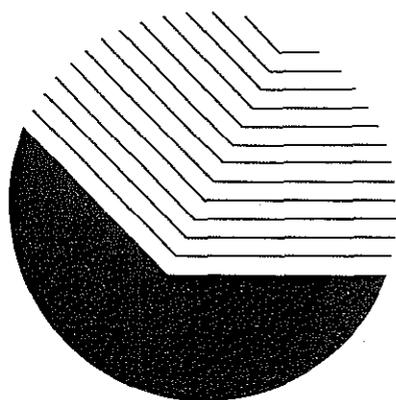


ARIZONA COLORADO KANSAS MONTANA NEBRASKA NEVADA
NEW MEXICO NORTH DAKOTA OKLAHOMA SOUTH DAKOTA UTAH WYOMING



MPLA Newsletter

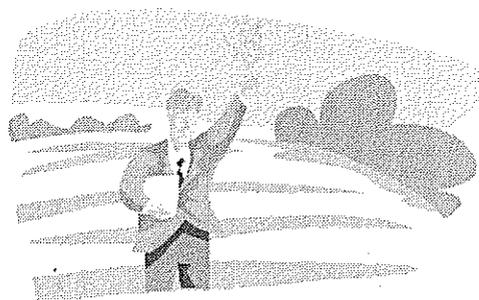
A Publication of the Mountain Plains Library Association

April 2000

Volume 44, Number 5

MPLA Award Nominations Sought

Of all the important things to do in a healthy organization, recognizing the efforts and accomplishments of others is among the most vital. The time it takes is small compared to the value it provides for everyone. Awards are how we celebrate one another.



MPLA has six standing awards, which may be presented every year. A partial list of past award winners is posted on the MPLA web page at <http://www.usd.edu/mpla/committees/awards/awards.html>. A copy of the awards nomination form is available on this Web site as well. Take a look at each award and then quickly ask yourself who you know who would be qualified for the award.

There are many people in MPLA who are deserving of the Distinguished Service Award. We have faithful exhibitors who should be recognized with the Carl Gaumer Award. Among twelve states there are individuals, groups, and news media organizations deserving the Legislative Leadership Award or the News Media Support Award. There are always talented new librarians among us who should be recognized with the Beginning Professional Award.

There are many national and regional authors who would treasure being awarded the Mountain Plains Literary Contribution Award. It may not be a Pulitzer Prize, but it is recognition of excellence as a writer. Authors who write for adults or children are eligible. The only criterion is that published writings successfully further an understanding and appreciation of the Mountain Plains region.

Nominating someone doesn't take much time, and you can expect willing cooperation. You will do a lot of good for deserving people, and you will strengthen MPLA. So take a minute and get started. Nominations are welcome any time up to July 31, 2000. The awards nomination form is available online.

For questions regarding MPLA awards, please contact:

Jean Hatfield

Johnson County Library

P.O. Box 2933

Shawnee Mission, KS 66201-1333

Voice: 918/261-2345

Fax: 918/261-2325 Email: hatfield@jcl.lib.ks.us



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

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414 East Clark Street
Vermillion, SD 57069-2390
Voice: 605/677-5121
Fax: 605/677-5124
Email: nickisch@usd.edu

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10 January	10 July
10 March	10 September
10 May	10 November

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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).

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

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MPLA Executive Secretary
I.D. Weeks Library
University of South Dakota
414 East Clark Street
Vermillion, SD 57069-2390
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Email: jedelen@usd.edu

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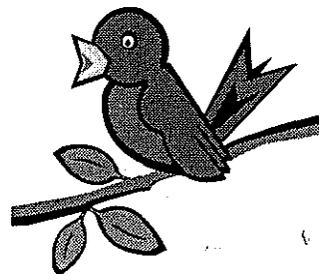
1 yr - \$22; 2 yrs - \$38; 3 yrs - \$55

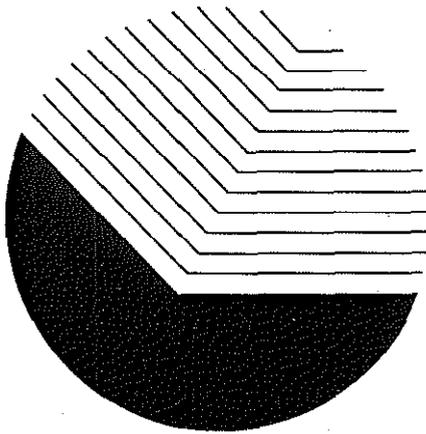
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MPLA Executive Board Meeting Highlights, April 8, 2000

—Susan Awe
MPLA Recording Secretary

Vice President
Linda Rea and Ne-
braska State Repre-
sentative Verne

Haselwood reported that programming for the MPLA/NLA/
NEMA Triconference 2000 at the Holiday Inn, Omaha, Oc-
tober 25-27, is taking off! Check out the conference website
for the latest: <http://reinert.creighton.edu/triconf>

President Hinshaw called for a special Board meeting to be-
gin developing a strategic plan for MPLA. Watch for up-
dates.

