

MPLA Newsletter

A Publication of the Mountain Plains Library Association

October 2000

Volume 45, Number 2

MPLA Presents Awards at Omaha Conference

The Mountain Plains Library Association presented 6 awards at its joint meeting with the Nebraska Library Association and the Nebraska Educational Media Association. The awards will be presented by Marilyn Hinshaw, president of MPLA at the awards banquet at Omaha's Holiday Inn Central on Oct. 26, 2000.

Literary Contribution Award

To David Dary for his books on the history of the mountain plains region. His most noted work is *Cowboy Culture: A Saga of Five Centuries* which has won several prizes for western nonfiction literature. Mr. Dary is a native of Manhattan, Kansas, and has served as a professor of journalism at both the University of Kansas and the University of Oklahoma. He lives in Oklahoma. His latest work is *Santa Fe Trail: Its History, Legends and Lore* (Knopf) has just been released.

The award was accepted on behalf of Mr. Dary by Marilyn Hinshaw (l) and Jean Hatfield (r).



Carl Gaumer Exhibitor's Award

To Patricia Wagner of Pattern Research for her ongoing support of the Mountain Plains Library Association and the libraries in the region. She has made many appearances at MPLA conferences as a program presenter and has supported the newsletter through advertising. She has also served as a consultant to libraries throughout the region by providing assistance with staff and board development.

Marilyn Hinshaw (l) and Pat Wagner (r).

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

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SUBMISSIONS

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

10 January	10 July
10 March	10 September
10 May	10 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:

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... Around the MPLA Region

MONTANA

Bozeman High School's administrative staff, school board, and English teachers won the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Support for the Learning and Teaching of English (SLATE) Affiliate Intellectual Freedom Award.

The Montana Association of Teachers of English Language Arts (MATELA) nominated Bozeman High School's administrative staff, school board, and English teachers for their efforts to fight censorship. They have fought a yearlong challenge to restrict the reading of *Fools Crow*, a book by Montana author James Welch. Throughout this process, Bozeman High School employees have been guided by their respect for the right of both students and parents to read this Native American novel that won the Los Angeles Times Book Award and the Pacific Northwest Booksellers Award.

Bozeman High School was honored on November 19, 2000, along with five other affiliate winners at the NCTE's annual convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

NEW MEXICO

The New Mexico Library Association recently raised the grant amount of the Marion Dorroh Memorial Scholarship from \$1500 to \$2500. The scholarship, given in memory of the 1953-54 NMLA president and Kirkland Air Force Base librarian, Marion Dorroh, is for study toward an advanced degree at an ALA-accredited library school. The deadline for applications is February 1, 2001.

The 2001 NMLA Conference theme will be "Library Odyssey 2001" and will have an emphasis on the human side., Martha M. Smith, Assistant Professor at the Palmer School of Library and Information Science, Long Island University, New York, will give

the keynote address on the topic of information ethics,

UTAH

The Utah Library Association held a fall workshop on October 27 in Richfield. A variety of topics were offered, including: House Bill 157 about the Internet, new books for children and young adults, remote reference sources, proper hiring practices, basic cataloging, and digitization.

NORTH DAKOTA

North Dakota State Library's 2001-2003 budget recommendation from the Governor did not include funding for the statewide Gale and Bell & Howell databases or the extra \$1,000,000 for the State Aid to Public Libraries. The house appropriations hearing for the State Library will be January 11.

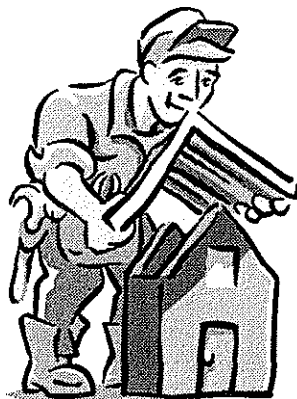
WYOMING

The Bums Branch Library officially opened the doors of its new building in November sporting a café, an expanded poetry section and a much larger collection.

The new library now shares a home with Wyoming Bank and Trust, moving into the bank's old, unused offices. Nearly 100 volunteers helped with the Laramie County Public Library's branch construction.

