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MPLA Newsletter

A Publication of the Mountain Plains Library Association

August 1998

Volume 43, Number 1

MPLA - A Half Century of Service

— Blaine Hall
Chair, 50th Anniversary
Commemoration Committee



*This is the third of three articles on the founding and history of MPLA to be published in the **MPLA Newsletter** as we commemorate MPLAs 50th Anniversary.*

From its beginning, MPLA has focused its collective efforts and resources on serving the libraries, the member state library associations and the librarians of this large, sparsely populated region. Its original constitutional objective, "the promotion of library service in the Mountain Plains region," is still encompassed in the current Bylaws Mission statement, adopted in 1995: "The mission of this Association is to further the development of librarians, library employees and trustees and to promote quality library service in the states of the Mountain Plains Region."

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL CENTER FOR RESEARCH

The earliest major effort of MPLA was the sponsorship of the Bibliographical Center for Research (BCR) in Denver. Even though BCR antedated MPLA by thirteen years, the sponsorship of BCR was a natural for a library association organized

to promote library services on a regional basis, and especially so since many librarians were actively involved in both organizations. BCR, housed at the Denver Public Library, became a clearinghouse to facilitate interlibrary loans with a centralized collection of country and subject bibliographies and a union card catalog of the libraries in the region, a particularly helpful service for small rural libraries. It also collected some esoteric materials useful for scholarly research.

In 1951 President Frank Lundy appointed an MPLA committee chaired by Frank Eastlick of the Denver Public Library with a charge to foster financial support, lend professional aid, and "perhaps" to shape direction and policy for the Center. Frank Anderson, President of MPLA, 1965-66, recalls one kind of "professional aid" given by MPLA: "The [union catalog] cards would

(Continued on page 4)

"THE MISSION OF THIS ASSOCIATION IS TO FURTHER THE DEVELOPMENT OF LIBRARIANS, LIBRARY EMPLOYEES, AND TRUSTEES AND TO PROMOTE QUALITY LIBRARY SERVICE IN THE STATES OF THE MOUNTAIN PLAINS REGION."

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@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:

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@usd.edu

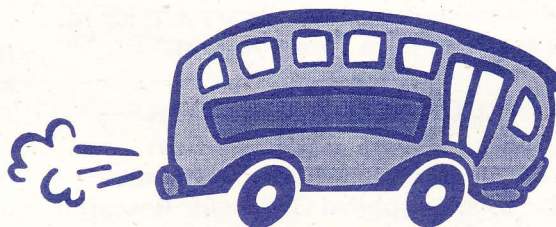
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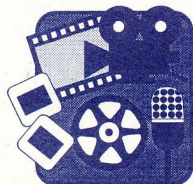
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MPLA President's Note

— **Roann Masterson**
MPLA President



"Roann, you're a librarian! Don't you want to buy these books?" Just

last week, this question was put to me by an auctioneer friend.

Being a librarian is about much more than just books. It is also research, media, encyclopedias, storytime, magazines, documents, newspapers, journals, etc.

But perhaps one of the most important qualities of being a librarian is that of service. We assist patrons. We help patrons to accomplish work. We help patrons attain an end. We are a means of supplying some general demand.

But are we a profession of respect? Are we in a safe place to be asked tough questions and then search for answers?



Can MPLA be an image maker of the library profession? Are we models of a healthy balance?

How great it is to be a librarian, but it is so much greater to be a good librarian.

P.S. By the way, I ended up with 11 (that's eleven!) boxes of books from that sale.



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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:

Jane Dotterer, Chair, Professional Development Grants Committee
Salt Lake City Public Library, 209 East 500 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84111
Voice: 801/524-8200 x211, Fax: 801/524-8289

or

Joe Edelen, MPLA Executive Secretary
I.D. Weeks Library, University of South Dakota
414 E. Clark Street, Vermillion, SD 57069
Voice: 605/677-6082, Fax: 605/677-5488

Seminars Institutes Workshops Coursework
Conferences Research Projects Independent Learning

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pile up, and every once in awhile we'd have a File a Mile affair to help the Bib Center catch up with their filing arrearages." The catalog grew to over 3 million cards before it was abandoned.

When MPLA's purpose of existence was questioned, its support and sponsorship of BCR was often the major reason used to justify it and to illustrate the kind of regional activities MPLA should be involved with. The two organizations were so closely associated that for many years each organization had an official representative to the other's executive board. For many years, beginning in 1954, the *MPLA Quarterly* or *Newsletter* served as the official publication for BCR board minutes, annual reports, "Center News" and *Bulletin*. BCR was considered the "permanent" home of the *MPLA Quarterly* until Ford Rockwell became editor in 1960 and moved it, for economy reasons, to Wichita. In 1954 the BCR director even suggested that the Center be sold to MPLA, but that never happened.

