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ALLERTON PARK INSTITUTE

Number 19

**Proceedings of a Conference
Sponsored by the
Illinois State Library
and
University of Illinois
Graduate School of Library Science
and
University of Illinois
Office of Continuing Education and Public Service**

**CATV
AND ITS IMPLICATIONS
FOR LIBRARIES**

edited by
CORA E. THOMASSEN

University of Illinois
Graduate School of Library Science
Urbana-Champaign, Illinois

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LC Card Number: 74-620101

ISBN: 0-87845-040-8

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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
CORA E. THOMASSEN	
LIBRARIES AND CATV: SOME HOPES AND FEARS	3
DONALD P. MULLALLY	
WHAT THE INDUSTRY CAN OFFER: THE NEXT COMMUNITY NETWORK	13
JAMES S. KELLER	
FRANCHISING PROBLEMS AND PROCEDURES IN CATV	24
DONALD P. MULLALLY, JAMES S. KELLER AND EDWARD F. DOUGLASS	
CATV AS A MEDIUM FOR INFORMATION ACCESS	38
BRIGITTE L. KENNY	
POTENTIALS OF INTERACTIVE CABLE TELEVISION	52
LAWRENCE W. KATZ	
CABLE TELEVISION AS AN INFORMATION TOOL	66
KEN DOWLIN	
THE VIDEO POLICY STATEMENT	70
ROBERTO ESTEVES	
A PUBLIC ACCESS WORKSHOP	78
BOBBY MARIANO	
CATV AND LIBRARIES: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES	81
RUSSELL SHANK	
INDEX	91



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INTRODUCTION

The nineteenth Allerton Park Institute was held November 11-14, 1973, at Allerton House, Allerton Park, Monticello, Illinois. This Institute was co-sponsored by the Illinois State Library, the Graduate School of Library Science of the University of Illinois and the University of Illinois Office of Continuing Education and Public Service.

The conference theme centered on the implications of cable television for libraries. The general purpose of the Institute was to foster greater understanding about the subject of cable television in the conference participants. More specifically, the planning committee for the conference enumerated the following objectives:

1. to provide an atmosphere of inquiry focused on the implications of cable television for libraries;
2. to provide consultants and resource people who have knowledge and experience related to the potential of cable television and its implications for libraries;
3. to expand the participants' understandings and perceptions of the technology of cable television and its related equipment as they affect the libraries' communications responsibilities;
4. to suggest some techniques for utilizing cable television in originating local programs, and to explore the possibilities for the varieties of services cable television can offer the profession;
5. to aid librarians in all types of libraries to become aware of the unique possibilities for the utilization of cable television in their specific types of libraries, and also to suggest the importance of cable television in a systematic approach to library and information networks; and,

6. to create a growing and continuing consciousness of the problems and opportunities for the utilization of cable television in libraries.

The Institute participants represented all major types of libraries and came from many parts of the United States and Canada. Representatives from other parts of the world were also in attendance. Significant to the State of Illinois and its growing concern for continued expansion of library communications, was the attendance of representatives from each of the public library systems in Illinois, as well as personnel from the Illinois State Library. A great deal of interaction took place during the conference among the conference participants, resource persons, speakers, and consultants. Discussions, questions and answers, panel presentations, opportunities for sharing materials and videotapes and for actual experience with unsophisticated video equipment were activities in which participants engaged. Major sessions of the conference were videotaped and the entire conference was transmitted through a closed-circuit television system to other areas of the conference center.

Not represented in these papers, but a part of the conference activity, was a demonstration of the University of Illinois PLATO system, by Donald L. Bitzer, Director of the Computer-Based Education Research Laboratory. The implications for interfacing this or similar computer-based systems with other communication devices was explored. Another session of the Institute was devoted to a panel discussion by Arlita Austin, Sella Morrison, Stephen Moskal, Lester Stoeffel, and chaired by Kathryn Gesterfield, all Illinois librarians concerned with the directions of cable communications in library activities in the state.

The papers in this publication represent the edited oral presentations of the speakers at the conference. Many of their presentations were accompanied by videotapes or other visual resources, some of which were unable to be reproduced here. The committee hopes that these published papers will be an aid to librarians exploring the implications of cable communications for expanded and efficient library service. The conference planning committee was made up of Kathryn Gesterfield and Travis Tyer from the Illinois State Library; Kathryn Henderson, F. Wilfrid Lancaster and Cora Thomassen from the Graduate School of Library Science; and Donald Mullally, Director of Broadcasting, at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

CORA E. THOMASSEN
Editor