

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

MPLA Newsletter

A Publication of the Mountain Plains Library Association

February 1998

MPLA

Volume 42, Number 4

American Libraries Goes Online

—ALA News Release

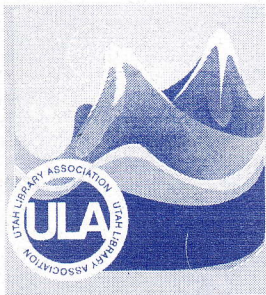
American Libraries, the independent news and features magazine and official journal of the American Library Association (ALA), launched its own Web site, ALOnline, on December 22, 1997.

American Libraries Editor Leonard Kniffel said the site will "make more information available to more readers faster." The ALOnline "Datebook" section features a continuously updated calendar of upcoming conferences, exhibits, continuing education courses, book fairs, institutes and other events of interest to all types of libraries.

(Continued on page 9)

MPLA

MPLA/ ULA Joint Conference



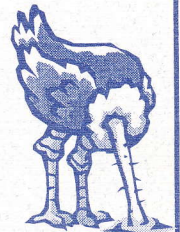
6 - 9 May 1998
Salt Lake City



Check out our special conference section in the center of this month's newsletter

TIME TO RENEW!

If you haven't renewed your MPLA membership for 1998, it's time to pull your head out of the sand!



Renew today and continue to reap the benefits of MPLA membership.

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

SUBMISSIONS

Copy Deadlines for articles, news information, advertisements, and other copy:

1 January	1 July
1 March	1 September
1 May	1 November

ADVERTISING

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

MPLA MEMBERSHIP OR

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
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

SUBSCRIPTION FEES

1 yr - \$22; 2 yrs - \$38; 3 yrs - \$55

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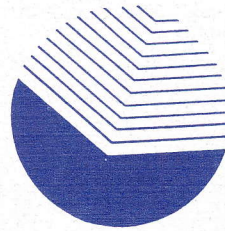
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MPLA President's Note

— Carol J. Connor
MPLA President



Spring is approaching, as is the celebration of MPLA's 50th Anniversary at the Utah Library Association/MPLA Conference in Salt Lake City, May 6 - 9.

Mark your calendar and plan to join us for this unique celebration. ULA/MPLA members are developing a great conference with excellent programs.

It seems a number of library

associations are experiencing gaps between annual projected revenues and annual projected expenditures.

Although MPLA is currently in a good financial situation, our annual budget projections depend on cash reserves to balance.

In the past MPLA's annual expenditures have been less than projected in the budget

so it has not been a real problem. However, the Finance Committee will be reviewing this issue as a proactive measure.

If you have suggestions for ways to generate increased revenue for MPLA, please contact me or Past President Judy Zelenski.

Encourage your colleagues and friends to join MPLA!



MPLA

mpla offers
professional
development
assistance

grants
mini-grants
international
grants

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

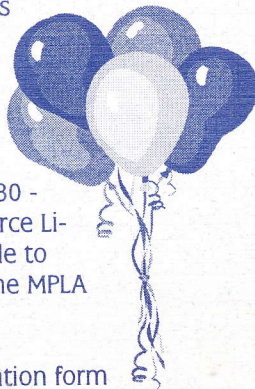
Reception in Honor of MPLA to be Held at PLA

In honor of the 50th Anniversary of the Mountain Plains Library Association, the Kansas Library Association, Johnson County Library and Ingram Library Services will be sponsoring a reception at the Public Library Association conference in Kansas City.

The reception will be held on Friday, March 13 from 6:30 - 9:30 pm at the Johnson County Library's Central Resource Library in Overland Park, Kansas. Busses will be available to take attendees from the all-conference reception to the MPLA reception and will return to the conference hotels.

Reservations may be made on the conference registration form or at the convention center. There will be a \$5 admission which will be donated to the MPLA treasury to fund the Professional Development Grants program.

For more information contact Jean Hatfield, Johnson County Library, (913) 261-2345 or hatfield@jcl.lib.ks.us. This reception is open to everyone and conference registration is not required to attend. Please join KLA, JCL and Ingram's in honoring this excellent professional organization!



MPLA

Annual Conference Accommodations

In addition to the Wyndham Hotel listed in the special conference section, the following hotels will provide accommodations for the conference:

The Shilo Inn
206 S. West Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84101-1944
801/521-9500
800/222-2244

1 block from the Salt Palace. Rates from \$94.00 plus taxes

The Hampton Inn
425 S. 300 West
Salt Lake City, UT 84101
801/741-1110
800/HAMPTON (426-7866)
5 blocks from the Salt Palace. Rates from \$80.00 plus taxes.

