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MPLA Newsletter

A Publication of the Mountain Plains Library Association

December 1998

Volume 43, Number 3

New Mexico Library Association Voter to Join MPLA

October marked a meeting of minds and purpose at the New Mexico Library Association Conference in Espanola, New Mexico. A historically significant vote registered the New Mexico Library Association's intent to join the Mountain Plains Library Association. The addition of New Mexico will bring the number of MPLA states to an even dozen. New Mexico is bordered on three sides by MPLA member states: Colorado to the north, Arizona to the west, and Oklahoma to the east.

Marilyn Hinshaw, MPLA Vice President/President Elect, attended the NMLA Board meeting in Espanola on October 22. "New Mexico briefly considered joining MPLA when SWLA became defunct," said New Mexico State Librarian Ben Wakashege. "At the time, our state was not ready to go back into a regional group. We thought a larger group might not understand our particular needs. Marilyn convinced us otherwise. We also didn't know how resilient any such organization would be. I think the time is right and I think a personal representative was a good move on MPLA's part," he said.

"This seems like an assignment I was meant to have," said Hinshaw. "I was present at the joint MPLA/SWLA Conference in the late 1970s. I have a bittersweet memory of that meeting. Soon after the meeting, SWLA disbanded, leaving many of the member states' library employees without the connection for sharing that can occur in joint meetings with neighbor states. I think New Mexico has taken a step of great significance opening itself to a new affiliation with future joint ventures."

(Continued on page 15)

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

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1 May	1 November

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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:

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Salt Lake City Public Library, 209 East 500 South
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**Seminars Institutes Workshops Coursework
Conferences Research Projects Independent Learning**

**1999 PLA Spring
Symposium Announced**

The Public Library Association's 1999 Spring Symposium Workshop Series has been scheduled for March 25-27, 1999, at the Palmer House Hilton Hotel in Chicago.

Five workshops are scheduled:


Are Leaders Born or Made? An Interactive Seminar; Building Power Teams in Value-Based Organizations; Growing Readers' Advisory Services; Planning, Designing, and Building the Perfect Library; Planning for Results: A Powerful Tool for Trustees.


The registration deadline is February 26th.


For more information, visit the PLA web site: www.pla.org.



www.usd.edu/mpla/

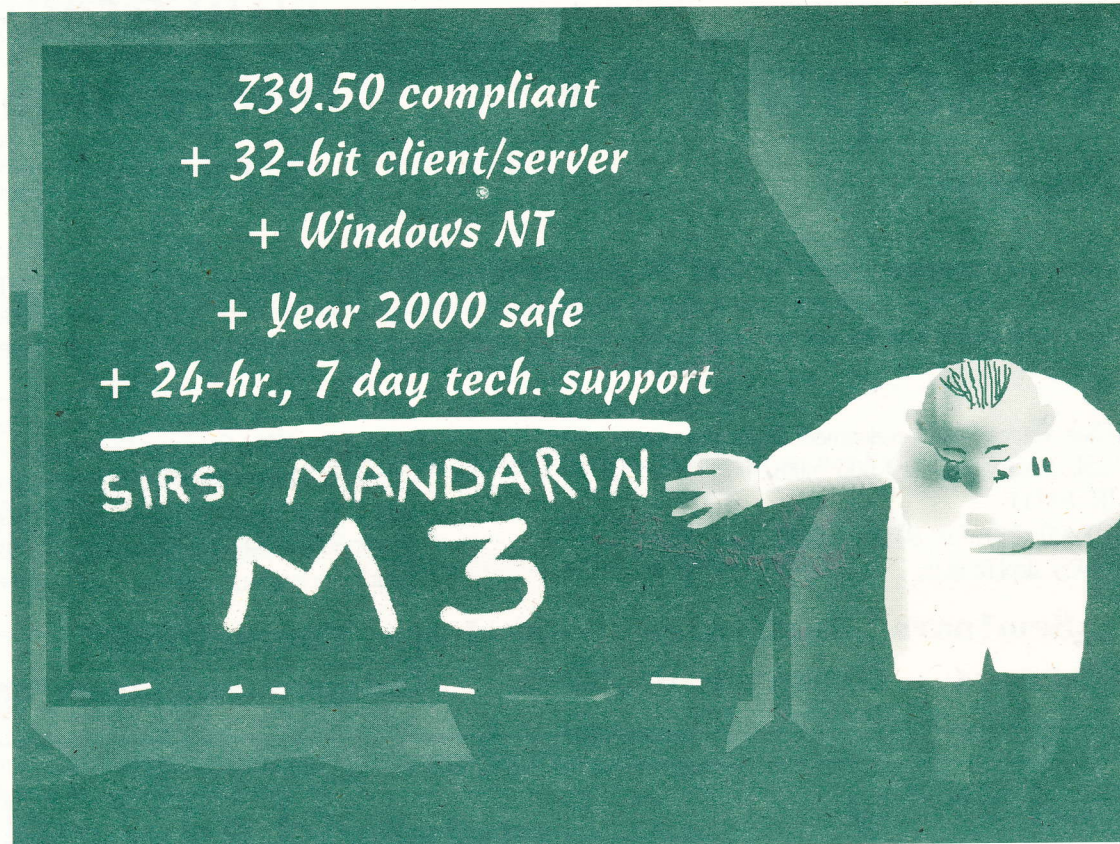
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Tuesday, November 3, 1998
Library Users Cast Their Votes

