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MPLA Newsletter

A Publication of the Mountain Plains Library Association

December 1997

MPLA

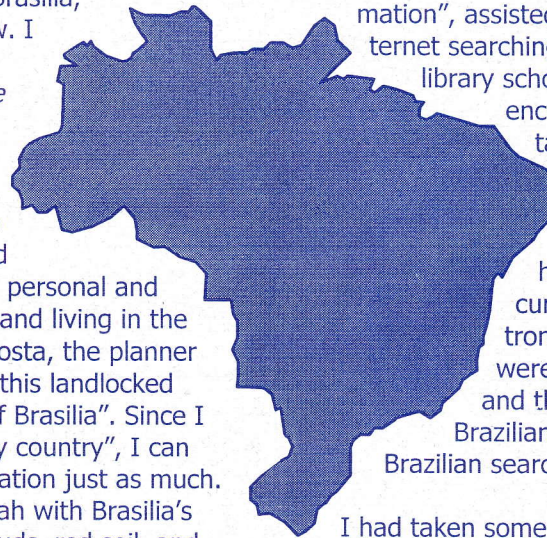
Volume 42, Number 3

Bozeman to Brasilia: MPLA Librarian Serves as ALA/USIA Library Fellow in Brazil

— **Vicky York**
Associate Professor
Montana State University Libraries



In August I returned to Bozeman after five months of teaching in the Department of Library Science and Documentation at the University of Brasilia, Brazil, as an ALA/USIA Library Fellow. I am old enough to remember when Brasilia was built, the stories in *Time* and *Life* and the photographs of the then radically futuristic architecture of Oscar Niemeyer. I set about reading and talking with people who had been to Brazil. But nothing could have prepared me for the wonderful personal and professional experiences of working and living in the beautiful city that is Brasilia. Lucio Costa, the planner who designed the airplane shape of this landlocked city, wrote that "the sky is the sea of Brasilia". Since I live in a state that calls itself "big sky country", I can say that Brasilia deserves this appellation just as much. Often I felt like I was in southern Utah with Brasilia's limitless blue sky, huge billowing clouds, red soil, and hot, dry climate.



My assignment was to train students and faculty in the use of CD-ROMs, the Internet, and other electronic information formats. I developed and taught a graduate course called "Sources of Electronic Information", assisted faculty in improving their Internet searching skills and lectured at other library schools in Brazil. It was an experience that exceeded all my expectations. The timing was absolutely right for the department for this kind of course and training. The department has begun an evaluation of its curriculum to incorporate electronic information, the students were enthusiastic and motivated, and there is now a critical mass of Brazilian Internet sites, including a Brazilian search engine in Portuguese.

I had taken some Portuguese, and learned enough to work with the students in the lab; I got pretty expert at Windows 95 and PowerPoint in Portuguese. Our attempts at understanding each other in English and Portuguese produced lots of humor-

(Continued on page 6)

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

Heidi M. Nickisch
MPLA Newsletter Editor
I.D. Weeks Library
University of South Dakota
414 East Clark Street
Vermillion, SD 57069-2390
Voice: 605/677-6088
Fax: 605/677-5488
Email: nickisch@sundance.usd.edu

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MPLA Executive Secretary
I.D. Weeks Library
University of South Dakota
414 East Clark Street
Vermillion, SD 57069-2390
Voice: 605/677-6082
Fax: 605/677-5488
Email: jedelen@sundance.usd.edu

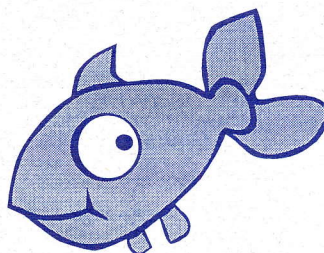
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...In This Issue

Bozeman to Brasilia	Front Page
MPLA President's Note	3
NDLA 91 st Annual Conference	4
Ed. Libs	6
"Best of Show" Packet Available	6
Salt Lake City: Cultural and Historical Attractions	7
Libraries and the Western Governor's University	9
MPLA Membership Drawing Winners	10
Upcoming Events Calendar	13
Ed. Libs	14
MPLA/ULA Joint Conference: Put It In Your Planner!	14
Noses in the News...	15
New Listserv Promotes Library Programs Discussion	15
MPLA Membership Form/Dues Schedule	16



MPLA President's Note

— **Carol J. Connor**
MPLA President



As 1997 comes to a close I look back on a few events at the national level which impact libraries ... the court decision regarding the Communication Decency Act, the transition from LSCA to LSTA, the Universal Service Fund Telecommunication Services Discount, and the joining of the library and museum in the federal government.

