

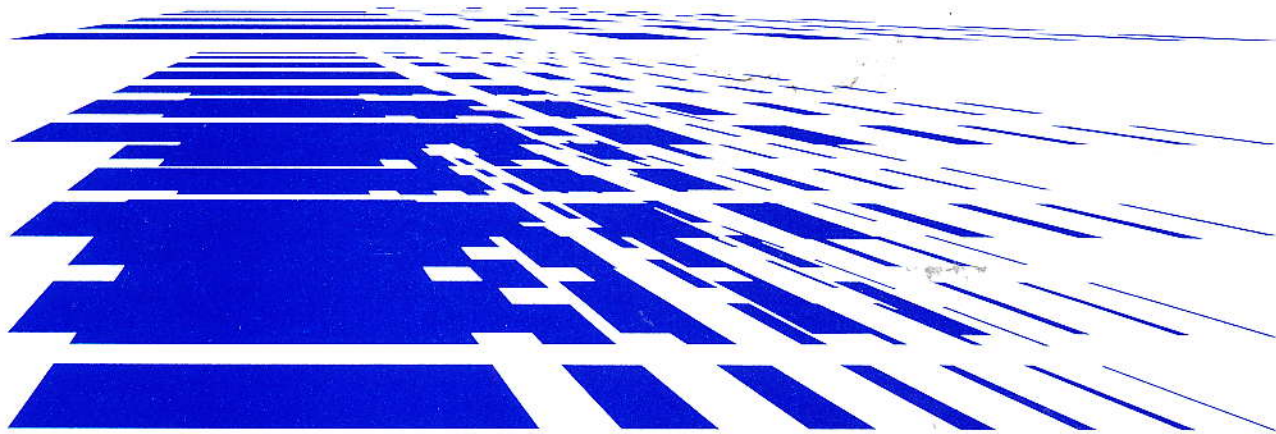
October 1994,  
Vol. 39, No. 2

# MPLA



Newsletter

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



## The Last Plane for Havana

General Conference of the 60th International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions held in Havana, Cuba from August 21-27th, 1994. Report by J. Dennis Day, Director, Salt Lake City Public Library.

Historical events, either planned or unplanned, seem to occur on schedule with my attendance at IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions) Conferences. My first conference was in Paris during the hundredth anniversary celebration of the Eiffel Tower (which was not closed in August like the restaurants). Three years ago in Moscow, the Second Russian Revolution happened during the middle of the conference...And so on, you get the picture.

The event that overwhelmed the 1994 IFLA Conference was both historic and in many ways tragic. "A rag-tag flotilla of desperation and misplaced optimism surged from Cuba," was the lead in the *Miami Herald*. Cuban rafters dominated the hall discussion at the conference as well as after dinner.

"...Seeking life and liberty but accepting the consequences of death or detention," we watched them—thousands of Cubans leaving the beach, bobbing on rafts, huddled on inner tubes and in one case supported only on planks powered by a gasoline-fueled grass trimmer. Watching was very difficult! The U.S. Coast Guard reported that many of

---

## MPLA Newsletter

**MPLA Newsletter** is published bi-monthly. Material of regional interest may be submitted to the Editor, Jim Dertien, Sioux Falls Public Library, 201 N Main Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD 57102-0386; telefacsimile number is 605/335-4312. voice phone: 605/339-7115.

**Copy Deadlines:** Articles, news information, advertisements and other copy deadlines are the 7th day of all odd-numbered months, with publication thirty days later.

**Advertising:** There is no charge to MPLA personal or institutional members for Joblist or classified advertisements. Non-members pay \$1.25/line. Display advertisement copy rates are available from the Editor (see address above).

**Membership/subscription business:** Matters pertaining to individual or institutional membership, address changes, and claims or orders for back issues should be sent to Joseph R. Edelen, Jr., MPLA Executive Secretary, c/o USD Library, Vermillion, SD 57069. 605/677-6082.

**Subscriptions:**  
1 year—\$17; 2 years—\$32; 3 years—\$47.

**Printed by the Broadcaster Press, Vermillion, SD  
ISSN 0145-6180**

the rafters were dying before they could be reached.

Why were these people willing to throw themselves on the sea in a life-or-death lottery? It was one more question to add to the long list I had arrived with from the charter flight from Miami. The list of questions started long ago when I had viewed the 1959 Cuban Revolution with great historical interest, but at a physical and cultural distance. Havana being the site of the 1994 IFLA Conference provided me with a welcome chance to finally visit Cuba after all these years. More questions, and a few answers, were to come from my six days in Havana.

Now let us start at the beginning.

### **My Room in Miami**

The alarm sounded at 3:00 a.m. News during the last few days had been that the flight from Miami to Havana might be canceled by the Clinton administration at any moment. The flight on the previous day had flown within sight of Havana and had been forced back because of a bomb threat. Arriving

at the Miami International Airport at 4:30 a.m., I discovered a long line of families waiting for processing on what they feared might be the last flight to Cuba. There were a lot of folks, but it appeared there were more security guards than passengers. I had been told to limit my baggage to forty-two pounds so you can imagine my surprise at seeing the woman in front of me with six large boxes, including a small refrigerator. She was wearing a jacket

***"What a shock!  
My God! This  
city needs ten  
million dollar's  
worth of  
paint!..."***

that had numerous pockets all jammed full of food. "Hmmm—what does she know that I..." After waiting in lines for over an hour to have my papers checked and then rechecked, I immediately went out and filled my pockets with Hershey bars.

On the thirty eight minute flight over the deepest and widest moat in the world, the major event was putting

our noses on the windows. We were too high to see any of the rafts until the plane descended—yes, there they were—dozens of rafts being taken north on a current which could take as long as eight days to get close to Florida, or maybe never. As I got off the plane, my immediate problem of stifling heat and pockets filled with Hershey bars was not what I was thinking about. My mind had focused on a haunting picture I had seen the previous night. A helicopter news crew from Miami had photographed a young boy floating on an inner tube with a shark circling closer and closer.