For more and updated information:

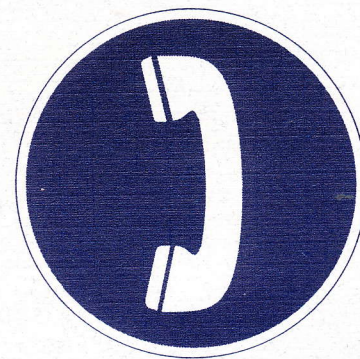
www.ula.org



mpla jobline

available 24/7

605/677-5757



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

Joe Edelen
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

Many MPLA members have heard trainer Pat Wagner speak about communication, conflict management, productivity, and leadership at library conferences across the region. Do you have all six of her one-hour long audio tapes? Each one features Pat and reporter Alan Dumas in a lively conversation packed with practical ideas and intriguing examples. You might recognize your own workplace while you laugh along with Pat and Alan, as they discuss how we all can make work more productive, more meaningful, and more enjoyable.

The Necessity of Joy - Happiness is when you laugh; joy is when you can't stop laughing. Joy builds creativity, courage, and community. Learn the possible biological origins of joy, discover the usefulness of joy in emotional health, and hear practical advice for applying the principles of joy in the workplace.

Avoid the Conflict Trap - Are you in chronic conflict? Discover how you can take immediate action to improve your situation. Find out what happens when you take on the roles of the bully, victim, and meddler, and what you can do instead!

Turning Enemies Into Allies - Learn a three-part model for resolving most workplace conflicts with effective good humor and without having to resort to complicated theories, manipulation, or mind reading.

How To Be A Fearless Employee - When the going gets tough at work, the tough and successful know how to make hard choices, take risks, tell the truth, and increase their influence. Learn practical secrets of being fearless and positive, even in a stressful workplace.

One Hello At A Time: Build Your Career With Networking - Networking is the art of creating and maintaining mutually useful relationships. If you are job hunting, building a business, recruiting volunteers, looking for experts, or moving to a new community, you need to learn how to find the right people quickly and effectively. Learn about how to both locate information and build a support network.

A Thinking Person's Guide to Stress Management - Most anti-stress techniques are for respite, not for preparation, repair, or prevention. Learn how to create a system of stress management strategies that fits your values and current lifestyle.

TOTAL number of audio tapes.

1 tape = \$12.95 each (\$13.90 each for Colorado residents includes applicable tax of \$.95).

2-5 tapes = \$11.00 each (\$11.80 each for Colorado residents includes applicable tax of \$.80).

6+ tapes = \$10.00 each (\$10.73 each for Colorado residents includes applicable tax of \$.73)

\$ _____ **TOTAL dollar amount of order.**

Please send current information about Pat's programs for libraries and other institutions. I would like the latest Pattern Research eight-page brochure sent to me by: Regular Mail ___ E-mail ___ Fax ___.

Please make check out to **Pattern Research**. No credit card orders. Please do not send cash. Institutional POs accepted. All tapes come with an unconditional, moneyback/free replacement guarantee. All audio tapes are packed in individual clear, hard, plastic cases for protection in the library, at home, in the office, or on the road.

Name _____
Organization _____ (if not being mailed to home address)
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____
Tax-Exempt Number _____ Purchase Order Number _____

This form can be mailed or faxed; phone orders and e-mail purchase orders also accepted.

Leif Smith and Pat Wagner, Pattern Research, P.O. Box 9100, Denver CO 80209-0100
303-778-0880; fax: 303-722-2680; e-mail: leif@pattern.com ❖ pat@pattern.com; web site: www.pattern.com

*Attend one of Pat's programs at the 1998 Joint ULA/MPLA Annual Conference
in Salt Lake City, Utah, on May 8th, 1998.*

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

MARCH 1998

10-14 March — "Public Libraries: Vital Valuable Virtual," 1998 Public Library Association National Conference, Kansas City, MO

APRIL 1998

19-25 April — National Library Week
29 April - 2 May — Oklahoma Library Association, Tulsa
29 April - 1 May — Montana Library Association, Missoula

MAY 1998

6-9 May — "The Service Connections: A Vision for Tomorrow," 1998 Joint ULA/MPLA Annual Conference, Salt Lake City

