

MPLA



Newsletter

ARIZONA COLORADO KANSAS MONTANA NEBRASKA NEVADA NORTH DAKOTA OKLAHOMA SOUTH DAKOTA UTAH WYOMING

Nebraska Online

Final in our Series:
MPLA's Member States



These articles have been provided by MPLA's State Representatives. Their charge has been to provide an "article on some aspect of libraries in each state that sets it apart from the mainstream—someone, something, architecture, whatever that is special and worth sharing."

*Article by
Robert Nash,
Nebraska
MPLA Representative -
From information provided
by Mary Jo
Ryan, Nebraska
Library
Commission*

Nebraska Online is an electronic information service "designed to help Nebraska individuals, community groups, and businesses succeed in the global economy." It is coordinated by the Nebraska Library Commission in cooperation with the Nebraska Development Network (NDN). The NDN was created by an executive order of Governor Ben Nelson on January 27, 1992 with the goal of promoting "community and economic development throughout Nebraska." In addition to the Nebraska Library Commission, which is one of its

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Colorado Excellence

**The Colorado Public Library Excellence Award:
On the Trail of the Chimera**
by Ted Schmidt, Director, Loveland Public Library

How can any one person or any institution like a state library or a state library association determine which public library does the best job in a given year? The Public Library Division of the Colorado Library Association wrestled mightily with that question during 1992 in developing the Colorado Public Library Excellence Award which was presented for the first time at the CLA Conference in October 1992 at Beaver Creek.

After the division's executive council determined in late 1991 that excellence in public library service should be acknowledged and rewarded, many meeting hours were spent discussing what constituted excellent public library service and how it could be measured. Little guidance or assistance could be gained from the typical resources. The Public Library Association of the American Library Association had no institutional criteria or award for public library excellence and a literature search proved equally fruitless. The CLA Public Library Division

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Nebraska Online...

most prominent members, the NDN includes more than sixty academic institutions, private industries, libraries and state, federal, local and regional government agencies. In addition to Nebraska Online, other components of the NDN are the Nebraska Development Academy, Working Groups, Regional Groups, and the Economic Intelligence System.

Nebraska Online provides a wide variety of information resources for use by Nebraskans. These include: Nebraska Development Services Directory, Calendar of Events, Job Listings, Electronic Mail, Online Information Services Guide, News Services, Nebraska Library Commission Online Catalog, and Electronic Databases. The Electronic Mail system is the most heavily used component of Nebraska Online and is currently an "internal" mail system confined to Nebraska Online participants only. The Job Listings service receives much use and consists of weekly updates of job openings available through the State Personnel Department. The Nebraska Library Commission also includes library-related job openings from Nebraska and surrounding states. The Electronic Databases category is also among the most utilized of Nebraska Online's resources. It contains numerous databases relevant to the information needs of Nebraskans. These include: 1990 Census of Population & Housing for Nebraska; 1990 Census of Population & Housing (U.S. Summary); National Trade Databank; Foreign Trader's Index; National Economic, Social, & Environmental Databank; County Business Patterns; Nebraska Statutes (full text); Nebraska Legislative Bills (full text); Nebraska Attorney General's Opinions (full text); and Nebraska Vocational Curriculum Resource Center Catalog.

Since October 1992, when Nebraska Online was first made available to the public, use of Nebraska Online has shown consistent growth. From 200 users in its first month of operation, it had grown by April 1993 to more than 1,700 registered users. A large proportion of users are clustered in and around Omaha and Lincoln, but users have actually originated from nearly every county in Nebraska.

Nebraska Online can be accessed by "virtually any computer" having a modem and the appropriate telecommunications software. It is available

toll-free throughout Nebraska via WATS lines. Presently, phone access is being limited to 30 minutes a day per

user in order to allow for as many different users as possible. Users can log on without registering in advance. Plans call for Nebraska Online to be available eventually through Internet. Other future plans include making electronic mail connections to other networks in Nebraska and around the United States, as well as setting up discussion groups, a software library and more electronic databases.

More information on Nebraska Online can be obtained by calling the Nebraska Online Help Desk at the Nebraska Library Commission -(402) 471-2045 or (800) 742-7691.

Excellence...

council considered everything from strict reliance on the state library's quantitative annual reports to sub-rosa telephone surveys of applicants' reference desks and patrons to on-site visits and undercover evaluations. We eventually agreed on an applicant-submitted survey of eight criteria of public library excellence:

- 1) Service to the community
- 2) Innovation
- 3) Public programming
- 4) Management effectiveness
- 5) Successful implementation of several output measures
- 6) Staff development
- 7) Public relations activities
- 8) Degree of local tax support

The applicants for the first award included Burlington Public Library, Denver Public Library, Douglas Public Library District and Jefferson County Public Library. Judges were public library supervisors from the Colorado State Library and Wyoming State Library and the sponsor's regional sales representative, Terrence Heeney of Ingram Library Services, Inc. The award, an engraved plaque and a \$500 credit with Ingrams, was won by the Douglas Public Library District, James LaRue, director.

While only one library received the award all of the entrants made excellent applications containing many worthwhile ideas and responses to the judging criteria. The remainder of this article highlights some of the successful ideas worth sharing.

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NOW WITH NEWSPAPER COVERAGE!

The H.W. Wilson Company now provides high-quality indexing and abstracting of *The New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal* in select Wilson databases!

Business Periodicals Index and ***Wilson Business Abstracts*** now include indexing and abstracting of articles from the *Wall Street Journal* as well as the Business Section of *The New York Times*. ***BPI*** contains indexing; ***WBA*** contains indexing and brief abstracts for every citation.

The ***Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature*** and ***Readers' Guide Abstracts*** provide complete coverage of *The New York Times*, except the Metropolitan section. The ***Readers' Guide*** provides indexing; ***RGA*** includes both indexing and abstracting. ***Readers' Guide Abstracts Select Edition*** provides limited indexing with abstracts for *The New York Times*. The Science Section of *The New York Times* will be indexed in ***General Science Index*** as well.



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Excellence...

