



Women's History Month is March. Celebrate with this poster by Kiki (\$25) and a Women's History Kit (\$23.80) available from ALA. Call (800) 545-2433, press 8, for details.

ALA opts out of Denver

In response to the passage of Colorado's Amendment 2, ALA's Executive Board voted at its January 23 meeting in Denver not to hold ALA's 1998 Midwinter Meeting in Denver and not to consider any site in Colorado as a future conference site for ALA or any of its units until such time as Amendment 2 is either overturned by the courts or repealed by the voters.

Amendment 2 prohibits the state or any of its subdivisions from adopting or enforcing any law or policy that provides anti-discrimination protection based on sexual orientation.

The majority of board members felt that this amendment permits discrimination which conflicts with ALA policies 54.17 and 54.3 supporting equal employment opportunities for gay librarians and all workers regardless of race, color, creed, sex, age, physical or mental handicap, individual lifestyle, or national origin.

Stanford completes RECON

Stanford University Libraries has completed a ten-year retrospective conversion (RECON) project to convert virtually all of its main library card catalog records to machine-readable form. At the beginning of the project nearly 900,000 items were not accessible online.

Faculty support information literacy

Strong faculty support for information literacy skills was shown by a recent survey of faculty attitudes conducted at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Six hundred faculty in the humanities, social sciences, sciences, medicine, law, and other professions were surveyed. Sixty-six percent responded to questions about their expectations of student library knowledge, attitudes towards librarian's roles, priorities about teaching and information literacy, and the instructor's use of the library.

Preliminary analysis reveals that 84% agree that students should know how to do library research and 95% agree that it will be essential to students in later life that they are able to find information efficiently. In addition, 88% agree that librarians and faculty are partners in the educational process. Of particular interest was the fact the 89% of those surveyed agreed that it should be a requirement of the

Baccalaureate degree that students know how to do library research.

These initial results argue that faculty place high value on information skills, a finding which tends to disagree with the perceptions of librarians. Further analysis may confirm that librarians can concentrate on overcoming the other obstacles that prevent the development of information-literate students without worrying about negative faculty attitudes. These obstacles include lack of awareness of instruction programs, lack of available time in the curriculum, etc.

Additional correlations are planned in the study. These will include rank, discipline, and personal experience of the faculty member. Researchers are Elizabeth Frick, professor at the School of Library and Information Studies, and Fran Nowakowski, reference librarian, Killam Library, Dalhousie University.—
Fran Nowakowski, Dalhousie University