Change, as is commonly stated, is the only constant. The expectation of leadership is changing, and organizational culture appears to be moving toward a more participative environment - for example, a team approach to decision making and planning.

However, a constant I see in all types of libraries is a con-

tinued focus on providing the best library service to our customers in spite of limited resources. Everyone working in a library/media center or serving on a library, school or post-secondary education board deserves a big thank you for their commitment to service and for promoting access to information and library resources.

I wish each of you a pleasant and peaceful New Year!



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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.

For more information, contact:

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

Joe Edelen, MPLA Executive Secretary
I.D. Weeks Library
University of South Dakota
414 E. Clark Street
Vermillion, SD 57069

Seminars Institutes Workshops Coursework
Conferences Research Projects Independent Learning

NDLA 91st Annual Conference

— Marlene Anderson
NDLA Public Relations Committee

"Enhancing Library Services Within North Dakota Libraries: Images, Attitudes, & Resources" was the theme of the 91st annual conference of the North Dakota Library Association (NDLA) held in Minot in September, 1997. Conference attendees were encouraged to think, react, and challenge as they attended programs focused on new technologies, providing access and resources to North Dakota library users, and establishing positive images and attitudes in libraries. Some MPLA members received the following awards:

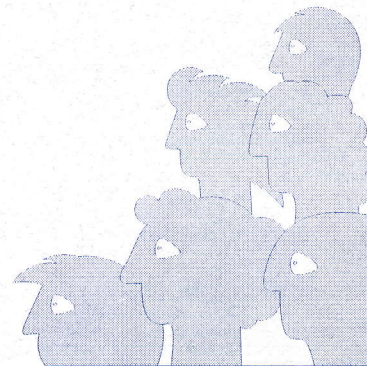
Librarian of the Year Award — Dennis Page, Director of the Grand Forks Public Library, was recognized for his numerous contributions to North Dakota libraries as a promoter and an advocate; for his lead-

ership role in studying and implementing new technologies; for his

work on key legislative

efforts throughout the years; and most recently, for his efforts to coordinate the disbursement of materials donated to flood-damaged libraries.

President's Award — Betty Gard, Head of Reference Services, Chester Fritz Library, UND, was recognized for her many contributions to NDLA and the library profession. Betty has served NDLA in numerous capacities, including president and ALA councilor, and has been active in MPLA, the Red River Valley Library Association, and the community of Grand Forks. Betty was also honored with the UND President's Award earlier this fall.



MPLA



mpla jobline

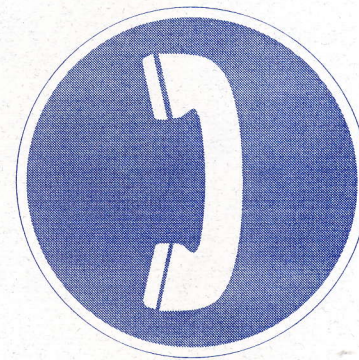
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(Continued from page 1)

ous results such as trying to explain the origin of the Internet term "Gopher" as the University of Minnesota mascot and discovering the Portuguese equivalents of "information superhighway" or "keyword search."

It could not have been a more productive and positive five months. The graciousness of the University of Brasilia faculty, my students' fun-loving sense of humor and the vibrancy of a city still inventing itself all contributed to an experience I will never forget.

If you are interested in reading about Brazil, I can recommend two books. For those interested in Brazilian music, John Krich's 1993 **Why Is This Country Dancing**

looks at Brazil through its music and musicians and includes a discography at the end of each chapter. I just finished reading Marshall Eakin's 1997 **Brazil: The Once and Future Country**, which offers good up-to-date coverage of the current political and economic situation.