Service to the Community: Douglas Public Library District hired a professional marketing firm to survey needs and address the likelihood of a successful district-formation referendum. The outcome was not only a successful vote in 1990 but also a significant refocusing of library energy into the materials budget and into standardizing and greatly increasing public hours which resulted in a 38% increase in circulation. Douglas County also initiated a five day per week courier system among district libraries, offered no charge faxing of reference materials to residents' homes or businesses, developed a Teacher Library Card to supplement school materials and presented the Anytime Storyline via the telephone.

Denver offered a very successful outreach program to senior centers and children's centers and initiated an under 24 hour internal delivery system throughout the DPL system. Also of interest is a very successful Read Aloud program which brought DPL staff and volunteers in contact with 4,500 children at day care and preschool centers as well as in the primary schools of Denver.

Jefferson County focused on the upgrade of its facility in Arvada which provided new telecommunications for the deaf and improved physical accessibility, a new facility at Stanley Lake, an upgrade of the library's computer system and the installation of a centralized 63-hour-per-week answerline.

Innovation: In addition to providing a new building, Burlington offers some really new materials - cookie cutters, cake pans and an art wall for local artists. Denver streamlined the customer order procedure which led to a 350% increase in customer requests. Denver's very innovative multi-media children's catalog will encourage searches by overcoming the barriers of computer screens and the printed word with graphics and sound.

Douglas Public Library District created a civic and social service agency database which was loaded into the library's computer and teamed with a major land developer to convert a home decorating center into a branch library while retaining many of the features of the store. Douglas also initiated a National Library Card program which used a customer-signed Visa or Mastercard sales slip if an item wasn't returned and instituted a very proactive "Green Librarianship" program in purchasing and recycling.

Jefferson County hired a Facilities Manager to coordinate building planning and renovation and energy usage in an effort to control costs in a very significant area of the library expense. Jefferson County also added magazine indexing on CD-Rom throughout the system and paired with the county school district to improve the effective use of library resources.

Programming: Denver Public Library featured its Authors on Stage series which attracted an average of 1,000 people to each of the presentations. Also promoted by DPL was the system-wide Black Awareness Month programming.

Jefferson County featured the Year of the Lifetime Reader in its advertising and programming by focusing each month on a different age group; e.g. 7 year olds, 14 year olds, etc. throughout the life span. The library's foundation co-sponsored the third annual Young Adult Literature Confer-

ence which attracted participants from six states and extensive press coverage.

Douglas Public Library District modified its summer reading program schedule when the county school district initiated year-round schooling. Programs were offered for after school hours, non-nap story hours for pre-four year olds and evenings for chapter book sessions for elementary school children. Douglas also offered monthly "Lunch and Learn" sessions in conjunction with the local Extension Service, outreach programming to recreation centers, schools, day care centers and an adult literacy program at one of the branches.

Management Effectiveness: Burlington and Denver public libraries featured the extensive building projects of designing and constructing new facilities with Denver making the extra effort to serve the more isolated areas of the city when their branches were closed for renovation.

Jefferson County adopted a staff-designed operational values statement to empower all staff to act confidently within the framework of the library's mission statement. The library also changed the budget procedures and purchased a new software package, Spectrum, for personnel management which greatly improved efficiency. Douglas Public Library District instituted weekly manager meetings, "Upward Evaluations" of managers and the library director by employees and specific, task-oriented committees of staff and management to recommend policy and procedure changes. As a new library district, Douglas developed its own forms, business procedures, policies and comprehensive benefits package during its first year of operation.

Staff Development: Jefferson County administration, public information staff and branch managers all participated in Priority Management System, a time management and team building seminar. Staff also produced many in-service training programs and participated in many state, regional and national library activities. An estimated 20% of the library's employees are members of professional organizations and the library implemented flexible scheduling to encourage 15 staffers to participate in the Emporia of the Rockies library education program.

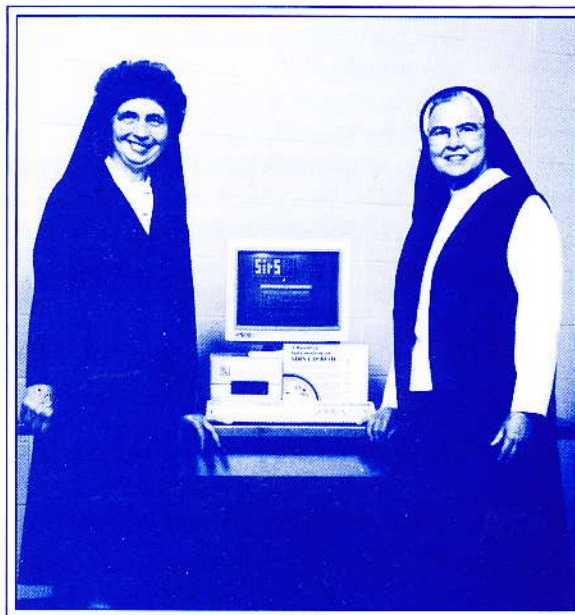
Burlington used the High Plains System staff to provide a large part of its staff development through the system retreat and regular meetings with other county librarians. Denver Public Library provided in-house training for over 500 staff addressing 45+ topics, created Career Days for in-house staff development and basic skills enhancement and encouraged staff to continue their educations. Staff who maintained a grade average of B or better received a 100% tuition reimbursement with the Emporia program. DPL is heavily represented in state, regional and national library organizations. Douglas County provided extensive basic staff training when the number of staff doubled.

The above illustrates some of the many reasons these four libraries were proud of their programs and brave enough to submit their applications for public judging. The deadline for the 1993 Colorado Public Library Excellence Award is June 30. The award will be presented Saturday, October 3 at the CLA-MPLA Awards Luncheon. For more information contact Ted Schmidt at (303) 962-2400.

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New Degree

The Master of Arts in Library Science at the U of A School of Library Science has been approved by the Board of Regents. The Master of Arts program is fully accredited by the ALA. Both the M.A. and M.L.S. degrees require the same courses, but the M.A. requires a minimum of 36 hours of coursework. Other differences are that the M.A. requires 6 units of research methods, and a student may, with approval of his or her major professor, elect a thesis option.