A 1966 study of BCR by Russell Swank, dean of the UC--Berkeley library, recommended that MPLA affirm its official sponsorship of the Center, exchange board members with it, and contribute to its financial support. He also suggested that MPLA consider using the Center as headquarters of the association and for implementing its cooperative programs. MPLA contributed \$1,000 to BCR for the study and, over the years, made additional financial donations to support other BCR projects.

The MPLA Master Plan of 1974 included recommendations for BCR, such as encouraging OCLC affiliation, studying means of accessing new resources outside the region, and seeking the most effective means for providing bibliographic access to items both within and outside the region. It also echoed Swank's recommendation for sharing an executive secretary and office support, but this was not pursued. Nonetheless, for many years BCR held its membership and board meetings during MPLA conferences.

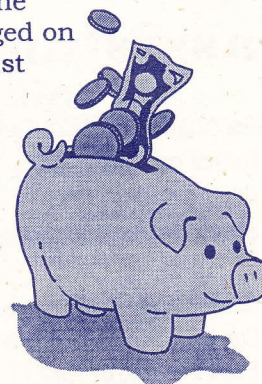
Eventually, as new electronic technologies appeared, BCR expanded its interests beyond the region and found it "uneconomical to maintain a file of 3 million cards," with a significant backlog of unfiled cards. Ken Dowlin, BCR Trustee Board president, called it "an albatross at the cross-

roads." The regional union catalog was discarded and national databases and vendors used for interlibrary loans. The close relationship between the two organizations declined. MPLA, however, continues to recognize BCR as a vital regional resource, and BCR still supports MPLA conferences by exhibiting, presenting programs, and sponsoring other programs and activities. They (along with SilverPlatter) generously sponsored the MPLA 50th Anniversary Birthday Party at the joint conference in Salt Lake City in May 1998.

In addition to supporting regional library services, MPLA was early committed to recruiting outstanding young people into the profession and to encouraging practicing librarians to obtain advanced degrees and to participate in a variety of continuing education experiences. The annual conference programs, of course, provided many opportunities for obtaining new skills and information and for addressing important professional issues. But several innovative programs focused on the specific needs of its members and affiliated state library associations.

LOAN FUND

In 1954, while the association was still short on money, the Executive Board established the MPLA Loan Fund administered by a Loan Fund Committee. Designed to help members get a library education, the fund provided for six grants of up to \$200 each to help pay for the last semester of library school. The recipient signed a note to repay the loan in ten equal installments beginning two months after completing library school. Payments had to begin ten months after graduation, and interest at one percent per month was charged on the unpaid balance. By August 1959 eight grants had been made: five had been paid off, one was overdue, and two were not yet due. In 1962, the loans were increased to \$400 because of the increase in educational costs.



SCHOLARSHIP FUND

As part of its efforts to recruit outstanding young people into librarianship, MPLA established a Scholarship Fund in the fall of 1962

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Sometimes
bigger
isn't
better



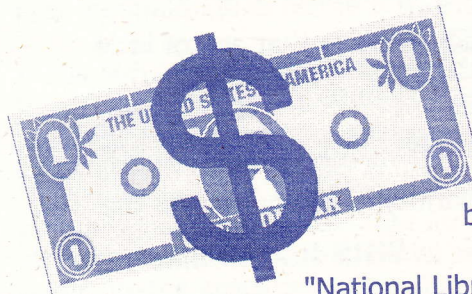
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1999 National Library Week Theme Announced; \$4,000 Grant Available



The theme for next year's National Library Week, April 11–17, will be "Read! Learn! Connect! @ the Library." The annual observance will feature a national photo contest sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA) and the Library of Congress.

"National Library Week celebrates something we often take for granted—how our nation's libraries enable us to read, learn and connect to information and resources that enrich our lives everyday," says Ann K. Symons, ALA president.

U.S. libraries of all types are eligible to apply for a \$4,000 National Library Week Grant sponsored by the Grolier Educational Corporation for the best library promotion tied to the goals and theme of National Library Week. The deadline is October 15, 1998. The winner will be notified in December.