New Main Library for Salt Lake City, Utah

Voters cast their ballots in favor of a new central library for Salt Lake City. The \$84 million bond was approved by a favorable vote of 68 percent. The bond will cover the cost of a new 200,000 sq. ft. main library; parking for 600 vehicles (300 or more spaces dedicated for

library use); demolition of all the buildings on the library block with the exception of the current Main library; an outdoor plaza for community events; replacement of the plant which provides heating and cooling for the entire library block and for the City and County Building; and expansion of the Sprague and Foothill Branch Libraries.

Library Bond Issue Passes in Lincoln, Nebraska

The citizens of Lincoln voted in favor of a \$15.2 million bond issue for libraries. The bond issue will provide for the construction, furnishing and equipping of two 30,000 sq. ft. libraries in the northwest and southwest areas of Lincoln.

Lincoln residents have been served by a City library since 1887. Currently, Lincoln City Libraries serves a population of 213,000 with a headquarters library, six branch libraries and a bookmobile. Circulation for fiscal year 1997-98 was 2,249,686 with an operating budget of \$4,565,841.

“Support for the library branches points to the importance people place on reading and computer literacy,” said Carol J. Connor, Library Director and MPLAs immediate Past President. “Libraries have a pivotal role in both those areas,” she said.

Library Initiative Passes in Rapid City/Pennington County, South Dakota

In 1903 a municipal vote was approved to provide equitable and open library access to the people of Rapid City. History repeated itself again on November 3, 1998 with the passing of a county initiative to provide equitable and open library access for Pennington County residents.

The vote in favor of county library services represents how important people view library services today.

In the coming months, the details of providing county library services will need much attention as the County and the area libraries work to implement the initiative.



MPLA REGIONALS . . .

KANSAS

The fourth annual Kansas Library Month was celebrated in October, 1998, with the theme "Connect to Kansas Libraries." The purpose of this month-long celebration, sponsored by the Kansas Library Association, is to make libraries visible in a positive and proactive way.

Every library in the state received copies of a newly created brochure with pictures of famous people with a Kansas connection and quotes about the importance of libraries in their lives. Celebrities responding included ALA Executive Director William R. Gordon, opera singer Samuel Ramey, television editor and anchor Jim Lehrer, and Beetle Bailey cartoonist Mort Walker.

A traveling exhibit based on the brochure debuted at the Kansas State Fair and is available by reservation for library displays and celebrations.

Visit the Kansas Library Association Web Page at skyways.lib.ks.us/KLA/ for additional information.

NEBRASKA

The Nebraska Library Association (NLA) Trustees, Users and Friends Section, the NLA Legislative Committee; Nebraska Library Commission; and Nebraska's Regional Library Systems recently announced a statewide Advocacy Plan to build active support for public libraries throughout the state.

The plan, approved and sponsored by the Library for the Future and Friends of Libraries U.S.A., defines community in the broadest sense to include all Nebraska libraries that responded to an assessment of local economic and social trends that affect support for libraries. The Community-Library Advocacy Project helps to promote "Libraries for the 21st Century," a campaign initiated to improve library service in Nebraska.

