



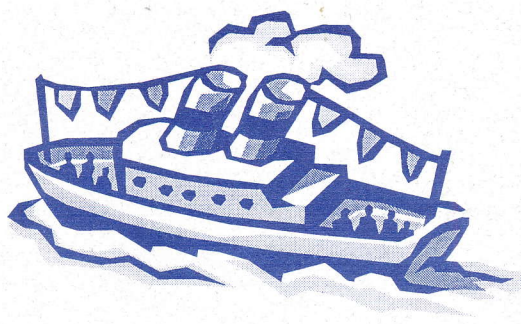
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MPLA Newsletter

A Publication of the Mountain Plains Library Association

June 1997

Volume 41, Number 6



OLA/MPLA Joint Conference Diary

—Colleen Kirby
South Dakota Representative, MPLA

The Shangri-La Resort was very nice. The paths through the golf courses made great walking areas. I managed to get in a nice walk every morning before conference events began.

On Wednesday I attended the MPLA Board meeting. I enjoy meeting with my colleagues and catching up on what is happening throughout the region.

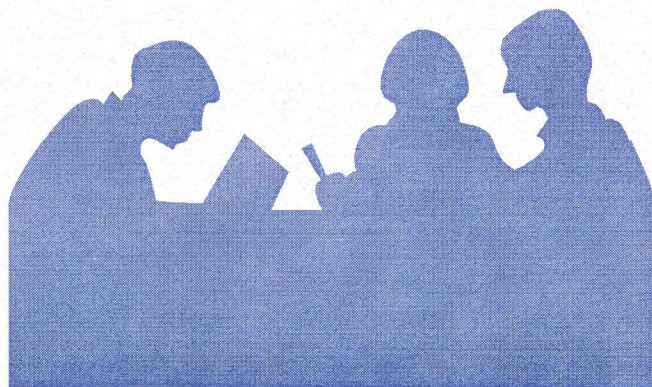
On Thursday I was off and running. The day began with a meeting of the MPLA Professional Development Grants Committee. I have been serving on this committee for several months now. It was nice to meet the people I've been talking to, and to put faces with the voices. We had two grant requests to consider, so it was a busy meeting.

After the Grants Committee meeting was the 1st General Session. Patricia Glass Schuman gave the Keynote Speech, which was excellent. The MPLA awards were also given during this session.

The lunch break included several choices for conference attendees. There was a legislative luncheon, an author luncheon, and a mix and mingle buffet where people could join various discussions on such topics as "How to form local library networks", "Internet orientation for patrons", or "Travel Tips for cruising the information superhighway."

Luckily my afternoon session was very interesting, so there was no chance of my dozing off. "Challenging the Frontier: Voice of the Cherokee Nation" was presented by Robin Kickingbird, an Archivist and Reference Librarian for the Cherokee Heritage Center. Ms. Kickingbird was active in the memorial collection for the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. She shared her experiences working on that collection. She then went on to discuss the role of the Archives at the Cherokee Heritage Center. It was an interesting presentation, and I hope I will have an opportunity to visit the Center. This presentation was followed by a meeting of the MPLA Preservation, Archives & Special Collections Section. As the Special Collections Librarian for Black Hills State University, I always welcome the opportunity to talk to others who work in the same area.

Thursday evening was exhausting. There was a BBQ dinner and a cruise. Having been born without sea legs, I spent my time eating way too much and watching the riverboat make its way across the lake. The evening finale was a birthday party in honor of the Oklahoma Library Association's 90th birthday. There was cake, punch, and dancing. I ate cake, drank punch, and watched others dance.



(Continued on page 3)

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President's Welcome

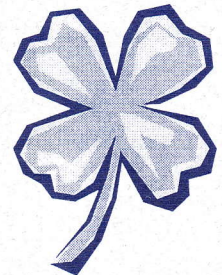
— Carol Connor
MPLA President

We will be celebrating MPLA's 50th Anniversary in 1998. For the joint Utah Library Association/Mountain Plains Library Association Conference, special events are being planned. Please contact Blaine Hall, Chair of the 50th Anniversary Celebration Committee, if you have photos from MPLA conferences or MPLA memorabilia.

The Oklahoma Library Association/Mountain Plains Library Association joint conference in Shangri-La was a great success. Numerous attendees mentioned to me how much they appreciated the quality and breadth of the programming. Many thanks to the MPLA members who organized programs and presented programs. Thanks also to all the Oklahoma librarians who helped organize this conference. Their warmth and hospitality made us feel welcome.

I look forward to working with the MPLA board this coming year and in serving the membership. MPLA is a great organization and I will enjoy this year as President.

Please mark your calendars: 1998 Joint ULA/MPLA Conference
May 6-9, 1998
Salt Lake City, Utah
Theme: The Service Connection: A Vision for Tomorrow



See you in Salt Lake City.

(Continued from page 1)

After a late night I still managed to get up early Friday and get in a walk before the sessions began. I knew I would have to be alert, because my first session was "A Basic introduction to HTML: how to make library web pages." The presenters were Bill Young and Andrew Peters, and it was excellent. They did a fantastic job. I went away with a number of ideas, and the basics on how to get started. I also have e-mail addresses in case I get stuck.

