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MPLA Newsletter

A Publication of the Mountain Plains Library Association

April 2002

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MPLA Listserv

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MPLA Leadership Institute @ Ghost Ranch, NM Months of work pay off!

Marilyn Hinshaw
MPLA Leadership Institute Chair

Yes, you can know a good idea when you hear one. Team MPLA (Joe Edelen, Executive Secretary, and Marilyn Hinshaw, President) came into being two years ago at an ALA Chapter Relations Committee Orientation program. For MPLA, it was vitally important to be there because membership numbers were molasses mired. Being there was to pay heed to a potential shared future predicted by a telling statistic – the average age of those in the room. There wasn't even yet the hue and cry of library literature. "Where are the librarians to take our place? Where are the next leaders of our profession?" There were serious conversations asking,



Marilyn Hinshaw, Chair of Team MPLA, explains the Leadership Institute timeline to the MPLA Board at their meeting in February.

(Continued on page 3)

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(Continued from page 1)

“Who has a strategy to change that possible future?” The program took the shape of a group of associations sharing a best practices session. They told us what they were doing to identify and develop members who could become leaders in their association. They told us how each had planned and funded an event they called a “leadership institute.” I remember Michigan, Texas, New York’s presentation. Beyond that it gets fuzzy. No matter. The session was enough to get the juices flowing. Here was something worth doing!

Already, we had assessed. Programs - still good. Finances – still healthy. MPLA was in position to infuse new energy because we were doing a planning process to jumpstart the association’s work in the new millennium. The idea burrowed into already fertile soil.

Then followed the years of making an overnight success happen. At the beginning, we recruited a committee, with representation of people whose job regularly included hands-on library training. Not one has since dropped off the team or dropped the ball while we have worked through the details it takes to massage a good idea into a real event.

Team MPLA’s new list of members was short: Susan Awe, University of New Mexico; Patti Butcher, Northeast Kansas Library System; Carol Connor, Lincoln City Library; Donna Jones Morris, Arkansas Valley Regional Library System Services; and the two original team members, Marilyn Hinshaw, Eastern Oklahoma District Library (Chair), and Joe Edelen, University of South Dakota (MPLA Executive Secretary). The hours of working the project through were frequently fun in the way good work is fun, sometimes long, always rewarding.

From the organization meeting at Summer ALA 2000, members have met at every ALA meeting. They interviewed and selected Institute Leader Maureen Sullivan over a year ago in January, and watched competition for her rapidly filling calendar until decisions were made on funding and location.



They site visited a third of nearly 30 nominated locations in the twelve state region, making a choice that will bring its own aura to the event. They participated in selecting an Institute Coordinator. In one long meeting they spent hours of intense discussion to arrive at criteria for selecting participants and mentors. They made the call that MPLA would use a vendor contribution for seed money, developing a self sufficiency plan as the Institute became more established. Because of that plan, a chosen vendor was convinced MPLA’s idea was a great investment. Team members came when asked, called when needed, read drafts, answered e-mail, and cheered each other on.

The driving motivation for this work was to create an exciting product that would rank among the best in class. The vision was to create the pattern for a major career waterfall experience for participants. It was not to be an association leadership session. The approach was to be developing personal skills for *leadership*.

By the MPLA Board meeting in February 2002, the details of recruitment and selection had been hammered out and were ready for the MPLA Board. The team found members of the Board full of anticipation to hear and see the structure of the product and they were excited that it now had a staff, a location and even, with the contribution of a Board member, a stunning logo. With the Board’s approval, the Institute, finally a whole piece, was ready for launch in March 2002.

MPLA's Leadership Institute @ Ghost Ranch, New Mexico, is now just over a half a year away. It has the makings of one of the premier events of its type in the country. So, what else does it need to live

up to that potential? Participants - who will turn it from an event into a real experience that blends into their lives, creating a pattern for personal and career achievement.

Overnight Successes are Years in the Making

And that's where we come in. If you are an emerging leader, the Mountain Plains Library Association wants you to be primed for a *great* library career, and we are ready to assist you. Here is how we intend to do it. After two years in planning, the MPLA Leadership Institute launch date is set for November of 2002.

Dates: November 10 – 14, 2002

Place: Ghost Ranch, New Mexico

Those attending: 30 selected candidates from 12 states, 6 selected Mentors

Institute Leader: **Maureen Sullivan**



MPLA Leadership Institute @ Ghost Ranch

Is looking for candidates who meet the following qualifications:

- MLS or equivalent master's degree relevant to the library field
- Less than 10 years post-master's work in a library related job
- Employed in a library organization in MPLA's 12 state region*
- Current member of one of MPLA's 12 affiliated state library associations
- Has a record of experience (including non-library) that demonstrates leadership potential

Cost: MPLA will be able to keep the registration fee at an exceptionally low rate for equivalent training of this type. In its initial year, and based on the quality of the event MPLA has planned, the Institute has received the support of EBSCO Information Services. 2002 Registration fee: \$250 for MPLA members of record since 2001; \$300 for other participants

*Air fare, mileage, or ground transportation to the Institute site is not provided.
The participant must provide or find funding for transportation.*

Application process: Apply online by **June 15, 2002.** Go to the MPLA Website at www.usd.edu/mpla/leadership for an application.

Notification and registration: Selected applicants will be notified of selection by August 15, 2002. Deadline for receipt of registration fee is September 15, 2002.

Other: Albuquerque, NM, is the closest major airport.

The Ghost Ranch site, 2 hours north, has ground transportation (reasonable fee).
MPLA is negotiating for an optional low cost *pre* or *post* side trip to Santa Fe.

*MPLA member states – AZ, CO, KS, MT, NE, NV, NM, ND, OK, SD, UT, WY

Underwritten by founding partner EBSCO Information Services, Inc.