The project, funded by the Viburnum Foundation, will estab-

lish models of public library advocacy in communities with low levels of funding, the potential for high levels of community support, and current challenges to the vitality of the public library. The planners will work toward establishing a network of skilled volunteer advocates to conduct mentoring activities with community groups, Friends of Libraries groups, and other kinds of library users.

For more information, see the Community-Library Advocacy Project home page: www.nol.org/home/NLA/advocacy/



In October 1998, the Salt Lake City Public Library was notified by the Library of Congress that it had been designated as Utah's *Center for the Book*.

"The Salt Lake City Public Library is honored to have been selected," notes Nancy Tessman, Library Director. "Utah's literary heritage is remarkably rich and the library culture is vibrant and promising. Receiving this prestigious designation provides us with a wonderful opportunity to celebrate Utah's unique literary history."

The *Center for the Book* in the Library of Congress was established by an Act of Congress in 1977. Within the Library of Congress, the *Center* is the focal point for celebrating the legacy of books and the printed word. Outside the Library, the *Center* works closely with other organizations to foster understanding of the vital role of books, reading, libraries, and literacy in society. On behalf of books and reading, the *Center for the Book* serves as an advocate, a catalyst, and a source of ideas — both nationally and internationally.

(Continued on page 12)

Reminder!

Renew your
MPLA membership today!

Professional Development Grant Evaluative Report



— *Mary Cassner, Subject Specialist Librarian
for the College of Human Resources and Family
Sciences and the College of Dentistry,
University of Nebraska-Lincoln Libraries*

The MPLA Professional Development Grant I received enabled me to attend and co-present a paper at the Eighth Off-Campus Library Services Conference in Providence, Rhode Island, in April 1998. My co-presenter, Kate Adams, Distance Education Coordinator for the University Libraries, and I gave a paper entitled, "Instructional Support to a Rural Graduate Population: An Assessment of Library Services" describing the results from two surveys conducted at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The paper was selected for publication in the conference proceedings through a juried abstracts process conducted by the conference's Program Advisory Board.

The two surveys mentioned earlier were conducted in fall 1997. The first survey consisted of a questionnaire mailed to all 184 students who had taken one or more classes in the College of Human Resources and Family Sciences interdepartmental Master's program taught via distance education since the program began in 1994. Questions on the survey focused on the use of the library online catalog and the World Wide Web; reference assistance provided by liaison librarians; and issues related to the use of interlibrary loan. The survey also asked the type of libraries used by distance education students as well as various statistical data related to the students.

A second questionnaire was mailed to the 13 faculty from the College who had taught one or more distance education classes in the program. The questions on this survey focused on the faculty member's use of library services in support of course delivery to remote students.

The Off-Campus Library Services Conference opened with a keynote speech by Dr. Kay Kohl, Executive Director of the University Continuing Education Association. Dr. Kohl's presentation, "Trends in Continuing Education," highlighted the nature of the distance education market, relevant structures found in higher education, and quality assurance issues, such as certification.

The keynote address on Friday was given by Dr. Kurt Slobodzian, a librarian and Dean of Instructional Technology at the University of Phoenix. In his presentation, "Libraries at a Distance: Past, Present, and Future," Dr. Slobodzian discussed the increased demand for extended education on a worldwide basis. He also focused on the role of the University of Phoenix in the distance education market as well as library services being offered to students presently, and those being planned for the future.

(Continued on page 9)

New Members

Welcomé! Benvénidos! Willkommen!

Arizona

Michelle Dyer-Hurdon, Superior Court Law
Library

Darla Franklin, Thunderbird, The American
Graduate School of International
Management

Florida

Jeffery Cutler, SIRS, Inc.