The photo contest, titled "Beyond Words: Celebrating America's Libraries," invites amateur and professional photographers to capture the spirit of our nation's libraries and how they touch our lives. Libraries of all types are encouraged to sponsor local contests in early 1999 and to announce local winners during National Library Week. Local winners must be forwarded for national judging by May 1. The contest is underwritten by Ingram Library Services.

Tips for celebrating National Library Week, applications for the Grolier National Library Grant and photo contest guidelines will be available on the ALA Web page at <http://www.ala.org> after July 15.

Materials are also available from:
ALA Public Information Office
50 E. Huron St.
Chicago, IL 60611

Telephone: 800-545-2433, ext. 5044/4041
E-mail: pio@ala.org

For more information, contact:
Linda Wallace or Joyce Kelly at the ALA Public Information Office: 800-545-2433, ext. 5042 or 5043
Email: lwallace@ala.org or jkelly@ala.org

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(Continued from page 4)



and asked members to contribute to it. The first \$500 scholarship to attend library school at the University of Denver went to Stuart Metz of Salt Lake City. This program lasted until 1978, when the last scholarship of \$700, the

amount remaining in the member-donated Scholarship Fund, was awarded. By this time, the number of library school graduates had grown in excess of the available jobs.

ONE-TO-ONE PROGRAM

The commitment of MPLA to the continuing education of its members led in 1976 to another in-service educational effort, the One-to-One Continuing Education Program. The objective of this program was "to provide for professional growth of librarians within the mountain-plains states in specific areas of librarianship." The committee selected learning sites within the region where participants in the program could visit for a week for "observation, informal discussion and work experience in an area of expertise demonstrated by the site."

The first five sites were the Minot (North Dakota) Public Library for its Community Information and Referral Service; the Community College of Denver, Red Rocks, for Educational Media for Learning in a Community College; Utah State Library for its Outreach Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped; the Central Kansas Library System for its Public Library System Management; and the Sheridan (Wyoming) Public Library for its Story Hours for Children. Recipients received a \$200 travel stipend after submitting a report of their experience.

The Board expanded the program in 1980 to include an "Experience Exchange Program." Additional library sites were selected to give MPLA members the opportunity to arrange with the host libraries for personal visits, without stipend, to view their special operations and activities. By 1991, however, the One-to-One Program faltered for lack of interest from members, and in January 1992 the Board discontinued it. Members were encouraged to participate in the Professional Development Grants Program.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

At its January 1978 meeting, the Executive Board approved a new program proposed by the Scholarship Committee. This program offered a Continuing Education Scholarship to librarians who had been MPLA members for three consecutive years. The grants could be used by the recipients for formal class work, attendance at workshops or seminars, or independent study.

Initially, four grants of up to \$500 (now \$600) were to be given annually. The following October, the Board changed the name of the scholarships and the committee to Professional Development Grants. This popular and successful program still continues today, twenty years later. And the amount given annually has grown to \$7,000. In 1988 the Board authorized an International Professional Development Grant of \$1000 to be given at the discretion of the committee. As an incentive to encourage new memberships, mini-grants of \$150 were added to the program and offered to those who did not meet the membership requirements for the full grants.

STATE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION PRE-CONFERENCE GRANTS

In support of its affiliate state library associations, the Board in 1981 established a program of \$500 grants to state library associations to fund a pre-conference in conjunction with their annual conferences. MPLA members attending the pre-conference were to receive a 15% discount on any registration fees charged for the program. The Continuing Education Committee still administers this program and can grant up to four grants per year. Applications must be authorized by the governing board of the association in whose name the application is submitted.

JOBLINE

To assist member libraries in recruiting librarians both from within and outside the region, MPLA has long used various media to advertise library job openings. The first effort was the Joblist published in the *MPLA Newsletter*.



(Continued on page 12)

Welcöme! Bñenvénidos! Willk6mmen!

1998 New Members



ARIZONA

Anne Taylor, Arizona
Historical Society
Sara Wever, University
of Arizona

Nancy Schffelbein, Finney County PL
Deanna Hull, Grant County Library
Lois Owens, Library District #1, Duniphan
County

MINNESOTA

Marlys Lien, Lake Agassiz Regional Library

CALIFORNIA

Linda Culberson, Geac Computers

MONTANA

Milla Cummins, Livingston-Park County PL
Susan Howe, Bozeman PL
Penny Lind, Malta Jr/Sr High School
Anita McCoy, Hot Springs Town County
Library
Donna Worth, Jefferson County Library
System
Jan Zauha, Montana State University
Lois Dissly, Bozeman PL
Liza McClelland, Bozeman PL
Mary Jo Stanisla0, Bozeman PL