This year's Academic Research Forum was very good. "Evaluating the Approval Plan: A Case Study" by Michele Wolff, Wichita State University, was the winner. The forum is an excellent opportunity to present at a conference.

I next spent some time in the exhibits. I enjoy visiting with the exhibitors, and I usually manage to pick up one or two new ideas. Along with a t-shirt for my mother, and books for the nieces and nephew.

On Friday I also attended the MPLA Academic Section Business meeting and the MPLA member mixer/reception. These are so much fun. I enjoy meeting new people, and having the opportunity to visit with librarians from other areas. One librarian was telling me about the earthquakes they have in the area of Nevada where she lives. I don't know how I would cope with swaying bookshelves!

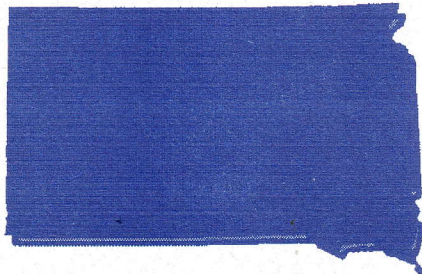
Friday night was the 2nd General Session and the Banquet. Bob Edwards, National Public Radio, was the keynote speaker. Although I did not agree with all he had to say, he was very entertaining. And that is one of the great things about the United States. You know that not everyone will agree with you, and yet you can still say what you believe. We allow everyone the right to their own opinions.

The conference was wonderful. Oklahomans are very friendly, as are MPLA members. I have never been to an MPLA conference that I have not thoroughly enjoyed. I am looking forward to next year's conference in Salt Lake!

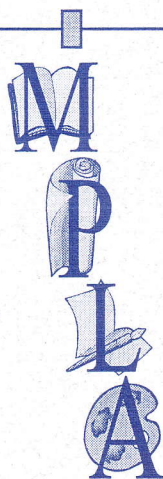


South Dakota Library Facts

— Ann Smith
SDLA Executive Secretary



- * 155 Public libraries
444 School libraries
32 Academic libraries
and numerous Special libraries
serve the people of South
Dakota
- * Yankton Public Library,
established in 1868, was the first
library in South Dakota
- * Annual per capita spending on
libraries in South Dakota is
\$15.85
- * 15% of South Dakota's public
libraries have Internet connec-
tions
- * 18,272 children participated in
the summer reading program in
South Dakota in 1995.



MPLA Executive Board Meeting Highlights 30 April & 3 May 1997

— Cynthia Berner
Past MPLA Recording Secretary



* 30 April *

- * The meeting was called to order by Judy Zelenski, outgoing MPLA President.
- * Joe Edelen presented the financial and membership update. Member-ship numbers are down but finances are good.
- * The Newsletter will be used to attract new members, and will be mailed to non-MPLA members of a targeted MPLA member state.
- * The Executive Secretary and Newsletter Editor were appointed for an additional year.
- * The Board voted to draft a resolution of support for North Dakota members. Judy Zelenski will write the report, and Melody Kuehn will see that additional flood information is posted to MPLA-L as it becomes available.
- * Blaine Hall reported on the upcoming Utah conference. The conference will be at the Salt Palace.

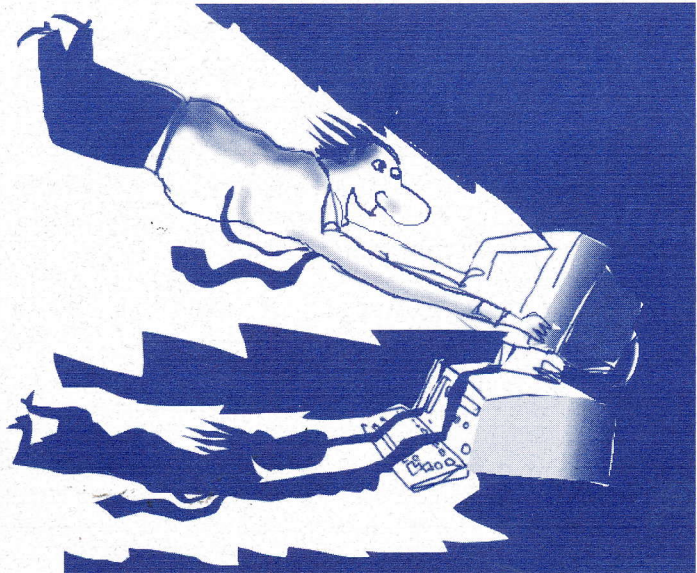


* 3 May *

- * The meeting was called to order by Carol Connor, new MPLA President.
- * Kathleen Todd presented a conference report. Estimated attendance was 78 vendors, 120-150 MPLA members, 540 registrants, and 700 on site attendees.
- * Roann Masterson reported on the 50th Anniversary Committee. Blaine Hall is working to identify all association presidents and award winners. Old photographs are needed, as well. Individual state associations are encouraged to plan celebrations, but all projects should be approved by the Board.
- * This year's board meeting will be in Denver on September 20, 1997, and 31 January, 1998.



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Library Advocacy Now!