Kansas

Brandi Puls, Wichita State University
Suzanne Miller, Topeka & Shawnee County
Public Library

Minnesota

Carla Dewey, MINITEX

Montana

Linda Gardner, Superior Schools
Adam Wathen, Montana State University
Betti Boyson, Bozeman Public Library
Pamela Henley, Bozeman Public Library

North Dakota

Kathy Spencer, University of North Dakota
Geology Library
Gary Littlefield, Carnegie Regional Library,
Grafton

David Danielson, Minot Public Library
Robert Hembree, Minot Public Library

Nebraska

Terri Clark, Creighton University
Sara Aden, North Platte Public Library
Debora Robertson, Northeast Community
College

Nevada

Sandra Isaacson, OAO Corporation
Eva Stowers, University of Nevada - Las
Vegas
Ida McBride, Nevada Youth Training Center
Bob Gray, White Pine High School

Oklahoma

Mike Murray, Enid Public Library
Myra Bloom, Oral Roberts University
Fritz Buchallew, University of Central
Oklahoma
Tammie Gilliam, Guymon Public Library
Theresa Dickson, Pioneer Library System

Wyoming

Rebecca Francis, University of Wyoming
Jan Jorgensen, University of Wyoming
R. Scott Kinney, Laramie County Library
System
Janet Meury, Powell Branch Library
Jan Segerstrom, Jackson Hole Middle School



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During the concurrent paper sessions conference participants had the opportunity to attend presentations on a variety of subjects. General topics included administrative issues related to distance education, user studies and surveys, library instruction, collection development, services focused on specialized populations, and the use of innovative technology in the delivery of services.

One of the benefits of attending the conference was the opportunity to network with other librarians and educators interested in providing library services to distant students. The conference offered many opportunities to informally discuss programs at our respective institutions with others in attendance. Conference registrants represented nearly all the states, Canada, the United Kingdom, and South Africa.

The Off-Campus Library Services Conference is traditionally held every two or three years. If your job duties include library services to distant students, or if you have a strong interest in the subject, I recommend that you consider attending the next conference. Attending the conference is very beneficial, both to gain knowledge about new developments in the field and to network with others holding similar interests.

For additional information regarding this particular conference, see:
Thomas, P.S. & Jones, M. (Comp.). (1998). *Eighth Off-Campus Library Services Conference Proceedings*. Mount Pleasant, MI: Central Michigan University.





Johnson County Library Books to Grow Program Nets National Recognition

The Johnson County (KS) Library has been named an Innovations in American Government Awards finalist for its Books to Grow Program. The library outreach program designed for child care settings was selected as one of the top 25 programs out of more than 1400 entries that were considered for the award. The award is presented annually for innovative government programs by the Ford Foundation and Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of

Government in partnership with the Council for Excellence in Government.

On October 22, representatives from Johnson County Library traveled to Washington, D.C., to make a presentation to the National Selection Committee. Although not selected as one of the top ten winners, Johnson County Library received a \$20,000 grant from the Ford Foundation to promote the Books to Grow program, encourage its replication and communicate the benefits of reading to children at an early age.

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IMLS Awards Grant for Five State Indian Project

Five states' American Indian tribes will receive library, archive, and cultural technical assistance from their state library agencies and several museums as a result of a National Leadership Grant. The federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) has granted the Five State American Indian Project \$150,545 for a one-year pilot that will result in increased cooperation with, and service to, American Indian tribes in Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah.

Lead agencies will work with the tribes in their states to assess the tribes' library, archival and museum needs. These agencies will compile an inventory of the collection development policies, cultural resource descriptions, and use restrictions of the tribal libraries, archives and museums in their states. Each state will develop a communications network to sustain the collaborative work begun by this pilot.

The five states will also each hold a convocation of librarians, archivists, museum professionals, and tribal leaders to discuss ways of improving services to the tribes, sharing information



about available federal funding, and increasing awareness of American Indian cultural property rights and issues related to the preservation and use of cultural resources.

A second grant proposal will seek funds for a five-state regional convocation to be held in the spring of 2000, where the state participants will discuss issues from a regional perspective.

In announcing this year's National Leadership Grants, IMLS director Diane Frankel said, "Libraries and museums are more important than ever in this age of information, helping Americans navigate the many information resources and find meaning in an increasing complex work. We are proud of these forward-thinking National Leadership projects that will increase access to information and help libraries and museums better serve the public.

For grant guidelines and more information, contact the Institute of Museum and Library Services, www.ims.fed.us/.



UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

January 1999

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

March 1999

- 24-27 March — "Oklahoma Libraries: An American Value" Oklahoma Library Association, Enid.
www.pioneer.lib.ok.us/ola

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
- 29-30 April — New Mexico Library Association, Carlsbad.
lib.nmsu.edu/nmla/

May 1999

- 12-14 May — "Reflect, Renew, Relax: ULA, Cedar City, 1999" Utah Library Association, Cedar City.
www.ula.org

June 1999

- 13-16 June — "Making Certain It Goes On," Montana Library Association/MPLA Joint Conference, 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

- 1999 — Montana Library Assoc., "Making Certain It Goes On," Big Sky Resort, June 13-16.
- 2000 — 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.

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Arizonans and those interested in the state will soon be able to search the Arizona state library's holdings via the Internet.

The Department of Library, Archives and Public Records has selected SIRSI, Inc. to install the Department's first automated, integrated library system.

"This online catalog will make it easier for our clientele — legislators, state personnel, and anyone interested in the state — to view our unique holdings," GladysAnn Wells, Director, said. "This is one of many steps the Department is taking to increase our customers' access to our information."

The Department's catalog will initially show the holdings of the State Law Library, the State Research Library's collection of Federal publications, Arizona state publications and genealogical materials, and the Arizona History and Archives Division collection of Arizoniana.

Over time, records for other materials, such as maps and archival holdings, will be added to the system until it reflects all the Department's holdings.



MPLA Past President (1993-94) and long-time MPLA member Ronelle Thompson was named South Dakota's 1998 Librarian of the Year at the SD Library Association's Annual Conference in October. Thompson is

the director of the Mikkelsen Library at Augustana College in Sioux Falls.

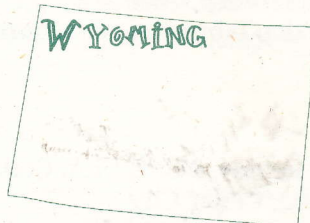
Instituted in 1972, the award recognizes librarians who have made significant contributions to effective and improved library service in South Dakota. Thompson was cited for her leadership and advocacy for the South Dakota Library Network, her initiative and creativity in developing Augustana's library friends group, and her willingness to mentor colleagues.

"I cannot think of a person more deserving of the recognition from the members of our association," said Mike Mullin, President of the Association. "The positions she has held in the state and regionally speak highly of her desire to be a doer and not just sit back and let things happen."



The Great Falls Public Library has received a commitment from an anonymous donor for the purchase of a bookmobile! Library staff is assembling specifications and will place the order soon. The bookmobile should be in service by next spring.

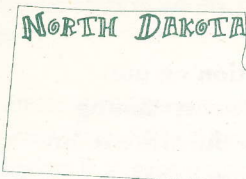
The School Library Media Division of the Montana Library Association is updating the informational brochure for Montana's School Library Media Specialists, and the Division has been asked by the Office of Public Instruction to assist in updating the standards that colleges must comply with if they offer a school library media endorsement. These standards were last revised in 1994.



Ada Howard, MPLA member and Director of the Fremont County Library System, was named the Wyoming Librarian of the Year for 1998.

Children and young adults throughout Wyoming will have more reading materials available at their local library as a result of a \$10,000 grant from Wenco through its Jeld-Wen Foundation. Wenco is a Cheyenne-based business which constructs doors and windows.

The grant was presented recently to the Wyoming Center for the Book to underwrite "Young Readers on the Range." The money was distributed equally to all 23 county libraries and amounted to over \$400 each.



MPLA member Shelby Harken was named Librarian of the Year 1998 by the North Dakota Library Association for her contributions to the profession of library science.

Harken is the Head of Acquisitions and Bibliographic control at the Chester Fritz Library at the University of North Dakota. "I was totally overwhelmed," said Harken, "I am very proud to have received the award."

According to Frank L'Andraia, Director of Libraries at UND, "Shelby has been an important and inspiring colleague whose contributions have made us all better and more vital librarians at UND."

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1999 MPLA/MLA Joint Conference Update

— *Cindy Christin*
Publicity Chair
1999 MPLA/MLA Joint Conference

The conference committee for the 1999 MPLA/MLA Joint Conference, "Making Certain It Goes On," in Big Sky, Montana has received 152 program proposals and the committee is meeting regularly to finalize the schedule by the MPLA Board Meeting on January 9 and the MLA Board Meeting on January 14. Look for workshop details on the MPLA discussion list or the conference homepage (www.mtlib.org) sometime toward the end of January.