### **Havana**

I was excited about the prospect of seeing for myself the city that Ernest Hemingway called the most beautiful in the Caribbean. However, my initial impression of Havana was identical to James A. Michener when he arrived the first time in 1988. "What a shock! My God! This city needs ten million dollar's worth of paint!...It was not one house or building that was devoid of paint. It

was entire streets, almost whole districts. Proof that a beautiful city was wearing away was inescapable!"

The unfailing graciousness of the Cubans that I met was the second impression which took form immediately and lasted during my entire stay. The positive experience started with the driver who took me from the airport. The driver, Alejo Otero, is a retired Army officer who must supplement his 500 Cuban peso pension (three U.S. dollars a month). Clearly, he is a very proud man and took the time to share his

optimistic view of the changes that the '59 Revolution had brought to Cuba—highest literacy level in Latin America as well as food and access to medical care for everyone. When I asked about the downward tailspin since the then Soviet Union pulled its financial support a few years ago, he just shrugged his shoulders.

### **The Conference**

The 60th IFLA Conference started on Saturday, August 20, 1994 with over 1350 delegates from 78 countries. Over half of the delegates were from Cuba.

Established in 1927, IFLA has evolved into a complex organization that, while non-political and non-governmental, has been a small shadow on the wall at times of the complex politics of the past sixty years. An example is that the selection of Cuba as the first IFLA conference site in Latin America may have had more to do with the cold war politics in play at the time than anything else.

Robert Wedgeworth, current president of IFLA, is moving the organization forward

toward the 21st century. He opened the conference with the announcement that IFLA is becoming "virtual" with the creation of IFLANET to facilitate international communication and IFLADOC to be a document server for newsletters, documents, and conference papers.

The conference consisted of a number of different programs occurring at any given time during the day (total number of sessions exceeded 165) and a reception each evening at a cultural or historic facility. Program topics ranged from

## At SIRS, We Don't Play the Numbers Game.

Research with some CD-ROM databases is like playing a numbers game. Some CD-ROMs contain hundreds of thousands of citations, abstracts or articles. But how many of them are really useful?

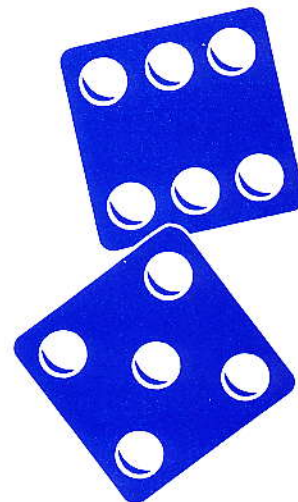
At SIRS, we believe *it's what's inside that counts*. So all the articles and documents on SIRS Researcher\* and SIRS Government Reporter\*\* CD-ROM programs are carefully chosen by the 25 members of our research staff. They read over 800 national and international sources looking for the best and most informative articles on a wide range of important subjects. When a patron uses SIRS CD-ROM databases, every search is a winner. For a 60-day, no-obligation preview, call 1-800-232-SIRS.

\* Formerly SIRS Combined Text & Index CD-ROM.

\*\* Selected full-text Government Documents.



Social Issues Resources Series, Inc.  
P.O. Box 2348  
Boca Raton, FL 33427-2348  
Toll-free: 1-800-232-SIRS  
Fax: 407-994-4704



"Medical Library Development in Latin America" to "Telecommunication in the 1990's—An International View." The Cuban librarians did a satisfactory job of organizing the conference under difficult conditions.

### The Committee

My involvement in IFLA is serving on the Standing Committee for the Section of Public Libraries as the representative from the United States. The priorities for action of the Section during 1994-1997 included:

- Arrange seminars on public library services and policy, particularly in developing countries, with a view to considering options which will lead to an improvement of public library provision.
- Promote the new version of the UNESCO Public Library Manifesto (1994).
- Test and develop Performance Measurement in Public Libraries
- Promote the effective use of information technology in Public Library services.

- Make recommendations on the introduction and development of multimedia materials and services in Public Libraries.
- Make recommendations on the

### More Questions and Some Answers

Some things were clear by my final day. Cuba had gone fully circle—the revolution of 1959 was in part to rid the country of the

John Kings made this notation about Cuba. "Over and over again I had the feeling that the Cuban is a being apart, colorful, enterprising, and chock-full of verve, that regimes may come and go in different guises, but the essential Cuban will remain the same." As I first read this, I saw in my mind the image of the young boy on the inner tube with the shark circling—then as the chopper dropped down with a rope to pick him up, he looked up with a smile and a face chock-full of verve. With these resilient hardy people, maybe all things are possible in this land that is so close and yet so far.

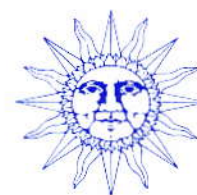
### International Involvement—Why?

*Why should public librarians in medium and small libraries in the United States be concerned about IFLA? I served as president of two different state library associations before becoming involved with ALA or IFLA. My strong belief was, and still is, that a public library director must concentrate attention and activities on the local, state, and regional levels. However, with the dynamic growth of national and international information systems, attention must now also be paid to organizations such as IFLA.*

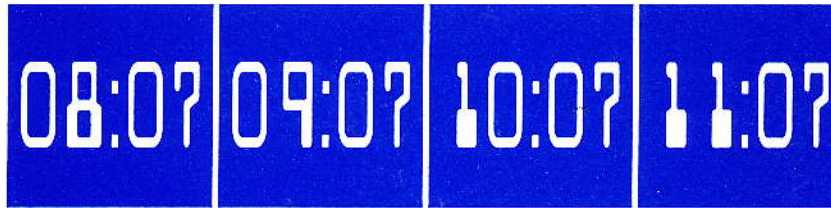
development of the role of the Public Library in relation to formal and informal education.

