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MPLA Newsletter

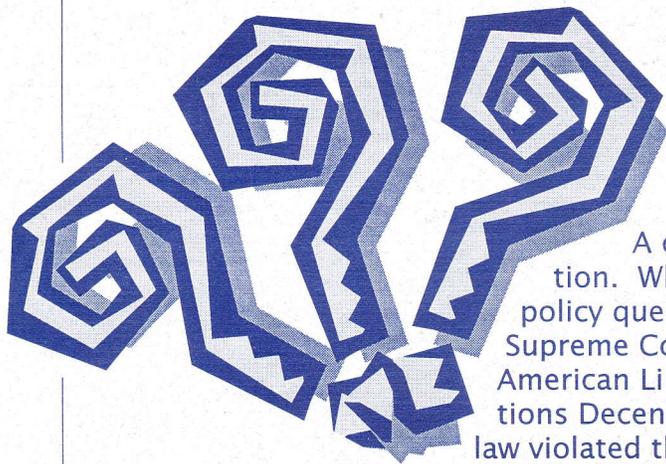
A Publication of the Mountain Plains Library Association

August 1997

Volume 42, Number 1

MPLA President's Letter

— Carol J. Connor
MPLA President



A current issue facing librarians is the Internet Question. Who should be allowed unrestricted access is still a policy question for some libraries in our region. The US Supreme Court decision on June 26, 1997 agreed with the American Library Association's position that the Communications Decency Act was too broad, poorly defined, and that the law violated the free speech of adults. However that decision is unlikely to be the final word and even for libraries with policies in place, there may be more challenges. Protection of children is the often mentioned concern.

The use of filters to protect children from sexually explicit material is being promoted on some TV programs, in some newspapers, and by vocal community organizations. The use of filters is acceptable to some librarians but not to others. Although one tends to read about public libraries (e.g. Boston Public Library), academic libraries are not exempt from administrative or community concerns and pressure. In June I received an email message about a college on the east coast where the college administration was planning to deny access to certain sites on the Web unless there was prior approval based on research needs. Academic freedom and the right to pursue truth is a cornerstone of a university or a college. School libraries and media centers have developed policies to address this issue as well, some schools require parental approval for a student to log on the Internet.

On June 20, 1997 the restrictive Internet laws passed by the states of New York and Georgia were killed. ALA was the lead plaintiff in the New York case. I believe there will be more attempts by state legislatures to pass laws restricting access to the Internet, particularly as it pertains to children.

Recently a Nebraska newspaper had an editorial illustration of a truck backing up to the

(Continued on page 3)

The MPLA Newsletter is published bi-monthly. Material of regional interest may be submitted to:

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1 March	1 September
1 May	1 November

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Matters pertaining to individual or institutional membership, address changes, and claims or orders for back issues should be sent to:

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local public library, delivering an over-size computer with the word pornography in large letters on the computer screen to the front door of the library.

The name on the cab of the truck was - Internet Garbage Co. Inc. Of course the delivery person was asking an elderly female librarian with glasses and a bun to sign for the delivery.

I recognize that librarians have different viewpoints on the issue of unrestricted access and that different policies have been adopted by libraries to address it. My question is how can we help our colleagues in MPLA who may be caught in the middle of this emotional issue. With the generous gift of Bill and Melinda Gates and the Gates Library Foundation to aid public libraries in low-income communities with equipment to access the Internet, more librarians may be struggling with the issue of unrestricted access.

The MPLA Intellectual Freedom Committee, chaired by Heather McNeil, and the ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom are available to provide information and support.

I encourage MPLA members to share their experiences in dealing with this issue. This can be accomplished by writing a short article for the MPLA Newsletter and sending it to Heidi Nickisch, Newsletter Editor, or by posting the information on the MPLA Listserv. I believe this issue will be debated and challenged for at least another year, and by sharing our experiences we can help one another.

Wishing you all an enjoyable summer,

Carol Connor

PLA National Conference

March 10-14, 1998
Kansas City, MO

— Kathleen Hughes
PLA Program Officer

Over 100 continuing education programs will be offered during the Public Library Association's Seventh National Conference, "Public Libraries: Vital, Valuable, Virtual," to be held March 10-14, 1998, in Kansas City, Missouri.