—*Patricia Glass Schuman*
ALA President

Editor's Note: The following are remarks from a keynote address to the OLA and MPLA Memberships by Patricia Glass Schuman, President of Neal-Schuman Publishers and a past President of the American Library Association, at Shangri-La on Thursday, May 1st, 1997.

Many people ask me, "Pat, why are you such a passionate advocate for libraries especially since you are now a publisher?"

My answer is that librarianship has never been just a job for me. In fact, it's a way of life. But I must admit that it is a way of life I happened upon by accident. I would not even be a librarian had I not answered a blind ad in the New York Times. It read, "College graduate, study for master's degree while training." As a freshly-minted B.A., an English major without typing skills, I had grown used to reading the want ads. I didn't want to be a teacher. I used to tell my parents that I was going to open an English store. One week after I answered the ad, someone from the Brooklyn Public Library called to invite me for an interview. I hesitated—I had no idea what being a librarian involved. But I needed a job, so I went. But first I took off my engagement ring, pinned back my hair, wore my plainest dress, and washed off my makeup.

Yes, I was almost a victim of the stereotype. To my astonishment, ten minutes into the interview, thanks to the skills and tolerance of the person interviewing me, I realized that librarianship offered me a chance to be part of a challenging, intellectually fascinating, and socially rewarding profession, and I was right.

But I never dreamed when I stood up to speak for the first time at the Atlantic City ALA Conference in 1969 that 22 years later I would be elected that ALA President. In 1969 I was young and hopeful. Now I am older, but still full of hope. I have met and worked with so many wonderful people since then -- people who constantly renew my faith in the power of libraries and librarians to make a difference. People who make me so very proud to be a librarian.

Being President of ALA was a wild, often hair-raising, and sometimes even wonderful adventure. I thought I would be busy as President. I was wrong. Busy just doesn't describe it. I was stretched and stimulated, exhilarated, and exhausted! Let me begin to give you the picture. It was the longest and the shortest year of my life. As ALA President I corresponded with thousands of people from an elementary school child planning a mock Newbery Caldecott banquet to the President of the United States. I went to the White House three times, once to accept an award on behalf of ALA from President Bush, twice to have tea with Barbara. I posed for pictures with a six foot pencil for a literacy initiative. I testified before three Congressional committees and was interviewed on network television and radio over 60 times. I made speeches at the rate of one a week to librarians, journalists, publishers, and lay people. My largest audience was at a Boston Red Sox game where I led 35,000 people in a cheer to celebrate reading.

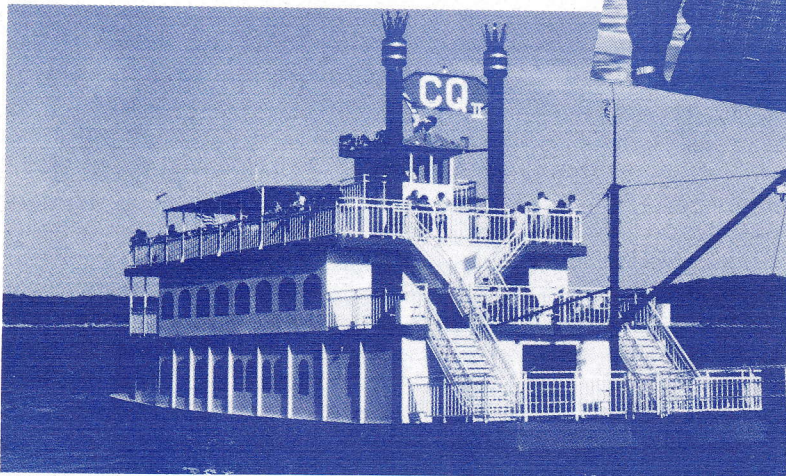
As ALA President, I had a chance to see the American Library Association libraries and the library profession as those outside it see it. The power of our voice surprised me. It awed me. Sometimes we librarians forget that our world is a microcosm, but we exist in the macrocosm of war and peace, recession, budget battles, and elections. We exist in a country that respects us. A country that considers us leaders on the frontiers of information, professionals with a powerful voice - a voice we can use on behalf of libraries, library users, and the American people's right to know.

My goal as ALA President was to use that respect to cause the public think about the importance of libraries and librarians, our uniqueness, and the crucial access to information we provide. That's why instead of retiring after my presidency, I agreed to chair ALA's American's Can't Wait: Library Advocacy Now campaign. And that's why I am here

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Conference Flashback...



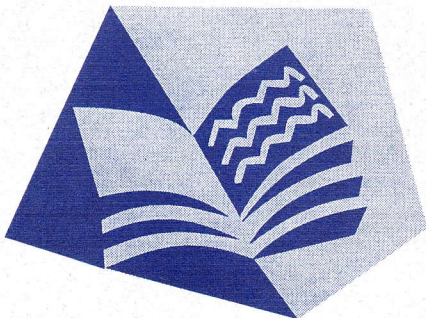
All photos taken by Dorothy Liegl,
South Dakota State Library.

Photo descriptions on page 9.