- Raise the awareness of Public Libraries as places for people to meet, communicate and exchange ideas and as leisure centres. Develop proposals for ways in which Public Libraries can fulfill this important role.

dominance of the Yankee dollar, and yet the United States dollar is the currency of choice today. The school system has produced a highly skilled work force that can be competitive in a free market economy, and yet Castro is trying to breathe life into the corpse of a dead socialist economic system. What is the future of this "island paradise?" After six days, I don't know.



## Real customer service.



## In real time.

Providing the level of personal service we believe in requires being available when our customers need us. So our 11 regional offices in North America are staffed with customer service representatives who are only a phone call away. With at least one regional office located in each of the four major time zones, it's more likely our representatives will be *where* you need them *when* you need them — not several hours away. We believe in providing real customer service in real time.



2801 Youngfield St., Suite 120  
Golden, CO 80401-2264  
(303) 237-1753 • (800) 727-1077  
Fax (303) 237-1752

*North American offices located in Birmingham, Ala.; Chicago; Dallas; Denver; Los Angeles; Montreal; Red Bank, NJ; San Francisco; Tenafly, NJ; Toronto; and Washington. Sixteen offices located throughout the rest of the world.*

## Election Results 1994-95

### Vice-President/President-Elect

Douglas P. Hindmarsh

### Recording Secretary

Judy Johnson

### Academic Section

Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect Secretary      Juanita R. Karr  
Lillian Sorenson

### Technical Services Section

No slate submitted

### State Agencies, Cooperatives and Systems Section

Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect Secretary      Dorothy M. Liegl  
Mike Jaugstetter

### Public Library/Trustees Section

Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect      Linda Rea

### New Members Round Table

Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect Secretary      Sally Dockter  
Pam Belfor

### Children's and School Section

Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect Secretary      Donna Gilliland  
Beverly Quamme

### Preservation Section

Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect Secretary      Roseanne B. Dawson  
Mary Ann Thompson

### Government Documents Section

Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect Secretary      Paula Duffy  
Vicky York

# MPLA



## 1994 Annual Report

### President's Report

It has been a good year for the Mountain Plains Library Association. Our joint conference with Colorado was a wonderful experience—975 enthusiastic participants, excellent programming, and beautiful weather!

Two services offered by MPLA continue to promote the development of librarians and strengthen library services in this region. MPLA's program of Professional Development Grants supports unique learning activities through financial assistance. Over \$5,000 was awarded as Professional Development Grants in 1993 to colleagues across the region. The MPLA Jobline assists libraries seeking staff members and librarians exploring employment opportunities. During 1993 more than 500 jobs were listed and over 6,000 calls made.

As I write this report, MPLA's joint conference with Nevada is just one month away. Our colleagues in Nevada and across the 11-state region have worked for more than a year to ensure that our time together will broaden our knowledge base and stimulate new ideas. A special thank you to Lynn Ossolinski, NLA/MPLA Conference Chair, and all her committee members for their efforts on behalf of us all.

It has been a privilege to serve as your president for the past year. I have enjoyed the opportunity to meet and work with colleagues from across the MPLA region. The members of the MPLA Executive Board represent a dedicated group of librarians committed to the continued growth and development of library services for all.

Ronelle Thompson, President

---

#### Roundup of news from MPLA sections, committees and state associations

- The **New Members Round Table** surveyed its members to learn about their expectations of MPLA, with a report on results to all Round Table members, and the start of a NMRT newsletter.
- The **Intellectual Freedom Committee**, acting as MPLA's clearinghouse, has gathered intellectual freedom manuals from the following states: Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Utah. Robbe Sokolove, chair, will attend an ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom leadership development

---

institute this year.

- Our **Academic Section** has decided to continue its research forum presentations at annual conferences but will no longer publish the proceedings due to inadequate sales.
  - In support of its purpose to act as a forum for individuals with statewide or regional responsibilities, the **State Agency, Cooperatives and Systems Section** has spent time this past year exploring means for sharing information via Internet.
  - A new membership brochure has been produced by the **Public Relations/Membership Promotion Committee**.
  - The **Awards Committee** solicited and received nominations leading to the presentation of awards in three categories this year: Distinguished Service, Legislative Leadership, and Literary Contribution.
  - The **Finance Committee** has determined that their duties and procedures need to be modified in the association's Manual of Procedure in order to change how budgets are produced for the various committees and sections. This is due to the fact that these committees and sections are traditionally quite unresponsive to budget requests.
  - The **Utah Library Association** was involved in Utah's first Great Issues Forum, subtitled, "Utah Libraries: Gateways to the Electronic Highway." This forum sought to examine the impact of technology on Utah's libraries and to examine the place of the Utah library community in Governor Leavitt's electronic highway vision. The Forum was a great success, attended by many of the decision makers the planners had hoped to target.
  - At its annual meeting the **Nebraska Library Association** authorized the creation of an Information Technology and Access Round Table (ITART). The stated mission of ITART is:
    - 1) to foster awareness, knowledge, and a spirit of cooperation regarding the development of, and access to, electronic resources and information technology in libraries throughout Nebraska
    - 2) to promote communication and the exchange of expertise among experienced and novice users of information technology
    - 3) to provide a forum for discussion and problem-solving among all those working to integrate electronic information into the practice of librarianship
  - The Colorado Council on Library Development, the statewide library advisory board, developed a long range planning committee with membership of librarians and non-librarians and regional system directors to cumulate the various long range plans in existence into one comprehensive plan the library community can rally around. *Colorado Libraries*, the **Colorado Library Association** quarterly journal, won the H.W. Wilson publications award and a \$1,000 prize.
  - In **South Dakota**, the loss of video lottery income, developing from a referendum challenge, caused the Governor to consider closing the State Library in addition to other state agencies and services. So far, other income and legislative approval to dip into contingency funds have kept the library open, but the ballot question on the lottery and a property tax initiative due to be decided in a November election will no doubt continue the problem until the 1995 legislature convenes.
  - **Wyoming** librarians saw progress in providing users with electronic information this year. In August a contract was signed with Data Research Associates (DRA) and the Wyoming State Library for an upgraded statewide automation system which will include a public access catalog.
  - **Oklahoma** was one of ten states honored by the American Library Association's Government Documents Round Table for its Notable Documents of 1993. Three of the 23 state and local documents selected were from Oklahoma.
-