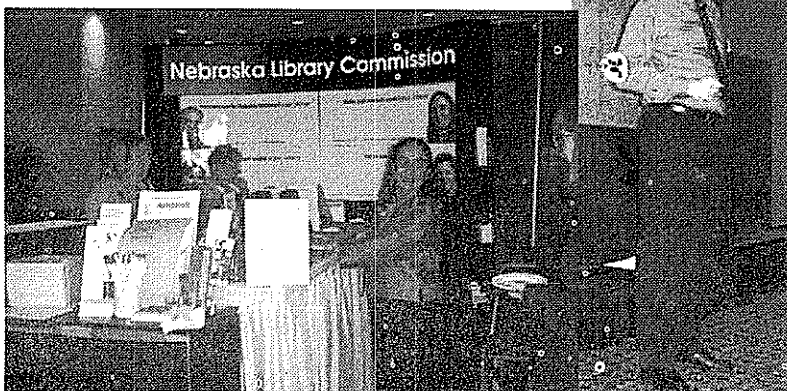
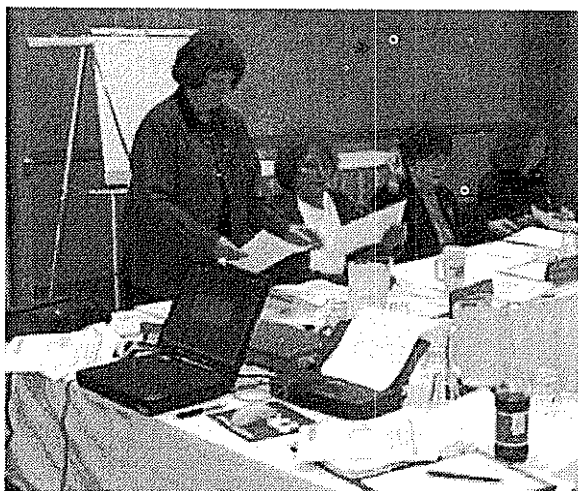
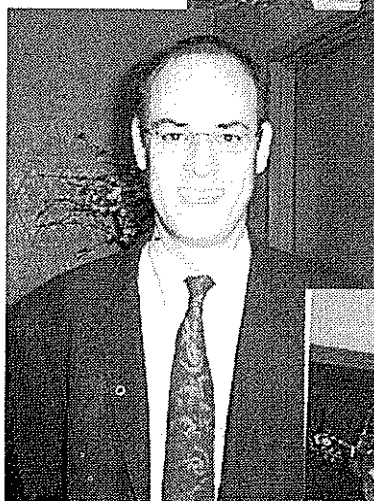
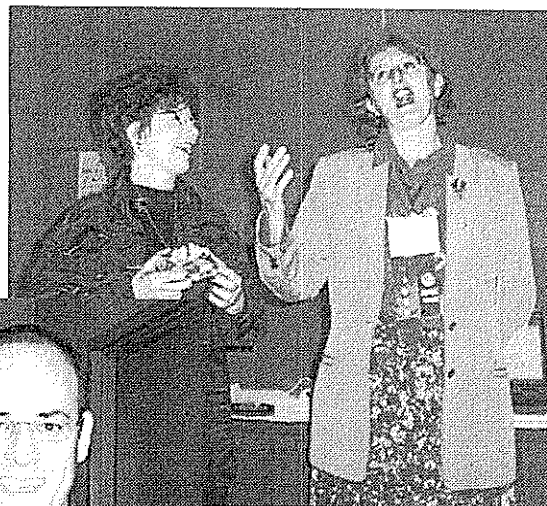
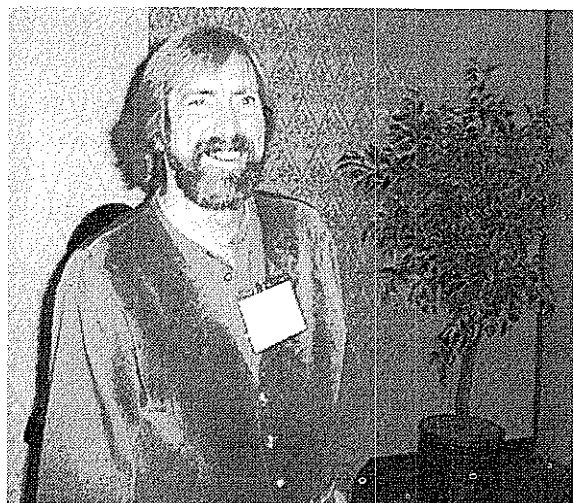
"This is an example of people working together, pulling together, to make a dream come true," Jack Knudson, Laramie County Commission chair, said at the ceremony.

Dennis Wallace, Wyoming Bank and Trust manager, donated the building space. Because the donated portion of the building consisted of many small offices, construction was needed to make one large open space.



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Conference Photos



Pictures, clockwise, from top right: Marilyn Hinshaw, MPLA Past President, hands over the gavel to Linda Rea, MPLA incoming President; David Shenk delivered a keynote presentation entitled "Data Smog"; Tim Duggan and Kevin Doyle of *Duggan and Doyle* perform at the opening reception at the Joslyn Museum; storyteller Jym Kruse entertains the attendees at the Awards Banquet; the Nebraska Library Commission sponsored an always-busy Internet booth for conference-goers; Donna Jones Morris discussed the MPLA Membership Survey results with the Executive Board; Steve Coffman, product development manager for LSSI, delivered the first keynote address, entitled "Clicks and Mortar: Building the Internet Lib&y". More pictures can be found on the MPLA website at www.usd.edu/mpla.



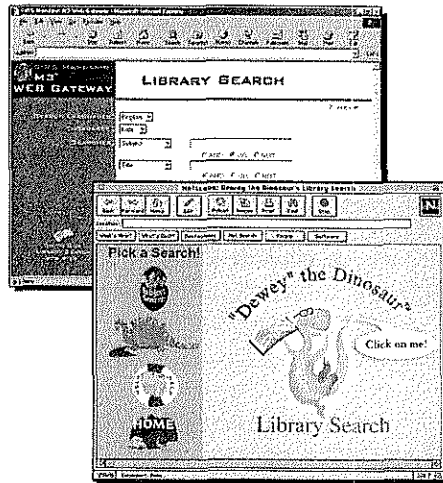
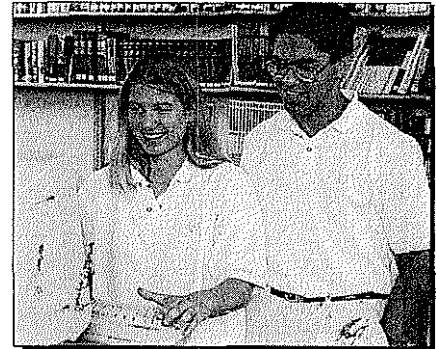
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News Media Support Award



To KSAS Fox Kansas (Channel 24) for its support of the Wichita Public Library's Summer Reading Program. The station has produced public service announcements and provided free airtime to promote the summer reading program for the past two years as well as provided underwriting for the kick-off party. It has demonstrated an ongoing commitment to literacy and to the library.

The award was accepted on behalf of KSAS Fox Kansas by Cynthia Berner Harris (center). Also pictured are Jean Hatfield(r) and Marilyn Hinshaw (l)

Beginning Professional Award

To Barbara Stransky, Library Services Coordinator of the Northeast Kansas Library System for her service to libraries in northeast Kansas and her assistance in beginning new programs and initiatives. Mrs.

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mph 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:

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**Seminars Institutes Workshops Coursework
Conferences Research Projects Independent Learning**

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Stransky received her MLS from Emporia State University in 1998. Prior to that she was the director of the Bonner Springs (KS) Public Library. She has recently been accepted into the doctoral program at ESU School of Librarianship and Information Management.

Pictured are Marilyn Hinshaw (l) and Barbara Stransky (r).