JUNE 1998

26-30 June — "Global Reach ... Local Touch," ALA Annual Conference, Washington, DC

SEPTEMBER 1998

all month — Library Card Sign-Up Month
23-26 September — "North Dakota Libraries—Bridges to the Future," North Dakota Library Association Annual Conference, Grand Forks, ND
30 Sept. - 3 Oct. — South Dakota Library Association Annual Conference, Pierre, SD



MPLA



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

MPLA Newsletter Special Conference Section

A Publication of the Mountain Plains Library Association

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mpla

Volume 42, Number 4

luncheon menus

thursday 7 may

Speaker: Don Gale, former KSL television editorial commentator

Spinach salad: Fresh leaf spinach with tomato wedge, chopped egg, sliced Granny Smith apples, mushrooms, croutons. Choice of dressing.

Vegetarian lasagna: Lots of fresh vegetables layered in spinach and tomato pasta, finished with a Bechamel sauce.

New York style cheesecake: With sliced strawberries or raspberry sauce.

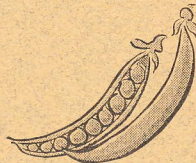
friday 8 may

Speaker: David Lee, Utah Poet Laureate

Tomato Florentine soup

Utah Pioneers salad: Albacore tuna, sweet green peas, snap peas, sweet red onion, ripe olives diced carrot, water chestnuts and sweet peppers tossed in Russian dressing served atop crispy Chinese noodles.

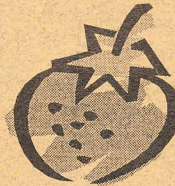
Chocolate rouladen: Banana coconut filling.



saturday 9 may

Speaker: Peggy Rathman, 1996 Caldecott winner for "Officer Buckle and Gloria"

Baked boneless chicken breast



Mashed potatoes: Real Idaho spuds with milk and butter.

Chocolate nut brownie



All luncheons are \$16.00

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All luncheon entrees include soft sourdough roll & butter, coffee, tea, and peach punch.

preconferences

(subject to change)

Wednesday 6 May

Gender Differences in Communication

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Cost: \$20 (\$35 to attend afternoon also)

Presenter: Kris Matthews

Salt Lake Community College

When it comes to communication style, men and women may appear to have little in common. Sometimes it seems as if we are from different cultures. In fact, we are! If you find yourself struggling to make yourself understood or frustrated because of friction between the men and women in your workplace, attend this seminar. It is not focused on gender bashing; it is focused on creating greater understanding of how gender differences impact your communication in the workplace. Plan to strengthen and refine your communication skills as a result of this workshop.

Are You Promotable?

1:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Cost: \$20 (\$35 to attend morning also)

Presenter: Kris Matthews

Salt Lake Community College

The philosophy that guides this workshop is the idea that you are self-employed, even if you work for a public library system. Your employability and promotability are in your hands. You will devise a plan for continuous self-improvement so you can increase your value in your profession, take initiative, and make decisions consistently and confidently. Here is your opportunity to begin creating a new, outstanding you by fine-tuning your present skills.

Why Preserve Old Bindings?

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Cost: \$35

Presenter: Paul Needham

Director, Books and Manuscripts Department

Sotheby's, New York

This workshop explores diverse and fascinating methodologies appropriate to distilling historic information from Renaissance books, relying on clues derived from the paper, type, rubrication, illumination, bindings, ownership marks, and annotations. This talk will delight anyone interested in the history of books and prove deeply informative to professional curators, conservators, and archivists. Mr. Needham underscores the importance of preserving early books not simply because they are valued treasures but because they remain primary sources of

physical evidence to be mined for historical research value.

Library Advocacy Now!

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Cost: \$30

Presenter: Camila Alire

University of Colorado

Library Advocacy Now! is a national mobilization effort sponsored by ALA. The day's agenda includes information on building an advocacy network, planning a public awareness campaign, becoming an effective spokesperson, and being an effective legislative advocate. Members of the Library Advocacy Now! Network consist of library supporters nationwide who share ALA's commitment to advocating for the public's right to a free and open information society and for the highest quality library and information services. Members receive action alerts and other materials to support them in advocating for library and information issues.