# Around the Region



## Arizona

### BESTSELLER CLUB UNDER WAY

The Chandler Public Library's Best Seller Club is up and running, however, few people are taking advantage of the program.

Patrons may purchase a bestseller at the Library's discount price (60 percent of list price). The book should then arrive within 7-10 days of publication. You will have the opportunity to read the book before anyone else and then donate it back to the Library when you have finished reading it. You may also claim the donation as a tax deduction.

Not all books are eligible for the program and a list of available titles is kept at the reference desk. (Library Times, Oct-Dec)

### SCOTTSDALE PL "BEST OF PHOENIX 1994"

Scottsdale PL received a *New Times* "Best of Phoenix 1994" award for "Best Window Display." Scottsdale PL's constantly changing efforts at promoting library materials to the public were recognized in the newspaper's annual "Best of Phoenix" issue. Shakespeare, the Holocaust, tomatoes and board books for infants and toddlers were themes

cited where artistic handling visually "impressed" the newspaper's investigative staff, leading them to call the exhibits "creative...eye-catchers." Good job, Scottsdale PL! (Arizona Libraries Newsweek, October 10)

### SCOTTSDALE PL HIRES COLLECTION AGENCY

Recovering overdue books from patrons can often be a difficult issue for public libraries. I recently asked Judy Register, Director of Scottsdale PL, to share with *ALN* readers the valuable insight and information that she and library staff gained in the decision to hire a collection agency to recover overdue books and unpaid fines for the library.

With the library losing an estimated \$62,000 a year in unreturned materials and unpaid fines (Civic Center and Mustang libraries), Judy indicated that a staff committee determined that mounting losses necessitated and warranted the eventual decision to hire a collection agency.

Three collection agency representatives were interviewed by staff prior to drafting specifications for the bid process. Review criteria for bid award included the importance of an agency having library collection experience. In the course of preparing bid

specifications, however, Judy noted that staff learned quite a bit about the world of third party intervention. When the bids were requested, the library was hit with dozens of calls from agencies through-out the Valley - including some with little or no experience in library collections.

Public response, generated by several newspaper articles and radio coverage, seemed generally support-

turned over to a collection agency, persuaded hundreds of people to return overdue books and pay fines. It is estimated that \$14,000 in fines or lost materials were cleared over a three week period in early June.

The library's selected collection agency began its contract August 1 and will officially begin processing accounts September 1. (Arizona Libraries Newsweek, August 8)

### INTEL DONATES \$2 MILLION TO CHANDLER

Intel officials announced recently the donation of \$2 million towards the construction of a new Public Library in downtown Chandler.

"We have a long history of involvement with Chandler which reflects our community investment strategy," Tom Hogue, Intel's vice president of corporate materials and services, said. "We want our community to be a great place to work and a great place to live."

Chandler will break ground on the new, \$8.5 million library Thursday, Oct. 20, beginning a year of construction on the two-story, 60,500-square-foot structure.

Library Manager Karen Drake said Intel's donation will go toward the development and equipping of a computer and network technology center at the library, which is scheduled for completion in December 1995.

"In short, we are making Chandler's new library the first stop on the information super-highway," Hogue said. (News release)

ive of the library's decision to hire a collection agency. A two week "amnesty" in April and two notices sent to outstanding accounts with an announcement that accounts not cleared by August 1 would be

### TUCSON TALKS: A CASE STUDY ON CENSORSHIP AND COMMUNITY COALITION

Submitted by Jacquelyn Kasper, Intellectual Freedom Committee.



December 6, 1993, the Arizona State Library Association joined other local and state organizations in cosponsoring an event produced by People For the American Way and the Rockefeller Foundation entitled "Tucson Talks: An Issue Of Free Speech." On that date, more than 600 people gathered at the Arizona Temple of Music and Art for a staged reading of Michael Cristofer's "The Shadow Box." An attempt by a local public school teacher to produce the play in 1992 had resulted in her forced resignation, and had led to discord and polarization in the community. The performance by nationally prominent actors was followed by a panel discussion that explored the issue of freedom of expression and school censorship that "The Shadow Box" had raised in Tucson. Local PBS stations broadcast the reading and panel discussion.

People For the American Way's Artsave project has recently released a new study, "Tucson Talks: A Search For Common Ground." This study examines this incident of censorship and how People For worked with local community activists to expose intolerance and build support for freedom of expression. The publication describes the evolution and outcome of People For's new Common Ground Initiative, a

programmatic approach that seeks to engage the public in a dialogue about the importance of free expression.

"Tucson Talks" produced a constructive model of conflict resolution that can help communities address issues of free expression, and that may have broader applications for resolving other conflicts in communities. The booklet outlines valuable lessons which other communities can draw upon. To order a copy of People For's case study, please make checks payable for \$6.95 to People For the American Way, 2000 M St., N.W., Suite 400, Washington, D.C. 20036 or call 1-800-743-6768. (ASLA Newsletter, September)



## MAGGNET

What do you get when you cross *Maggie's Place*, the Pikes Peak Library District's computer system, with the Internet, a network of computer networks around the world? MAGGnet - a free gateway to major portions of the information superhighway. Beginning Monday, October 17, information about 16 major topics in 60 databases will be available through MAGGnet. Some Internet functions, like document delivery, electronic bulletin

boards and mail, will not be available.