Submit your abstract to present a paper at the 2000 Tricon-
ference. Write for details to: Betty Dance, Merrill Library,

Utah State University, Logan, UT 84322-3000 by May 15,
2000 or email betdan@cc.usu.edu

The Board continues to look for ways to boost membership.
Watch for information from Judy Zelenski and the PR/
Membership Committee.

Send photos of library events in the region to Heidi Nickisch
Duggan, Newsletter Editor, and they may appear on the
website or in the newsletter!

The Board approved a new award for 2000: The MPLA
Youth Services Excellence Award. Watch for details.



MPLA/NLA/NEMA Joint Conference Keynote Speakers

October 25-28, 2000, Omaha, Nebraska
<reinert.creighton.edu/triconf>

Steve Coffman

Steve Coffman is the Director of FYI, a fee-based research
service of the County of Los Angeles Public Library ([http://
fyi.co.la.ca.us/](http://fyi.co.la.ca.us/)). Steve is an author and recently received no-
toriety for his article in *Searcher*, "Building Earth's Largest
Library: Driving into the Future," (March 1999). He also was
the guest last year on a national teleconference on this same
topic. His talk is sure to be provocative.

David Shenk

Author of *Data Smog: Surviving the Information Glut*
(Harper, 1997), *End of Patience* (University of Indiana Press,
1999), *Skeleton Key: A Dictionary for Deadheads*
(Doubleday, 1994) and contributor to *Inc.* magazine, Shenk is
funny, insightful and articulate. Shenk's appearance is spon-
sored by the Nebraska Library Commission.

Read the author's work: "Why You Feel the Way You Do,"
Inc., Jan. 1, 1999 <[http://www.inc.com/incmagazine/
article/0,,ART708,00.html](http://www.inc.com/incmagazine/article/0,,ART708,00.html)>. Visit David Shenk's Smog-Free

Home Page <[www.technoidealism.org/dshenk/homepage.
html](http://www.technoidealism.org/dshenk/homepage.html)>!

Jym Kruse

Jym Kruse is a storyteller from Nebraska who performs na-
tionwide. Kruse has used traditional and personal stories for
many years both in the classroom as a teacher and on the stage
as a professional storyteller. From statewide festivals to public
radio stations across the nation, he has told his stories to pre-
schools and Elderhostels and every age group in between. A
member of the National Storytelling Association, he is also a
speaker for the Nebraska Humanities Council.

His stories have been featured on "The Enchanted Forest," on
Washington Public Radio, as well as "The Story Tree," which
is heard on public radio stations throughout the country. He
will share his varied collection of international folktales as our
featured banquet speaker Thursday night.



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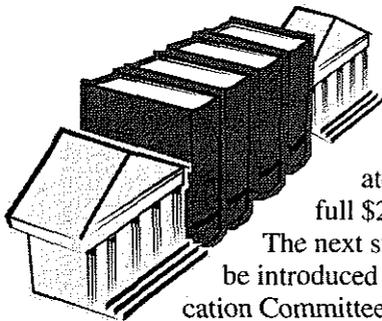
www.sirs.com

... Around the MPLA Region

colorado

- A new and improved Conference Program submission form is now available from the CLA Web site!
http://www.formsite.com/claforms/program_call/index.html

- Legislation was reintroduced by Colorado State Senator Ginette "Gigi" Dennis in January 2000 to provide \$2 million in state grants to assist Colorado's publicly supported school, academic and public libraries to purchase additional educational materials they would otherwise be unable to afford. The grants are based on the population served, but the minimum grant is \$3,000, which will be especially beneficial to libraries in rural areas. \$3,000 is more than double the size of many small libraries' book



budgets. This bill has passed the Senate Education and Appropriations committees and the full senate on April 5, with the full \$2 million appropriation. The next step is for amendments to be introduced during the House Education Committee hearing.

kansas

- The Kansas Library Association will celebrate its 100th anniversary on April 13, 2000 with a Centennial Celebration. As of March 29, the association had almost reached its goal of 1500 members this year — membership stood at 1407. This is nearly double the membership of past years. Money raised from the raffle of a Centennial Quilt (created by MPLA member Patti Butcher!) will form the basis for an endowment fund, which in the future will help with costs associated with a full-time association director/lobbyist.
- The first Michael L. Printz Award went to author Walter Dean Myers for excellence in literature for

young adults. The award is administered by YALSA and sponsored by Booklist magazine. It honors the late Michael L. Printz, a Topeka school librarian known for discovering and promoting quality books for young adults.