Hot Buttons: Making the Customer Services Connection

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

repeated at 1:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Cost: \$25

Presenters: Honore Francois and Mary Bauer

Prince Georges County Memorial Library, Maryland

Providing library service is a dynamic communications exchange involving a range of emotions brought to the interaction by both the customer and the library staff person. "Hot Buttons" introduces an interactive game all library staff can "play" to explore, evaluate, and practice ways to effectively deal with customer service transactions. In this workshop, participants will identify and explore their own "hot buttons," analyze and apply information to typical "hot button" situations, and develop and practice win/win proactive customer service skills and techniques.

Tour of the Family History Library

1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Cost: no charge

The Family History Library is a premier facility for genealogical research in the United States. This program begins with an introductory tour of the library, showing the various facilities, collections, databases, and finding aids. In the second part of the tour you'll focus on two of the following areas: bindery, cataloging, and reference.

7:00 p.m.

MPLA Executive Board Meeting

SPECIAL CONFERENCE SECTION

conference sessions

(subject to change)

thursday 7 may

7:30 a.m.

Registration Opens

8:30 - 9:45 a.m.

Programs

- ◆ Library Services Technology Act Update
- ◆ What Are You Worried About: Looking and Finding Answers to the Concerns of Paraprofessionals in Utah
Make your concerns known in this discussion that includes issues such as certification, education, respect and compensation.
- ◆ MPLA/ULA Research Forum ?
- ◆ Inside Rural Children's Libraries: Low Budget Interior Design
Make children and families feel welcome in a fun and educational space — on a low budget!
- ◆ Technology and Human Services: Incorporating One, Not Forgetting the Other
Addresses the balancing act required between advances in technology and a people-friendly environment.
- ◆ ~~Genealogical Resources in Government Documents~~
Find the hidden genealogical information available in government documents, from census figures to the Internet.
- ◆ BCR Network Update
What's new with the BCR Network.
- ◆ Retracing the Spanish Trail

10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Keynote Speaker
Barbara Ford, ALA President

11:00 a.m. - noon Exhibits Only

11:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Exhibits

noon - 1:30 p.m.

Lunch ←

Don Gale, former KSL television
editorial commentator

1:45 - 3:45 p.m.

Programs

- ◆ Future of Technical Services
This panel will discuss the future of technology, organization restructuring; and resource sharing in the technical services area.
- ◆ Marketing Yourself and Your Library
Everyone's doing it, and so should you — learn to positively promote yourself and your library.
- ◆ Incorporating Change and Avoiding Burnout in an Ever-Changing Industry ?
Addresses change and the stress it produces, showing how to adapt and deal with rapid developments in the field.
- ◆ Connect with the Net: Internet Sites for Teens ?
Internet sites for young adults, including homework, home schooling, and general reference needs.
- ◆ Providing Excellent Customer Service
Linda Millemann, general manager of the Tattered Cover bookstore in Denver, provides ideas on achieving excellent customer service in your library.
- ◆ Bang Your Head Here! Or, How We Handle Stress In Our Jobs ?
Do you need better ways to manage stress? Then line up with the rest of us for this session.
- ◆ The Distance Learner: A Vision for Library Support and Instruction
Explore service models and issues involved in serving students in the age of the virtual university.
- ◆ Consumer Health Information and the WWW
A hands-on class to introduce consumer health information resources on the Web.

Special conference section

- ◆ Fishing in the Telecommunications Worm Can
Three speakers present the current telecommunications climate for libraries.

- ◆ If We Had a Boat: River Running on the Green River

4:00 - 5:30 p.m. Programs

- ◆ Access to the Access
Examples and guidelines for the acquisition and provision of access to electronic resources.
- ◆ Conflict Resolution
Teaches managers better conflict resolution techniques.
- ◆ How Does Your MLS Grow: Nurturing Your Career Vision
Gear up on opportunities to build your career. Panel will address mentors, leadership skills, and networking.
- ◆ Got the Blahs? Here's the Cure: Summer Reading Program Ideas
Examples of successful programs from the Mountain Plains states, including material handouts.
- ◆ Listening to Teens: Developing Young Adult Focus Groups
Involve teens in your library and get their input using focus groups.
- ◆ Lambs Don't Need to Roar
Improve your public speaking performances with this hands-on workshop.
- ◆ The Western Governor's University: What Librarians Need to Know
Learn the history, status, and future of WGU and its implications for libraries in the Mountain Plains region.
- ◆ Patent and Trademark Searching
A discussion of the Internet's effect on dissemination of intellectual property information, and its usefulness for patrons.
- ◆ Walking Tour of Salt Lake City

7:30 - 9:30 p.m. MPLAs 50th Birthday Party

Featuring James Arrington and the Farley Family Reunion.



friday

7:30 a.m.