COLORADO

Barbara Green, Peterson Aft
Kathy Husband, Jefferson County PL
Norma Maxwell, Woodland Park PL
Arlene Ott, Fort Morgan PL
Barbara Thielemann, Gilpin County PL
Chuck Haight, Arapahoe Library District
Lynne Mildenstein, Bibliographic Center for
Research
Sandra Richmond, Louisville PL
Jill Tietjen, Arapahoe Library District
Marla Whitney, The Faxon Company
Robin Ottoson, Denver Seminary Library
Deborah Johnson, East Morgan County
Library

NEW MEXICO

Linda Fox, Capitan PL

KANSAS

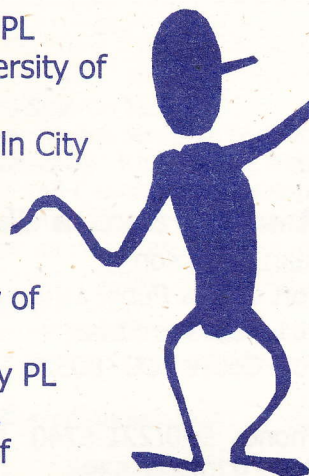
Stephanie Tajoga, Finney County PL
Julie Westmacott, Dodge City PL
Mary Jo Cousins, Finney County PL
Allen Hartzell, Emporia State University
Daniel Liestman, Kansas State University
Julie Linneman, Wichita PL
Daniel Roland, Emporia State University
Rosemary King, Paola Free Library

NORTH DAKOTA

Susan Dingle, State Historical Society of
North Dakota
Maxine Hilburn, Fargo PL
Mary Reinertson-Sand, University of North
Dakota College of Nursing
Joseph Holtermann, North Dakota State
Library
Jeanne Narum, Minot PL

NEBRASKA

Ruth Seward, Lexington PL
Rebecca Nekhiche, University of
Nebraska - Lincoln
Jeffrey Tangeman, Lincoln City
Libraries
Brenda Ealey, Southeast
Library System
Paul Hoffman, University of
Nebraska - Lincoln
Shawna Lindner, Kearney PL
Megan Millea, Omaha PL
Lisa Walker, University of
Nebraska - Lincoln
Signe Swanson, University of Nebraska -
Lincoln



SOUTH DAKOTA

Nancy Marshall, South Dakota
State University
Bonny Culhane, Mitchell PL
Mary Ellen Ducey, University of
South Dakota
Nancy Veglahn, Siouxland
Libraries
Karen Scarborough, University of Sioux Falls
Herb Blakely, Town of Keystone
Ardis Ladely, Bennett County PL
Douglas Murdock, Siouxland Libraries
Pat Koupal, Mitchell PL
Lynn Osika, Brookings PL
Richard Moe, Siouxland Libraries



NEVADA

Johnette Morales, Las Vegas Library
Anne Aas, Traner Middle School
Diane Bauer, McQueen High School
Mary Lou Wigley, Las Vegas - Clark County
Library District
Holly Van Volkenburgh, Nevada State Library
& Archives

OKLAHOMA

Tracy Cox, Mabel C. Fry PL
Julia Harmon, Shawnee PL
Louise Whitaker, Norman PL
Jennifer Wong, Oklahoma State University
Wanda Donica, Southeastern Oklahoma
State University
Marilyn Halvorsen,
Norman PL
Linda Jordan, Norman
PL
David Oberhelman,
Oklahoma
State
University



UTAH

Brian Champion, Brigham Young University
Susan Johnson, Cedar City PL
Adriane Juarez, Salt Lake City PL
Jacqueline Lewis, Dixie College
Marydee Ojala, Ojala Associates
Sally Patrick, Salt Lake City Public Library
Sue Randleman, North Logan City Library
Susan Behring, Brigham City Library
Heather Fischbach, Brigham City Library
Fairlie Kinnecom, Salt Lake County Library
System
Ray Matthews, Utah State Library
Vernetta McComb, Brigham City Library
Alfred Mowdood, University of Utah
Lori Stevens, Orem PL
Randy Olsen, Brigham Young University

WYOMING

Ann Miller, Laramie County Community
College
Mary Rhoads, Johnson County Library
Emily Sieger, Wyoming State Library
Suzanne Morlock, Teton County Library
Erin Kinney, Preston University
Ian Fairclough, University of Wyoming