- The ALA Committee on Accreditation announced in January that Emporia State University School of Library and Information Management (SLIM) has been fully reaccredited. The letter stated in part, "The Committee recognizes the faculty's diversity and research productivity. In addition, COA notes that the School demonstrates a sustained commitment to involving all constituencies in the planning processes . . . and the design of the distance learning component of the MLS program produces student cohorts that operate in a highly supportive and successful manner." The next comprehensive review is scheduled for Fall, 2004. The school will continue to submit annual statistical reports and biennial narrative reports to COA.

- The Forrest C. Lattner Foundation awarded \$50,000 to children's services at the Wichita Public Library. The National Endowment for the Humanities will match the gift with \$16,666. The grant continues a pattern of support from the Lattner Foundation and is used to improve resources available to some 35,000 children who visit the library each year.

- The Gates Foundation is providing the Wichita Public Library with two grants totaling \$98,000. One grant will provide funds for a computer training lab at the Central Library. The second grant will purchase twenty-four computers to be spread throughout six of the branch libraries most in need of technology.

oklahoma

- UCITA (the Uniform Computer Information Transactions Act) has been quickly reviewed by the Oklahoma House Judiciary Committee and will now be sent

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

to a Joint Conference Committee for further work. The Oklahoma Library Association has joined several other concerned groups to urge the legislators to look closely at this item.

- The University of Oklahoma School of Library and Information Science has announced the appointment of a new Director. Dr. Danny Wallace, who received his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, will begin his work on July 1, 2000. In addition, his wife, Dr. Connie Van Fleet, will join the Library School faculty as an associate Professor on August 6, 2000.

- The External Review Panel for the ALA's Committee on Accreditation will begin their work at the library school in April. Faculty has been notified that the committee may want to review the curriculum and ask other questions over the next few months.



nebraska

- ICON, a consortium of health sciences libraries in Nebraska, recently received a \$40,000 grant from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine to create a web resource of consumer health information for libraries. The grant includes training to help local public and school librarians find and access quality web sites. There will also be some mini grants given for Internet access or equipment. Jim Bothmer, director of Creighton University's Health Sciences Library, is the grant's Project Director.

- Metropolitan Community College and the LaVista Public Library dedicated their new neo-Italian Renaissance style building January 28, 2000. By combining resources, the two entities have built a \$9.1 million educational center/public library that will accommodate multiple purposes. The 23,316 sq. ft. library will serve LaVista city citizens as well as Metro's college students.

- The Nebraska Library Association and the Nebraska Library Commission have nominated the following individuals and groups to represent Nebraska in the American Library Association's Association for Library Trustees and Advocates' National Advocacy Honor Roll: Nebraska Senator LaVon Crosby; Laureen Riedesel, Beatrice Public Library; Maggie Harding, NLAs Executive Director; Libraries for the 21st Century Initiative Coalition; South Sioux City Public Library Planning Group; and Jane Geske, former NLC Director and Nebraska Center for the Book Founding member, posthumously.

wyoming

- Urie Elementary School Library in Lyman, WY, was one of four libraries recognized by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for community service. "Libraries have long offered free and equal access to books, but in today's rapidly changing world, they are also responding to the daunting challenges of the Information Age and unique needs of their communities," said IMLS Acting Director Beverly Sheppard. "In recognition of the vast array of new services libraries offer, IMLS is proud to introduce the winners of its first annual National Award for Library Service."

This year's recognition events coincide with National Library Week (April 9 - 15). They take place in Washington, D.C. and include Members of Congress and national library leaders. All types of libraries are eligible for the National Award for Library Service, and this year, 75 libraries were nominated. The National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, the Presidentially appointed policy advisory board of IMLS, reviewed the nominations and made recommendations to Beverly Sheppard, who made the final selection.

In the rural area of southwestern Wyoming, the Urie Elementary School Library not only connected its school to the Internet, but also brought its county library online. Urie librarians open the school's computer lab at night where they train newcomers to the web and bridge the digital divide in this rural community. The service of this school library goes far beyond the school system to encompass the whole community. http://www.imls.gov/closer/hlt4_0400.htm

(Continued on page 7)

Stepping Down, Stepping Up



I am one of those people who practice age at the next birthday six months in advance. I guess it's because these older decades come as a shock, so my advance practice came in handy when I faced turning from 39 to 40. Fifty is a birthday to give you a real comeuppance. It is half a hundred years and the math is fairly absolute.

I had a personal reaction to less time ahead than behind me. It came as a realization of how much I have taken for granted in the years of hard work to find my life road, make a career, and raise my family. The desire to revisit the places I have lived, found friendship, nurturing and love has been so strong it surprises me. One of the great joys of the MPLA presidency is returning home to parts of the country I knew as my career progressed. The state conference in Kansas completes a circle for me. My library career started in school in Emporia, and then my job out of graduate school at the Kansas State Library in Topeka marked the first time I ever went to a microphone to speak.