The board of Regents also approved the School of Library Science's proposal to offer a Ph.D. degree. (Arizona Libraries NewsWeek, April 12)

Reading: A Three Ring Circus

LED Consultants Deborah Tasnadi and Jan Elliott welcome Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey to this year's Arizona Reading Program, "Libraries: The Greatest Show on Earth." Ringling Bros., which holds the trademark on the phrase "the greatest show on earth," graciously offered to co-sponsor this year's reading program. The right to use the phrase normally costs institutions \$50,000.

In addition to allowing free use of the phrase, the corporation donated several items. Libraries in Maricopa County will receive complimentary circus passes to distribute to participants in their programs. Tickets are limited to Maricopa County because the circus will appear only in that county. Each Arizona library participating in the 1993 program will receive Ringling Bros. posters, bookmarks and newsletters for its program. (Arizona Libraries NewsWeek, June 28)

Clowning Around in Graham County

The Pima Public Library has a unique means of advertising their Arizona Reading Program this summer. As a kick-off event, librarian Nancy Foster went on the air at a local radio station to publicize the program on a local talk show called Voice of the Valley. She surprised the program announcer (and many other people in the town that day) by dressing in full clown regalia. The announcer, lacking the visual technology of television, gave his audience a vivid verbal picture of Nancy's costume and of the foot-wide bow tie she presented him as a thank-you gift.

Clowns play a major role in other programs planned for the Pima Library this summer. The vice-mayor belongs to a clown club, and he has volunteered to do a magic show and make balloon animals for the children on the last day of the program. In addition, members of a local clown club are providing three programs of songs and games at the library in Safford. (Arizona Libraries NewsWeek, July 12)

Roving Reviewer

The Roving Review project, sponsored by the Library Extension Division (LED), has been instrumental in bringing a large number of new children's books to Arizona public libraries. The edition of *The Roving Reviewer: Book Reviews By Children's Services Personnel in Arizona* now in preparation, will contain the reviews of over 1200 children's books. LED's records show that the dollar value of these donations will be more than \$13,000 for this trimester alone.

Through this project, children's book publishers donate new books on a regular basis. Three times per year, the LED distributes the books to public libraries who are interested in participating in the project. The libraries must agree to return a book review to LED for each title they receive. All reviews are forwarded to the publishers and are also used to compile a triannual edition of *The Roving Reviewer: Book Reviews By Children's Services Personnel in Arizona*. (Arizona Libraries NewsWeek, July 5)

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Health Sciences Express

Eveline Yang, Resource Service Department Head, reports that the Denison Memorial Library (University of Colorado Health Sciences Center) has instituted a new fee-based service, Information Express Delivery Service (IEDS).

The service, which began in March, includes photocopy service for journal articles available at the Denison Memorial Library, and fax service that allows receiving and sending of documents using the Interlibrary Loan fax machine.

In case the journal articles requested are not immediately available, the ILL service will locate them from other libraries or commercial document suppliers.

Pre-payment, deposit account (\$50 minimum) or charge card information is required for IEDS requests. (NEXUS News, July)

On the Road to Preservation

The Colorado Preservation Alliance has published, "On the Road to Preservation: A State-wide Preservation Action Plan for Colorado." This document is the result of three years of research and discussion within the state and with preservationists in other states. It was produced and published with support from a Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) grant from the Colorado State Library. Inquires should go to the Colorado Preservation Alliance, c/o Colorado State Archives, 1313 Sherman, Denver, CO 80203. (News release)

Colorado Library Card Celebrates First Anniversary

July marked the first anniversary of the Colorado Library Card (CLC), a statewide cooperative program whereby Coloradans may borrow library materials from any participating library in the state.

Because of its success, the Colorado Library Card is already being looked at by other states throughout the nation and considered by them as a model for similar programs in their states.

The Colorado Library Card allows the public to check out materials, free of charge, at any participating library — including public libraries, school libraries, academic (higher education) libraries, and special libraries connected with institutions and businesses. When it's time to return materials, borrowers simply drop them off at any participating library. Each library keeps an up-to date list of libraries currently taking part in the program.

Partial statistics for the first six months of the program indicate that 13,290 patrons checked out materials from participating libraries other than their own. They checked out a total of 258,862 volumes under the CLC program.

Great Pikes Peak Cowboy Poetry Gathering

Have you ever laughed so much that your face hurt? You would have at this year's Great Pikes Peak Cowboy Poetry Gathering when Baxter Black took the state on August 14. Before his performance, everyone got in the mood with toe-tappin', hand-clappin' music by Sterling Silver, Fletcher Jowers and Howard Parker.

As America's best-selling cowboy poet, Black has taken the art of rhyme one step further, using his lunatic wit and animated delivery to create a whole new field of entertainment. He has appeared on a variety of television shows, including as a regular guest on *The Tonight Show*; writes *On the Edge of Common Sense* for over 90 publications, making him the most widely syndicated agricultural columnist in America; and is the author of 10 books of cowboy poetry and humor. In constant demand as a speaker and performer, Black averages 100 shows each year in the United States and Canada, keeping his popularity growing "like a pile of disposable diapers at a sanitary landfill."

Sterling Silver, six talented young ladies ages 12-14, sing harmony, ensemble, and solo accompanied by guitars, mandolin, keyboard, drums, and fiddle. Jowers is a Texas cowboy with a guitar who writes and sings traditional cowboy and Western songs. Parker's piano playing and songs that blend the Old West with the new will have you laughing one minute and crying the next.

This annual community event featured the following special events in addition to the poetry and musical entertainment: Western Trade Show, The Great Chow-Down Barbeque, 'Ol Western Street Denace, Tortilla Toss Contest, Western Art Auction, Cowboy Church, and a Cowboy "Free for All." (Check It Out, August)

DPL Employee Wins Third Annual UMI Library Technology Award

Pamela Sandlian thinks technology can make library access child's play. That thinking has lead her to be honored with the 1993 UMI Library Technology Award. Ms. Sandlian, Manager of Children's Services at the Denver Public Library, conceived of and helped develop Kid's Catalog, a database that

is revolutionizing children's cataloging and computer cataloging generally.