8 may

Registration Opens

7:00 - 8:45 a.m.

HEART
Walk/Run

8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

Continental
Breakfast in
Exhibit Area

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Exhibits

8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

- ◆ MPLA Professional Development Grants Committee Meeting

9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Programs

- ◆ Fees in the Modern Library
At what point do fees become burdensome in the public libraries, and how much are your patrons willing to bear?
- ◆ Grants: The Fun and Easy Way to Find Them, Get Them, Use Them
Where to find grants, how to write effective, result-getting proposals, and how to implement a successful grant proposal.
- ◆ MPLA Academic Section Research Forum
Annual presentation of selected research papers, with judging for the best paper.
- ◆ How to Maximize Your Retirement Investments
- ◆ 60 Books in 60 Minutes
Panel of librarians brings you up to date on the newest to hit the children's shelves.
- ◆ Vivan Los Ninos: Library Services to Latino Children
Developing effective collection development techniques, planning bilingual storytimes, and providing targeted program options.
- ◆ Providing Excellent Customer Service
Linda Millemann, general manager of the Tattered Cover bookstore in Denver, provides ideas on achieving excellent customer service in your library.

SPECIAL CONFERENCE SECTION

- ◆ How to Teach Everyone to Cherish Their Home Libraries
Teach your patrons how to care for their own books, and be better prepared to field questions about things like repair and collecting.
- ◆ Academic Section: Global Reach, Local Touch; Bringing International Librarianship Home
Find out about international librarianship and how it could relate to your career.
- ◆ Internet Policies for Public Access
Table talk format provides opportunity to peruse and discuss different types of Internet access policies.
- ◆ Physical Geography of Utah

10:45 - 11:30 a.m.

**ULA Business Meeting
MPLA Business Meeting**

11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. **Lunch**
David Lee, Utah Poet Laureate

1:30 - 3:30 p.m. **Programs**

- ◆ Copyright Issues for Libraries
Do you know the latest changes in copyright law? Learn how to protect your library from charges of infringement.
- ◆ Before (and After) the Flood: Emergency Preparedness and Recovery in the Era of Bad Weather
Emergency preparedness and disaster relief in the library.
- ◆ Necessity of Joy
Where do you find joy, and how can you increase its presence in your life and work?
- ◆ Dealing With Difficult People
Hone your skills in successfully dealing with that person you find most difficult.
- ◆ Music and Story Time Fun for the Librarian Who Can't Carry a Tune!
Use musical games and activities in any program — this workshop shows how.
- ◆ Native American Storytelling
Gary Fields presents stories enhanced by the music of Morningstar, and discusses how to ethically use these cultural tales.

- ◆ The Ongoing Debate: Should Public Libraries be Funded by Higher Education to Support Distance Learning Students?
The pros and cons, debated by a panel of four.
- ◆ Internet Filters: A Look
Demonstration of different Internet filters: how they work; what they do; and, what they don't do.
- ◆ Facets of the Great Salt Lake: The Spiral Jetty

3:45 - 5:15 p.m.

Programs

- ◆ What's Your Score: Getting the Most from Your Board/Director Team
Learn to capitalize on the relationship between board and director and create an effective team approach.
- ◆ Government Publications and Collection Development
- ◆ If Change is So Great, Why Aren't We Having Fun Yet?
Understand how to take advantage of technology to reduce stress. You'll take back practical information on managing the unexpected in your workplace.
- ◆ Survival of the Fittest: The Values of Librarianship in the Information Age
Strategic plan, activities, and continuing education opportunities of ARCL, including the value of the profession.
- ◆ Story Telling Techniques and Puppetry Tips to Make You a Hit!
Bring literature to life with clever storytelling and simple puppetry techniques.
- ◆ Native American Storytelling
Gary Fields presents stories enhanced by the music of Morningstar, and discusses how to ethically use these cultural tales. (repeat)
- ◆ Censorship Doesn't Just Happen in Libraries
Joyce Meskis, owner of the Tattered Cover Bookstore (Denver), and Michael Camfield, from whom the video "The Tin Drum" was taken by the Oklahoma City Police and member of the ACLU, address censorship attempts outside of the library to help library staff better prepare for these situations in their own workplace.
- ◆ Laughing Matters
Sit back, relax, and get ready to laugh! It's good for you!