(Continued from page 6)

today – to recruit each one of you to assert your leadership role as a librarian. To convince you that our profession is the frontier, and that by speaking out now, you and I can help to protect not only the future of libraries and librarians, but the future of the American people's right to know. I am here today to enlist each of you in ongoing advocacy campaigns to capture public attention. Campaigns to inform people about the value of libraries and librarians. Campaigns to influence policy makers to fully support our libraries. Campaigns that insist that the public has a right to know and that the librarians and libraries must have the public's support because we make the right to know happen. So I ask you to act now. The health and welfare of our families depend upon information. Children can't wait, senior citizens can't wait, researchers can't wait, students can't wait, business people can't wait. Together we must speak out and we must educate others about what is at stake.

America's library system is a national treasure. It is unique in the world. Benjamin Franklin's vision, the lending library, was a radical concept - the distribution of books to everyone regardless of age, sex, class, or income. Today, there are more than 115,000 school, public, academic and special libraries. Libraries that have enabled millions of Americans to learn, to achieve, to flourish, and to prosper, but America's libraries are a treasure that is eroding rapidly. Protecting this system means no less than protecting the American public's right to know. Because – even though library use is at an all-time high, for the last decade -- and I don't need to tell you this here in the mountain plains -- libraries have taken a back seat to other budget priorities in communities. Hours have been cut; public libraries have been closed. Something that didn't happen even during the great depression: bookmobiles have been taken off the road; school libraries have been decimated, book budgets and staff have been cut. Many libraries can't afford to go online. America's college and research libraries, the greatest in the world, are unable to keep up with the explosion of information.



What's at risk is much bigger than libraries. What is in danger is our most precious freedom in a democratic society. The right to know. The right to know is embodied in the first Amendment but it is more

than free speech - to truly have the right to free expression, we need more than constitutional guarantees. We need societal commitments as well. The right to know means people – all people -- having the information they need to live to learn to work and to govern effectively. The right to know means that you and I have the information we need to make critical decisions about our jobs, our health and our welfare. It means having information that is affordable, available and accessible. That's what libraries and librarians do.

Our politicians talk about forging new frontiers by building an information superhighway, but at the same time they neglect the most basic part of our nation's information infrastructure -- our libraries. Did you know the federal government spends only 57 cents per person on libraries? That's about the cost of a pack of chewing gum! All totaled, the public funds spent on libraries come to less than one percent of all local, state, and federal tax revenue. And libraries serve more than two-thirds of the population! Can you name one other public service that gives you that kind of return? It's not very much money, but even that pittance has helped librarians to make libraries accessible to the disabled, to buy computers, to run bookmobiles, and to fund programs for those with special needs. The question is not just money; the question, as always, is one of priorities. Resetting priorities is critical because Americans can't wait to find out what they need to know. Physicians and patients can't wait, entrepreneurs and job-seekers can't wait, community leaders and their concerns can't wait to find jobs, to learn to read, to go online, to find vital health facts, to research our environment and diets, to find food for the soul. It is time for the people controlling the purse strings to learn what the rest of us already know: libraries are not the cause of this nation's fiscal problems. Libraries are an important part of the solution to the major social problems facing us.

Novelist E.L. Doctorow, a Westchester, NY library advocate, said in a recent interview that the three most important documents a free society gives are a birth certificate, a passport, and a library card. There is no better investment and no greater bargain in this information age. America needs libraries and librarians more than ever; if we want to save money we should be spending more on libraries, not less. Cutting funds for libraries is a stupid way to save money! As we look ahead and hear the hype about the information superhighway we must ask, will be built as a freeway or a toll road? Will the average American really have access to the information superhighway? Without guaranteed public access to this new technology the gap between the "information rich" and the "information poor" in

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this country will become the grand canyon. That's where library leadership, vision, and advocacy come in and that's why Americans can't wait to have their libraries adequately funded, because our libraries can't serve 21st century needs with dollars from the dark ages.

We have here right now what Pogo would call an insurmountable opportunity: an opportunity to insure that the promise of the information age is fulfilled for all Americans. This is what Library Advocacy Now is all about. Because librarians are disseminators of information, not merely its guardians, we are often considered society's gatekeepers, but librarians are actually the gateways. We are the one profession dedicated to ensuring the right to know. We must never lose sight of this mission despite the seductive siren songs of the information age.

Certainly America is on the brink of a change as profound as the industrial revolution. We are at the dawn of an information age, an age that will transform how we receive and exchange information in ways that we cannot even begin to imagine, but we must remember that change is nothing new. As Adam and Eve left Eden, Adam may well have said, "We're now entering a period of transition." Rapid change too often causes us to assume that the future will just happen to us. That's wrong. You and I can play a key role in inventing that future by advocating for libraries and their users by convincing the public and decision makers that libraries are not institutions of the past, and that the demographic, social, economic, and cultural realities of the late 20th century require well funded, effective library services - library services easily available to all individuals where they live, where they study, and where they work.