Ted Turner has reluctantly canceled his appearance at our conference, but ALA Executive Director William Gordon and ALA President Ann Symons have agreed to attend. Dorothy Broderick and Terry Tempest Williams will also be speaking.

Be sure to mark June 13-16 on your new 1999 calendars when they arrive, and start making plans to spend a few long summer days in beautiful Big Sky, Montana. For more information about the MPLA/MLA Joint Conference, please contact Alice Meister, Conference Planning Chair, at 406-582-2400 (or ameister@mtlib.org) or check the conference homepage at www.mtlib.org.



Summary of the MPLA Executive Board Meeting Minutes (unapproved)

— *Kathleen Hallin*
MPLA Recording Secretary

The MPLA Executive Board met on September 12, 1998 in Denver. The following are highlights from the as yet unapproved minutes:

- ↳ The Board discussed ways to increase exhibitor traffic at the conference. Suggestions included book signings, raffles, food events, and locating the exhibits close to registration.
- ↳ Library Continuing Education Conference: There is interest in a regional conference for regional staff development providers. MPLA will co-endorse the conference and be a non-paying co-sponsor.
- ↳ Marilyn Hinshaw has been invited to attend the New Mexico conference, and a motion passed unanimously to invite New Mexico to join MPLA.
- ↳ The budget will be presented to the Board at the January meeting.
- ↳ The Public Relations chair made a presentation to the board about ideas for improving public relations and increasing membership.
- ↳ The next meeting of the Board will be January 9, 1998 at the Warwick Hotel in Denver.

The complete draft of the minutes can be found on MPLAs web site: www.usd.edu/mpla/



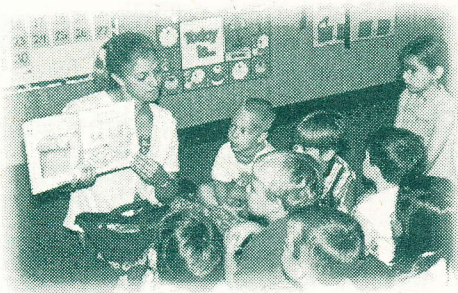


At the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C., from left: Marsha Bennett, Johnson County Library; Jacqueline Byers, Director of Research, National Association of Counties; David Gergen, Editor at Large, *U.S. News & World Report* and Innovations Selection Committee Chair; Kathy McLellan, Johnson County Library; Jean Hatfield, Johnson County Library.

(Continued from page 10)

Johnson County Library Program Services Manager Jean Hatfield and Youth Services Outreach Specialist Kathy McLellan (both MPLA members) made the presentation. They described the Books to Grow program, explained their cooperation with area child care providers and told of the benefits of early reading activities. "Libraries must look for new ways to reach out to the community," Jean Hatfield said. "With more than 60% of the county's preschool age children in a child care setting, the library was able to extend its services to this group through the Books to Grow program. Our program conveniently provides library materials to busy child care centers and home care providers. They are encouraged to read to children, tell them stories and involve them in related activities. The results have been great.

Those who utilize the kits report that children get excited when they bring out the Books to Grow bag and become eager to learn how to read for themselves. We continue to increase the number of kits and expand the themes based on their feedback."



Child care providers at the Shawnee Mission Medical Center Child Care Center often share books from the Books to Grow kits with children they serve.

The Books to Grow kits are available for check out to day care centers and home child care providers. Each kit, housed in its own bag, contains five picture books, and audio tape, video tape and a folder of activities, finger plays and craft ideas geared toward preschoolers. The library has more than 100 theme-based Books to Grow kits on 42 subjects.

According to Kathy McLellan, having Books to Grow in the national spotlight has prompted calls from people across the country wanting to have similar programs in their communities. "We were excited to be a part of this national program and happy to share our ideas with others," McLellan stated. "Out of the 25 top programs that presented, there were three other initiatives that focused on early



Pam Elliott is one of over 1200 child care providers in Johnson County who cares for children in her home. Books to Grow kits make it easy for her to bring the library to the children.

childhood education and child care issues. We know this is a nationwide concern and are proud that the Johnson County Library has taken a leadership role and is supporting and assisting those who care for America's young children."