MAGGnet can be accessed at all Pikes Peak Library District computer terminals, or with a personal computer and modem by dialing 531-5531.

But what does MAGGnet mean to the average person? It means that when you're planning a trip, you can access MAGGnet to find out what the weather will be like so you know what to pack. MAGGnet also includes professional sports schedules (i.e. Major League Baseball, National Football League); local times around the world; names of lawyers by city, state or type; recipes; and the President's daily schedule.

Since this new technology can be bewildering, training sessions will be held for three weeks at most library facilities beginning October 17. (Check It Out, October)

## MUSEUM'S BOOK COLLECTION IS A GOLD MINE

More than 4,800 books about mining-related topics are now available for public use at the Western Museum of Mining and Industry's library in Colorado Springs. All of the books—on topics including town histories, biographies, geology and mining operations—have been cataloged through a

cooperative effort by staff from the museum and the Pikes Peak Library District (PPLD). An online card catalog of the museum's collection is available on *Maggie's Place*, the library district's computer system, which can be accessed at an PPLD facility, or 24 hours a day with a personal computer and modem.

The Western Museum of Mining and Industry's library is the largest reference center of its kind in southern Colorado. The collection relates to the social, economic and technological history of mining and its support industries, with special emphasis on Colorado. It is of particular significance because of the importance of mining to Colorado's history and present-day economy.

"We are so excited to improve the public's access to our library. I encourage other private, special collections libraries to consider public partnerships as a way to improve research opportunities in their communities," stated Linda LeMieux, Museum Director. The project was funded by a grant from the Library Services and Construction Act administered by the Colorado State Library. (News release)

## CCLD CREATES CONTINUING ED DATABASE

Maureen Crocker, Project Coordinator, Colorado Council for Library Development, will assemble and organize information for the Continuing Education (CE) Databases that will be mounted on ACLIN or Supernet. Maureen notes that "the CE databases will provide better access to professional growth opportunities in a timely manner, including broader access for all library staff members of all types of libraries." Databases to be developed include a CE Master Calendar, CE Provider/Trainer Directory, CE Resource List and a CE listserve.

Maureen writes that she is interested in any assistance with resources that Libnet subscribers can provide such as existing CE calendars, lists of CE providers, information on other states or organizations working on projects similar to Colorado library projects, names of contact persons for calendar information, or training, or related information, and other contributions to the information database. Maureen's Internet address is [mcrocker@csn.org](mailto:mcrocker@csn.org). (System Beat, September)

## PRESCRIPTION HELP

The Central Library Community Room of the Aurora Public Library, CO was the scene of a unique service intended primarily for senior citizens. Patrons were invited to bring their prescription medicines for discussion with a pharmacist, who evaluated their compatibility and answered questions about their proper use. This free community service was sponsored by the Aurora Parks and Recreation Department, Morning Star Senior Day Program, and Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Adams and Arapahoe Counties. Registration was required. (seen in *Library Hotline*, August 8, 1994)

## Kansas



## GARDEN TOUR

The Second Century Endowment Foundation Board of the Newton Public Library organized a 1994 Flower Garden Tour on June 25-26, 1994. The tour included four homes in the Newton/North Newton area. Cookies were provided by the Friends of Newton Public Library.

Even though it was 108 degrees in Newton on June 25, the Garden Tour was a success, netting approximately \$1,100 for the Second Century Endowment Foundation.

The tour was co-sponsored by Graber's Garden Center, a business owned by Arnita Graber's family. Graber had served as the first Second Century Endowment Foundation President when it was incorporated in 1986, during Newton Public Library's Centennial year.

The Endowment was established to provide an annual income for enhancement of the library's adult resources. A private foundation has provided annual funds to enhance the children's resources and services since 1980.

Library Director Marianne Eichelberger said tour hosts and participants strongly recommended making the garden tour an annual event so the Second Century Board has begun planning for 1995. (Kansas Libraries, September)

## SLIM OFFERS SABBATICALS

When Jane Hatch needed time and space to study fund-raising efforts for public libraries, she turned to Emporia State University's School of Library and Information Management (SLIM). The director of the Dodge City Public Library and Southwest Kansas Library System will return home Aug. 12 after spending her summer at ESU as a part of SLIM's new librarian sabbatical program.

Dr. Martha Hale, a SLIM professor, said the program

was created to help meet a need among non-university librarians who might not otherwise get the chance to take a sabbatical.

"Professionals often experience burnout or maybe they just need a chance to do something different to prevent burnout. Others have a problem they want to work on, to study or to think about," Hale said. "Academic librarians can apply for sabbaticals—it's a part of the academic world—but people who work in other places don't have that luxury. Often information professionals would like to get away for a short time, but would receive no financial support for their study time. We though we could provide them with space and the chance to study."

SLIM offers the sabbatical program free of charge and pays no stipends to participants. Whether participants receive paid leave from their employers is determined by the employers and is not a requirement of participating in the program, Hale said.

Anyone who has earned a Master of Library Science degree is eligible for the program. Those in the program set their own time frame and course of study. Acceptance into the sabbatical program is on a space-available basis. The local chapter of Beta Phi Mu, a national library science honorary society, is assisting SLIM with the program and will help

select program participants once the number of applicants exceeds available space.

"This has been a wonderful experience for me," said Hatch, who received SLIM's out-standing alumni award in 1991. "I've had a chance to talk with both students and faculty during my time here. I have done what I came to do and more."