The Kid's Catalog is a Macintosh-based graphical user interface with CARL System's online Public Access Catalog. It is specifically designed to connect children with the library's collection and features point-and-click search capabilities. Kid's Catalog is an interactive multimedia system combining graphics, color, and sound with text. This lively presentation makes searching more fun for children and bypasses areas of traditional electronic searching that present problems for young searchers: spelling, typing, subject headings, and search protocols.

The Kid's Catalog began as a graduate-school project. After investing more than 2,000 hours developing the concept, Ms. Sandlian and two colleagues, took leaves of absence from the Denver Public Library to develop the database with CARL Systems.

The UMI Library Technology Award was established with Learned Information, Inc., publishers of Link-Up and Information Today. It was created to annually honor a librarian or librarians for the innovative use of technology to better serve library patrons, with the emphasis on creative applications of technology to make information available to patrons in a more user-friendly and efficient way. The award concentrates on "up-front" operations directly affecting the public or library users. (News release)

SLIM Ph.D.

The School of Library Information Management, Emporia State University, will begin offering a doctoral his fall semester, 1993. Emphasis in the curriculum will be on information transfer, creation, dissemination and use. Only six to ten candidates who exhibit unusual creativity, a strong interest in research and a commitment to an academic way of life will be admitted each year. (Kansas Libraries, June)

ILL Manual in Hypertext

The Kansas Interlibrary Loan Directory and Manual has been distributed by the State Library as a hypertext document for use on any IBM or compatible microcomputer, this electronic format replaces the five-year old looseleaf manual and directory. The hypertext version includes information on state, regional and national ILL codes, policies and protocols, copyright, a tutorial on basic ILL procedures for beginners, use of the Kansas Library Catalog (KLC) and KICNET, a directory of ILL policies of most Kansas libraries of all types, a glossary, FAX numbers, instructions for dialing into online public access catalogs in Kansas and more. (Kansas Libraries, June)

Celebrate 50 Years of Bookmobile Service

The Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library celebrated 50 years of Bookmobile Service this summer. The newest state-of-the-art bookmobile will be on hand for the public to tour. The bookmobile is 34 feet long and is equipped with a special lift to make it handicapped accessible. It holds more than 4,500 books, magazines and videos. The new bookmobile will join three other bookmobiles in serving library patrons in Topeka and Shawnee County neighborhoods and shopping centers.

The library board approved Topeka's first rolling library, which started its services in the spring of 1943. The bookmobile was a converted trailer house pulled by a Chevrolet coupe. The branch held about 1,200 books and circulation was consistently high.

In 1947, the Library added Bookmobile II, which was a 1 1/2 ton cab-over-engine panel truck, custom-built to serve as a bookmobile. In 1949, the eight-year-old Chevrolet coupe, that pulled the trailer, was retired; and branch II was fitted with a hitch to pull the trailer. In August, 1950, the Library bought from Topeka Transportation Company a city bus that was being retired from regular service. The bus was remodeled into a bookmobile, and held 1,500 books. In 1951 a second bus was remodeled and equipped to replace the house trailer.

In 1957, the city buses were showing considerable age, and a factory-built Gerstenslager bookmobile with shelf space for 3,000 books and equipped with civilized lighting, heating and air-conditioning, replaced the make-shift buses.

Over the years staff have endured strenuous, sometimes uncomfortable, but never dull working days on the bookmobiles. The hot and cold elements that the weather would bring. Canine followers that were as faithful in attendance as their masters sometimes became unruly and the dog fights that ensued are legend in Library lore. Show and Tell was also part of the day to day experience. Staff members were permitted to admire handicraft products inspired by how-to-do-it books, as well as kites, rag dolls, birdhouses, puppies, kittens, ducks, garter snakes and once in a while a new born baby brother or sister.

One of our late employees once drove the bookmobile through a window at White Lakes Mall. (Tidbits, June)

Operation Associates Conference

The Kansas Library Operation Associates (KLOA) held its first annual conference in April. The theme of the conference was "I Work in a Library, But I'm Not a Librarian: Partners for Progress." Attending the conference were approximately 150 representatives of public, academic, school, special and system libraries from throughout Kansas. Dr. Martha Hale, Dean of the School of Library and Information Management at Emporia State University, presented the keynote address titled "Continuing Education, What It Is, Why You Need It, and How to Get It." Dr. Hale identified a variety of methods to acquire continuing education and encouraged individuals to take responsibility for their learning experiences, to listen to and talk with people in other institutions, and to request that specific continuing education opportunities be provided.

Conference participants were also able to attend workshops covering topics ranging from continuing education opportunities in Kansas, interpersonal communication, managing the conflicts of parenthood with work and school, to the process of organizing to address the interests of library operation associates. Janet Anderson-Story (University of Kansas), 1992-93 KLOA Chair, stated following the conference that her vision for participants is that they be able to make one change in their own work environment by implementing an idea learned during the conference.

KLOA is a roundtable within the Kansas Library Association and addresses the interests of library operations personnel, support staff, and other library employees. (Exchange, May-June)

Library Night at the Royals

Nearly 450 Kansas City area library staff members and their friends, representing 12 libraries, and the Kansas City Metropolitan Library Network staff, were on hand for the first annual Library Night at the Royals. Kent Oliver, Director of Olathe Public Library and President of the Kansas Library Association, threw out the first pitch during pre-game festivities. Charles Perdue, Director of the Kansas City, Kansas Public Library, caught the first pitch. Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library's mascot, Bookaroo, was also on hand. John W. Ferguson, Director of the Mid-Continent Public Library, sang the National Anthem. (NEKLS News, August)

MSU Libraries Celebrate Centennial

National Library Week this past spring was chosen as The Libraries week to celebrate Montana State University's Centennial year. Months of planning by library staff brought off the big event, in spite of a snowstorm that hit Friday which dampened the pastries and lemonade available outside the library. Centennial bookmarks were created for distribution, along with CatLink (MSU's remote access catalog) log t-shirts which were worn by library employees throughout the week. Continuous showings of MSU made videos about Montana were shown in the library lobby on a big-screen television. Featured in the evening was the MSU Golden Globe award winning movie "Shadow Casting: the Making of A River Runs Through It." Also placed in the lobby was a large sheet of paper with the headline "How Information & Libraires Changed My Life."