**Additions & Corrections
to the 1998-99
Officer's Directory**

Vice-President/President Elect

Marilyn Hinshaw
Email: mhinshaw@eok.lib.ok.us

Kansas Representative

Patti Mersmann
NE Kansas Library System
3205 Clinton Parkway Court
Lawrence, KS 66047

Phone: 785/838-4090
Fax: 785/838-3989
Email: pmersmann@sunflower.com

Academic Section Chair

Jean Anderson
Fort Collins Public Library
201 Peterson Street
Fort Collins, CO 80524

Phone: 970/221-6740
Fax: 970/221-6398



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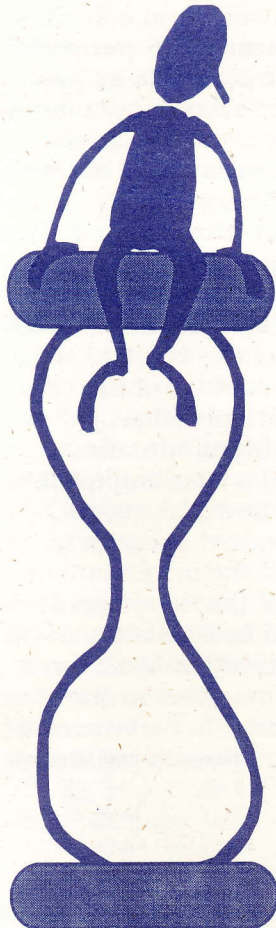
September 1998

- all month — Library Card Sign-Up Month
- 12 Sept. — MPLA Executive Board Meeting, Warwick Hotel, Denver.
- 14-20 Sept. — *America Links Up* - Kids Online Week
- 16-18 Sept. — "Economic and Community Development in a Technological Age," Rural Libraries Annual Conference, Winston-Salem, NC.
- 23-26 Sept. — "North Dakota Libraries—Bridges to the Future," North Dakota Library Association Annual Conference, Grand Forks.
www.odin.nodak.edu/ndla.htm
- 26 Sept. - 3 Oct. — Banned Books Week
- 30 Sept. - 3 Oct. — "Read. Learn. Connect@South Dakota Libraries," South Dakota Library Association, RiverCentre, Pierre.
www.sdln.net/libs/sdla/sdlahome.htm



October 1998

- 1-4 Oct. — "Connecting for Success," Nevada Library Association, The Orleans Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas.
- 9-13 Oct. — "Who Do We Think We Are?" Colorado Library Association, DoubleTree Hotel, Colorado Springs.
douglas.lib.co.us/cia98/
- 28-30 Oct. — Nebraska Library Association/Nebraska Educational Media Association, Grand Island.
www.nol.org/home/NLA/
- 29-31 Oct. — Joint leadership institutes: "Up the Leadership Ladder: Excellence in Library Service" and "Serving Users in the New Millennium: Planning, Delivering, Evaluating," The Westin Hotel, Indianapolis, Indiana. Sponsored by ALSC/ALTA and RUSA.
www.ala.org/events/institute98.html



NOVEMBER 1998

- 4-6 Nov. — "AzLA '98: The Creative Edge," Arizona Library Association, Phoenix Civic Plaza.

JANUARY 1999

- 9 Jan. — MPLA Executive Board Meeting, Warwick Hotel, Denver.
- 29 Jan. - 3 Feb. — American Library Association Midwinter Conference, Philadelphia.
www.ala.org

April 1999

- 8-11 April — Association of College and Research Libraries Annual Conference, Detroit.
www.ala.org/acrl.html
- 11-17 April — National Library Week

JUNE 1999

- 13-16 June — "Making Certain It Goes On," Montana Library Association/MPLA, Big Sky Resort, Big Sky, Montana.
www.mtlib.org
- 24 June - 1 July — American Library Association Annual Conference, New Orleans.
www.ala.org

Future MPLA CONFERENCES

- 2000 — Montana Library Assoc., "Making Certain It Goes On," Big Sky Resort, June 13-16.
- 2001 — Nebraska Library Assoc./ Nebraska Educational Media Assoc., Omaha, late October.
- 2001 — Arizona Library Assoc., Phoenix, November/ December.
- 2002 — North Dakota and South Dakota Library Associations, Fargo, ND, late September.
- 2003 — Nevada Library Assoc., Lake Tahoe.
- 2004 — Colorado Library Assoc., Snow Mass.
- 2005 — Wyoming Library Assoc., TBA.