Legislative Leadership Award

To State Sen. Gigi Dennis and State Rep. Doug Dean of the Colorado General Assembly for their leadership in the passage of a bill which provides funding of \$2 million for all publicly funded libraries in the state of Colorado, based on the size of the population they serve. This state-wide funding of public libraries in Colorado was passed through the efforts of Dennis and Dean. They received the Colorado Library Association's Legislative Award in 1999.

Pictured with Donna Jones Morris (l) and Marilyn Hinshaw.

Distinguished Service Award

To Richard J. Rademacher, recently retired director of the Wichita Public Library. Mr. Rademacher was director of the Wichita Public Library since 1976 during which time he expanded the library's facilities using innovative partnerships, including the first library in the nation to be housed inside a grocery store. He supervised the expansion and remodeling of the Central Library and expanded hours and services throughout the branches. He initiated the development of WPL's very successful Foundation which has enabled the Library to receive many grants and to improve both collections and technology. He has served as the president of the Kansas Library Association and the Utah Library Association and as the Public Libraries Section Chair of MPLA as well as serving on other national, state and local committees throughout his career.



Richard Rademacher (l) and Marilyn Hinshaw (r).



(Continued from page 3)

Enter 16-year-old David Mikesell, a Boy Scout looking to earn the rank of Eagle Scout. In addition to providing 300 hours of volunteer time, he also saved the taxpayers and library \$10,000. Mikesell found 30 other volunteers to complete some needed work. For nine hours on a Saturday, they cleared away the office walls and salvaged windows and doors for an auction.

In addition to the café, the library also has a new meeting room with seating for 12, a TV and a VCR. The children's area is in a sunny area of the building and has soft carpeting and pillows. The new branch also offers Internet connection and the WYLD system.

At the opening of the new building, patron Lela Youtz, 100, was given the first card for the new branch. Her late husband, Fletcher, received the first card issued in Bums more than 50 years ago.

Already, \$40,000 has been raised for the new project; however, \$200,000 more is still needed for the project and donations are being accepted.

Niobrara County Library recently received matching funds from numerous donors for an anonymous gift of \$5,000.

Natrona County Library has expanded its number of Internet machines from two to three following a \$3,270 grant from the Dain Rauscher Adviser Fund of the Wyoming Community Foundation.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Congratulations to the Hazel L. Meyer Memorial Library in De Smet for ranking 1st in the nation of public libraries serving populations of 1,000 to 2,499 according to the HAPLR Ratings, 2000. For more information on this, check out American Libraries November 2000 pp 50-54 or the Hennen's American Public Library Rating home page at <http://haplr-index.com/>.

KANSAS

"Educate a librarian and you will educate us all." Under the banner of those words, the Kansas Library Association has

created a non-profit foundation whose goal is to fund educational and professional opportunities to Kansas librarians.

The KLA Educational Foundation was born this summer. Among its first board of directors are Ron Allen, member of the Hutchinson Public Library Friends; Brice Hobrock, Dean of Kansas State University Libraries; Duane Johnson, State Librarian; Pam McElvain, library trustee in Dodge City; and Nancy Soldner, past-president of KLA.

Most foundations have categories of donors from the general to the exalted. The KLA Educational Foundation has set up a schema that parallels the Dewey Decimal System. A sampling: General Givers are at the \$000.\$099 level, Language Lovers in the \$400 range, Creative Funders in the \$700s, and Historic Library Leaders in the \$900s. Options for giving include cash, wills, property, life insurance, stocks/securities, and other charitable giving mechanisms.

In turn, the KLA Educational Foundation will provide funds for the education and professional development of qualifying members of the Kansas Library Association, such as continuing education for college credit and training in specialized fields and emerging areas in library science. For more information contact the KLA Executive Secretary's office at 1-800-234-0529.

NEVADA

The Nevada Library Association is sponsoring a Co-op Summer Reading Program 2001 Training Workshop in Tonopah on March 2-3, 2001. "ARE WE THERE YET?" is the question that will be posed by a puppet show to be presented at the workshop. Chris, Darla and Danita Bayer will present the puppet show and preview a CD of the same title for next summer's library reading program on the theme of "Reading Road Trip USA."

Chris and Darla Bayer have performed original songs and puppet shows across northern Nevada for the last ten years. Last year's summer reading theme, "READiscover Nevada", saw them presenting their play "Why Does the Coyote Yodel?" For those of you who missed that show, the answer is that he was "looking for the perfect echo." Their website of music, living history and books can be found at nevada-music.com.

This year's show and songs will again em-



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phasize audience participation. The lyrics and chords of the songs will be included on the CD in a text file. Librarians will find it easy to include music as part of the summer reading program.

Nevada will participate in the fourth round of grant applicants of the Bill and Melinda Gates Library Initiative. The purpose of the \$200 million-grant program is to increase public access to computers and the Internet. Nevada was invited to participate in this round, with IS other states.

These states were selected as the final candidates for grants due to their poverty levels, as determined by the 1990 U. S. Census. Each state will be evaluated for technological readiness, commitment to sustainability over time and commitment to establishing programs for reaching people who do not otherwise have access to computers and the Internet. Implementation is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2002.

Through State Partnership Grants, the Foundation provides grants to all eligible public library buildings serving communities with a poverty level of 10% or higher, using methods determined by the Gates Foundation. Grant funds will purchase computers, networking equipment and telecommunications services for Internet access. The grants also provide training and technical support to selected library staff in network administration, computer and Internet applications, computer systems management, and train-the-trainer models for applications in on-going staff and patron training classes.

The Foundation requires that states participating in the Partnership program develop a coalition of library staff, trustees, and community people to serve as advocates; support the effort, serve as advisors to libraries and prepare for sustainability of the program after the three years of Gates funding. The focus of this Coalition will be to assist the State Library during the two to three year program.

ARIZONA

J.K. Rowling, author of the Harry Potter series, was unable to attend the Arizona Library Association 2000 Conference to accept the award for Middle School/Young Adult Book. However, she sent a letter to Arizona students thanking them for the honor and this letter was read at the awards luncheon. See the Rowling letter at: <http://www.azla.org/slmd/rowling.html>.