In almost the next breath away from those memories, I want to give back to the people, the places, the programs which gave me the opportunity to become a person who could make a difference. MPLA is one of those. When the nominating committee called me for this job, I told them it was time for me to do that. The Mountain Plains Library Association conference in Colorado Springs in the early 1970s marked both my first MPLA Conference and my first airplane trip. I was all the things a new professional can be: enthusiastic, amazed that so many people like me existed, and nervous about who might see through this greenhorn well enough to prove me insufficient to answer my calling. Instead, people befriended me and became a source of professional and personal sustenance. The MPLA response remains the same a quarter century later. "Come, join hands and do your good work with us."

It's been almost a year since the Montana Conference when I accepted the MPLA gavel. True to form, it's six months early, and I am already preparing my thoughts and my emotions for the act of stepping down. I have been lucky to be the transition president - the one who gets an extra four or five months to make a difference. Like being a mentor for a younger colleague or raising children, at the point of letting go, it is never enough time. But if you have done a credible job, found people who are talented and willing, and been a part of memorable events which help others thrive, the organization and the hardworking professional members out there can be better because you were there. Come to the Omaha Conference to celebrate with me the completion of one circle of MPLA life and the beginning of the new. An MPLA president is a visible person with a variety of strengths and weaknesses who becomes its temporary steward. The true power of MPLA is in its members and their willingness to step forward to work for it and within it.

Your organization will continue to thrive if YOU make it so.

— Marilyn Hinshaw, MPLA President

(Continued from page 6)

<http://www.uinta6.k12.wy.us/WWW/Urie/Uriehome.html>

new mexico

- Eleven New Mexico tribal libraries will receive individual grants to build and maintain an online catalog using Athena software through a collaborative project from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the New Mexico State Library Tribal Libraries Program. The Gates Foundation is providing the necessary work-

stations and servers for each library and the New Mexico State Library Tribal Libraries Program will share the cost of the software. A third partner, the Santa Fe Indian School, is working with the Gates Foundation to train Indian School students in network administration and the use of Athena for cataloging collections and networking workstations.

- The University of New Mexico Libraries rank 55th out of 111 university libraries in the recently released Association of Research Libraries (ARL) ranking for

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)
the year 1998-99.

- Governor Gary Johnson has proclaimed April to be New Mexico's Month of the Library. Many communities are following suit.
- The New Mexico State Library is promoting "The Month of the Library" statewide. "Your Library — A Community Treasure" is the slogan and Edward Gonzales, the illustrator for the children's book *Farolitos for Abuelo*, has been commissioned to paint a picture of a library setting. The painting will be reproduced in high quality posters and bookmarks to be given to every library in the state.
- Librarians and library friends who submitted their library histories to Linda G. Harris saw the cumulative outcome in Linda's book, *One Book at a Time: The History of the Library in New Mexico*, published by the New Mexico Library Foundation to commemorate NMLA's 75th anniversary. That effort has gone one step further in the form of a traveling exhibit and public

program package available to all libraries in the state under the title "New Mexico's Library Legacy."

north dakota

- The North Dakota State Library offered workshops on Professional Ethics and Licensing Electronic Resources in early April, presented by Arlene Bielefield. Using ALA's Code of Ethics as the framework, Arlene presented ethical dilemmas facing librarians in today's information environment.
- The State Library held a series of public forums across the state to report on the activities of the Library Vision 2004 (LV2004) program and solicit ideas for future developments. All types of libraries, government officials, and the general public were encouraged to participate to share their views on issues and strategies to address for library and information service growth in North Dakota.

(Continued on page 11)

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:

Mary Bushing, Chair
Montana State University Libraries
Bozeman, MT 59717
Voice: 406/994-4994
Fax: 406/994-2851
Email: alimb@montana.edu

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
Email: jedelen@usd.edu

Seminars Institutes Workshops Coursework
Conferences Research Projects Independent Learning

MPLA Member News

An article titled "Wired Travelers": travel and tourism Web sites" by Judith Bernstein and MPLA Recording Secretary **Susan C. Awe** and was published in *Reference Services Review*, Vol. 27, #4, 1999, pp. 364-75. It has wonderful travel information sites grouped under headings like Mega Sites, Travel Warnings, Lodgings and Restaurants, Specialty Travel, Maps, Railways, the Travel Business, and more!

Also, check the March 15, 2000 *Library Journal* for "The Best Business Books 1999: Web Vision Comes of Age!"

Richard Rademacher, Director of Libraries for the City of Wichita for the past 24 years, has announced his retirement. Rademacher recently reflected on the many changes in librarianship during his career. His remarks are available in full at

<<http://skyways.lib.ks.us/KSL/admin/KLIB0400.pdf>>.



Park County Library System (WY) director **Charlene Paben** has resigned effective July 1, 2000. Paben plans to continue in the role of library advocacy and funding.