SPECIAL CONFERENCE SECTION

- ◆ **What's Hot in Romance: Reader's Advisory in the Romance Genre**
Kristen Ramsdell, author of "What Romance Do I Read Next" enlightens us on romance reader's advisory.
- ◆ **And besides the Alexandrian Library! Libraries in Cairo, Egypt**
Explore a world view of libraries through this armchair tour.
- ◆ **Favorite Internet Sites**
Come prepared to share in this discussion of favorite sites and their uses.

Saturday 9 May

8:30 a.m. Registration Opens

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Workshop

- ◆ **Internet and the Law: Perspectives for Library Stakeholders**
Program includes some national speakers, such as Ann Kapler of Jenner and Block.

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. MPLA Executive Board Meeting

9:00 - 10:30 a.m. Programs

- ◆ **Internet Sources for Children's Librarians**
Keep up with the latest and greatest in children's sites on the Net.
- ◆ **Children's Literature Association of Utah "Best Book" Nominees**
CLAU board members review the 40 selections nominated for the 1998-99 school year.



10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Programs

- ◆ **Meet the Author: Mike Tunnel**
Tunnel presents slides of his book "Mailing May," along with anecdotes and information on the research and writing process.
- ◆ **Those Darn Kids**
Panel discussion on teen behavior and how you can cope with it. 7
6

12:30 - 1:45 p.m. Lunch

Peggy Rathman, winner of the 1996 Caldecott for "Officer Buckle and Gloria"

Other information

Conference Hotel

Wyndham Hotel
215 W. South Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

reservations # 1-800-553-0075
conference rates: single \$95, double \$105

Parking Information

The Salt Palace charges a \$5/day fee for parking.

Conference Updates

For updates on conference information, check the ULA homepage at

www.ula.org

Handwritten notes:
(\$01) 531-7500
24 Council
Governor #
16755
Cancellation #
09016755
TL



Join the MPLA Listserv!

To join, just send an email message to Joe Edelen at:

jedelen@sundance.usd.edu

Tell him you'd like to become an MPLA Listserv member!

SPECIAL CONFERENCE SECTION



Libraries and the Western Governors University

— Vicky York
Associate Professor
Montana State University Libraries

..... ▼
Note: This is the second part of two articles about the role libraries will play in the Western Governors University. Further information can be found at the WGU website: www.westgov.org/smart/vu/

..... ▲
In December, Texas became the 17th state to participate in the Western Governors University. The Western Governors University was formed in 1997 as a result of the interest of governors of the western United States to share higher education distance learning resources. In addition to the programs for which certificates or degrees are awarded by the WGU, each state has selected one or more pilot institutions to be education providers and to submit initial courses and/or degree programs. As Utah Governor Mike Leavitt has remarked, "One of the WGU's great strengths is the remarkable consensus that has been developed between our member states who believe that WGU is positioned to take the lead in changing the future of higher education."

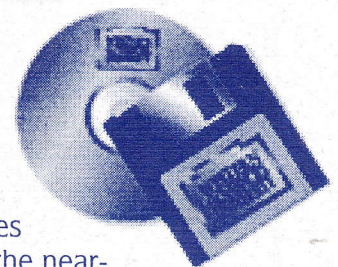
In addition to course and degree offerings, the Western Governors University is being designed to provide a full range of student and academic support services. To this end, request for proposals for bookstore, registration and library services were solicited in spring 1997. In late December, it was announced that the University of New Mexico General Library was selected to establish

and operate the WGU Central Library Resource. UNM Library managers for this project are Steve Rollins, Associate Dean of Library Services and Nancy Dennis, Director, Library Technology Development Department.

The role of the Central Library Resource is to provide comprehensive library services to WGU students. These will include four basic library components:

- (1) a Web page with links to resources, services, instruction guides, and other online library catalogs;
- (2) online access to full-text and citation databases;
- (3) reference, document delivery, interlibrary loan and technical assistance; and
- (4) Internet service accounts.

Where do our libraries fit in? MPLA libraries, whether public or academic will play key roles in meeting the needs of WGU students. The libraries of education providers or the nearest public library will often be the first place students. What will be the impact on collections, services and staffing? The need for cooperation and strong communication between the WGU is crucial.



While there are many questions still unanswered, it is an exciting time to be thinking of ways in which our libraries might be involved. I encourage you to bring your questions, concerns and ideas to the MPLA Academic Section programs on distance education and the WGU at the conference in Salt Lake.