COLORADO

"Poets Way," a walkway at the Boulder Public Library's south entryway was unveiled recently. The first four of fifty sandstones engraved with the words of some of the world's great poets was dedicated on October 11, 2000, followed by special events including video screening, poetry reading, dance, and music.



The sandstone is engraved via a process of photo-stenciled precision sandblasting by Great Pane Glass Works, Inc.

OKLAHOMA

The Oklahoma Center for the Book has announced that Joyce Carol Thomas will be the recipient of the Arrell Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award for 2001. The Oklahoma Center for the Book and its partners (the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, the Oklahoma Center for Poets and Writers, and the Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma) are encouraging readers to discover (or rediscover) Thomas and her books. The campaign is called "All Oklahoma Reads Joyce Carol Thomas."

Joyce Carol Thomas was born and raised in Ponca City, OK. When she was ten years of age the family moved to California, but she never forgot her Oklahoma background and many of her works have issues involving Oklahoma. She is known for her poetry, play writing, and novels-especially for children or young adults. She received the National Book Award for her first novel, *Marked by Fire*. Her first illustrated book, *Brown Honey in Broomwheat Tea* won a

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UPCOMING EVENTS

2001

- January 17 — 21: ALA Midwinter Meeting, Washington, D.C.
- February 21 — 25: Music Library Association, New York, NY
- February 23 — 24: Montana Library Association "OFFLINE 2001", Helena
- March 1- 3: PLA Spring Symposium, Palmer House Hilton Hotel, Chicago.
- March 15 — 18: ACRL National Conference, Denver.
- April 1 — 7: National Library-Week
- April 4 — 6: Kansas Library Association, Topeka
- April 18 — 20: New Mexico Library Association, Albuquerque
- April 18 — 21: Oklahoma Library Association, Oklahoma City
- April 25 — 28: Montana Library Association, Kalispell, "Library Magic-We Have the Wand!"
- May 2 — 4: Utah Library Association, Salt Lake City, "Preservation: Framing the Future"
- May 25 — 31: Medical Library Association, Orlando, FL
- June 14 — 20: ALA Annual Conference, San Francisco. "Libraries: Cornerstone of Democracy"
- August 8 — 11: Pacific Northwest Library Association, Corvallis, OR
- September 27 — 29: North Dakota Library Association, Williston
- October 3 — 5: South Dakota Library Association, Aberdeen
- October 4 — 7: Nevada Library Association, Las Vegas

Future MPLA Conferences

- 2001 — Arizona Library Association, Phoenix, December 5-7.
- 2002 — North Dakota & South Dakota Library Associations, Fargo, ND, Oct. 2-5.
- 2003 — Nevada Library Association, Lake Tahoe.
- 2004 — Colorado Library Association, Snow Mass.
- 2005 — Wyoming Library Association, TBA.
- 2007 — New Mexico Library Association, TBA.

- October 11 — 14: LITA National Forum, Milwaukee, WI
- October 16 — 19: ACRL, Washington, DC
- October 17 — 19: Nebraska Library Association, Kearney
- November 4 — 8: American Society for Information Science, Washington, DC
- December 5 -7: Mountain Plains Library Association/Arizona Library Association Joint Conference.

2002

- January 18 — 23: ALA Midwinter Meeting, New Orleans, LA



The MPLA Manual is online!
<http://www.usd.edu/mpla/>

Draft of MPLA Long Range Plan 2000-2004

— Donna Jones Morris and the
MPLA Executive Committee



Vision Statement

MPLA members and the greater library community will receive opportunities for education, networking, communication, leadership and advocacy resulting in the development and enhancement of library and information services.

Mission Statement

MPLA promotes the development of librarians and libraries by providing significant educational and networking opportunities.

Goals, Objectives, Activities

I. MPLA will address the continuing education needs of members, in cooperation with state library associations.

- Objective A. The MPLA Continuing Education Committee will determine continuing education needs of library personnel in member states.
- Activity 1. The Continuing Education Committee will develop a survey to distribute to all library personnel **and/or** incorporate member states' available information (by December 31, 2001).
- Activity 2. The Continuing Education Committee will analyze survey results (by the 2001 Annual Conference).
- Activity 3. A plan of action will be developed based on results (by June 30, 2002).
- Objective B. MPLA in cooperation with one or more states will plan and conduct **an annual** conference, within the guidelines of the MPLA Manual of Procedure.
- Objective C. The MPLA President will appoint a long-term committee to plan, organize, and conduct a Leadership Training Institute (to be initiated by December 31, 2004).

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II. MPLA will establish and maintain a liaison with library educational programs in its member states.

Objective A. MPLA State Representatives or designees will maintain regular communications with each of the library education programs within their states for the purpose of learning about professional growth opportunities relevant to MPLA members.

Activity 1. Reports summarizing the correspondence and activities between the educational program designee and the respective MPLA representatives or their designees will be included in the MPLA State Representative's report (at each of the MPLA Executive Board meetings).

Activity 2. Each State Representative will report to MPLA members about library education opportunities in their state (at least semi-annually).

Objective B. MPLA members will be informed of scholarships and other funding opportunities for library education programs.

Activity 1. The Professional Development Grants Committee will develop a clearinghouse for scholarships available from sources other than MPLA such as educational institutions, professional organizations, and others (by December 31, 2003).

Activity 2. The Professional Development Committee will explore the opportunity to offer grants to attend MPLA Conferences to students attending library education programs in accredited institutions (by December 31, 2003).

Activity 3. A new scholarship committee will be appointed by the President to establish an MPLA scholarship fund specifically to fund students seeking a library degree (by December 31, 2003).

Activity 4. MPLA will explore offering annual scholarships at each of the MPLA region library schools to MPLA members (by December 31, 2004).

Objective C. The MPLA President will designate one existing board member to be the Distance Education Information Coordinator (by December 31, 2000).