Hatch said she participated in several SLIM classes, during which she answered students' questions or served as part of panel discussions. In addition, she met with a number of students individually to answer questions they had about library work. Hatch praised the SLIM faculty for taking time to discuss with her what is happening in the world of library and information management.

But according to Hatch, her time at ESU wasn't just spent talking. "We do things every day, but sometimes we don't realize what we're doing. This program gives you a chance to think. Thanks to the resources of the library, it also has given me a chance to catch up on reading business and library literature," Hatch said.

"We have enjoyed tremendously having Jane with us this summer," said Dr. Faye Vowell, SLIM dean. "Sabbatical programs such as this offer a wonderful opportunity for the rich interchange between practitioners and library

school faculty that keeps a curriculum vital and alive."

For more information about the librarian sabbatical program, contact Vowell at 316 341-5203. (News release)



### **FACTS ON FILE GRANT RECIPIENT**

The Eastern Montana College Library in Billings received the 1994 Facts on File Grant presented by the Reference and Adult Services Division (RASD) during the American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference in Miami Beach.

The award, \$2,000 donated by Facts on File, Inc., is given to a library for imaginative programming which would make current affairs more meaningful to an adult audience.

The library received the grant for a program titled "The Public Strikes Back: Independent Film Makers & Video Verite." The proposal was submitted by Dona J. Helmer, associate professor and director of the Curriculum Resource Center, and David A. Gabbard, assistant professor, Department of Educational Foundations.

"These independent films express alternative points-of-view on matters of intense concern to the community and will enrich the lives of those participat-

ing in the program while promoting a better understanding of all sides of the issues," said Ree DeDonato, chair of the Facts on File Grant Committee.

"The Public Strikes Back" is a series of film/discussion/lecture programs that deal with a current national topic such as nuclear waste or censorship. All film presentations were produced by independent film makers and represent points of view on current affairs that are not generally represented in mainstream media. Most are award-winning political documentaries rejected by the PBS for broadcast accompanied by supporting print materials from the library. The films will be shared with libraries in the central part of Montana. The film programs and accompanying lectures are free and open to the public. (News release)

### **LIBRARY OFFERS PERSONAL INTERNET AC- COUNTS**

Beginning in September, Parmly Billings Library will become one of the first public libraries in the nation to offer low-cost personal full-service Internet accounts to Library card-holders. The accounts will provide access to the full range of Internet services, including remote login, or telnet; electronic mail, or E-mail; and file

transfer protocol, or FTP.

Accounts will be available to card-holders for a \$25 initial set-up fee and will be invoiced for a minimum \$20 per month fee for 20 hours of use and an additional \$2 per hour above 20 hours. Accounts will be available to anyone with a current Library card, without outstanding fines or other charges against it. (Turning Page, September)



### **PARAPROFESSION- ALS MEETING**

The Nebraska Library Association (NLA) Paraprofessional Section held their spring meeting in May at Gere Library in Lincoln. The featured speaker was Linda Milliman of the Tattered Cover Bookstore in Denver. The afternoon session featured Sally Snyder of the Nebraska Library Commission, who shared information about Nebraska Online.

Linda Milliman spoke on the philosophy and realities of customer service. She shared her store's philosophy about training employees to serve both internal and external customers. "People who work in libraries are really good at customer service because they have a feel for their library and a grasp of the

human element," Milliman said.

The Tattered Cover sets out to delight their customers by extra effort and uncommon courtesy. One of the more unique features of the Tattered Cover management philosophy is their moral viewpoint. They assume that everyone, customer and employee alike, is honest and their policies reflect that view. For instance, every employee is given a key to the store and customers are not asked for identification when paying by check.

Milliman believes it is important to empower the people who work with customers to do whatever needs to be done to satisfy them. The philosophy regarding employee satisfaction is that an employee can only pass on to customers what they are getting or giving. Milliman ended her presentation with the Tattered Cover's educational and entertaining training video. (N-Compass, Summer)

## Nevada

### LIED DISCOVERY CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

Fall brings change. When you visit the Lied Discovery Children's Museum, Las Vegas, this fall, you'll find a new traveling exhibit and a new in-house exhibit. Also,

in a new collaboration, we have joined our friendly next door neighbor, Las Vegas Library, to co-sponsor four programs. Attend those programs for the fullest possible experience on your visit.

Get an eyeful of design and color and challenge your brain in math and physics from the traveling exhibit in our Fletcher Jones Cultural Gallery. The "Kaleidoscopes: Reflections Of Science and Art" exhibit opens October 4 and stays until November 27. Attend the Young People's Library program which corresponds to it, November 12. "Kaleidoscopes" will spark insight about reflections and design repetition, with lots to see and do.

The *Tornado* blew in to the second floor of the Museum in August. *Tornado*, our new in-house exhibit, was designed by Ned Kahn, artist and exhibit developer at the Exploratorium in San Francisco. You can touch and play with a tornado created by fans and a cloud of mist. In-house exhibits often complement other exhibits. The *Tornado* adds a new twist to our *Hurricane Hugo* computer exhibit. Our *Weather Computer* also features a new and improved program. So, if you're an aspiring meteorologist (weather person), the Museum is a must-see destination.

If you visited the Museum with your library Summer Reading Program free pass, you may have noticed that the exhibit workers at the Museum seem a little younger than usual. They are. We put high school and junior high students to work on the exhibit floor in a new program started at the Museum in February. The teens working in the museum are all part of YouthWorks. In YouthWorks, teens work at the Museum for four to eight hours every week. They attend regular meetings and training sessions on the art and science of the exhibits. They gain work experience and participate in special career programs. They also spend a lot of time on the exhibit floor helping visitors.