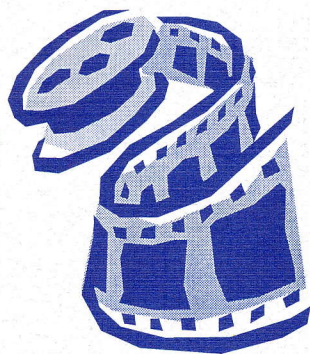
The Library Fellows program is funded by the United States Information Agency and administered by the American Library Association. The ALA/USIA Fellowship Program enables U.S. librarians to enrich and broaden their experience through an assignment to a host institution overseas. Funding for the program has been severely cut and it is possible that the 1997-98 Fellows will be the last.

MPLA

Orphan Microfilm Needs Home

Carol Hammond at Thunderbird: The American Graduate School of International Management has microfilm of the *Boston Globe* and *The Atlanta Constitution*, both for 1989-1991, that she will donate to any library that can use it.

If you can provide a home for this microfilm, contact Carol at 602/978-7234 or hammondc@t-bird.edu.



"Best of Show" Packet Offers Ideas, Inspiration

The 1997 Swap and Shop "Best of Show" packet with award-winning promotion and marketing materials from 33 libraries is now available through interlibrary loan from the American Library Association's Library and Research Center.

The Best of Show Awards are given annually by the Library Administration and Management Association (LAMA) Public Relations Section (PRS) Swap and Shop Committee to recognize outstanding promotional materials produced by libraries during the past year. The circulating packet includes annual reports, book lists, fundraising and summer reading materials, newsletters, special events flyers and more.

The packet can be borrowed for inspiration and helpful hints for a three-week loan period. Send requests to: The American Library Association Library and Research Center, 50 East Huron St., Chicago, Illinois 60611. Fax: 312-440-9374. Telephone: 800-545-2433, ext. 2153.



Salt Lake City: Cultural and Historical Attractions

— **Blaine H. Hall**
Chair, 50th Anniversary
Commemoration Committee

For leisure hours Salt Lake City offers a wide variety of activities to suit every taste—sports events, concerts, ballet, opera, museums, art galleries, theaters, shopping. So while you are in Salt Lake City for the MPLA/ULA Joint Conference, enjoy! The conference program includes a walking tour of the downtown area to acquaint you with some of the city's landmarks, and a visit to the Family History Library. But you might also want to enjoy other nearby cultural and historical attractions.

Walking Tour of Downtown

The one-hour walking tour offered near the start of the conference will help you become familiar with the downtown area so you can see where and how close and accessible many interesting sites are. The tour will highlight many attractions, including the Salt Lake Art Center with its two-level gallery featuring a regional or national artist, the Maurice Abravanel Symphony Hall, the Mormon Temple and visitors center on Temple Square, the LDS Family History Library, the LDS Museum of Church History and Art, the State Capital Building and grounds, City Creek Park and the Brigham Young Historical Park, the Mormon Pioneer Memorial (where Brigham and several of his wives rest),

the beautiful Cathedral of the Madeleine, the Lion and Beehive houses (where Brigham Young and his extensive families lived), the Hansen Planetarium, the restored Hotel Utah (now the Joseph Smith Memorial building), the Social Hall Heritage Museum, the ZCMI Center and Crossroads Plaza shopping malls (located right across main street from each other, with extensive food courts for a quick lunch), plus other highlights! While you will not have time to actually stop and explore most of these sites, you will be able to find out what you would like to visit later.

Family History Library

Unique to Salt Lake City is the world's largest repository of genealogical information, the Family History Library of the LDS Church with over 1.8 million rolls of microfilm (equal to about 6 million written volumes), 320,000 microfiche, more than 225,000 bound volumes, and 9 million family group sheets. And its collection grows by over 1.5 million rolls per year, the output from more than 200 cameras filming birth, marriage, death, probate, immigration, military, census, and many other genealogically important records in 45 countries. Most of the records date from about 1550 to 1910, with few records of

(Continued on page 11)

U·L·A·M·P·L·A Joint Conference



**May 6-9, 1998
(Wed. - Sat.)**

**Salt Palace,
Salt Lake City, Utah**

Mark Your Calendar!

This year's theme is "**THE SERVICE CONNECTION: A VISION FOR TOMORROW.**" Program tracks include administrative/management; service to special populations; authors; technology; and career/self-improvement. Pre-conference is set for Wednesday, May 6 and the post-conference will be held Saturday, May 9.

Watch for registration details, and register by March 31 to avoid late fees. Contact Carolyn Dickinson, conference co-chair, with any questions at cdickins@slcpl.slcppl.lib.ut.us, or call her at 801/524-8214.