(Continued from page 7)

Then in 1981 the telephone Jobline, which is still operating today, was created. In 1985 an 800 toll-free number for MPLA members was added, with nonmembers allowed access through a subscriber fee. The new format also provided short job descriptions over the phone, with mail delivery of full job descriptions if requested. And during the last two years, the MPLA Listserv has brought the Jobline to the Internet, as will the home page in the near future.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

In addition to these major, longer-term efforts to serve the professional and educational needs of its members, MPLA has also supported special one-time projects. The Board perceived these projects as worthwhile contributions to the objectives of the association.

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCES

Both in 1978 and 1989, MPLA created an *ad hoc* WHCLIS Committee to explore how MPLA could best serve as a catalyst to assure that Western state concerns and issues were represented at the White House Conferences on Library and Information Services held in Washington, D.C., the first in November 1979 and the second in July 1991.

Working through the Western Council of State Libraries, the 1978 committee organized a Western States Caucus on August 23-29, 1979, in Boise. Seventeen states sent representatives to express their concerns and priorities for the conference. The group formally established a Western States Caucus to provide a communication network among the delegates, alternates, and delegations of the seventeen states. The caucus provided a forum for issues of common interest to the delegates west of the Mississippi; served as liaison with other delegations and the WHCLIS headquarters staff; gathered and disseminated information and arranged for logistical matters; and created a mechanism to achieve maximum effectiveness in organization, strategy, and ac-

tion while in Washington. In 1982, MPLA accepted the responsibility of administering a special purpose fund set up to support the MPLA region's delegate to WHCLIS, the national implementation body created by the conference.

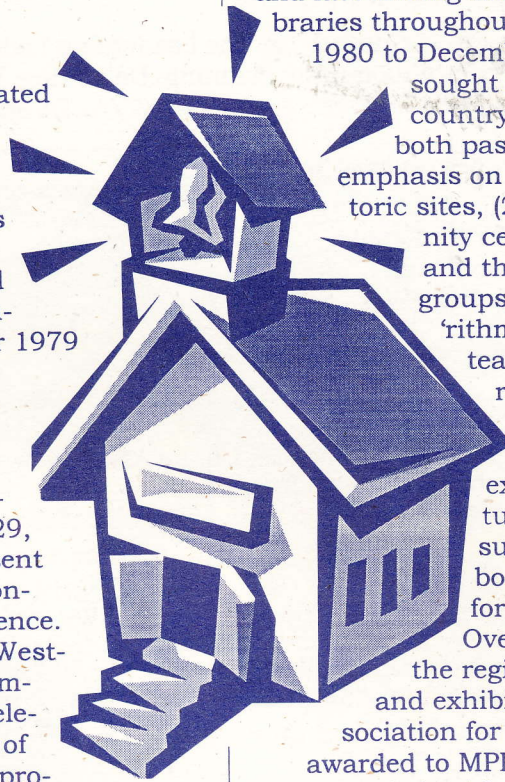
COUNTRY SCHOOL LEGACY

In July 1979, the Board approved the request of Andrew Gulliford, a Colorado 4th grade teacher and oral historian, for MPLA to act as sponsor for a grant proposal to the National Endowment for the Humanities divisions of Public Programs and the Library Program. The project involved a study of one-room schoolhouses in the mountain plains states. He asked for help in identifying two librarians and one humanist in each member state to work on the project and for the association to act as fiscal agent. The NEH approved the proposal and granted \$274,375 for the project, which ran in two phases, research and fact finding and public presentations in libraries throughout the region from June 15, 1980 to December 15, 1981. The project

sought information on all aspects of country schools and rural education both past and present with particular emphasis on (1) country schools as historic sites, (2) country schools as community centers, (3) country schools and the Americanization of ethnic groups, (4) reading, writing,

arithmetic and recitation, and (5) teachers: their roles, rules and restrictions. Only 1,111 rural schools still remained in operation of the 200,000 that existed at the turn of the century. The completed project resulted in a 30-minute film, a booklet, and a traveling exhibit for each of the MPLA states.

Over one hundred libraries in the region hosted the presentations and exhibit. In 1982 the American Association for State and Local History awarded to MPLA their Award of Merit for "Country School Legacy: Humanities on the Frontier." The award recognized "a performance deemed excellent compared nationally with similar activities."



(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

PUBLICATIONS

The longest continuous service to its members has been its official publication. From its inception, MPLA sought to communicate with its members and to provide a means through which members could receive news, information, reports of activities and programs of the association, and access to innovative ideas, practices, and philosophies of librarianship. The first newsletters or bulletins were written and mimeographed by the presidents or hard-working editors, who not only gathered or wrote the articles, but often ran them off and mailed them. But the hope was always to create a continuing publication with its "great potential [to] provide for stimulus and growth of the Association."

