

Not to be taken from this room

would be an eight percent cut, and one that would be a 20 percent cut. Johnson says you can tack on another four percent since the library has to enforce four percent union pay raises that weren't considered in the city's calculations.

But so much for those plans—Johnson says the latest library budget figure from the city manager is \$2 million, a 28 percent cut from last year. Last year's budget was a 14 percent cut from the previous year, a move that forced Worcester PL to close its branches. What the latest cut will do remains to be determined, although Johnson notes that "you have to wonder when what you're offering is viable library service or not." The library is mulling over fundraising and other political campaigns to get public support for the library, but in tax-torn Massachusetts, it may be a tough battle. "There's been a lot of surveys done in the state and it's been shown that people are not prepared to support more taxes." Stay tuned. □

Budget Cut Hurts Small Lib. in Big Way

Maine's Gray library faces bleak future from a townwide cut of \$128,000

"Too often such news comes from urban libraries, when in reality library services in communities of all sizes are vulnerable to municipal cost-cutting." To prove her point, Auburn Public Library (Me.) Director Nann Blaine Hilyard sent *LJ* a clipping from the local *Lewiston Sun-Journal* about the fate of the neighboring Gray Public Library, which serves a population of approximately 5000. Due to a March budget cut of \$128,000 in the town's operating expenses, the library has had to reduce hours from 40 to 16, and it is open only two days a week, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Special programming like story hours have disappeared; magazine subscriptions are lapsing; and the rented video collection has been returned to its distributor.

The library also lost funding for its part-time assistant; Director Eska Winks is now the only staff member. The library's new austerity measures will continue until the end of the town's fiscal year in June. Winks is currently working on next year's budget proposal, and is asking for her part-time assistant back as well as addition-

al staff. "This library is not a one-person operation," Winks told the *Journal*, "it's just too big." □

Volunteers Pay Off for Salt Lake County

They saved the Utah library system \$115,864 last year

"This is an example of how a well-organized volunteer program can increase staff efficiency, improve customer service, and result in significant savings for the taxpayers."

That's Salt Lake County Library System Director Eileen Longworth touting her own volunteer program in a press release. You can hardly blame her, however; according to library staff calculations, the 16,414 hours logged by 598 volunteers were worth \$123,144, based on national averages for equivalent salaries. Since the system's volunteer program cost \$7280 in supplies and staff time to operate, the system considers it saved \$115,864.

The system uses volunteers to free up staff, not to replace them. "We really need more staff, but we don't have the budget for it," library spokesperson Evelyn Tuddenham told *LJ*. "Our volunteers fill in the gaps." □

SISAC Cuts Its Rate

It's one small way to recognize the serials crisis, says watchdog group

At a recent meeting, the New York City-based Serials Industry Systems Advisory Committee (SISAC), a voluntary organization made up of representatives of the library, publisher, wholesaler, subscription agent, and system vendor communities, reduced the library subscription rate to its newsletter and committee meeting reports from \$100 per year to \$90.

"In this day of the shrinking library budget, the items most often cut are those used by the librarians themselves," noted Tina Feick, U.S. serials specialist at Blackwell North America and chair of SISAC. "Since SISAC is dedicated to developing business communication standards for the serials industry and the segment which could benefit by subscribing to the SISAC Minutes is the library community, it seems the best solution to make this information available at the most attractive price possible." □

HUNTINGTON BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY
7111 Talbert Avenue
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

HUNTINGTON
BEACH LIBRARY
(Reference
Pamphlet File)

A committee of the Study Group, SISAC is currently developing electronic communications standards based on American National Standards (ASC) X12 formats. It was also instrumental in the approval of the Serial Item and Contribution Identifier (SICI) ANSI/NISO Z39.56, a serials identifier standard developed by SISAC and the National Information Standards Organization (NISO).

For more information, contact SISAC, 160 Fifth Avenue, New York NY 10010; 212-929-1393; FAX 212-929-1393. □

Huntington Beach Library To Expand

Council approves \$8 million project

On March 25, the Huntington Beach (Cal.) City Council unanimously approved an \$8 million, 42,000 square foot expansion project of the 72,000 square foot Central Library. The expansion will house five meeting rooms, a 320-seat theater, and a media, computer, and technology center, as well as additional space for books, programs, and study areas. The library already has \$3 million in city funds and plans to raise the remaining \$5 million through special "certificate of participation" bonds.

The library expects that the increased personnel and operating costs from the expansion will be paid for by revenue raised by the expansion facility's room rental and media technology fees. Also, Huntington Beach has a special Community Enrichment Library Fee, which places a 10¢ per square foot levy on any new construction in the city. Since there are some new developments slated for the city, the library should be receiving additional funds from that source as well. □

Mathematicians Ante Up for Library

Cornell professors donate overtime pay to buy books and periodicals

LJ has recently reported that students in several colleges across the country have been raising money to supplement the dwindling budgets of their institutions' libraries (*News, LJ*, February 1, p. 15). In the same spirit, mathematics professors at