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Libraries and the Western Governors University

— Vicky York
Associate Professor
Montana State University Libraries

Just a little over two years ago in 1995, the Western Governors' Association agreed to collaborate in the development and delivery of distance learning courses and programs.

Initially proposed by the governors of Utah and Colorado, the governors of 16 western states have now signed on to support the

Western Governors University, a nonprofit, independent corporation committed to expanding educational opportunities through web-based instruction and support.

The stated mission of the WGU is:

- ↳ To remove the obstacles of both time and place to post secondary education opportunities for individuals and corporate citizens of the West by developing and demonstrating innovative, cost-effective approaches to delivering education through the use of rapidly evolving advanced technology.

- ↳ To provide a means for learners to

obtain formal recognition of the skills and knowledge obtained outside traditional higher education (campus) context and /or form multiple providers through assessment and certification of competency.

- ↳ To encourage joint development of new learning and assessment materials.

Within the next 12 months, the Western Governors University expects to be offering courses. The WGU will eventually offer certificates, associate degrees, and

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

graduate degrees through the member states' pilot campuses and local centers. The WGU is not intended to replace traditional college and university campuses, but to augment the opportunities for a wide array of students, particularly those who might not otherwise have access to higher education and those needing workplace training.

Where do libraries fit into all of this? From the beginning, the designers of the WGU have sought input and involvement from the library community. In the summer of 1996, the University of Utah hosted a meeting of library

directors, state librarians and others to begin the discussions with the library community. It was clear that library resources and services needed to be an integral part of the WGU. As a result of this and subsequent meetings and discussions, an RFP was developed for a WGU Central Library Resource based on the premise that the quality of library service available to distant students must be essentially the same as that provided to on-campus students. By January the contract for library services is to be awarded and the central library resource in place.

It was clear that library resources and services needed to be an integral part of the WGU.

Just as the relationship among the pilot campuses and the WGU will

evolve, so will relationships among the libraries of the provider institutions and the central library resource. Many questions are still unanswered. To take a closer look at the status of the WGU, the academic programs offered, and the role of libraries, the MPLA Academic Section has invited Dr. Robert Albrecht, WGU chief academic officer, to speak at the 1998 conference in Salt Lake City.

Information on the Western Governors University, including a FAQ, press releases and a slide presentation, is available at the WGU web site:

www.westgov.org/smart/vu/



Editor's Note: Look for Part II of this article in the February 1998 issue.

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MPLA MEMBERSHIP DRAWING WINNERS

Each year at the MPLA member states' annual conference, MPLA holds a drawing for a free one-year membership. Here are the most recent drawing winners.

COLORADO

Kate Mutch, West Custer County Library, Westcliffe

NEBRASKA

Mary Peterson, Western Nebraska Community College, Scottsbluff

NEVADA

Ida McBride, Nevada Youth Training Center, Elko

NORTH DAKOTA

Marcella Schmaltz, Bismarck State College, Bismarck

WYOMING

Rebecca Francis, University of Wyoming, Laramie

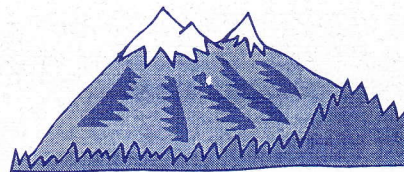
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Salt Lake Ancestral File

living persons. The book collection includes published family histories, local histories, indexes, periodicals, and other research aids.

This great resource is available free of charge for public use, not just for Mormons. Its users come from all over the world and not just genealogists searching for their ancestors. The library's records are used by historians, sociologists, medical researchers, and many others searching for information about missing heirs, adoptions, and many other purposes.

The library provides several important computerized catalogs and indexes that readily make its vast collections available to users. The International Genealogical Index lists the birth, christening, marriage, and other dates of more than 147 million deceased persons. The Ancestral File links individuals into families and pedigrees. Searching the 10 million names in this file will show you if anyone has already submitted information about your family. You will then be able to make paper or diskette copies of the families and pedigrees you find. You too can submit your family information to the Ancestral File and share your work with others. So bring some names of your ancestors with dates and places to help identify them, and see what you can find about your ancestry.