Finally, in May 1956, The *Mountain-Plains Library Quarterly*, Vol. 1, No. 1, was published with Miriam E. McNally of BCR as editor. Its stated focus was "articles of general library interest, with special emphasis on the MPLA region." But it was envisioned to include articles on regional problems and suggested solutions, extracts from state bulletins, papers or talks from the convention, a section or articles devoted to education for librarianship, a department devoted to news of the Bibliographical Center, proceedings or summaries of the annual convention, and other features suggested by an editorial committee. This first issue came forth with a high expectation that subscriptions and advertising would make the journal self-sustaining.

Its longest-serving editor was Ford Rockwell, librarian at the Wichita Public Library. He became editor in 1960 and moved the journal, for economy reasons, to his library for almost eleven years. John Christ, library director of the University of Nebraska, Omaha, became editor in 1973. He changed the format to 8 1/2 x 11 and, along with the usual professional and association-related articles, published short stories, poems, crossword puzzles, and cartoons in an attempt to create reader interest and en-

hance readability. But by 1975, the *Quarterly* was costing a minimum of \$1500 per issue, an unsustainable drain on association resources. The Board discontinued the journal in favor of a bi-monthly newsletter, which they felt would be "less formal and hopefully more lively." Yet, even with the less costly newsletter format, the dream of a self-sustaining publication paid for by subscriptions and advertising is still as elusive as ever.

New computer technologies and graphic design and publishing software in the hands of a creative editor, however, continues the *MPLA Newsletter* as the lively communication tool hoped for almost a quarter of a century ago.

These major MPLA programs and activities have served the members well, making significant contributions to their professionalism and personal satisfaction as librarians. But we must not forget that none of

these contributions would have been possible without the unselfish and dedicated service of hundreds of the members themselves who have given their time, expertise, knowledge and commitment to the work of the association and to the improvement of librarianship and library services in our eleven-state region. It is the members who deserve the credit for MPLA's fifty years of outstanding service.

MPLA now begins its second half-century of serving the librarians, libraries, and library users in a region now more urbanized, less agrarian, and certainly more sophisticated and aware of the information resources needed to succeed in the human enterprise. Its challenge today is much as it was in the past: to meet the needs of its members as they strive to serve the information requirements of a growing number of library users in a more rapidly changing world. The relevance and success of MPLAs past services herald a bright and promising future of continued relevance and importance to the personal and professional lives of present and future generations of librarians. In the words of former president Vern West (1976-77): "We will walk together into the future, strong in our beliefs, courage at our hearts, joyful that we ARE the future."

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TOGETHER INTO THE
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—VERN WEST,
FORMER MPLA PRESIDENT





Information Literacy Standards for Student Learning Unveiled

In an effort to increase the achievement of the nation's kindergarten

through twelfth-grade students, the American Association of School Librarians(AASL), a division of the American Library Association (ALA), recently announced new standards designed to help students flourish in the Information Age.

The standards, which will be introduced in schools this fall, were presented June 25 during the 117th Annual ALA Conference in Washington, D.C.

The set of nine standards, the Information Literacy Standards for Student Learning, was prepared by AASL and the Association for Educational Communications and Technology to guide school library media specialists and other k-12 educators as they cultivate and refine their students' information literacy skills in print, non-print and electronic format.

Ken Haycock, president of AASL, said the standards are crucial for students' success in the 21st century.

"Student achievement is the bottom line," said Haycock. "Knowing how to obtain and use information properly is increasingly essential both for the students' success in school and for their personal and professional development as socially responsible adults."

The standards are designed to help librarians, teachers and others identify links in student information needs, curricular content and learning.

They cover three major areas: information literacy, independent learning and social responsibility. Each standard includes several "success indicators" that confirm the standard has been met. "Levels of proficiency" for each indicator help the educator determine a student's level of achievement. The standards are:

Information Literacy

Standard 1: The student who is information literate accesses information efficiently and effectively.

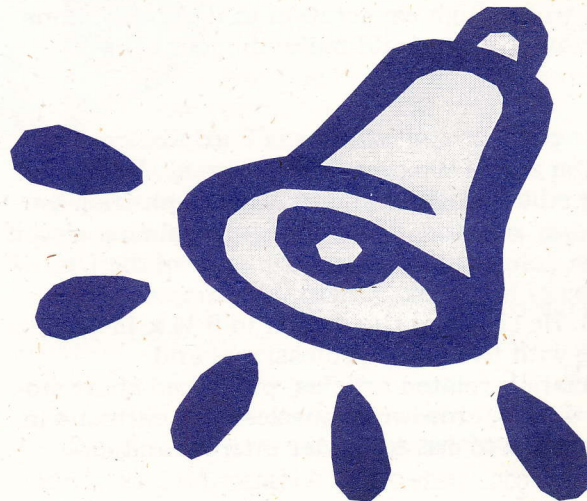
Standard 2: The student who is information literate evaluates information critically and competently.