All the positions in the YouthWorks program are currently filled, but more positions will open, since this is a three year project. YouthWorks is part of a special project called YouthALIVE!, a national initiative of the DeWitt Wallace/Reader's Digest Fund, in partnership with the Association of Science-Technology Centers.

At the Lied Discovery Children's Museum, grants from the AllState Foundation, the Arco Foundation, Citibank Nevada, the Levi Strauss Foundation, and US Bank also support YouthWorks. (Kids Quarterly, Sept/Oct/Nov)

## Oklahoma

### SERVICES TO HOMESCHOOLERS

Services to Home-schoolers is the focus of a task force of the Tulsa (OK) City-County Library (TCCL). Commissioned last October to make sure the library system was serving this segment of the population at least as well as it was serving children attending traditional schools, the task force examined services currently offered, surveyed library literature about the issue, and queried other libraries about their services.

In a survey of home school families in its service area, the library found that many did not have full knowledge of the range of resources available. The task force recommended special efforts to increase communication and remove barriers by better educating library staff, reaching out to home school groups and individuals, and improving library catalogs and collections.

Pat Woodrum, Executive Director of TCCL, said she was most surprised to find that there is really little being done for homeschoolers in other libraries across the country. Many of the libraries contacted by the task force asked for information on TCCL's findings and recommendations. (The task force plans

to write a journal article to disseminate its information to other libraries.)

For more information, contact Pat Woodrum at Tulsa City-County Library, 400 Civic Center, Tulsa, OK 74103. Phone 918 596-7975. (Library PR News, March/April)

## LITERARY MAP AND EXHIBIT

The Oklahoma Center for the Book in the Oklahoma Department of Libraries hosted a reception on August 7 to unveil the state's newest literary map and to introduce the Library of Congress traveling exhibit, "Language of the Lands: Journeys into Literary America."

The full-color literary map was produced by the Oklahoma Center for the Book and coordinated by Ann Hamilton, director of the organization. The artwork was done by Oklahoma artist Jean Richardson. The map, designed by Suzanne Mounger, features such noted authors as N. Scott Momaday, Alex Posey, S.E. Hinton, Angie Debo, and Sequoyah. Maps may be purchased from the Center at a cost of \$10 plus \$2 shipping.

The traveling exhibit focuses on the literary contributions of every state. It was displayed at Quail Springs Mall in Oklahoma City through the first week in September.

For more information about the literary map,

contact Ann Hamilton or Tracy Alford at the Oklahoma Center for the Book, 200 NE 18th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73105 or call 405 521-2502 or 800 522-8116.



## PLUG IN TO THE UTAH LIBRARY NETWORK

The Utah State Library has completed and distributed a training manual designed to help public librarians and staff members navigate the Utah Library Network and the network. The product of several months of dedicated labor, Plug in to the Utah Library Network, Reach out to the World, has generated significant interest beyond its intended audience. Copies were sent to those who have completed training sessions with the State Library staff at the Division's new training center as an update to the materials they received earlier. Copies were also sent as a courtesy to state library agencies around the nation. (MPLA representative report)

## UTAH LIBRARY NETWORK

The Utah Library Network is being realized

as public libraries from Logan to St. George are linked to the information highway. The first two "phases" of connectivity are mostly complete. Currently 12 libraries or library systems are up and running, with 9 more in the process of linking up to the network. The lessons learned from the pilot libraries have been placed into a formal application process designed by the State Library Division's Network Expansion Team. Application packets will be mailed to all unconnected public libraries soon and include information to help them plan for an understand the technological requirements. The Division built a training center and has been busy training library staff from public libraries, community college libraries and state agencies in network use. Via the Network Vista, FirstSearch, and UMI databases are now available to connected libraries. (MPLA representative report)



## WYOMING ROOM TO EXPAND

Wyoming Room at the Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library is filled to capacity. Newly arrived collections must be stored. If we can no longer accommodate local history

collections, they will start to go elsewhere, perhaps even out of state. Only by expanding will we be able to continue to be the keepers of Sheridan's written history.

After careful study the Library Board approved plans to triple the size of the existing Wyoming Room, and charged the Library Foundation with raising approximately \$600,000 to fund the expansion project.

Imagine our excitement when Mr. and Mrs. Joe Watt came forward with a leadership gift of \$150,000 to get the project started! Since that time we have secured grants from the Library Services and Construction Act (\$161,000), and the Peter Kiewit Foundation (\$100,000). By September \$527,000 had been raised. (SCFPL Newsletter, May)

## LIBRARY REACHES OUT TO LOW-INCOME MOTHERS

Staff of the Laramie County Library System in Cheyenne, WY, spent three days in September talking to low-income mothers about library services.

The library participated in the September classes of the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program. To become eligible for assistance from WIC, mothers must attend 15-minute classes every other month.

Each family was given a packet of information about the library which included a photo magnet with the library's hours and dial-a-story phone number and a bibliography of simple cookbooks available at the library. The bibliography was printed by Taco John's International Inc., which is based in Cheyenne. It included a coupon that, once the recipient visits the library and checks out a book, can be redeemed at any Cheyenne Taco John's restaurant for a free bean burrito.

Staff members also encouraged WIC participants to sign up for library cards by helping them fill out and pre-approving applications.

"We wanted to make this experience as non-threatening as possible," says Laramie County Librarian Lucie Osborn. "We realized there is a high-risk segment of our population that we were not reaching, and hopefully, this outreach effort will begin a lifelong habit of visiting the library for some of these families."

Osborn noted that staff reaction to the effort ranged from rewarding to dismaying.

"I think it was difficult for some staff members to see so many underprivileged children in our community," she says. "On the other hand, some staff felt they were helping to improve the lives of some of these children."