Museums

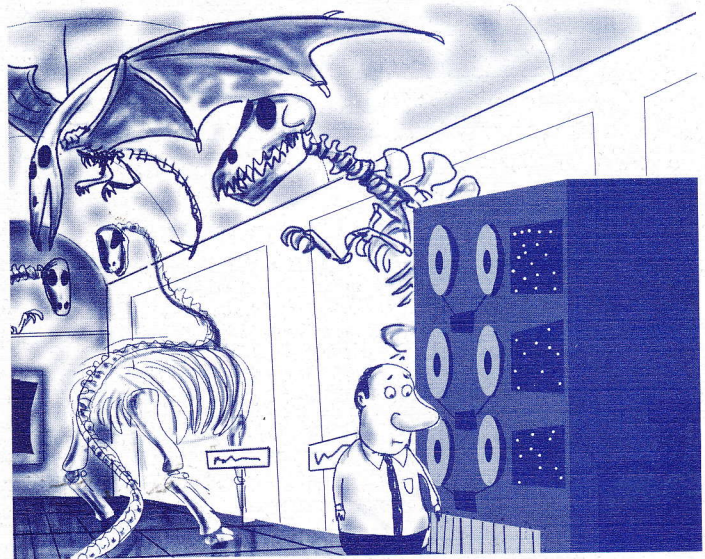
As might be expected in a city with a strong sense of its past, Salt Lake has a number of historical museums, several a short walk from the Salt Palace.

The Pioneer Memorial Museum is across the street from the State Capitol at the north end of Main Street, a two-block walk up the hill from Temple Square. Operated by the National Society of the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers, the cream-colored replica of the original pioneer Salt Lake Theater contains one of the largest and finest collections of authentic pioneer relics in the West. On display are paintings by noted Utah artists, guns, quilts, furniture, books, historical manuscripts, handmade clothing, dolls, and artifacts and memorabilia documenting the history of the military and railroading in Utah and the West. The carriage house directly behind the museum displays larger artifacts including an original pioneer wagon, sleighs, surreys, handcarts, bicycles, and a blacksmith shop. Open Mon.-Sat., 9-5. Admission free, but donations accepted.

Less than a block north of Symphony Hall on the corner

(Continued on page 13)

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only yesterday,
mainframes
ruled the
earth . . .



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UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

JANUARY 1998

9-14 January — ALA 1998 Midwinter Meeting,
New Orleans, LA

MARCH 1998

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

APRIL 1998

19-25 April — National Library Week

MAY 1998

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

JUNE 1998

25 June - 2 July — ALA Annual Conference, Washington, DC



MPLA

of North Temple and West Temple streets the LDS Museum of Church History and Art features dioramas and other displays depicting the history of the Church. Paintings, manuscripts, photographs, and historical artifacts document and illustrate its growth and movement from New York to Utah and its worldwide proselyting. A diorama of Salt Lake City in 1870, re-created in miniature, provides a striking contrast to the urban metropolis of today. The museum also displays fine art sculptures and paintings of 19th and 20th century Mormon artists and Mormon Indian weaving, basket making, kachinas, and other Indian arts.

A mile or so east of downtown on the University of Utah campus, you can view the state's major collection of world paintings at the Utah Museum of Fine Arts, where the paintings are integrated with furniture and decorative arts to represent more completely a culture's or period's artistic

heritage. Also on the campus is the Utah Museum of Natural History, with outstanding exhibits of dinosaurs, fossils and other displays of geology, biology, and anthropology. Or if you are more interested in living animals, you can travel a mile or so further south and east of the university at the mouth of Emigration Canyon and across the street from the Pioneer Trail State Park and visit Hogle Zoo, where you can see 1100 animals from all regions of the earth displayed in habitats from dens to tropical forests. The zoo is open from 9-5:30 daily. Adult admission \$4.

These are only a few of many cultural, historical and entertainment opportunities in the city that might fit into a busy schedule. In the February issue we'll feature some of the 1100 eating (and drinking) establishments in the city, where you can find food and atmosphere to fit almost any taste, pocketbook, or time schedule, as well as some of the concerts, shows, and other events taking place in Salt Lake during the conference.





MPLA/ULA Joint Conference: Put It In Your Planner!