Standard 3: The student who is information literate uses information accurately and creatively.

Independent Learning

Standard 4: The student who is an independent

(Continued on page 15)



(Continued from page 14)

learner is information literate and pursues information related to personal interests.

Standard 5: The student who is an independent learner is information literate and appreciates literature and other creative expressions of information.

Standard 6: The student who is an independent learner is information literate and strives for excellence in information seeking and knowledge generation.

Social Responsibility

Standard 7: The student who contributes positively to the learning community and to society is information literate and recognizes the importance of information to a democratic society.

Standard 8: The student who contributes positively to the learning community and to society is information literate and practices ethical behavior in regard to information and information technology.

Standard 9: The student who contributes positively to the learning community and to society is information literate and participates effectively in groups to pursue and generate information.



For Your Information:

American Association of School Librarians
(AASL): www.ala.org/aasl/

Association for Educational Communications
and Technology (AECT): www.aect.org/

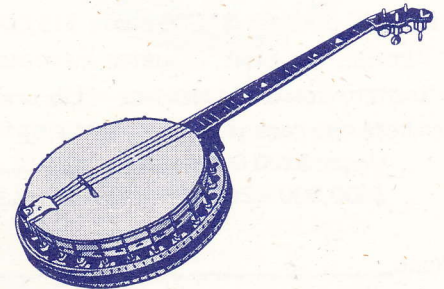


EdLiBS

— Heidi M. Nickisch
Editor

This issue of the Newsletter completes a series of three articles on the history of the Mountain Plains Library Association. A thousand thanks to Blaine Hall for his hours of research and his efforts in writing the articles. These articles stand as a testament to what people can do when they pitch in and join forces.

Pitching in and joining forces is just what folks all over South Dakota and the nation have done in assisting the residents of Spencer, SD, after a tornado ripped through their town on May 30th. The Hanson-McCook Regional Library was completely destroyed, as was its bookmobile. Under 1500 volumes remain from an original collection of 19,000. To date, a bookmobile and shelving have been loaned, and several vendors have donated books. The town of Spencer has agreed to provide space for a library in its new community center. A Hanson-McCook Library



Disaster Fund has been created, and totals a little over \$2000 to date. Donations to the fund may be sent in care of the South Dakota State Library, 800 Governor's Drive, Pierre, SD 57501-2294 or by contacting Dorothy Liegl (same address) at dorothy1@stlib.state.sd.us.

With the new volume year, the Newsletter is moving to a different color paper. What do you think? I appreciate the comments I get from MPLA members, and even more, I appreciate your input and submissions! If your library puts out a newsletter or other publication, please see that I get one! (My address is on page 2!)

I hope you all have had an exciting and productive summer. I'm off to the Rockygrass, the Rocky Mountain Bluegrass Festival and can't wait!





MPLA Newsletter

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Librarians Benefit with MPLA!

- ▽ Opportunities for professional development
- ▽ Continuing education programs
- ▽ A forum for the exchange of ideas
- ▽ Professional development grants
- ▽ Support of regional library efforts
- ▽ News of people and programs in member states

ARIZONA COLORADO KANSAS MONTANA NEBRASKA NEVADA NORTH DAKOTA OKLAHOMA SOUTH DAKOTA UTAH WYOMING
 ASU UoFA I UofW II

Special! 1/2-Price New Member Offer

New members calculate dues below, then reduce them by 50%!

MPLA Dues Schedule

(Membership year is calendar year)

- PERSONAL MEMBERSHIP** — Open to anyone interested in library service. \$15/yr. for those salaried at \$15,000 or less. Add \$1.00 for each \$1,000 above \$15,000.
- 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

Name _____ New
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 Email Address _____ Preferred Mailing Address: Business Home

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):
 Continuing Education Intellectual Freedom Awards Finance Bylaws & Procedures Professional Development Public Relations/Membership

Mail to: Joe Edelen, MPLA Executive Secretary
 I.D. Weeks Library, University of South Dakota
 414 East Clark Street, Vermillion, SD 57069-2390