Association for Rural & Small Libraries
ARSL-INFO Electronic Discussion List Use Policy
Approved by the ARSL Board April 19, 2010

Purpose

The ARSL-INFO electronic discussion list is for the discussion of issues relating to librarianship in small or rural libraries. Particularly appropriate issues for discussion on ARSL-INFO include, but are not limited to:

- Collection development, acquisitions, management and weeding, including traditional and new media
- Reference services
- Issues related to library facilities--security, new buildings, renovations
- Policy and guidance
- Trustee relationships
- Internet access for staff and public
- Intellectual freedom
- Library administration
- Sundry library "how-tos" and queries for equipment
- Personnel issues
- Public library jobs and related conferences
- Programming ideas and opportunities
- Continuing education, workshop, or conference opportunities
- Notice of publications and articles that would benefit rural or small libraries
- Grant opportunities

History and Current Membership

A rural libraries listserv has been around since at least July 2002. It started at Clarion University, Center for the Study of Rural Librarianship and was hosted on one of the University listserv servers. It changed from RURLIB-L to ARSL-L in November 2003. As the association began to transition away from Clarion University, it became apparent that the list also needed to become separate. In the spring of 2008, the ARSL board of directors made the decision to have BCR host the new list and it was up and functioning by May 2008. The list has always been a place to discuss issues and get questions answered. Many of the questions discussed today are the same as those being discussed in 2002.

Audience

ARSL-INFO is specifically oriented toward rural and small libraries. Other subscribers include library trustees, friends of libraries, library students and faculty, library journalists, and advocates of librarianship.

Posting Policy

The ARSL-INFO List is an unmoderated list, however, the administrator will review submitted messages under three circumstances.

1. Messages sent by non-members
2. Messages with an attachment that exceed list's file size restrictions (max file = 400KB)
3. And messages that have header restrictions

Posts must follow list guidelines. Failure to follow guidelines will result in warnings or removal. The following policy governs all postings:

1. All messages must relate, however tangentially, to the general topic of libraries. Messages that are clearly off-topic should not be posted.
2. Advertisements will be labeled, "AD." Only advertisements of interest to the ARSL-INFO community should be posted.
3. Posters are strongly encouraged to post summaries and direct readers to websites or similar external sources in lieu of posting entire resources verbatim to the list. Responses to messages should, whenever possible, include only enough of the previous post to continue the thread of the discussion.
4. Posters are strongly encouraged to suspend mail if going on vacation and resume it on your return. Addresses that bounce nuisance messages to the entire list (vacation reminders, for example) will be set to no-mail or if necessary deleted.
5. No four-letter words or ad hominem attacks. You may criticize a policy or a point of view, but you must substantiate your comments. In other words, you may not say, "you're stupid," but you may say, "your library policy is stupid because..."
6. The List is not responsible for copyright violations. It is the responsibility of the poster to ensure that his or her post does not violate copyright law.
7. Threads that have run their course but refuse to die may be terminated.
8. Virus warnings: ONLY official CERT advisories are acceptable.

Administration

The ARSL List is hosted by BCR. In general only subscribers may post messages. Occasionally a legitimate message with a valid topic and content from a non-member will be passed on after review by the administrator. Questions about the ARSL List may be directed to any ARSL board member. For contact information, go to www.arsl.info.