— Lora Koehler
Public Relations

ULA Annual Conference Committee

The joint conference of MPLA and ULA will be held May 6-9, 1998 at the Salt Palace in Salt Lake City, Utah. Plans are rolling along for an informative conference that will send you back to your library reenergized and ready to implement new ideas.

The conference committee has a solid program line-up in store for conference attendees, including a keynote speech by ALA President Barbara Ford. You'll find program tracks relevant to the work you do, such as administrative/management; service to special populations; authors; technology; and career/self-improvement. It's the perfect opportunity to gather innovative ideas from other libraries and network with your colleagues in the Mountain Plains region!

Register by March 31 and save money with the \$60 registration fee. There is a late registration fee of \$75 and a non-member fee of \$95. Watch for registration details and don't miss out! If you have questions, contact conference co-chair Carolyn Dickinson at cdickins@slcpl.slcp.lib.ut.us, or call her at 801/524-8214.

MPLA

March is National Women's History Month!

"Living the Legacy of Women's Rights" is the theme for National Women's History Month this March, celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the Women's Rights Movement. The National Women's History Project has a one-hour program kit (kit includes a 30-min. video, "Equality: A History of the Women's Movement in America," a 15-min. speech, and a full-color National Women's History Month poster, bookmarks, and more for \$50 plus s/h.

The Women's History Catalog, available for free, has many other items, too. Request a catalog from the National Women's History Project, 7738 Bell Road, Dept. P, Windsor, CA 95492-8518, phone 707/838-6000, e-mail nwhp@aol.com.

Check out the NWHP web site at www.nwhp.org.

Ed. Libs

—Heidi M. Nickisch
MPLA Newsletter Editor

This issue of the Newsletter contains quite a bit about the MPLA/ULA Annual Conference in May. We hope that you'll be able to join us for what promises to be one of the best conferences in MPLA history. The program committee has been working hard to bring you an exciting and "not your usual fare" conference. And remember—next year is MPLA's 50th Anniversary; and you'll be missing the event of the season if you don't attend!

Look for more about specific programs and conference events in the next issue.

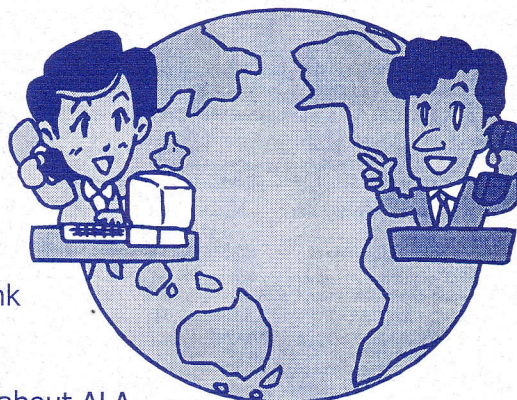
I wish you and yours a safe and fun holiday season, and best wishes for the New Year!

New Listserv Promotes Library Programs Discussion

The American Library Association (ALA) Public Programs Office has developed a new discussion list in its continuing effort to link libraries, communities and culture.

The purpose of the subscription listserv is to make information about ALA Public Programs projects more immediately available, to provide opportunities for discussion among library programmers, and to provide those involved in Public Programs projects an opportunity to ask questions and receive answers from staff members.

The list name is `pubprgms@ala.org`. It is unmoderated and self-subscribing. Undeliverable addresses will be automatically deleted. To subscribe, send an e-mail message to `listproc@ala.org` with the following command as the first line of text in the body of the message: `subscribe pubprgms [your name]`. Enter your full name, without the brackets.



MPLA

Noses in the News...

Congratulations!

Carol Hammond of Thunderbird: The American Graduate School of International Management was awarded the Distinguished Service Award by the Arizona Library Association at its conference in Phoenix November 5-8 "in recognition for more than a decade of commitment and dedication of service to Arizona's libraries." Carol has just finished a term as the Arizona Representative to the MPLA Executive Board.

Bravo!

Cathy Butler is the new director of the Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library in Wyoming. Most recently Cathy was the director of the Weston County (WY) Public Library.

Kudos!

Richard Miller, formerly the administrator of the Southeast Library System (NE), is the new Director of Library Development with the Nebraska Library Commission.



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MPLA Dues Schedule

(Membership year is calendar year)

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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
 I.D. Weeks Library, University of South Dakota
 414 East Clark Street, Vermillion, SD 57069-2390

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