paragraph description of Ms. Biggs's comments. The following is from that description: “While publishers should practice voluntary ‘bibliographic birth control,’ librarians must help sift ‘essence from excess.’ If in our attempt to ensure that more librarians learned about this important program, we inadvertently misinterpreted the speaker's intent, we're sorry.—Ray E. Metz, *Case Western Reserve University, and Gail Junion-Metz, Cleveland State University* ■

Standing Orders

THE ULTIMATE TEST OF YOUR BOOKSELLER

Fulfilling standing orders has always been a complex challenge for booksellers. For almost two decades, Blackwell North America has met this challenge and successfully provided libraries with comprehensive standing order services:

- *Extensive Coverage allows consolidation of orders with a single source*
- *Our unique interface with B.H. Blackwell offers coverage of U.K. and European titles*
- *Timely supply of books with consolidated invoices ensures prompt availability to library users*
- *Management reports provide detailed financial, bibliographic and publication status information*
- *Our standing order database, the largest in the industry, serves as a bibliographic reference tool for collection management and title selection*

If your current vendor is not meeting the standards you have set for standing order service, consider Blackwell's. Our reputation is built on timeliness, flexibility and service.

BLACKWELL NORTH AMERICA, INC. STANDING ORDER SERVICES

Part of a proud bookselling tradition dating from 1879
Lake Oswego, Oregon • Blackwood, New Jersey
1-800-547-6426 • 1-800-257-7341