People like us, people who know the value of libraries must be leaders who fight for libraries. I'm here today to urge you to fight, to join the vanguard of this massive mobilization effort. Take Library Advocacy Now back to your communities, your schools, your offices, your campuses. Far from being overwhelmed by our problems, you and I can and must take charge of our destiny. We can no longer sit back and assume that since our cause is just, the value of libraries and librarians will be recognized. We've believed for too long that the virtue of our cause is self-evident, but silence is a luxury our libraries can no longer afford. We can't continue to affect the attitude of Oscar Wilde. After an unsuccessful opening of one of his plays a friend asked him how the play went. "Oh," said Oscar loftily, "the play was a great success, but the audience was a failure." Even when we are active, even when we effectively promote library buildings, collections, and services, we often forget to tell people about our most powerful resource. The most valuable asset of any library goes home every night - the library staff. In the current race to shape cyberspace and perhaps what some call cybraries, we must remind people that librarians put the human face on cyberspace, and that technology can enhance our lives or it can mislead us. Certainly technology offers us exciting possibilities. There will no doubt be new services that you and I have never imagined, but the future of libraries and Americans' right to know is largely up to people like us. What actually happens will depend not just on technological innovations but on our human creativity, ingenuity, vision, and commitment. We must not accept without protest the commoditization of information, we must not tolerate our government's cutting back or privatizing library and information services, we must not

(Continued on page 10)

Who Was That?

All of the photos on page 7 were taken by Dorothy Liegl.

Clockwise from top left:

1. Librarians doing what they do best! ...lining up for the BBQ dinner
2. Para-sailing: just another of the many activities at Shangri-La
3. Famous Faces Pose: (from left) Joe Edelen, Heather McNeil, Jerry Kaup
4. MPLA Award Winners (see story, page 12)
5. MPLA at work—the 50th Anniversary Committee working on next year's conference in Salt Lake City.
6. Thursday's CQ II cruise around the lake

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To join, just send an email message to Joe Edelen (MPLA's Executive Secretary, and listowner of the most exhilarating listserv in town)! That's right...all you have to do is email

jedelen@sundance.usd.edu

and tell him you'd like to become one of the few, the proud, the MPLA Listserv Members!

(Continued from page 9)

blindly institute fees for services in our libraries. If we do, we will diminish the public's right to know - the right to know information about our environment, critical to our health and the future of our planet, the right to know business and economic information we need to survive in today's global marketplace, the right to know how to participate effectively in our democracy.

Despite the hype, information itself is not power. We must never confuse the transmission of facts with the uses people make of them. Information is simply raw materials. Possessing information can be powerful, but only when it is processed by the human mind. Information is a catalyst, a means to create knowledge. Information is like trust or love; it becomes infinitely more valuable when it is shared. Here is where library services have their greatest potential, their force, their vital impact. Here is where libraries are a critical resource, a public good essential for a humane and just society. People cannot exercise their right to know unless information is organized and available. None of us can exercise our right to know unless we are intellectually able and psychologically motivated to access and use information. If you have no job, no education, and no money your voice will not carry very far. You may have the right to know but if you are not aware of it - if you don't know how to use it, it will do you no good. Books, magazines, and databases are of little value to people who cannot read. Illiteracy costs the US more than \$225 billion annually in lost productivity, in welfare payments, crime, accidents, and lost taxes.

Let's lay to rest the myth of the information society. Let's talk about the reality. We will not live in a true information society unless and until we ensure that people have access not only to information but to cultural content. We will not live in a true information society unless and until people have the skills and the resources to use this content. We will not live in a true information society unless and until public policy makers recognize that an informed citizenry is a public good. We will not live in a true information society, we will not achieve equal opportunity and justice, unless and until all people have the information and library services they need to live, to work, to learn, to participate in, and to enjoy our democracy.

If we truly believe that information can be used for powerful purposes, we must persuade people that librarians dispense tools for empowerment; we must convince people that the services librarians offer are an essential part of the solution to problems like illiteracy, drugs, poverty, crime, pollution, illness, and unemployment. We must remind people that librarians open doors to

new frontiers. The task may seem daunting, but despite our problems, libraries have never been more alive with programs for new immigrants, with programs for low-literacy adults and their families, with new technological services for students and business people across America. Every day librarians are helping people put the "know" - "K-N-O-W" - in knowledge. Librarians help children to explore business, people to succeed, adults to discover. If we truly believe the words carved above the portals of many libraries, "knowledge is power," we must accept responsibility for the exercise of that power. What we ought to be carving above library doorways is, "Librarians hold the keys to power." We hold information in trust; libraries are both the first source and the ultimate repository. Librarians deliver the materials and services that undergird the public's right to know.

Did you know there are more libraries in the U.S. than McDonald's, more library cards than visa cards? The impact of libraries and librarians can be massive. I am asking today for your commitment, your leadership, your vision, your advocacy, and most particularly your voice.

