

Submitted by David Oberhelman, April 8, 2000

The NMRT is working with the Continuing Education Committee to co-sponsor a two-part program block (panel discussions) geared towards library school students, new professionals, and paraprofessionals interested in getting an MLS and seeking a professional library position. The first program coordinated and proposed by the CE Committee is "So You Want to go to Library School" and will feature Joan Kerschner, Director of the Henderson District PL (NV) and former state librarian, and other panelists (Charles McClure-FSU, state librarians, library school deans). This program will focus on factors to consider in planning to pursue an MLS (costs, choice of school, reasons to get an MLS, and other issues). The second program in the block proposed by NMRT is "Job Search 2000" and will feature Rod Wagner, NE Library Commissioner, Becky Pasco, Univ. of NE-Omaha, and David Oberhelman, OSU Library, discussing strategies for library school graduates and new professionals to find professional jobs and prepare for a career in public, special, school, and academic libraries. Both programs will have panel discussions and time for questions from the audience. This block is intended to attract library school students and people from all types of libraries and provide them with strategies for career development.

The NMRT has also proposed a pre-conference social dinner to be held at a nearby restaurant to give new attendees a chance to meet and make conference plans. A listserv for NMRT is now being set up to facilitate conference preparation (roommates, etc.) and to promote sessions such as CE-NMRT blocks. It could also be a forum for discussing issues facing new librarians in the region and discussing how associations like MPLA can assist them. State NMRT groups might eventually be included as well to enhance their roles in the various state associations as well.