The Johnson County Books to Grow program also received a 1997 National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Award.

For more information on the Johnson County Books to Grow program contact Kathy McLellan, 913/261-2344, or Jean Hatfield, 913/261-2345, or visit the Johnson County Library Web site at:
<www.jcl.lib.s.us/kids/bktogrow.htm>.



(Continued from page 12)



Nominees for the 1999 Colorado Children's Book Awards are now being considered by Colorado children. To participate in the voting, each child must have read, or heard read, a minimum of three of the books.

The library must have at least 10 of the nominated books. Votes and nominations for the 2000 list, are due March 1, 1999. The program is sponsored by the Colorado Council of the International Reading Association (CCIRA).

The 1999 nominees are:

- Adventures of Captain Underpants* by David Pilkey
- Angel Pig and The Hidden Christmas* by Jan Waldron
- Animorphs* by K.A. Applegate
- Baby In A Basket* by Gloria Rand
- Bootmaker and the Elves* by Susan Lowell
- The Bunyans* by Audrey Wood
- Comeback Kid* by John Elway with Greg Brown
- Don't Laugh, Joe* by Kieko Kasha
- Falling Up* by Shel Silverstein
- The Hat* by Jan Brett
- Library Lil* by Suzanne Williams
- Meet Josefina* by Valerie Tripp
- Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten* by Joseph Slate
- My Little Sister Ate One Hare* by Bill Grossman
- Parts* by Tedd Arnold

- S.O.S. Titanic* by Eve Bunting
- Seven Songs of Merlin* by T.A. Barron
- Titanic Crossing* by Barbara Williams
- Verdi* by Janell Canon
- Winter of Red Snow* by Kristina Gregory

Over 64,000 children from more than 200 schools and libraries participated in the 1998 voting.



The Oklahoma Library Association, in partnership with SIRS, is proud to announce the OLA - SIRS Intellectual Freedom Award. The purpose

of the award is to recognize the contribution made by an individual to actively promote or defend intellectual freedom. Nominations are limited to an individual's efforts within Oklahoma, but nominees do not have to be OLA members.

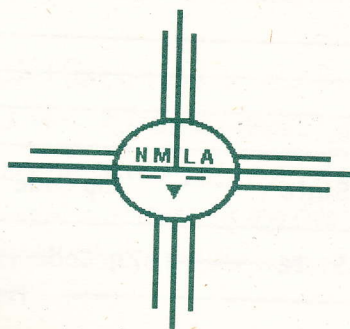
The award consists of \$500 to the award winner, \$500 to the institution of the winner's choice and a commemorative plaque. The plaque and award money will be provided by SIRS.

Nominations are due by January 14, 1999. For more information about the award and nomination procedures, check out the OLA Intellectual Freedom Committee's home page at: <www.library.okstate.edu/ola-ifc/>.



(Continued from page 1)

Hinshaw credits Charlene Greenwood, NMLAs vice-president/president elect, who visited MPLAs joint conference with Utah as a guest of the MPLA Board, with creating the climate for approval. "Charlene deserves a lot of credit. She is a go-getter at home and an excellent spokesperson for NMLA outside the state. It was a privilege to represent MPLA because it is an organization taking the long view." The final step of approval is slated for the MPLA January Board meeting in Denver. "I think this action



will validate the leadership of current and past MPLA presidents Roann Master-son, Carol Connor, and Judy Zelenski, who now serves as membership chair. The whole Board demonstrates that MPLA continues to thrive because of its investment in new membership

initiatives," said Hinshaw.

Ellanie Sampson, Truth or Consequences Public Library, is NMLAs current president. She can be reached by email at torcpl@riolink.com. The NMLA conference will be held in April in Carlsbad, New Mexico, at which time Sampson and Greenwood will share the podium to announce the state's membership, if the MPLA Board approves the addition. Judy Zelenski's comment reflects the opinion of many, "Who wouldn't want to go to New Mexico for a joint conference?"





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I am interested in serving on the following committee(s): Awards Finance Bylaws & Procedures
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