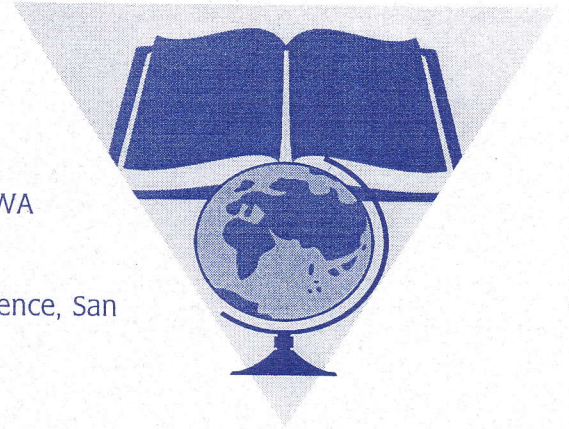
It may seem foolish in this time of budgetary constraints to seek more funding and public support, but in this information age America needs libraries and librarians more than ever. We simply cannot allow our leaders to say they support efforts to make American workers more competitive in the global marketplace and then refuse to invest in the institutions which are at the very heart of education and life-long learning - America's libraries. We cannot allow our leaders to say that they support the eradication of illiteracy and then to spend only a few cents per person on the institutions that provide unlimited opportunities for lifelong learning and intellectual growth -- America's libraries. We cannot allow our leaders to say they support the free flow of information and then not support the very institutions that make this possible - America's libraries.

This is a critical time for library advocacy: decisions that will determine the frontiers of information access in the 21st century are being made at all levels of government. Successful library advocacy efforts need each and every one of us, as individuals, as librarians, as library supporters. We must use our personal power individually and collectively by supporting local, state, and national advocacy campaigns.

Here are ten ways you can help to ensure that the vision of librarians and libraries as the key to America's right to know remains a reality. If you do even one of these things next week, you will have taken a step to

(Continued on page 13)

Upcoming Events



June 1997

8-11 June – Special Libraries Association Conference, Seattle, WA

June/July 1997

28 June - 1 July – American Library Association Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA

July 1997

16-20 July – Snowbird Leadership Institute, Snowbird, Utah

19-25 July – American Association of Law Libraries Conference, Baltimore, MD

September 1997

24-27 Sept – Wyoming Library Association, Sheridan

October 1997

1-4 Oct – South Dakota Library Association, Huron

9-14 Oct – Colorado Library Association Annual Conference, Copper Mountain

16-19 Oct – Nevada Library Association Conference, Carson City

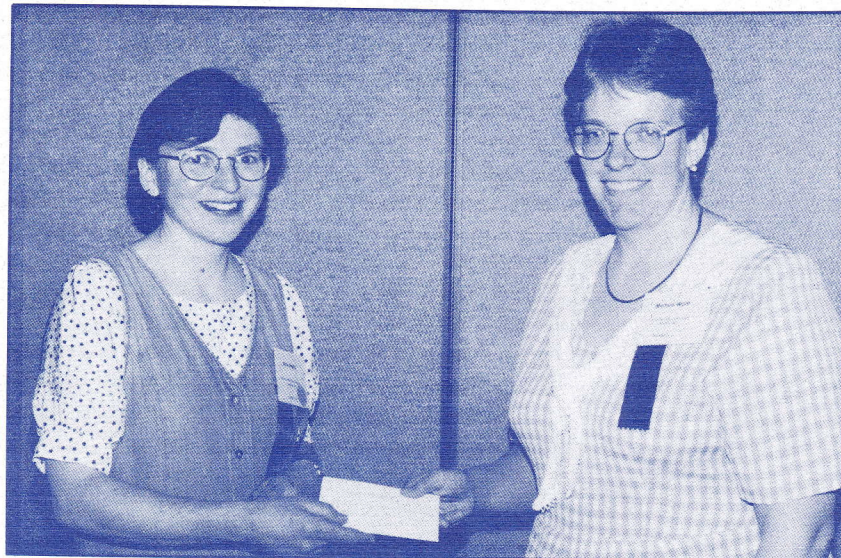
20-22 Oct – Online World, San Francisco, CA

29-31 Oct – Nebraska Library Association and the Nebraska Educational Media Association Joint Annual Conference, Omaha

November 1997

1-2 Nov – 5th Annual Rocky Mountain Book Festival

5-8 Nov – Arizona Library Association Conference



Mary Kraljic presents the MPLA Academic Research Forum Award to Michelle Wolff of the Wichita State Library for her research on art approval plans. [photo: Rachel Butler]



MPLA Jobline

MPLA has long maintained a jobline for its members. This jobline is updated each Friday.

To call the MPLA Jobline, dial:

605/577-5757 (U.S. 24 hrs/day)

or

800/356-7820 from any of the eleven MPLA member states 24 hrs/day.

To submit an announcement to the MPLA Jobline, send it to:

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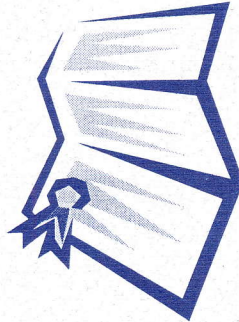
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1997 MPLA Awards

— Diane Lunde
Chair, MPLA Award Committee



The Mountain Plains Library Association honored four people at its joint meeting with the Oklahoma Library Association at Shangri-La, Oklahoma on May 1, 1997.

✧ DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD ✧

To Corky Walters, Library Development Manager, Wyoming State Library, for her exemplary and extended service to the people of Wyoming, the Wyoming Library Association, and the Mountain Plains Library Association, and for her continued support of library paraprofessionals. Corky was MPLA President for 1991/92 and was nominated for this award by Mary Coffin, former MPLA Representative for Wyoming.