Some of our favorite responses:

"I discovered science fiction in Sidney."

"The last best refuge."

"The only refuge is a good book."

"Since I've always had my nose in a book I became a flabby, humped back, near-sighted geek, but it's worth it!"

"I think, therefore I use information."

"I like it when you go to find a book and it isn't there but a better one is in its place but sometimes I think there really is a God"

"Barnhardt's Dictionary of Entomology"

The week opened with decorating the entire library with streamers, balloons, and ribbons. The key event for students was the Information Treasure Hunt—20 questions which needed to be answered correctly in order to enter the drawing. Prizes were eleven cash awards of \$200 each, plus miscellaneous bookstore certificates. Nearly one thousand questionnaires were distributed. Questions covered informational items, along with library usage and policy. Students had the most difficulty with the question "Which three Republican presidents served a full two terms in office?" One student was so impressed with how much information she could find in an almanac that she remarked she was going to buy one for herself!

Concurrent with the Information Hunt was a silent auction of autographed celebrity posters endorsing reading for American libraries. Celebrities who responded to our plea for autographs included



Glenn Close, RoseAnn Arnold, Harrison Ford, Phil Collins, the Chicago Bulls, Whoopi Goldberg, and Michael Keaton.

To conclude the week, Bob Edwards, host of National Public Radio's award winning "Morning Edition" arrived and drew the winners of the Information Hunt on Friday. That afternoon he addressed a packed audience, focusing on the theme of National Library Week, "Libraries/Information Changes Lives." Edwards also read from his forthcoming book, *The Colonel and the Red Head* (Simon & Schuster, 1993) which is a biography of the late sports announcer, Red Barber. Barber was a unique figure who announced major league baseball for 33 years. In his obituary last year in *Sports Illustrated* it was remarked that his broadcast made the listener think you were there, "and there was both a physical and metaphysical space." He was best known for his literary acumen when announcing the game, and was the creator of phrases such as "sittin' in the catbird seat," (later used by James Thurber in his famous short story) or "tearin' up the pea patch" to mention a few. Deftly using Barber as a starting point, Edwards read from his manuscript, and then proceeded to explore topics such as sports, literature, information filtered by the media vs. information directly received, racism, researching and writing a book, the First Amendment, and Southern culture. Like Red Barber, it was a unique address. (Montana Library Focus, June)



Nebraska Online Use Increases

Nebraskans across the state are discovering the many ways that telecommunications access to information and communication opportunities can help their communities to build economic vitality and compete in the global market. Nebraska Online is the information component of the Nebraska Development Network, providing a variety of information and communication services to economic development professionals and volunteers, librarians, educators, entrepreneurs... to all Nebraskans. Usage is increasing weekly and the success stories of those users and their communities have not yet been told.

Nebraska Online Service Centers are being set up in libraries across the state to assure equal access to information for all Nebraskans. Included in the database are job listings, news services, calendar of events, online systems directory, NLC Online Catalog, Development Service Directory, software library (inquiries), users directory, and interest groups (inquiries). Two new database are County Business Patterns 1989-90 and Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Database. (Special Report).

Keno Goes to Library

Almost all of the City of Lincoln's keno profits will be used for parks and recreation and libraries, according to a spending plan tentatively approved by the Lincoln City Council May 3. The resolution devotes 65 percent of profits to parks and recreation, 30 percent to libraries, and 5 percent to human services. (SoLis, June)

Children's Services Online

Nebraska Online opens a new children's services option! Using the mailbox feature of Nebraska Online, "Children Services Online" is a mail group for anyone registered as a user of Nebraska Online. This service will enable you to draw on collegial expertise and creativity in all parts of Nebraska and also to contribute to a pool of information, ideas, suggestions and specific answers to questions. Librarians are encouraged to participate by contributing questions and problems, but also by being an active answerer and problem solver. (SoLis, September)

Liaison Librarians at UN-L

While all library staff share responsibility for insuring that library services and collections are adequate for supporting the teaching and research of the University, the Libraries have assigned twenty-one librarians to serve as the primary links, or liaisons, between the Libraries and the faculty and students of over seventy-five departments and subject areas.

By assigning one librarian as the liaison to a department, the Libraries enable that librarian to focus on the changing information needs of that department's faculty and students, and to keep up with the every-changing variety of information resources to meet those needs. At the same time, the liaison librarian interprets the Libraries' services and policies to the faculty and students in his or her liaison department(s). Knowing who their liaison librarian is also allows faculty and students in a department to have one key contact person in the Libraries—an advantage when working with the resources of a large system. (Link, Spring)

Small Public Library Friend's Group Award

Friends of the Washoe County Library in Reno received the Friends of Libraries USA (FOLUSA)/Baker & Taylor Award for Small Public Libraries, for their auction, called "Tisket, Tasket, A Literary Basket," devised to benefit the library system, raise the public awareness of Friends and increase Friends membership. Food, drink and entertainment were offered to those attending the auction who were asked to bid on "literary baskets." Each basket contained items that might complement a particular theme revolving around a particular book or author. (ALA News Release)

Summerlin Library and Performing Arts Center

A 14-foot high, serpentine, pebbled wall guides patrons to the copper-colored doors on the south side of the new Summerlin Library and Performing Arts Center in Las Vegas. A circular drive wraps around to the north entrance where Rita Deanin Abbey's 18-foot steel sculpture greets patrons entering the library or performing arts center.

The new library will house a book collection of 100,000, 150 periodical titles and a young people's library. A portion of the adult book collection is devoted to business and finance with supportive reference materials. A leader board and Howard Hughes decorative memorabilia is also part of the library decor.

The 40,165 square foot library and performing arts center was designed by Robert Fielden, Inc., with views of Lone Mountain and Mt. Charleston, an interior design of beige, blue and a cherry-stained wood finish, on property donated to the library district by Summa Corporation. It includes a gallery and a 291-seat performance theater including fly and proscenium stage.

The Summerlin Library is one of nine libraries the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District plans to construct or renovate with 1991 bond issue funds.