Conference-goers will be able to build schedules tailored to their specific information needs. Program tracks cover ten areas of specialization:

- adult services/reference
- author/literary/readers' advisory
- buildings
- library administration
- marketing/customer service
- special populations/
young adult
- staffing and staff development
- technology
- trustees/friends/volunteers/
advocacy
- youth services

The conference will feature more than 250 exhibitors and a number of special exhibit events.

PLA members will automatically receive registration information in the fall. To become a member, be placed on a National Conference mailing list, or for more information, phone 1/800/545-2433, ext. 5PLA.

PLA is a division of the American Library Association.



Some Helpful Resources

MPLA Intellectual Freedom Committee:
Email: lassie2tel@aol.com

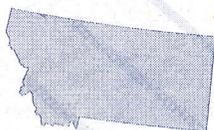
ALA Office for Information Technology Policy (OITP):
<http://www.ala.org/oitp/>

ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom: <http://www.ala.org/oif.html>

Gates Library Foundation: <http://www.glf.org/>

Montana — The Big Sky Country

The following information is excerpted from **Big Sky Libraries**, a publication of the Montana State Library, Montana State Librarian's Office. (On the Web at: <<http://msl.mt.gov>>) Many thanks to Tristen Shinnick, Editor, for her assistance and permission to use the following information!



Technology 2000

The Statewide Technology Strategic Planning Committee have begun distribution of the draft "**Technology 2000: Strategies for Montana Libraries for the 21st Century.**" The MSL Commission voted to accept the report and has now also received public comment.

Statewide Technology Committee members began the process in 1995. Since then, more than 100 librarians on 15 work teams collaborated to produce the document which was then edited by Lilly Tuholske, a freelance Missoulian writer/editor. Technology 2000 attempts to define the most critical technological goals for Montana's libraries into the next century.

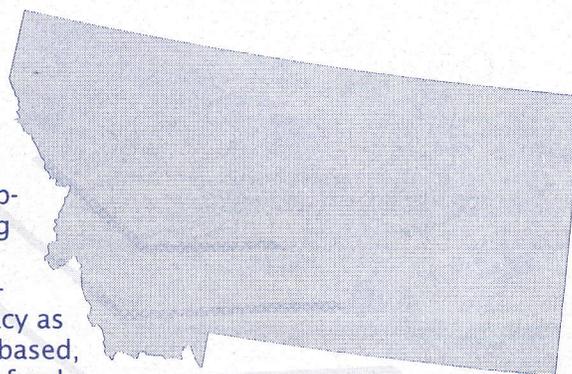
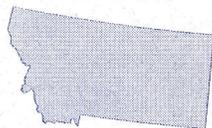
One theme is the establishment of a wide area network infrastructure to connect our libraries to each other, as well as to interstate, intrastate and Internet worked resources. Concerns include such topics as intellectual freedom in the electronic venue; cooperative

statewide licensure of electronic resources; obtaining and maintaining the computer network connections; library automation systems--legacy as well as emerging web-based, public access catalogs; funding such technologies; and training librarians.

It is hoped that Technology 2000 will be viewed by the Montana library community as a starting point and will continue to be reviewed and revised throughout the next millennium.

Draft copies are available through Interlibrary Loan from the State Library or the state depository libraries. Check WLN or WLN-LaserCat. It is also available on the Internet at: <<http://msl.mt.gov/tech2000/techpl.html>>.

For more information about Technology 2000, contact:
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Statewide Technology
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1515 East 6th Avenue
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406-444-5431, or
1-800-338-5087
e-mail: vterbs@wln.com



Montana Libraries and Librarians in the News

Congratulations to MPLA member **Greta Chapman**, who received her MLS this month!

The **West Yellowstone Public Library** received a \$5,000 grant from the Dumke Foundation to purchase new shelving for the children's section of the library and to purchase materials to put on those shelves.