South Dakota's State Archivist, **Richard Popp**, has resigned his position effective April 14, 2000.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

2000

- April 26 — 29 — Montana Library Association Conference, Billings. "Metamorphosis: New Tools, Old Trade" www.mtlib.org
- April 26 — 29 — New Mexico Library Association Annual Conference, Taos.
- April 26 — 29 — Oklahoma Library Association Annual Convention, Tulsa. "Libraries: Roots to the Future" www.pioneer.lib.ok.us/ola/
- April 27 — 28 — 31st Annual Colorado Interlibrary Loan Conference, Denver Public Library, Denver.
- May 17 — 19 — Utah Library Association Annual Conference, Ogden. "Expanding Our Communities... Embracing Our Partners... Enriching Our Profession"
- May 19 — Colorado Library Association Public Library Division, Boulder. "Reach Out..." www.cla-web.org
- May 25 — Colorado Library Association Technical Services and Automation Division and College and University Division, Auraria Campus, Denver. "Navigating Digital Waters — Chart Your Course!" www.cla-web.org
- June 4 — 9 — Montana State Library Summer Institute, Billings. (see page 14 for more information)
- June 7 — 9 — "Tribal Libraries, Archives and Museums: Preserving Our Language, Memory and Lifeways", Phoenix. (see p. 14 for more information)
- July 7 — Reference Services for Genealogists: A Mini-Course for Librarians, Chicago. RUSA Preconference Program 2000. (see p. 15 for more information)
- July 8 — 11 — American Library Association Conference 2000, Chicago. "Libraries Build Community" www.ala.org
- August 3 — 6 — REFORMA National Conference, Tucson, Arizona. Theme: "The Power of Language: Planning for the 21st Century." cnet.ucr.edu/library/reforma/rnc2/
- September 14 — 17 — Colorado Library Association Annual Conference, Snowmass. "Enhancing Information: Libraries Add Value."
- September 20 — 23 — North Dakota Library Association Annual Conference, Dickinson. "North Dakota Libraries at the Dawn of a New Century" ndsl.lib.state.nd.us/ndla/

Future MPLA Conferences

- 2000 — Nebraska Library Association/ Nebraska Educational Media Association, Omaha, 25-28 October.
 - 2001 — Arizona Library Association, Phoenix, November/December.
 - 2002 — North Dakota & South Dakota Library Associations, Fargo, ND, Oct. 2-3.
 - 2003 — Nevada Library Association, Lake Tahoe.
 - 2004 — Colorado Library Association, Snow Mass.
 - 2005 — Wyoming Library Association, TBA.
-
- September 19 — 20 — The KPLACE Roundtable (a division of KLA) Fall Conference, Wichita.
 - September 23 — 27 — Banned Books Week, "Celebrate the Freedom to Read"
 - October 5 — 7 — Nevada Library Association Annual Conference, Reno. "Nevada Libraries: Launching into the New Millennium"
 - October 23 — 27 — National Libraries: Interpreting the Past, Shaping the Future, Library of Congress. The conference will deal with the role of national libraries or a single library within a national or international cultural context. www.lcweb.loc.gov/loc/cfbook/
 - October 25 — 28 — MPLA/NLA/NEMA Tri-conference, Omaha. "Beyond the Horizon... Charting Our Course to the Future" <http://reinert.creighton.edu/triconf>
 - November 30 — December 2 — "Vision, Mission, Reality: Creating Libraries in the 21st Century" A Library Administration and Management Association (LAMA) National Institute, Palm Springs, CA. www.ala.org/lama/vision.



New MPLA Members

Arizona

Martha Caselooit, Arizona State University
Cheryl Richardson, Yavapai County Library District
Rosanne Trujillo, Arizona State University

Kansas

Ruth Stenzel, Dodge City Public Library
Pat Vierthaler, Hutchinson Community College
Scott Goldy, Wichita State University

Nebraska

Jerry Brown, College of St. Mary
Debra Carlson, Scottsbluff Public Library

South Dakota

Stephen Van Buren, South Dakota State University
Laura Olson, University of Sioux Falls

Montana

Ginny Cowan, Bozeman Public Library

Oklahoma

S. Michael Kim, Oklahoma State University

Nevada

Linda Wilson, Douglas County Public Library

New Mexico

Nancy Justen, Farmington Public Library
Mary Grathwol, Santa Fe Public Library
Peggy-McCullough, Retired School Librarian

Wyoming

P. Pidde

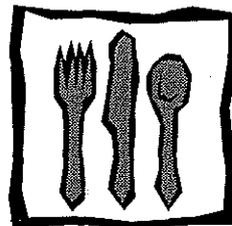
Welcome!

- The North Dakota Periodicals Index (NDPI) was a centennial project to index various ND periodicals. Indexing was done for periodicals published between 1981 and 1985, but the data were never published. Kathy Thomas of the NDSU Library has proposed the mounting of the index data onto the web, making it a fully searchable database, easily available to all.