Young people and adults alike will read to new heights in the structure's Young People's Library. Summa Corporation has donated 16 model airplanes that will be suspended from the ceiling. Below, the Playhouse Puppet Theater is sure to turn a few heads.

Just off the story room, a parenting room allows parents to watch their children during story hour.

Other library building features include courtyards; study rooms; restrooms with kid-sized bathroom fixtures; circular seating areas with banners, skylights; a used book store; security gate; box office; conference room; literacy area; and an audio visual area with two VCRs. The performing arts theater features include a fire curtain; a scene shop; green room; four dressing rooms; and two stars' dressing rooms. (Off the Shelf, July/August/September)

Dakota Radio Information Service Expands

Dakota Radio Information Service (DRIS), a radio broadcasting service for persons who are unable to read regular print, went on the air in the Jamestown region on July 1.

DRIS, carried on a subcarrier of KPRJ, Jamestown Public Radio, is available to persons who cannot read or handle standard print material because of visual or physical disabilities. The service is made possible through a grant from the Public Telecommunications Facilities Program of the National Telecommunications & Information Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce. Part of the local match for the grant was provided by Jamestown United Way. Members of the Central Valley District Nurses Association assisted in raising funds to purchase closed circuit FM-radio receivers needed to receive the programming. The receivers are loaned free of charge to persons who are eligible for the service.

The Jamestown Sun will be broadcast daily. Other newspapers being read are: The Bismarck Tribune, The Mandan News, The Williston Herald, The Minot Daily News, and the Dickinson Press.

In addition to local newspapers, DRIS carries "In-Touch," a New York City based radio reading service which features The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal and USA Today as well as over 100 current popular magazines. DRIS is on the air 18 hours a day, seven days a week.

DRIS broadcasts started in the Bismarck area in 1984. Since that time it has expanded to Minot, Williston, and Dickinson, and now to Jamestown. (Flickertale, July/August)

Drs. Billington, Scott Come to Grand Forks

"Books without Boundaries" is the theme of a 2-day literary symposium hosted by the North Dakota Center for the Book on September 9 and 10 at the Grand Forks Public Library and at the University of North Dakota Chester Fritz Library. The purpose of the symposium is to promote books and reading from the perspective that "libraries know no borders" as they share ideas and information across community, city, district, county, state, provincial, territorial, national, and international lines. Joining

USA participants will be a number of Canadian colleagues.

Dr. James Billington, Librarian of Congress, and Dr. Marianne Scott, Canadian National Librarian, will be present for the symposium, together with John Y. Cole, Director of the Center for the Book, Library of Congress, and Jef vanGool, Head of the Reading Promotion Department, Dutch Centre for Public Libraries and Literature, The Hague, Netherlands. (Flickertale, September/October)

SENDIT

Seeking to expand on a 1907 legislative mandate to provide "informational materials, advice, assistance and support services to libraries and the citizens of North Dakota," the North Dakota State Library has formed a very successful partnership with SENDIT, North Dakota's 24-hour, electronic K-12 Educational Telecommunications Network.

The partnership, without spending any scarce library dollars, created the SENDIT "Library Resources Menu." The program began operations this spring, connecting SENDIT users in every corner of North Dakota to ODIN (Online Dakota Information Network), PALS, LOCIS (Library of Congress Information System) and four other remote systems. SENDIT users can now search millions of bibliographic records in over 1,000 libraries worldwide. (Flickertale, September/October)

GeoRef

GeoRef, the CD-ROM database version of the American Geological Institute's geoscience database, will be available at the Chester Fritz Library, University of North Dakota. The GeoRef database contains 1.5 million records and covers the technical literature on geology and geophysics for North America since 1785 and other areas of the world since 1933. (Library News, June/July)

ONENET

As of July 1, ONENET serves as the state of Oklahoma's gateway for access to the NSFnet/Internet. The University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State University, and the University of Tulsa have participated extensively in the formation of ONENET and will help the regents' staff to provide the necessary technical resources for ONENET's operation.

ONENET is governed by a board of directors chosen from the membership. The board determines policy, with active participation from the membership. In recognition of the State Regents' role of ownership of the network, they hold a permanent seat on the board of directors. Other board seats are reserved for each class of membership: K-12, Vo-tech, Nonprofit organizations, Libraries, and State and Federal Government.

Membership in ONENET will be open to virtually any entity within the state of Oklahoma. ONENET has a dues structure based on both the size of the organization and the network capacity that organization will utilize.

ONENET opens access for students and the public to science, math, and "a world of information." For example, the Mesonet project may utilize ONENET to provide weather data for its "Project EarthStorm" into K-12 classrooms. ONENET electronically opens the doors of the Library of Congress, as well as hundreds of other libraries, to the public and students of all ages.

ONENET allows institutions of higher education to identify and interact with the most promising future students years before they ever set foot on a campus. ONENET will allow for the electronic transfer of information between institutions and the regents' office.

ONENET provides an electronic mail service that will bridge not only higher education institutions, but state and local governments, Oklahoma businesses, libraries, vocational-technical institutions, and K-12 schools.

TCCL Offers KOTV Newcasts

KOTV's nightly newcasts from January 1993 to the present are now available at the Tulsa City-County Library's Media Center at the Central Library. Fulltext newcast scripts are available on computer and are searchable by keyword to find the appropriate newcast(s). TCCL will retain the newcasts for one year and then will turn them over to the Tulsa Historical Society where they will continue to be available for public use. This joint effort by TCCL, the Tulsa Historical Society, and KOTV Channel 6 is the first project of its kind in the U.S. and is intended to be a demonstration project for other American public libraries. (Oklahoma Librarian, May/June)

"But Officer, I was Speeding to Support My Library"

Next time you pay a speeding ticket, you might want to be aware that you're contributing financial support to your county law library. Many of Oklahoma's 77 county law libraries have had a history of



financial problems. Often, there weren't enough funds to support the law libraries each county is authorized to have by state law. These libraries received funds from fees for particular civil cases. Recent legislation has allowed the libraries to receive funding from fees for both civil and criminal cases which meet certain criteria. Now, a 1993 state law increases the fines for traffic offenses, with the additional funds earmarked for local county law libraries. Fines have gone up \$3 for speeding, reckless driving and other offenses. (ODL Source, July)

Handicap Accessible Bookcases

A \$10,000 grant from the Sarkeys Foundation of Norman has enabled the Metropolitan Library System serving Oklahoma County to finance the construction of 40 handicap accessible bookcases, to be located in outreach sites throughout the county. The library system maintains 130 sites throughout the community. (Oklahoma Librarian, July/August)



South Dakota

NSF Grant Funds Network

The National Science Foundation is providing \$1.1 million to connect South Dakota schools, colleges and libraries to an international computer network, Gov. Walt D. Miller said on September 9.