Activity 1. The President's designee will gather the information provided by the State Representatives. This digest of information will be published on the website, and forwarded on the MPLA online list (by December 31; 2003).

Activity 2. The Distance Learning Information Coordinator will contact the state library associations, education associations and library schools in the MPLA states to identify any other online lists that have specific objectives to promote distance education. The method and addresses to subscribe to the identified Distance Learning or Continuing Education online lists will be published on the MPLA website (by December 31, 2004).

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Activity 3. MPLA's interest in utilizing conferencing technologies to promote distance learning will be conveyed to the members of these online lists (by December 31, 2004).

Objective D. MPLA will take a leadership role in exploring library educational opportunities.

Activity 1. The Distance Education Coordinator will track library school educational programs and create a database of information available on the website, including links to appropriate sites. Included will be details that would be of interest to both prospective and continuing students (by December 31, 2003).

Activity 2. The Distance Education Coordinator will encourage the development of educational opportunities at library schools that would meet the needs of the disparate and geographically dispersed potential student population of MPLA member states (by December 31, 2003).

Activity 3. The Distance Education Coordinator will cooperate in offering or sponsoring classes that earn continuing education credits (by December 31, 2004).

Activity 4. The MPLA Continuing Education Committee will identify and highlight all existing library education-training program specialties & thin each of the 12 states for MPLA program planner use, (by December 31, 2001).

III. MPLA will take a leadership role in the library community.

Objective A. The MPLA Intellectual Freedom Committee will promote and maintain access to intellectual freedom information.

Activity 1. Information about freedom of information/censorship activities in the MPLA region will be highlighted and disseminated. MPLA will also maintain a link to the ALA site on the MPLA website and by the MPLA Intellectual Freedom Committee providing content and links from the MPLA states to the MPLA webmaster (by January 1, 2001).

Activity 2. State Representatives will report at every Executive Board meeting about freedom of information activities in their states, which may be of interest to all members. State Representatives will share with their state boards and associations unique activities of other MPLA member states.

Activity 3. The Intellectual Freedom Committee will promote an intellectual freedom program at each joint conference.

Activity 4. The Intellectual Freedom Committee will develop and maintain a resource list of effective speakers on Intellectual Freedom issues on the MPLA website (by December 31, 2002).

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- Activity 5. The Intellectual Freedom Committee will use the MPLA online list to continuously inform the membership of current intellectual freedom issues (from 2000-2004).
- Objective B. MPLA will promote the role of libraries as important components in the lifelong learning and quality of life issues in the MPLA states.
- Activity 1. The Public Relations/Membership Committee will provide a quarterly news release on the MPLA website promoting library services as important activities in communities for use by local library personnel with local media (beginning November 1, 2000).
- Activity 2. At joint conferences the MPLA Conference Liaison and state organizations will contact appropriate media, community leaders, government officials, and others to promote the role of libraries as a vital community resource.
- Activity 3. State Representatives will report at every Executive Board meeting about recent library promotion activities in their states.
- Activity 4. The MPLA Newsletter editor will solicit stories about "best practices" in libraries serving their library communities (beginning January 1, 2001).
- Objective C. MPLA will recognize and promote leadership and excellence within the MPLA region through its awards (annually).
- Activity 1. The Awards Committee will actively, at least twice a year in each state, solicit award nominations and will ensure that the MPLA Board and general membership is reminded of the importance of honoring excellence in the region (each year).
- Activity 2. Announcement of the MPLA awards will be widely distributed to the national library media (annually).
- Activity 3. The Awards Committee will develop a significant revision of the Literary Contribution Award. (by December 31, 2002).

IV. MPLA will improve communication with its members and national and state associations.

- Objective A. An increased national visibility of MPLA started (October 25, 2000).
- Activity 1. The Public Relations Committee will regularly report, write, and send MPLA activities to national publications, including photographs (starting October 25, 2000).
- Activity 2. Photographs of MPLA activities will be posted on the MPLA website (by October 25, 2000).

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Objective B. MPLA will increase communication with state associations and MPLA members in each state.

Activity 1. MPLA State Representatives will develop, maintain, and use an electronic distribution list of all MPLA members in their states and this effort will continue with each new Executive Board (by December 31, 2000).

Activity 2. MPLA State Representatives will regularly contribute news items and articles about MPLA and its activities to their state association newsletters, online lists, and websites (by December 31, 2000).

Activity 3. MPLA State Representatives will contribute news items and articles about their states and their activities to the MPLA Newsletter (for each issue).

Objective C. MPLA Executive Board will improve communication with the membership.

Activity 1. The MPLA Secretary and the Executive Secretary will compile and the webmaster will post summaries of all State Representative reports from Executive Board meetings on the MPLA website (within ten working days of each meeting).

Activity 2. The MPLA Secretary and the Executive Secretary will compile and the webmaster will post all minutes from Executive Board meetings on the MPLA website (within ten working days of each meeting).

V. **MPLA will strengthen existing partnerships and initiate new partnerships.**

Objective A. MPLA will accomplish the following activities in order to strengthen the partnerships with each group.

Activity 1. The Public Relations/Membership Committee will identify at least six target libraries/organizations for institutional membership (by December 31, 2002).

Activity 2. State Representatives will give the MPLA Executive Board short reports of significant library issues in each state (at each Executive Board meeting).

Activity 3. The Continuing Education Committee will maintain strong connections with the state library associations within the MPLA region by offering and communicating the availability of the MPLA pre-conference grants or program grants to all state library associations (at least semi-annually).

Activity 4. The MPLA President and State Representative from the state hosting the next joint conference will issue an invitation to the person who will be President of the state association during the next joint conference year to attend MPLA.

Activity 5. State Representatives are responsible for reporting major MPLA actions and activities to their individual state associations (at least semi-annually).