- Accessing biographical information regarding North Dakotans has just become easier with the release of the North Dakota Biography Index (NDBI) database by the Institute for Regional Studies at the North Dakota State University Libraries. Searching the database will enable users to quickly determine which publication to consult for biographical information. More than 138,000 biographical sketches from some 540 publications are indexed. The site can be found at <http://dp3.lib.ndsu.nodak.edu/ndbi/>

- "Schmeckfest: Food Traditions of the Germans from Russia" is a 60-minute video documentary produced by Prairie Public Broadcasting, Inc. & NDSU Libraries, Fargo, ND, ©2000, funding by North Dakota Humanities Council, NDSU Libraries, and the Members of Prairie Public Broadcasting. For more information, or

to purchase a copy of the video, point your browser to <http://www.prairiepublic.org/features/schmeckfest/index.htm> or call Prairie Public Broadcasting at 1-800-359-6900."



nevada

- Thanks to the 1999 Legislature, the Commission on Educational Technology was awarded \$500,000 to continue the provision of educational databases to public libraries and schools in the state of Nevada beginning March 1, 2000. In addition to being available in public libraries and school classrooms, the databases will be available to all Nevada residents with Internet access from their homes and businesses once the logon procedures are finalized.

Provided by EBSCO Publishing: *MasterFILE Select, MAS Ultra - Public Library Edition, Middle*

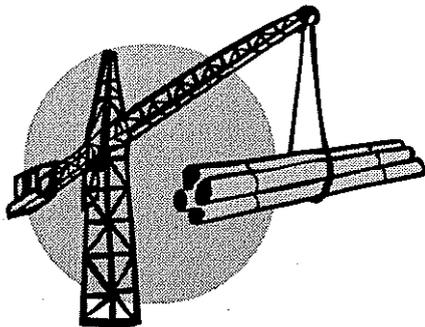
(Continued from page 11)

Search Plus, Primary Search Online, TOPICsearch, Professional Development Collection, and Newspaper Source.

Provided by SIRS: *SIRS Researcher*, *SIRS Government Reporter*, *SIRS Renaissance*, and *SIRS Discoverer*.

- The Washoe County Library System has received a three-year, \$371,000 grant as part of the DeWitt Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund's "Public Libraries as Partners in Youth Development" initiative. The Fund has launched this \$5.4 million initiative to bolster programs for youth in public libraries nationwide. The mission of the DeWitt Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund is to foster fundamental improvement in the quality of educational and career development opportunities for all school-age youth, and to increase access to these improved services for young people in low-income communities.

- Currently under construction at the University of Nevada Reno is an \$11 million addition to the Nevada School of Medicine. The Pennington Library will provide a state-of-the-art medical resource library for students, faculty, medical researchers, and the public. Also, administrators have just completed a feasibility study for a new main library, east of the university's main parking



structure in the heart of campus. That undertaking likely would cost more than \$60 million. University President Joseph Crowley said the library plan will be highlighted in the next round of legislative budget proposals. If private money comes along, the new library could be a reality by 2005.

- The University of Nevada, Las Vegas broke ground in 1998 for the \$51 million state-of-the-art Lied Library. The most expensive public works building project in state history, the Lied Library is nearing completion. Described as the most technologically advanced library in the country, one of the central components of this facility will be the \$1.5 million Automated Storage and Retrieval System (ASRS). This robotic system will

allow the library to store up to ten times more material in its stacks than is possible with conventional shelving.

- Nevada is a participant in a five-state American Indian LSTA Library Leadership Project. American Indians in twenty-six tribal communities are coming into the information age through a program designed to enhance community libraries, archives and museums. Tribal representatives from Reno-Sparks, Pyramid Lake, Fallon, Elko, Ely, Walker River, Las Vegas, Washoe Nation, and Yerington are developing activities in consultation with statewide organizations including the Nevada State Library and Archives, the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada (ITCN), the Nevada State Office of Indian Education and the Nevada Indian Environmental Coalition. On January 26-27, 2000, the Nevada State Library and Archives hosted a two-day convocation at the Atlantis Hotel and Casino in Reno to articulate program priorities, identify funding mechanisms, and develop plans for tribal information centers. Tribal participants received direct technical assistance for developing plans and drafting applications to participate in various state and federal funding programs.

montana

- Four Montana Libraries will be sponsoring the PBS Videoconferences in April for librarians and educators free of charge. The videoconferences are: "How to Customize an Online Course" and "Developing Web-Based Courses on a Shoestring."

- The Great Falls Public Library hosted this year's Offline Retreat in February. The retreat had workshops and speakers on Web cataloguing, library automation standards, PC security, critical Web page evaluation, and a demonstration of the Full-Text Source Finder at MSU-Bozeman (<http://collect.lib.montana.edu/periodicals>).