The Internet computer system works like an "information superhighway," the governor said. "Users can tap into information and data from all over the world, as well as communicate with other Internet users globally," he said.

The network will benefit not only the state's education system but also assist with economic development, research, agriculture and health care, Miller said.

Tied into the global computer network will be the state's public, private and tribal universities, school districts, state agencies, the South Dakota Library Network and the EROS Data Center near Sioux Falls. (Argus Leader, September 10)

Live at the Library

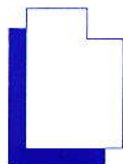
"Meet the Author: Live at the Library," a new program series at the Sioux Falls Public Library, is being taped for broadcast by Minnesota Public Radio.

The program, started in August, features area authors reading from their books, talking about writing and answering audience questions. The library and local book stores will feature the authors' books during the program.

The August lineup included Sioux Falls detective-story/mystery writer William J. Reynolds, author of *The Nebraska Quotient*; romance author Cynthia Wright of Elk Point, whose most recent novel is *Fireblossom*; author-historian Barbara Oaks of Sioux Falls, best known for *Queen City of the Plains*; and Vincent S. Green of Vermillion, who wrote the fiction courtroom drama, *The Price of Victory*.

Additional authors have been scheduled for September and October, plus a line-up is being confirmed for the spring of 1994. Minnesota Public Radio airs the taping locally, followed by a broadcast throughout their network. It appears as though some of the programs will be offered to National Public Radio. Publishers associated with authors scheduled for 1994 are arranging appearances to coincide with new title releases.

The series has been the result of work by Head of Reference Services, Doug Murdock, who is also initiating work on a cowboy poetry event. (BookMarks, September/October)



Utah

Snowbird Leadership Institute Meets

Thirty-two librarians representing 28 states and two foreign countries attend the fourth annual Snowbird Leadership Institute from July 28th to August 3rd at the Snowbird Ski Resort in Utah. The Institute, founded by Salt Lake City Library Director Dennis Day and sponsored by Dynix, Inc., an Americitech Company, has achieved a national reputation as the outstanding leadership training experience for those in the library profession.

Each year the presidents of state library associations, state librarians, and the deans of library schools nominate one individual from their state or institution to attend the Snowbird Leadership Institute. This year there were over one hundred applicants for thirty-two openings.

Through a variety of structured and informal activities, participants identify their leadership styles, explore alternative styles for effective leadership, and experiment with leadership skills and techniques. Participants are divided into four working groups, each of which works closely with two mentors.

Mentors stay at the Cliff Lodge with participants and share valuable understandings they have gleaned during successful careers. This year's mentors included Hardy Franklin, President of the

American Library Association and Director of the D.C. Public Library; Barbara Franklin, influential Washington D.C. attorney and author; Bridget Lamont, Director of the Illinois State Library; Patrick O'Brien, Director of the Alexandria Library; Bill Summers, Dean of the Florida State Library School; Lorraine Summers, Assistant State Librarian for Florida; John Tyson, Virginia State Librarian; and Dennis Day.

Dynix President Paul Syborowsky serves as an administrative staff member and additional mentor. Dynix has underwritten the Snowbird Institute since 1990. "This is one way Dynix makes a significant contribution to the library community and to professional librarians," said Sybrowski. "We are proud to make this investment in the future of library leadership." (Directions for Utah Libraries, September 1993)

Great Issues Forum Announced

In the spring of 1992, ULA President Randy Olsen chartered a Strategic Planning Committee to look at critical directions for the Association. The Committee developed four recommendations which were presented to the ULA Board on August 7th and accepted.

The fourth recommendation directed ULA to sponsor or co-sponsor two annual forums, one for librarians and one for the general public. The stated purpose of the librarians' forum was "to get together and discuss major library issues in an atmosphere where ideas are valued and results are sought."

This year's Forum will examine the impact of technology on libraries and how to plan for the future. It will include a panel discussion with representatives from state and local government, the information industry, and administrators in public and higher education. While papers on the impact of technology on libraries in the state will also be prepared. (Directions for Utah Libraries, September 1993)

Readers in S.L. Check Out Libraries Often

People in Salt Lake City read books insatiably.

For each person who lives in the city, 13.5 books were checked out in 1992, according to the American Library Association. That is well above the national average of 5.5.

Considering Salt Lake residents could entertain themselves by taking a trip to Lagoon or watching the Utah Jazz, Ballet West, Salt Lake Acting Company, Utah Opera Company, movies or videos, people overwhelmingly make time to read.

Adds state librarian Amy Owen: "Utah is a reading state. That is a very respectable number for a metropolitan city. Many times rural communities, where people don't have many things to do, have higher circulation per capita.

According to the American Library Directory, the Salt Lake City Public Library system is the Western region's best-used system among cities of 100,000 or more residents. In the last 12 years, Salt Lake City jumped from eighth place to first in that category.

In a city of 160,000 residents, 112,000 people had library cards last year.

A high education level, families who frequent the city's six branches, adequate funding and 646,000 volumes are attributed to the system's success.

"Part of the credit goes to the city of Salt Lake for spending the money on the library. Part of the credit also goes to the library's board and administrators," said Joey Rodger, president of the Urban Libraries Council, who serves as a consultant for the city library.

Last year, Salt Lake City spent \$5.8 million on operating costs. Comparable cities like Salem, OR, and Amarillo, TX, spent \$2 million during the same period. That translates to Salt Lake City having spent \$36 per resident in total expenditures. Larger cities like Philadelphia spent \$27 per resident, while Denver spent \$31.