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- Activity 6. The MPLA President or designee will investigate the cost and benefits of MPLA becoming an ALA member and make a recommendation to the MPLA Executive Board (before December 31, 2002).
- Activity 7. The State Representative or designee will make a membership presentation and distribute the MPLA brochure to at least 50% of students enrolled in the library education program(s) in their state and report activity to MPLA Board (at the annual conference):
- Activity 8. The Continuing Education Committee will maintain strong connections with multi-state organizations, such as AMIGOS and BCR to expand continuing education offerings within the MPLA member states by communicating with each multi-state organization (at least twice annually).
- Objective B. MPLA will utilize the existing resources and networks to strengthen its presence in the MPLA region.
- Activity 1. The MPLA Continuing Education Committee will work with the ALA Association for Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies to offer no less than one distance education activity in the MPLA states coordinated by the State Agencies, Cooperatives and Systems Sections as a test of potential cooperative efforts (before December 31, 2002).
- Activity 2. The Continuing Education Committee will investigate continuing education offerings available from ALA that could be presented in a location in one of the MPLA states and transmitted via video teleconferencing to multiple locations (by December 31, 2002).
- Activity 3. The MPLA President will revitalize the Chapter Relations Committee and work to organize a regional caucus, with MPLA members who are on ALA Council at ALA meetings, (by January 1, 2001).

VI. MPLA will utilize technology to bridge distances and provide a regional presence in continuing education, professional development, and training, as well as to offer unique networking opportunities.

- Objective A. The Continuing Education and Professional Development Grants Committees will identify at least three offerings per year of continuing education, professional development, and/or training via other conferencing technologies within the MPLA states (by December 31, 2001).
- Activity 1. The MPLA Continuing Education Committee and Professional Development Grants Committee will work together to identify speakers or presenters on topics discovered to be of interest (at least semi-annually).
- Activity 2. The webmaster will post information on the MPLA website about continuing

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education opportunities and solicit feedback (at least monthly)

Activity 3. The MPLA State Representatives will assist by sending information to their individual state association newsletters to advertise offerings (at least semi-annually).

Activity 4. Costs for distance education will be established for members and nonmembers (at least two months prior to the event).

Activity 5. The MPLA Continuing Education Committee will conduct an evaluation of each program (within three months of the event).

Objective B. MPLA will provide continuing education and professional development opportunities through its website that both deliver content and demonstrate new technologies. for use in libraries (by December 31, 2001).

Activity 1. The MPLA Continuing Education Committee in cooperation with the webmaster will sponsor moderated discussions on relevant topics on its website. Working through the Continuing Education Committee, experts will be identified who will post topics, present short papers, answer questions, respond to comments

(Continued on page 18,

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(Continued from page 17)

and suggest resources in an online format. At least five moderated discussions will be hosted annually (starting in 2001).

- Activity 2. The MPLA Electronic Communications Committee will explore technology opportunities for video conferencing and internet-based communication to bridge distances and provide communication as well as continuing education to participants throughout the plan. They will report their findings at least annually to the Executive Board.
- Objective C. MPLA will utilize its website as the primary tool for Information, communication, member services, and administration (by December 31, 2004).
- Activity 1. MPLA will continue providing its website (from 2000-2004).
- Activity 2. The MPLA Electronic Communications Committee will explore technology opportunities and report to the Executive Board (at least annually).
- Objective D. MPLA will maintain a high quality website that provides information to members and utilize technology to bridge distances and improve communication (by December 31, 2004).
- Activity 1. MPLA will include in the 2002 budget funds for a webmaster who will update, create and add new features, and maintain the website. The webmaster will be an ex-officio member of the MPLA Executive Board, as is the MPLA Newsletter editor, and the Executive Secretary. The webmaster will be an ex-officio member of the Electronic Communications Committee and the Continuing Education Committee.
- Activity 2. MPLA webmaster will continue to maintain the jobline on MPLA website, and continue to provide links to other library job sites especially those of MPLA member states.
- Activity 3. MPLA Executive Secretary and/or Executive Board will resolve privacy of information issues and the webmaster will post an electronic copy of the Membership Directory on the MPLA website (by December 31, 2002).
- Activity 4. MPLA webmaster will use electronic versions of documents (such as the handbook, minutes of board meetings, and directories). The Executive Secretary will generate limited paper publications, as needed for the MPLA archives and/or special needs populations (by December 31, 2004).
- Activity 5. The website will be the primary communication vehicle for members to share and obtain information (by December 31, 2004).
- Activity 6. MPLA State Representatives will assure that websites for member state associations include a link to the MPLA website (by December 31, 2000).

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- Activity 7. The webmaster will link information about member state and joint conferences from the MPLA website to conference pages (by December 31, 2001).
- Objective E. MPLA will explore ideas for conducting business electronically
- Activity 1. The Electronic Communications Committee will explore technology opportunities for an online board meeting using video conferencing or other Internet options. The Electronic Communications Committee will report its findings to the Executive Board (by April 30, 2002).
- Activity 2. The MPLA Executive Secretary and/or webmaster will provide online lists of section members and state members for section chairs, state representatives, and others as needed, (by December 30, 2001).
- Activity 3. The MPLA webmaster will investigate the feasibility of providing Web board technology for online threaded discussions and report to the Executive Board (by December 31, 2000).
- Activity 4. The MPLA Executive Secretary and/or webmaster will provide online and paper member registration, board reimbursement, and other forms (by June 30, 2001).
- Activity 5. The State Representative from the conference state will provide online and paper conference registration and program planning forms on the MPLA website (by March 31, 2001). The program planning forms will be available online (no later than six months before the conference date).
- Activity 6. The MPLA Newsletter Editor and Electronic Communications Committee will explore the possibilities of distributing the MPLA Newsletter both electronically and in paper and let members choose in which format they would prefer to receive the MPLA Newsletter and report to the Executive Board (by April 30, 2001). New Members Round Table and the Membership Committee in consultation with the Executive Board will explore issues of access to the electronic MPLA Newsletter for non-members as a recruiting tool and report to the Executive Board (by April 30, 2001).
- Activity 7. MPLA will support an electronic presence for the current MPLA Newsletter and a 1-year back file should be available on the website even if it is still distributed in paper (by December 31, 2001).
- Activity 8. Committees and task forces will have access to the online list for discussion and carrying out their assignments (by December 31, 2002).
- Objective F. The MPLA webmaster will propose an easy-to-find and easy-to remember domain name for the organization to submit to the Executive Board for approval, register it, and take steps to implement it for the MPLA website (by December 30, 2001).
- Objective G. MPLA will consider the cost of implementing technologies in planning its annual budget so that resources are available.