- A number of academic libraries in the Montana University System implemented Staff Development Institute Sessions (MUSDDI) during April. These training sessions for librarians and staff concentrated on reference issues--Introduction to Reference for Paraprofessionals, Business Reference, and Montana Reference Resources. The workshops were presented by librarians from MSU-Billings and MSU-Bozeman. The concept

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REFORMA to Sponsor First Library School Excellence Award

REFORMA, the National Association to Promote Library Services to Latinos and the Spanish-Speaking, has announced it is sponsoring an award competition to honor a library school for commitment to library services to Latinos in the United States. The Library School Excellence Award will be presented at the REFORMA National Conference (RNCII), August 3-6, in Tucson, Ariz.

The growing U.S. Hispanic population is in need of library services that take into account cultural and linguistic needs, as well as the growing "digital divide" between those who have and those who do not have access to the Internet. The REFORMA Library School Excellence Award seeks to recognize and encourage the vision of those library schools that have already recognized these needs and are incorporating solutions into their curriculum, their recruitment practices and their hiring goals.



Library schools or programs accredited by the American Library Association (ALA) are eligible. Nominations will be judged by how well excellence is demonstrated as they relate to Hispanic Americans and the Spanish-speaking in the following areas: recruitment of students, faculty and staff; enrollment and retention of students; hiring of faculty and staff; retention of

faculty and staff; curriculum; scholarships; and mentoring.

Upon hearing of the award, Satia Orange, director of the ALA Office for Literacy and Outreach Services, applauded REFORMA's effort as a visible encouragement to the outreach curricula of ALA-accredited library schools. She also expressed excitement about the possibility of a similar recognition in the future that would be sponsored by all the ethnic caucuses in ALA.

The award winner will be announced July 7, 2000. The formal presentation will be made during the REFORMA conference award night dinner on Friday, August 4.

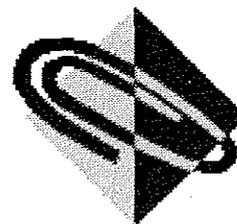
For more information on the award, call Lillian Castillo-Speed, Award Committee Chair, at 510-642-3947 or send e-mail to csl@library.berkeley.edu. See the RNCII Web site for additional information.

REFORMA is an affiliate of the ALA.

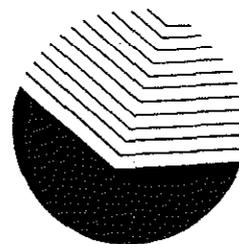


MPLA Board Meetings

MPLA Executive Board Meetings are held in Denver. The next meeting is scheduled for Summer, 2000. Exact date TBA.



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or via the listserv:
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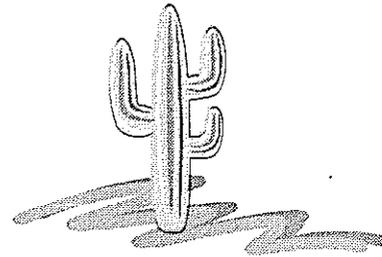
behind these sessions was that expertise existed within our academic librarians, and this expertise could be shared with others. Hopefully, next year additional libraries will take part as participants or as trainers.

- Montana libraries are planning for the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Observance. MLA is considering the best method to take advantage of this event in Montana. Montana Libraries are represented on the statewide Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission by an MLA Board member. Several ways to promote libraries have been suggested including coloring/reading books and/or a Montana Library passport. The passport would be provided to libraries and tourism offices. The passport would have a welcome from Montana libraries, histories, and the mission of MLA. Patrons could then get their passport stamped at libraries across the state. Libraries could use their library stamp or a special stamp for the event.

- The first Montana State Library Summer Institute (coordinated by the State Library) will be held on the MSU-Billings Campus, June 4-9, 2000. Funded with LSTA grant funds, the weeklong Institute is intended for directors of smaller public libraries, managers of branch libraries, and any directors new to the Montana library community. The Institute will assist public library administrators by enhancing their administrative skills, by developing their leadership abilities, and by providing opportunities for networking, teambuilding, and informal discussions with others attending the Institute. The only cost to participants is transportation.

arizona

- A delegation from the Archivo General del Estado de Sonora (AGES) spent a week at the Arizona Department of Library, Archives and Public Records learning about AZ archival and preservation work. The Arizona State Museum leads the project, under the direction of Dr. Tracy Duvall. Other participants with AGES are the University of Arizona Library, the Tucson-Pima Public Library, and the Arizona Department of Library, Archives and Public Records. Making Sonoran resources available to researchers will lead to greater awareness of the rich cross-border relationship Arizona has with her sister state to the south.



- A conference entitled "Tribal Libraries, Archives and Museums: Preserving Our Language, Memory and Lifeways" will be held at the Heard Museum in Phoenix, June 7—9, 2000. The conference is funded by a National Leadership Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and will focus on tribal cultural institutions from the states of Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah. The goals of the conference are to create a regional network of support for tribal cultural institutions and programs; to articulate contemporary issues relating to the development of tribal libraries, archives, and museums; and to initiate collaboration among tribal cultural institutions and non-tribal resources.