Here is a chart of comparison circulations per library user in 1992: Salt Lake City, 13.5; Mesa, AZ, 7.5; Denver, CO, 7.0; Tucson, AZ, 6.7; Aurora, CO, 6.5; Boise, ID, 5.7; Phoenix, AZ, 5.7; Colorado Springs, 5.5; Albuquerque, NM, 5.4; Pueblo, CO, 5.4; Reno, NV, 3.6; Las Vegas, NV, 3.6. *Source: ALA (Salt Lake Tribune, June 25)*

Newsletter Joblist

- MPLA institutional members may place job advertisements in this newsletter's Joblist section at no charge.
- All other institutions may list jobs at \$1.25/line.
- Joblist appears in issues for the months of February, April, June, August, October, and December.
- Send Joblist ads to Jim Dertien, MPLA Newsletter, Sioux Falls Public Library, 201 North Main Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD 57102.

Community Information Directory

The Albany County Public Library has produced a resource guide, "Laramie, Rock River, Albany County Community Information Directory, 1993." It lists services and organizations in five categories: assistance, associations, education, government, health, and gives contact names, addresses, phone numbers, meeting times and purposes and/or activities for each. (Outrider, May)

Local Area Network in Cheyenne

The local area network (LAN) made possible by the \$18,000 donation of the Women's Civic League is up and running and available for the public to use. Four new computer workstations have been added to the central library's Book Magic Room and two to the adult reference area. Eight new CD-ROM products are available to the public, all of which were made possible by the Civic League donation. (Library Letter, Summer)

Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library

The Library received a \$3,740 grant from the Montgomery Trust for the Blind. The money will be used for a computer system for the special services areas, purchase of large print books and book bags for delivering materials to the physically and visually handicapped.

Can you top this one? Alice Meister, director of SCFPL, spent a month this summer in South Africa studying the apartheid system. She was selected to join this special group as part of her studies for a master's degree in public administration.

The Sheridan County Friends of the Library purchased a new book drop, barcode scanner and CD-Rom for the library. Books and materials will also be purchased with a check donated from the proceeds of the Friends' Auction. (Outrider, July/August)

Ethics and Legal Issues

Twenty-six library science students from five western states attend the two-credit graduate level course, "Ethics and Legal Issues in Libraries." The class was sponsored by the Wyoming State Library, the University of Arizona, and the University of Wyoming. It was held on the campus of Sheridan College in Sheridan, WY, June 1-4. (Outrider, July/August)

Levendosky on Freedom to Read Foundation Board

Charles Levendosky, editorial page editor of the Casper Star Tribune, was elected to the Board of Trustees of the Freedom to Read Foundation. He will serve a two-year term on the 12-member board. Levendosky has been recognized for his efforts on behalf of the First Amendment receiving the John Philip Immroth Memorial Award For Intellectual Freedom, the H.L. Mencken Award for Free Press and the Hugh Hefner Award. (Outrider, July/August)

About You

- **Sheila Cates**, Coordinator of Library Development, Montana State Library, was named Librarian of the Year by the Montana Library Association ...
- **Dennis Day**, Director of the Salt Lake (UT) Public Library, was elected to the ALA Council ...
- **Donna Jones**, Arkansas Valley Service System Director (Pueblo, CO) was married on July 10 to Raymond Morris ...
- **Bill Knott**, Director of the Jefferson County Public Library, has been appointed to the Colorado Council for Library Development ...
- **Ann Kuntzman** is the new Government Documents Librarian at the University of Southern Colorado ...
- Colorado State University Preservation Librarian **Myra Jo Moon** passed away in March. We'll remember Myra's fervent commitment to preservation, her leadership, her willingness to share her knowledge, and her sense of humor. ...
- **Jacqueline Mundell**, Director of Library and Information Services at the Nebraska Library Commission, is now the new Executive Director of the Cleveland Area Metropolitan Library System ...
- **Leon Raney**, Dean of Libraries at South Dakota State University, recently marked his 20th anniversary in that position ...
- **Martha Jo Sani**, University of Colorado at Boulder Business Library, has been elected president-elect of the Rocky Mountain Special Libraries Association ...
- **Ann Smith**, Public Services Librarian, Augustana College (SD), returned recently from Israel, a trip made after being named to a Rotary International Group Study Exchange team.

SPECIAL JOBLINE INFORMATION

The MPLA Jobline lists jobs available within our eleven-state area **at no charge to institutions within this region**. Jobs from institutions outside the MPLA region can be listed for \$10/week.

The Jobline updates its listing each Friday morning.

Send listings to Joe Edelen, I.D. Weeks Library, University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD 57069. 605/677-6082.

JOBLINE #S

The following numbers may be used in calling the MPLA Jobline: 605/677-5757 (nationwide 24 hours/day) or **800/356-7820** from any of the eleven MPLA states, during the following hours:

Sunday—Thursday 11 pm–8 am each day; Friday–5 pm to Sunday–5 pm your local time.



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- Opportunities for professional involvement
- Continuing education programs
- A forum for the exchange of ideas
- Professional Development Grants
- Support of regional library efforts
- News of people and programs in member states



Lighter Side

"Short Stuff" Writing Contest

The Littleton (CO) Public Library sponsored a "short stuff" writing contest for adults 18 and over. Winning entries of 500 words or less will be printed on library bookmarks.

Llama Visit

The Friends of the Hill City (SD) Friends of the Library had an unusual visitor when a nine year old llama named White Crow came to their meeting. White Crow is one of the llamas owned by Loren and Freddie Umphres.

A history and description of llamas was presented. One of the facts became evident when Loren talked about how llamas are herd animals and miss other llamas when they are alone. White Crow started humming to show his stress and desire to go home.

Professional Development Assistance

**Seminars
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Association members are encouraged to apply for grants, mini-grants, and international grants, all of which may be used for the following: formal college or university classroom work, independent study programs, attendance at workshops, conferences or seminars, or participation in any other activity that will benefit libraries and the library community in our region. (Members are eligible after one full year of membership.)

For more information see your Membership Information brochure or write: Joseph R. Edelen, Jr., MPLA Executive Secretary, c/o I.D. Weeks Library, University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD 57069. 605/677-6082.

Next deadline: November 5