In a related project, 125 library information packets, complete with a board book for very young children, will be distributed to teen mothers through WIC. This project is funded by the library Foundation and a local women's civic group, X-JWC. (News release)

### **WSL SIGNS CONTRACT FOR NEW SYSTEM**

On Aug. 12, 1994, the Wyoming State Library signed a contract with Data Research Associates (DRA) to provide an upgraded statewide automated system for Wyoming.

The system will replace the current Geac setup and will add public access catalog capabilities upon implementation. The project is designed to convert libraries through four phases. Phase I implementation begins immediately and those libraries are expected to be online in the spring of 1995. Phases II through IV will take place between 1996 and 1998.

Phase I libraries include Campbell County Library, Casper College, Carbon County Library, Central Wyoming College, Laramie County Library, Laramie County Community College, Natrona County Library, Park County Library including the Powell Branch, Platte County Library, Sheridan College, Sweetwater County at

Green River and White Mountain Libraries, Western Wyoming College and Wyoming State Library.

Currently, the State Library is planning to submit a supplemental budget proposal to the governor. The proposal would request funding for the upgrade for all Phase II through IV libraries and reimbursement for Phase I libraries. Currently, county library boards are requested to commit to the county's costs of the upgrade. (The Outrider, July-August)

### **GREAT AMERICA RACE WINNER**

Sweetwater County Library is \$5,000 richer thanks to the Great America Race and the Green River volunteers who handled the local arrangements. Green River won for the "western style lunch stop, complete with posse escort into town and a picnic social in the park." The cross country race presents awards to communities that host the best overnight rest stop, best lunch stop and best pit stop. (The Outrider, September)



## **ABOUT YOU**

— **Nancy Cummings**, Yuma County (AZ) Library District director, will be leaving Arizona in January to be director of the Washoe County PL in Reno, Nevada...

— **Rosanne Goble**, assistant director, South West Kansas Library System, was among 32 participants and 10 mentors from the U.S., Canada and Australia who met in Snowbird, Utah, on July 28-August 2, 1994, at the Snowbird Leadership Institute... — **Jane Hatch**, director of the South West Kansas Library System, was notified by the board of Leadership Kansas that she was among the thirty-five people in the state accepted into the class of 1994... — **Paul**

**Little**, director of planning services for the Metropolitan (Oklahoma City) Library System, retired recently after 34 years of service...

— **Rowena Olsen**, McPherson (KS) College

librarian, is the new president of the Kansas Library Association...  
— **Amy Owen**, director of the Utah State Library Division, is the new president of the Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA)...

— former MPLA member & president, **Donald E. Riggs**, dean of the university library at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, is the new president of the Library Administration and Management Association (LAMA)... — **Julie Tomlianovich**, children's consultant for the South Central Kansas Library System, Hutchinson, has been elected by the Association for Library Service to Children to the

Caldecott Award Committee... — **Eveline Yang** of Auraria Libraries will be the new 1994-1995 Chair of the Colorado Interlibrary Loan Committee.

## JOBLIST

Available: Immediately  
**Children's Librarian**  
Boulder City Library  
Salary: \$21,403-  
\$24,776 DOE

An outstanding small library in an upscale community of 13,000+ needs an energetic and enthusiastic children's librarian. The successful candidate will enjoy year-round unlimited recreation 20 miles from Las Vegas and 5 miles

from scenic Lake Mead. Responsibilities will include coordination of all children's library activities, program development, and materials selection (\$25,000). Some evening and weekend hours will be expected. Benefits include 100% employer-paid state retirement, single medical ins., 4 weeks vac./year, deferred compensation program, and no state income tax.

Qualifications: ALA/MLS with coursework in children's lit. and services and will prefer the candidate have knowledge of computer applications and CD-ROM tools. Recent gradu-

ates are encouraged to apply.  
Applications close 12/31/94. Send letter of application, resume and names of 3 professional references to:  
Duncan R. McCoy,  
Director, Boulder City Library, 813 Arizona Street, Boulder City, NV 89005, (702) 293-1281.

## JOBLINE #S

The following numbers may be used in calling the MPLA Jobline: 605/677-5757 (nationwide 24 hrs/day) or 800/356-7820 from any of the eleven MPLA states, during the following hours:  
Sunday–Thursday 11pm–8am each day; Friday–5pm to Sunday–5pm your local time.

# Professional Development Assistance

**Seminars  
Institutes  
Workshops  
Coursework  
Conferences  
Independent  
Learning/Research  
Projects**

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.

**Plan ahead now for your 1995 continuing education opportunities. Please contact us for application information.**



MPLA Newsletter  
414 E. Clark  
c/o Univ. of South Dakota Libraries  
Vermillion, SD 57069

Bulk Rate  
Non-profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 63  
Vermillion, SD 57069

- 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

*COMPLIMENTARY COPY*

---

## **Inside MPLA: Sections**

MPLA has the following sections: Academic, Children's and School, Government Documents, New Members Roundtable, Preservation, Public Library/Trustees, State Agency, Cooperatives and Systems, and Technical Services.

Sections may be formed by a minimum of 20 MPLA members engaged in the same general field of librarianship or with similar general interests, upon approval of their petition by the Executive Board.

Each Section Chair is a member of the Executive Board and the Conference Program Committee. The Chair may designate a proxy, preferably a member of the section, if the Chair is unable to attend an Executive Board or Conference Program Committee meeting.

Sections may elect such officers as they deem necessary, but including at least a Chair and a Recording Secretary. Section officers must be individual members in good standing in MPLA.

Past history shows us that most section activity relates to the planning of programs at the annual conference. Sections have, however, taken on other projects as necessary to benefit their members and MPLA members in general. One recent project was by the Children's and School Section, which involved a region-wide study of school librarian/media specialist accreditation standards in the states, with recommended guidelines.

For additional information please contact Joe Edelen, MPLA Executive Secretary, I.D. Weeks Library, University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD 57069. 605/677-6082.

---