- Arizona Library Association Legislative Day was January 25, 2000, with a wide representation of librarians from all parts of the state. Librarians heard from Kevin DeMena, lobbyist, about the mechanics of lobbying, and Mike Braun spoke about the operations of the legislature. Librarians spent the rest of the day visiting members. Several pieces of legislation of interest to AZ libraries are still in process, including a significant increase in state grants-in-aid.

south dakota

- The State Library has arranged for Pat Wagner of Pattern Research to provide Board of Trustee training workshops this spring in three locations — Pierre, Rapid City, and Sioux Falls. The intended audience is current and potential trustees, library friends groups, librarians, and anyone else concerned with organizations.

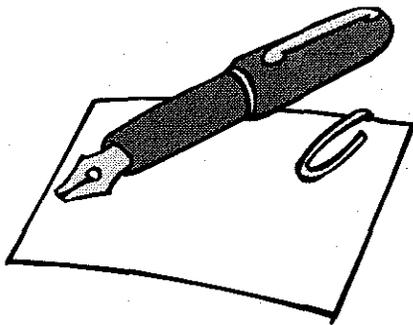
- On March 7, Governor Janklow signed HB 1257, "an act to enhance learning in public schools, establish an Office of Education Technology, study the public education workforce, and increase the voting requirement

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for school district referenda." Section 2 of this bill establishes an Advances Reading Enhancement Program for grades one and two. Section 5 directs the Board of Education to examine programs that prepare and certify school personnel. The review is to identify ways to streamline "alternative certification processes" whereby persons holding a bachelor's degree can be certified to teach in K-12. The effect of this bill is being monitored by the South Dakota Library Association because South Dakota currently does not require schools to have certified librarians.

- The South Dakota Library Network recently negotiated a contract for web access to BooksinPrint.com for its membership. The web version includes features such as full-text book reviews, author biographical information, award winners, and bestsellers.
- The first meeting to discuss the goals of a two-year statewide archival resources planning project will take place in April in Pierre. Specific plans are to develop a detailed long-range plan for preservation of historical records in the state and to conduct a statewide survey of historical records.



utah

- The year 2000 has not been good to libraries in higher education in Utah. A \$1 million budget expenditure was proposed but not approved, and as a result, the libraries of Utah's public colleges and universities are facing cuts in materials and services. In contrast, public education for K-12 schools was highly funded this year.

In past years, the legislature has provided funds to improve library holdings and keep pace with rising journal costs. This year, the legislature considered those funds as "one-time funding," and thus did not allocate any monies to the libraries.

- House Bill 157 was passed. The bill states "no state funds shall be provided to any public library that offers Internet or an online service to the public unless the library has adopted and enforces a policy to restrict access by minors to Internet or online sites that contain obscene material." Throughout the debate on the bill, State Library Director Amy Owen, her staff, and the Utah Library Association Legislative Committee promoted the fact that locally appointed library boards are empowered to make policies about such matters, and that they have approached Internet issues in an informed, open, and thoughtful way. The provisions of HB 157 do not take effect until 2001.



Reference Services for Genealogists: A Mini-Course for Librarians

RUSA Preconference Program 2000
Friday, July 7, 8:30 a.m. — 4:30 p.m.
Chicago, Illinois

Genealogy is growing in popularity, and your library is the first resource turned to by new enthusiasts. Be ready for their questions. Know the sources within and beyond your collection. Learn effective strategies so that you can instruct your patrons in family history searches. After completing the course, you will be able to conduct an effective genealogical reference interview; assist patrons in the use of over 200 library tools primarily concerned with U. S. genealogical research; teach patrons how to do genealogical research; refer patrons to additional research centers and Internet resources; locate and obtain research materials on interlibrary loan; suggest basic research principles and research strategies; identify organizations; organize correspondence; identify genealogical reference materials that should be held in small, medium, and large library collections.

Instructor: Tom Kemp, Chair, ALA Genealogy Committee (RUSA/HS), author of *The Genealogist's Virtual Library: Full-text Books on the World Wide Web* (Wilmington, DE: Scholarly Resources, 2000; Book & CD-ROM).

Cost and Registration: RUSA members, \$100; ALA members, \$145; Nonmembers, \$245; Students, \$60. Use the registration form in the February issue of *American Libraries* or call 1-800-545-2433, ext. 4898.

Registration Deadline: June 7, 2000. There is a \$25 processing fee for refunds; no refunds or cancellations after June 7; refunds processed after July 28.



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It is important to indicate section preferences if you would like to vote for section officers!

- I am interested in serving on the following committee(s): Awards Finance Bylaws & Procedures Continuing Education
 Electronic Communications Intellectual Freedom Professional Development Public Relations/Membership

Mail to: Joe Edelen, MPLA Executive Secretary
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 414 East Clark Street, Vermillion, SD 57069-2390

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