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VII. MPLA members will be informed about library political issues and be encouraged to participate in political activities.

Objective A. MPLA members will be informed about national and regional library issues.

- Activity 1. The MPLA President, or designee, will attend the Legislative sessions at the ALA annual conference and report to the Executive Board and to the membership (semi-annually).
- Activity 2. The MPLA President will request a liaison from the Western Council of State Libraries to report to the MPLA Executive Board on significant political issues (semi-annually).
- Activity 3. The MPLA webmaster, in cooperation with the State Representatives, will establish and maintain a website to act as a legislative clearinghouse that will list state legislative committee chairs or contacts and include a three-year list of library related legislative agendas that will be updated (annually).
- Activity 4. The MPLA President will be responsible for sharing significant political concerns via State Representatives and the MPLA President will share concerns with the entire MPLA membership via the MPLA online list and MPLA Newsletter (semi-annually).
- Activity 5. The Awards Committee will be responsible for identifying and recognizing excellence in legislative activities on library advocacy in the MPLA states by presenting an award(s) (at the annual conference).

Objective B. MPLA will increase representation from the MPLA region with national library professional groups by completing the following activities.

- Activity 1. State Representatives will submit a list of candidates from their states who are candidates for national library organization offices to the MPLA Executive Secretary (at least twelve weeks before each election).
- Activity 2. The Executive Secretary will compile data on MPLA region candidates for national library organization offices and share this information via electronic communication and, if possible, in print (within 10 working days of receipt of information).

VIII. MPLA will be administered efficiently and effectively.

- Objective A. The MPLA Executive Board will employ and evaluate an Executive Secretary (annually).
- Objective B. The MPLA Executive Board will employ and evaluate a webmaster (annually).

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- Activity 1. The Electronic Communications Committee will develop a job description for the webmaster (by December 30, 2001).
- Activity 2. The MPLA Executive Board will allocate funding in the MPLA Budget for the webmaster position.
- Objective C. The MPLA Executive Board will employ and evaluate the MPLA Newsletter Editor (annually).
- Objective D. The MPLA Executive Board will review and update MPLA's Long Range Plan (annually).
- Objective E. The Bylaws and Procedures Committee will revise and update the Manual of Procedure (annually).
- Objective F. The MPLA Vice-President or designee will revise and update the Conference Manual of Procedure following each annual conference (beginning at the conclusion of the 2000 conference).

Motion:

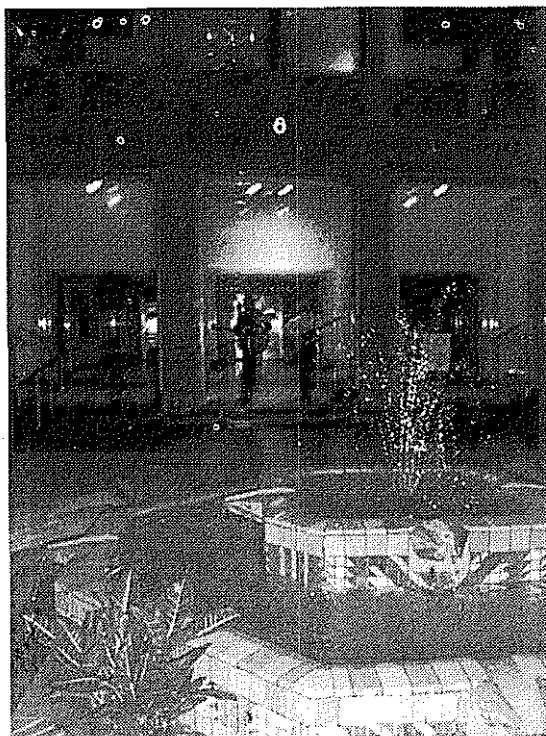
On behalf of the Mountain Plains Library Association Past Presidents Committee, I move adoption in principle of the Mountain Plains Library Association Long Range Plan, 2000-2004, October 27, 2000 Draft, with the provision that membership grant the MPLA Executive Board the privilege of revising and editing this living, changing, plan as necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Jones Morris
Past Presidents Committee Chair

NOTE: This motion was approved by the MPLA Membership at the Membership meeting at the MPLA/NLA/NEMA Conference in Omaha in October.

The Center Court at the Joslyn Museum during the Opening Reception of the MPLA/NLA/NEMA Conference.



EdLibs

— Heidi Nickisch Duggan

There was so much material for this issue that even with an expanded issue, it wouldn't all fit! Look for some exciting articles in the next issue:

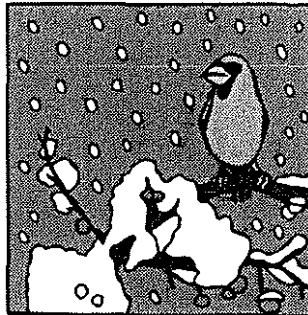
Board Choice Awards! What they are, who has received one, and why.

President's Letter from Linda Rea

New Members — MPLA is proud to have many new members; look for a special section in the next issue!

Long Range Plan update and Executive Board meeting news.

And more!



Long-time MPLA Member Named Wichita (KS) Public Library Director

The Wichita Public Library Board of Directors has named Cynthia Bemer Harris as the new Director of Libraries. Bemer Harris replaces longtime director Richard Rademacher who retired last spring.

"The Board was unanimous in its decision," said Board President Don Barry, "given Cyndi's ability and background, she is the best person to take the library forward."

The Library Board of Directors conducted a national search, recruiting a list of 10 applicants. That list was narrowed to four finalists who were questioned in extensive interviews by the Board.