✧ LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP AWARD ✧

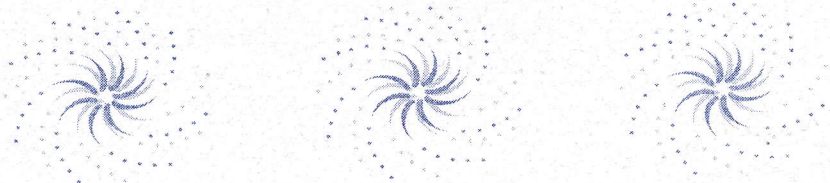
To Sharyn Pennington for her outstanding work with Arizona legislators as chair of the Arizona Library Association Legislation Committee and for organizing the Arizona Library Association to take effective legislative action on such library issues as freedom to read and library exemption from the state use tax. Sharyn was nominated for this award by Carol Hammond, the Arizona Representative to MPLA with support from other members of the Arizona Library Association.

✧ LITERARY CONTRIBUTION AWARD ✧

To Michael Wallis for his rich literary portrayal of Oklahoma and the Mountain Plains Region. A three time nominee for the Pulitzer Prize, Michael is the author of ten books of biography and American Western history, including *Route 66: The Mother Road*, *Pretty Boy*, and *Way Down Yonder in the Indian Nation*. Michael was nominated for this award by Wayne Hanway with support from the president of the Oklahoma Center for the Book and others.

✧ NEWS MEDIA SUPPORT AWARD ✧

To Sun Publications, Overland Park, Kansas, for their extensive coverage and support of the Johnson County Library, including the 1992 referendum to authorize construction of the Central Resource Library. Sun Publications was nominated by Mona Carmack and Jean Hatfield of the Johnson County Library. The award was accepted at Shangri-La by Elaine Bessier, the Sun Publications reporter who covered the library.



(Continued from page 10)

ward protecting and expanding the knowledge frontier.

- 1 Send for ALA's advocacy packs. They are chock-full of ideas, examples, and advice. Read the Advocate's handbook carefully. Use it; it's generic and easily adaptable to many types of public awareness campaigns.
- 2 Make use of ALA's sample media materials and tailor them to address specific needs in your community or library. Send letters to the editor and press releases to media, and be sure to send copies to your administrators and elected officials.
- 3 Take advocacy training at the ALA annual conference or ask that ALA present a workshop at your next state conference. We have trainers across the country.
- 4 Collect library stories that show exactly how libraries do change and enrich people's lives and write an article about this or an op-ed piece for your local or campus newspaper.
- 5 Start building your own local advocacy network – post advocacy messages on your bulletin board or your home page, and encourage response by e-mail or snail-mail; then be sure to keep in touch with those people and enlist their support.
- 6 Recruit your users, your friends, your staff, your co-workers, your family, and your neighbors as advocates. Enlist them in spreading your message to their friends and neighbors, and to religious, business and community groups.
- 7 Participate in your state's library legislative efforts. Attend ALA legislative day. Subscribe to the ALA Washington newsletter; it is available in print and online and keep in touch with elected officials about library-related legislation. Call or write your legislators often. When people speak to elected representatives, they do listen. Encourage friends, trustees, and colleagues to speak out.
- 8 Make presentations to community, business, and campus groups; tell them why Americans can't wait, and urge them to tell their politicians that support for libraries will translate into votes at the polls.
- 9 Call local radio talk shows. Make sure the library point of view is heard.
- 10 Most importantly, be a library spokesperson whether you're at a cocktail party or giving a formal speech. Tell the library story whenever you can. Be a passionate advocate for libraries and let your passion show.

Working together, we must use our collective power to tell people that they have a right to know and that libraries make it happen. Working together, we can influence the press and public policy makers; we can remind budget-setters that libraries are fundamental to our democracy, that libraries and librarians are essential to a literate and informed citizenry, that libraries and librarians are as critical to people's lives as are hospitals, police, and schools. Working together, we must articulate our concerns, those of our users, and perhaps more importantly the concerns of those who do not use libraries, but need our services. Far from being overwhelmed by the challenges, we can and we must take charge of our destiny. Together we can and we will fight to strengthen libraries and librarianship; we will fight to ensure an ethical, enlightened, equitable information age. Together we will speak out, we will speak loudly, we will speak proudly. Together you and I can – and we must -- make a difference because Americans can't wait. Library Advocacy Now!

Thank you.

Editor's Note: Many thanks to Patricia Glass Schuman for allowing us to print her speech!

EdLibs

—Heidi M. Nickisch
MPLA Newsletter Editor
nickisch@sundance.usd.edu

It's hard to believe that it's practically summer. I saw "my" first-of-the-season meadowlark today. The prairie is finally waking up—and drying out.

This issue, the last of the volume year, is full of OLA/MPLA conference remembrances. Patricia Glass Schuman was kind enough to let us print her keynote address, and Colleen Kirby was gracious enough to provide a diary of the conference as a whole. Dorothy Liegl, with her usual grace and aplomb, did a wonderful job as photographer extraordinaire! Many thanks to each of you and everyone who supplied material for this issue!

Since the committee chair assignments have for the most part not been made, look for the directory of officers and committee chairs in the August issue.