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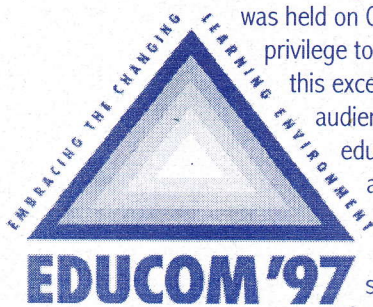
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— Deborah Hagemeyer

Technical Services Librarian, Mikkelsen Library
Augustana College, Sioux Falls, SD

EDUCOM '97: Embracing the Changing Learning Environment



was held on October 29-31, 1997, in Minneapolis, MN. It was my privilege to receive a Professional Development Grant to attend this excellent, thought-provoking conference. The intended audience consisted of professionals in the field of higher education including computing professionals, librarians, administrators and faculty. This conference used eight tracks to help attendees focus on relevant programming—1) Living in an electronic society, 2) Understanding the evolving institution, 3) Organizing for information service, 4) Focusing on student-centered learning, 5) Delivering content in context, 6) Foraging for economic solutions, 7) Developing strategies for change, and 8) hot topics.

One highlight for me was a presentation on "The Virtual University: Paradigm Shifts for the 21st Century." This speaker, Paul Hardin, hypothesized that higher education is facing its first major paradigm shift in 200 years. He envisions a major new role for faculty as developers of Web courseware and distance education programs as the predominant method of delivery. Sherry Turkle, noted author and professor at MIT, shared her research findings on how people are interacting with technology. People have begun to think of their PCs (or giga pets) as an "other" rather than as a piece of office equipment. Eli Noam, professor at Columbia University Graduate School of Business and book lover, presented a persuasive theory that the book format is becoming less important. We are witnessing the "dumbing down" of our book collections. He also foresees that the peer review process will take place after materials are published via the Internet instead of before print publication.

EDUCOM is a wonderful conference to discover the prevailing trends of technological applications in higher education. The exhibits were amazing with mini high-tech classrooms everywhere. Attendees were issued smart cards that were used by vendors to develop an electronic list of contacts. While this was not the place to check out new integrated library systems, many familiar names were there — 3Com, Cisco, Gateway 2000, DEC, GTE, Sun, Lotus, PictureTel — to name a few.

I am very grateful to MPLA for supporting my participation in EDUCOM '97. I believe that the experience has significantly altered my thinking about the future of higher education and how it fits with my role as an information professional. I feel better prepared to take on the challenge.

Editor's Note: Educom '98, "Making the Connections" is October 13-16 in Orlando, Florida. For more info, check out the EDUCOM web site at www.educom.edu.



AzLA Conference Call For Papers

Program proposals for the 1998 Arizona Library Association Conference are due by Friday, 6 March 1998. The conference itself is November 4-6 in Phoenix.

For a proposal form or for more information, contact:

Joan Biggar
Tucson-Pima Public Library
Wilmot Branch
P.O. Box 27470
Tucson, AZ 85726

520/791-4627 (phone)
520/791-5343 (fax)



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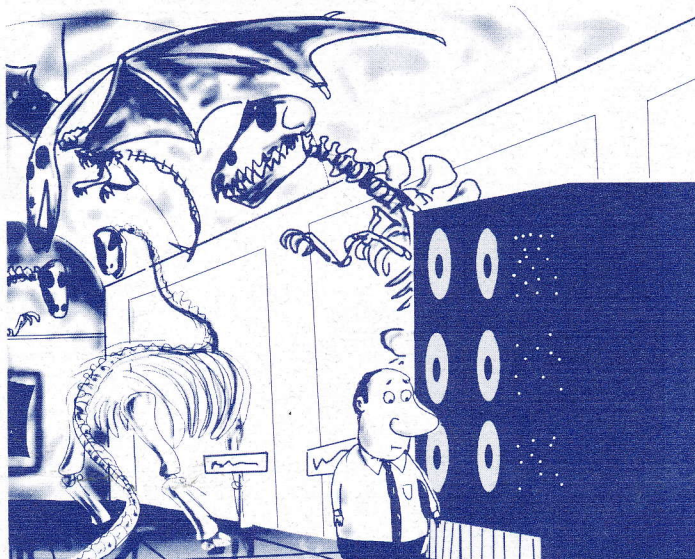
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