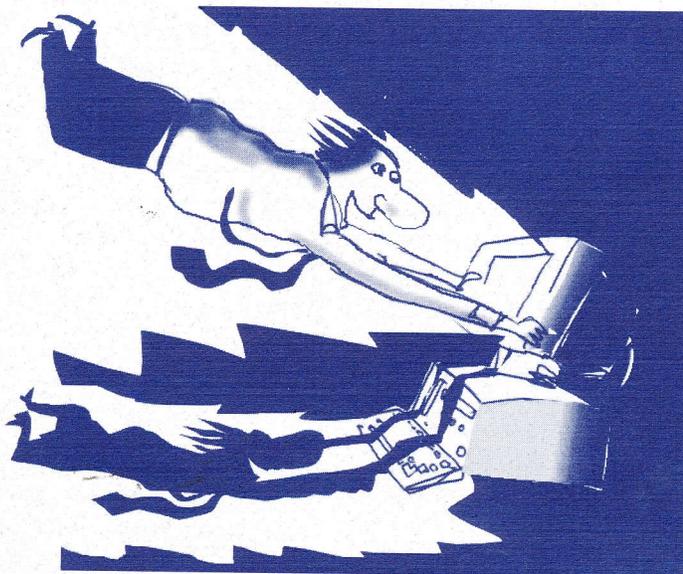
The **Choteau Public Library** has received an anonymous cash donation that will allow it to remain open at least until June 30, 1998. The announcement was made by board chairman Bob Nauck at a joint meeting of Fairfield, Dutton, and Choteau library boards. The groups were seeking ways to keep all three libraries open after June 30, when county funding discontinued.

Congratulations to **Bette Ammon** for being appointed as the director of the Missoula Public Library!

An anonymous donor has given \$20,000 each to libraries in **Polson, Ronan, and Hot Springs**. The donation was a

(Continued on page 6)

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A Thank You Note...

—Carol J. Connor
MPLA President

Thank You!

A beautiful bouquet of coral roses from MPLA arrived shortly after I returned home from the hospital. I greatly appreciated the thoughtfulness. The roses certainly brightened my day. My recovery from surgery is going very well and I will be back at the library by the time you receive your newsletter.

Carol J. Connor



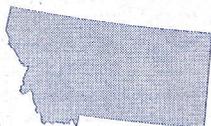
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timely one for Hot Springs' library, since it is currently under construction, and the donation is the amount of money they were short for finishing construction.

Twin Bridges Library celebrated their 100th year in June. Congratulations to them!

Rica Garrison gave several Missoula organizations a total of \$250,000. The **University of Montana Mansfield Library** will receive about \$140,000, and the **Missoula Public Library**, whose staff plans to take a year or two to use the money to fill gaps in its collections, got about \$38,000.

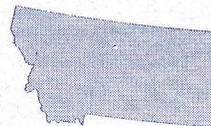
The **Miles City Library**, **West Yellowstone Public Library**, and the **Harlowton Public Library** now provide public access to the Internet. The **Dawson Community College Jane Carey Memorial Library** purchased and installed three personal computers with Internet access, as well.



The Long Range Plan

The Long Range Plan for library service in Montana was approved by the State Library Commission at their June 1997

meeting. The plan will now be finalized and will be available on the State Library's Web page (<msl.mt.gov>). It will also be available in hard copy format. To receive a copy, contact Mary Jane West at the Montana State Library, 406/444-3384.



Montana Facts

Population (1995): 870,281
Total area: 147,046 sq. miles
Libraries: Montana has over 350 public, academic, school, special, and institutional libraries!



Noses in the News...

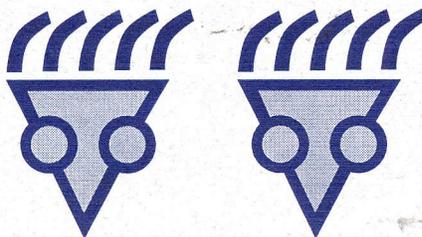
Susan Awe Edits Reference Work

Susan Awe, Library Manager, Arvada Branch, Jefferson County Public Library, Colorado, is the editor of the *ARBA Guide to Subject Encyclopedias and Dictionaries, 2d Edition*. Awe spent 1 ½ years on the editing.

Selected from the last 10 years of *ARBA* (1986-1996) with a number of new articles added, more than 1,000 reviews identify, describe, and evaluate subject dictionaries and encyclopedias in all types of libraries.

