

Libraries in the Life of the User: Historical and Communal Dimensions  
Addendum to Proposal for Library History Seminar XII  
Center for Middletown Studies  
Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana

In light of the additional time granted to the University of Texas-Austin for submitting its bid to host Library History Seminar XII, we wish to provide a brief addendum to our original proposal. Once the May 1 deadline had passed, we had assumed that nothing further could be done until we had heard back from the ALA. At that point we had been able to obtain speaking commitments from Dr. Abigail Van Slyck and Dr. Andrea Immel, secure a preliminary agreement with the Lilly Library to stage an exhibition drawn from their Elisabeth Ball collection, reserve conference space, make preliminary logistical and budgeting plans, and arrange for the participation of the Muncie Public Library in the project.

There are several aspects of the project that we would have pursued a stage further had we realized the deadline was not quite so firm. For instance, we planned to approach the Pierpont Morgan Library to lend material from their extensive Elisabeth Ball holdings but could not do so two months ago because the PML staff were gearing up for their grand reopening after a two-year renovation. Our proposal to mount a major exhibition of Elisabeth Ball's books and art to coincide with the conference simply mentions that we have the agreement of Indiana University's Lilly Library to lend from their collection. The intent all along has been to mount the exhibition, and prepare a catalog of these collections (the third part of which is at Ball State), and to do this in conjunction with the conference. Elisabeth Ball's fascination with children's literature interestingly ties in with our own findings of borrowing patterns for the *What Middletown Read* Project, based on her home town library. Preliminary discussion has just now commenced with the Pierpont Morgan Library.

We would also have undertaken further negotiation with the Muncie Public Library about the kind of exhibition that will be mounted there. A preliminary description of this would have enhanced our ALA proposal beyond noting our joint agreement that Carnegie/Muncie would play host to part of the conference. The extra two months would also have provided us with the opportunity to obtain further funding commitments to support the planned exhibitions and other aspects of the conference. Additional time may also have permitted us to firm up details of some of the sessions we propose to include, such as the panel devoted to using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to track library usage or the panel(s) focused on library architecture.

We offer this addendum not only so that these additional aspects of our proposal may be fully considered, but also to alert the panel to the inequity of inconsistently enforcing deadlines. We have every confidence that the panel will make its final decision based on the individual merits of each individual proposal. If we can provide additional information on our proposal, please do not hesitate to contact us.