Have a great summer!



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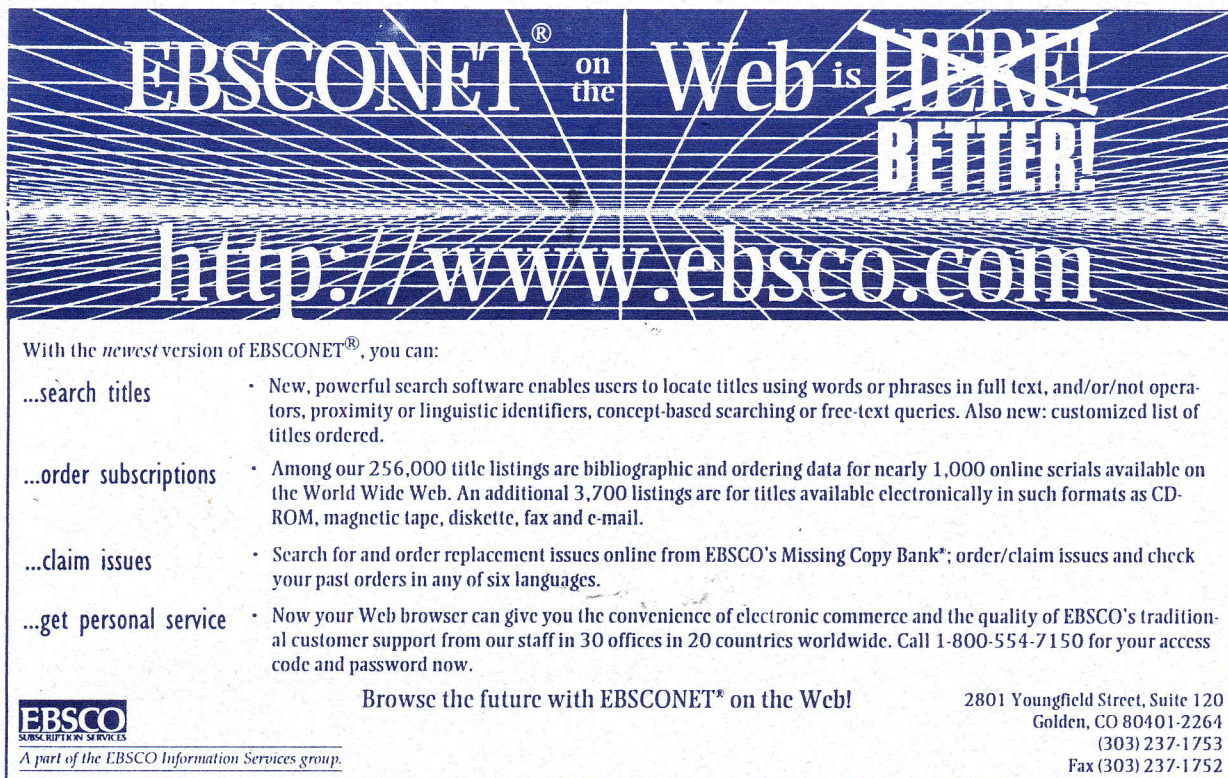
Association members are encouraged to apply for grants, mini-grants, and international grants, all of which may be used for formal college or university classroom work, independent study programs, attendance at workshops, conferences or seminars, or participation in any other activity that will benefit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

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For more information contact:

Joseph R. Edelen, Jr., MPLA Executive Secretary, I.D. Weeks Library
University of South Dakota, 414 East Clark Street, Vermillion, SD 57069
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ILL Interest Group News

—Selma Dunham
Chair, MPLA ILL Interest Group

Hello! I am Selma Dunham, the new Chair of the MPLA ILL Interest Group. I am the Information Systems Coordinator at Northern State University in Aberdeen, SD.

The MPLA/Oklahoma conference in Shangri-La was very interesting, educational, and had its lighter side. I now know how to line dance!

The biggest question for our Interest Group this year is whether to remain an Interest Group or become an MPLA section. As a section, Interlibrary Loans would have a vote on the MPLA Board and the group has already been providing programming for the MPLA conferences. The ILL group members are still sending in their comments on programming suggestions for the Utah conference and their opinions on becoming an MPLA section. I am gathering all the email addresses for ILL members so we can start our own informal listserv for issues that directly concern the ILL Interest Group. E-mail has become quite pervasive in the library world because, so far, I have found only one person who does not have an e-mail address.

Selma Dunham
Beulah Williams Library
Northern State University
14 & S Washington
Aberdeen, SD 57401

work phone: 605-26-7773
home phone: 605-225-9022
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- Section(s): Academic, Technical Services, State Agencies, Systems, & Cooperatives, Public Library/Trustee, New Members Round Table, Children's & School, Preservation, Archives, & Special Collections, Government Documents, Interest Group: Interlibrary Loan

It is important to indicate section preferences if you would like to vote for section officers!

- I am interested in serving on the following committee(s): Awards, Finance, Bylaws & Procedures, Continuing Education, Intellectual Freedom, Professional Development, Public Relations/Membership

Mail to: Joseph R. Edelen, Jr., MPLA Executive Secretary
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