Bemer Harris joined the Wichita Public Library in 1984. She has served as Acting Director since last June. Prior to that, she was Coordinator of Administrative Services, Coordinator of Extension Services and Westlink Branch Manager. Bemer Harris has also been involved with implementation of public access to the Internet, oversees staff development and training and is project director for two computer technology grants from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

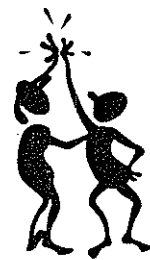
Berner Harris received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Kansas and a Masters of Library Science from the University of Denver.

Congratulations, Cynthia!

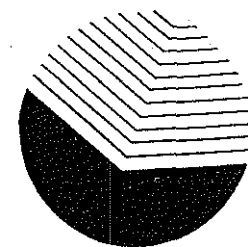


Thank You!

MPLA would like to publicly acknowledge the McGoogan Library of Medicine at the University of Nebraska Medical Center for their speedy Internet connections, courtesy, and the staff of the NNILM-MR for their cheerful assistance as Dan Chaney, MPLAs Webmaster, and Heidi Nickisch Duggan, MPLAs Newsletter Editor, implemented daily conference updates to the MPLA Web Site from Omaha.



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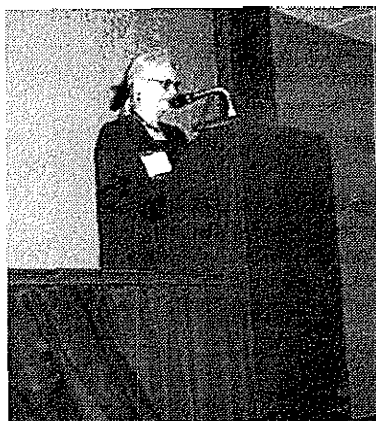
or via the listserv:
email joe edelen at
jedelen@usd.edu

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Coretta Scott King Award. She was a finalist for the 1996 Oklahoma Book Awards for *Gingerbread Days*, and the 1999 Oklahoma Book Awards for *I Have Heard of a Land*. Thomas is the poet laureate for the Oklahoma Center for Poets and Writers at Oklahoma State University-Tulsa.

NEBRASKA

The Nebraska Library Association awarded its Meritorious Service Award for 2000 to Margaret (Maggie) Harding. The award is given annually to a person, corporation or



organization which has contributed to the improvement of library service in a local community; a county, region or state agency; or in library legislation. The winner of the Mari Sandoz Award for 2000 was Ted Kooser. The Mari Sandoz Award recognizes significant, enduring contribution to the Nebraska book world

through writing, film production or related activity. The awards were presented at the Mountain Plains Library Association/Nebraska Library Association/Nebraska Educational Media Association Tri-Conference October 26 in Omaha.

Maggie Harding was honored for her professional dedication, advocacy, and exceptional record of achievement in Nebraska's library community as a librarian, mentor, leader, legislative liaison, and friend. Maggie, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln graduate, started her career as media specialist at Crete High School. Later she worked as interlibrary loan/cataloger at Doane College. From 19X0-1995, she directed the Crete Public Library. Later she served on the Crete Public Library Friends Board.

A past NLA president, she now serves the organization as executive director. Additionally, she is the coordinator of Libraries for the 21st Century, a member of the Southeast Library System Board, and the leader of the Nebraska Community-Library Advocacy Project. She is actively involved in the Nebraska Library Commission centennial project which has caused her to, "observe the progress of the library community and noting not only how much things have changed, but also how much remains the

same."

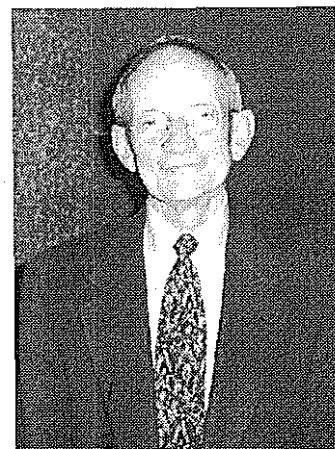
Maggie is a recipient of the NLA Mentor of the Year award and this year was named to the American Library Association National Library Honor Roll.

Ted Kooser will be recognized for enriching Nebraska's literary tradition through his leadership, vision, and creativity as a poet, a visual artist, an editor, and a publisher. His poetry has been collected in eight full-length volumes and nine special collections and has appeared in *Poetry*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *The Nation*, *The American Poetry Review*, *The Hudson Review*, *The Kenyon Review*, *Antioch Review*, and *Prairie Schooner*.

His poetic works have been anthologized in school texts, e.g., "Abandoned Farmhouse" and "Board House" in the Scott Foresman series for secondary students. Further, his poems have been featured on National Public Radio's "All Things Considered," and its "New Letters on the Air." He has been a featured poet on CBS's "Sunday Morning."

He has conducted writing workshops in connection with his poetry readings at The Academy of American Poets in New York City and for many university audiences including those of the University of California at Berkeley, Cornell at Ithaca, Case Western Reserve at Cleveland, The School of the Art Institute in Chicago, and Wesleyan University in Connecticut.

He is the recipient of the Society for Midlands Authors prize for the best book of poetry and twice received the Creative Writing Fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts (1976 and 1984). In 2000, he was named the recipient of the James Boatwright Award, Shenandoah and the Nebraska Arts Council Merit Award in Poetry.



A graduate of Iowa State University and the University of Nebraska, Ted has served as a Visiting Professor at UNL since 1970. He is the editor and publisher of Windflower Press which produced *The Windflower Home Almanac of Poetry*. *Library Journal* listed this anthology as being among the best books from small presses for 1980. He is also a member of the Lincoln City Library Board, a member of the Nebraska Certificate of Need Review Board, and the Nebraska Economic Development Commission.





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 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): 3 Awards Finance Bylaws & Procedures Continuing Education
 Electronic Communications Intellectual Freedom 3 Professional Development Public Relations/Membership

Mail to: Joe Edelen, MPLA Executive Secretary
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