This Guide provides complete bibliographic information and detailed, often comparative reviews, and is an excellent guide for reference collection development, and a useful resource for students in reference materials classes.

The Guide retails for \$65. For additional information, contact Libraries Unlimited at 303/770-1220.



Mona Carmack Featured by Kansas City Star

Mona Carmack, county librarian for Johnson County, KS, was recently featured, along with 40 county personalities, in a 100-page special section of the *Kansas City Star*. The cover headline adjacent to Carmack's photo said, "Johnson Countians You can count on. Meet Mona Carmack and 39 others you should know but probably don't." The article on Carmack outline her nine-year career with the library and her vision in converting an 80,000 square foot showroom/warehouse to a state-of-the-art library.

PLEASANT HEAD

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May 6-9, 1998
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85 Years of ULA

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North Dakota Flood Update

— *Melody Kuehn*
NDLA Representative

Flood recovery has been a big effort of late. Many people from around the country have called to ask what they can do. The Grand Forks Public Library will be eligible to apply for funds and for \$24,000 of new books from publishers, and Baker & Taylor will be donating replacement books.

MPLA passed a resolution of support for North Dakota libraries damaged by the floods.

Grand Forks is recovering, however, and will still host the 1998 NDLA Annual Conference.

For those wishing to contribute to the recovery effort, cash donations are preferred, and are tax deductible.

For more information about recovery efforts and where to send donations, contact:

Melody Kuehn
Minot High School
110 2nd Avenue SE
Central Campus
Minot, ND 58701
Voice: 701/857-4641
Fax: 701/857-4636
Email:
kuehn@sendit.nodak.edu

Montana History

The Montana Historical Society is sponsoring a program to help libraries promote Montana history. People are encouraged to give Montana Historical Society Press books to their favorite community, school, and college libraries. The books are sent directly to the library with a personalized bookplate identifying the purchased and anyone the donor desires to honor.

Among the books available is the newly published *Autobiography of Red Cloud: War Leader of the Oglalas*. Other recent publications from the Montana Historical Society include: *Legacy: New Perspectives on the Battle of the Little Bighorn*, *Traveler's Guide to the Great Sioux War*, and *Montana Native Plants and Early Peoples*. For more information about this program, contact: Martha Kohl, 800/243-9900.



MPLA Jobline



MPLA has long maintained a jobline for its members. It 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 MPLA
member states
24 hrs/day

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

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Voice: 605/677-6082
Fax: 605/677-5488
Email:
jedelen@sundance.usd.edu

Upcoming Events Calendar

September 1997

24-27 Sept — Wyoming Library Association, Sheridan

October 1997

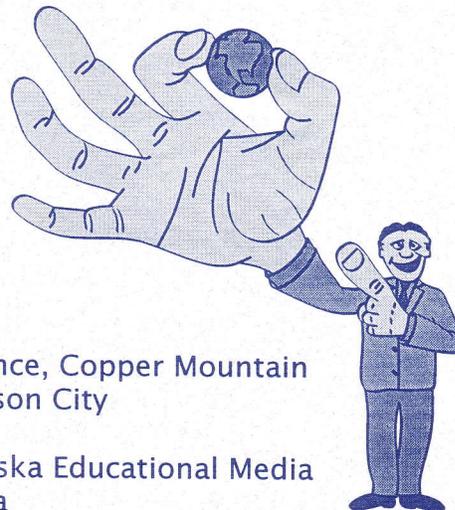
1-4 Oct — South Dakota Library Association, Huron

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

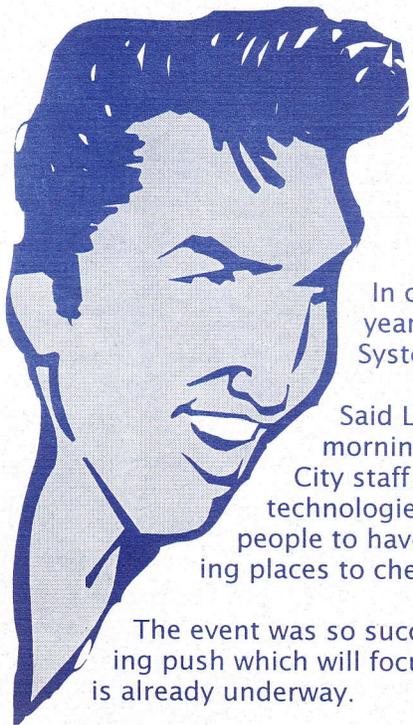
5-8 Nov — Arizona Library Association Conference

March 1998

10-14 March — 1998 Public Library Association National Conference, Kansas City, MO

May 1998

6-9 May — 1998 Joint ULA/MPLA Annual Conference, Salt Lake City



Elvis at the Library!

— *Scottsdale Public Library*
Scottsdale, AZ

In celebration of 1997 National Library Week and as the culmination of a year-long plan to market "internal" customers, Scottsdale Public Library System staff staged a brief comeback tour for "The King."

Said Library Director Judy Register (one of several staff "Elvii" sighted that morning), "Our plan this year was to market our "internal customers" (other City staff and community leaders) by highlighting some of the new information technologies libraries offer while retaining traditional services. We also wanted people to have fun, hopefully disproving the stereotype of libraries as stuffy, boring places to check out dusty old books."

The event was so successful that planning for next year's even, as part of another marketing push which will focus on the Library System's "external customers" (Scottsdale citizens), is already underway.

EdLibs

—Heidi M. Nickisch
MPLA Newsletter Editor

In 1640, Paul Fleming wrote a poem entitled "An Sich." The end of the second stanza reads:

"Tu, was getan muss sein und eh man dirs gebeut.
Was du noch hoffen kannst, das wird noch stets geboren."

Fleming indicates that you should do what needs to be done (and before you are told to do it!), and that whatever you can imagine is continually coming into being.

I often think of Fleming's poem when I think about the role that libraries and librarians have the opportunity to play in these swiftly changing times. In some ways, the role of the librarian will probably never change; in others, the role changes almost daily. A colleague of mine refers to librarians in our "new" roles as "information engineers." He's probably not too far off the mark. In the world global information access, the librarian can navigate the available sources and filter out the needed information. The explosion of available information in Cyberspace makes our role even more valuable. Who better than a librarian to help navigate the malleable landscape of Internet information resources?

We often forget, however, that we have to market ourselves and sing our own praises! We provide the "human touch" that software, search engines, and the Internet cannot. I'm looking forward to being a part of our changing role in the days and years ahead.

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For more information, contact:
Joe Edelen, MPLA Executive Secretary
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Plan ahead now for your 1998 continuing education opportunities!



Public Library Use in the MPLA States, 1996

—Source: U.S. Department of Education
National Center for Education Statistics
National Household Education Survey (NHES)
Spring 1996
<http://www.ed.gov/NCES/pubs/97446.html>

MPLA States in Public Library Use, 1996

State	Estimated Number of Households (in thousands)	Used Public Library in the last month (in percent)	Used public library in the last year (incl. last month) (in percent)
50 State Total	99,088	44	65
Arizona	1,150	47	69
Colorado	1,503	50	71
Kansas	986	49	66
Montana	332	42	62
Nebraska	607	43	63
Nevada	580	48	66
North Dakota	247	39	58
Oklahoma	1,280	43	62
South Dakota	271	40	59
Utah	637	56	75
Wyoming	185	53	73

Four of the MPLA states, Utah (#2—tie), Wyoming (#4—tie), Colorado (#6), and Arizona (#8—tie), respectively, fall into the top 10 ten states for public library use.



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- ▽ Opportunities for professional development
- ▽ Continuing education programs
- ▽ A forum for the exchange of ideas
- ▽ Professional development grants
- ▽ Support of regional library efforts

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(Membership year is calendar year)

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- RETIREE, STUDENT, TRUSTEE MEMBERSHIP** — \$15.00/yr.
- INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP** — Libraries, business firms, and other institutions supporting the Association. Institutional members also receive FREE advertising for job openings in the Newsletter! Membership fee is based on total annual budget.

Under \$100,000.....	\$50/yr	\$300,000 - 499,999.....	\$100/yr
\$100,000 - 299,999.....	\$75/yr	\$500,000 - up.....	\$125/yr

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