Ghost Ranch is waiting for the brightest and best – the first, second, thirtieth person of the first class who come to claim a leadership baton. And then they must pass it on...and on...and on. That is how MPLA will see to it that the Libraries of the 21st Century thrive.

Let the journey begin!

President's Letter

Debbie Iverson
MPLA President

The MPLA Leadership Institute @ Ghost Ranch has front ranking in the newsletter for this issue and I am pleased to have my brief news tucked back into the later pages this month. Stay tuned to news about the Ghost Ranch and what MPLA will host at that wonderful location next November. Consider being an applicant for this leadership training if you are in the beginning stages of your career as a professional in the region and you meet the criteria enumerated.

Additional key activities which occurred at the February MPLA Board meeting included hiring a Webmaster – Dan Chaney. Dan has served MPLA as a volunteer for several years in this capacity and made himself and the Webpages so integral to the smooth operation of the association that the Board decided that this function needed to be changed to a paid position. The second major topic about which I want to update you is that the Board accepted the recommendation of the Electronic Communication Committee to hold off on the virtual meeting which has been planned for July. Given the numbers of types of connections and equipment and technical savvy available among the Board members, the plan has been modified so that the Electronic Communications Committee will be the first MPLA group to experiment in this arena. An update on this topic is planned for the MPLA Board meeting in Fargo in October.

Until the next issue, enjoy the spring, make your plans to participate in the conference in Fargo and be well.

Debbie

Preliminary Call for Papers

MPLA Academic Section Professional Forum

The Academic Section of the Mountain Plains Library Association's (MPLA) announces a call for papers to be presented, with the co-sponsorship of the Academic Section of the South Dakota Library Association, at the Tri-Conference of the North Dakota Library Association, South Dakota Library Association, and MPLA to be held in Fargo, North Dakota, Oct. 2-5, 2002

The MPLA Academic Section sponsors the Professional Forum, which presents new ideas, innovations, and case studies in librarianship that would benefit the profession. Research methodology is encouraged, but not essential. School and public librarians, as well as those from academia, are encouraged to participate. The papers are peer reviewed; a prize of \$300 will be awarded to the winning paper presentation.

Guidelines for Papers

- Problems are clearly identified and solutions proposed;
- Themes can include locally implemented experiences (successes or failures), theoretical models, statistical studies, or state of the art reviews;
- Although formal research methodology is not required, papers should develop clear positions or concepts.

Evaluation

Papers will be judged on:

- Significance of topics (15 points)
- Development of concept and quality of organization (20 points)
- Clarity of ideas and objectives (10 points)

Final presentations will be judged at the annual conference on the following:

- Objectives are evident, with clear ideas and concepts (15 points)
- Quality of organization (15 points)

- Quality of presentation, use of visuals, etc. (15 points)

Submission Requirements

- Authors must be current members of MPLA
- Papers must be original—not published or presented elsewhere
- Selected authors will make presentations at the conference
- Papers (2-6 pages in length) must be submitted electronically to jeffrey_belliston@byu.edu **no later than July 15, 2002.**

For more information contact Jeffrey Belliston, 3325 HBLL, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT 84602, jeffrey_belliston@byu.edu, (801) 422-7743.

REMEMBER: MPLA Professional Development grants are available to fund research and travel! See the MPLA Website www.usd.edu/mpla/ for details.

MPLA Public Library Section Looking for Candidates and New Ideas



In a time when public libraries are facing more change and more challenges than ever before, the regional MPLA Public Library Section has an opportunity to offer ideas, leadership, and education to help librarians meet those changes and challenges. Candidates are needed for the office of Vice Chair/Chair Elect for the coming year. Duties for the first year simply include “learning the ropes,” assisting where needed, and finding candidates for the next year.

The next year, the Chair leads the meeting at conference, represents the Section at MPLA Board meetings, and assists in finding speakers and workshops which will benefit public librarians at the annual conference.

EBSCO AD 1/2 page

Anyone with any interest in being a candidate or learning more about the job and the need may contact the current Vice Chair at the address or phone numbers below. Thank you for considering giving some time and leadership to this outstanding organization!

Cherie Heser, Director
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Poster Sessions: A New Presentation Format for the MPLA/NDLA/SDLA Tri-Conference!

Want to share your ideas? Describe a new library activity? Walk through a building renovation? Show off a sample of your public display work? Preview your research? (Or watch people do any of these?). A poster session may be just the thing for you.

The MPLA/NDLA/SDLA Tri-Conference in Fargo ND, Oct. 2-5 2002, is hosting poster sessions this year as a new presentation format for conference goers. Poster sessions are designed to allow simultaneous presentation of ideas and maximum interaction and discussion with the audience. Presenters display their work on "posters" in a viewing area; the audience moves through the displays and is free to engage the presenters in individual or group discussion. If you're looking for synergy and give-and-take between presenters and audience, this is the place!

Poster sessions may be on any topic of related interest to librarians. The sessions will be scheduled during the main conference, the specific times will be announced later. Submissions will be peer reviewed.

For more information on the poster sessions or to discuss possible poster session ideas, please contact Kathy Enger at:
Kathy.Enger@ndsu.nodak.edu.

Please include the following in your submission:

1.) A one-page description including—
Name of author(s), author(s) affiliation, contact information; Title of your poster session; Abstract: Briefly describe your methods or activity, purpose, and outcomes in an abstract/summary

2.) A brief description of the type of graphic or supporting materials that you plan to use for your session (photos, handouts, charts, outlines, etc.).

Submit proposals via e-mail or mail to:

Kathy Enger, Social Sciences Librarian
North Dakota State University
PO Box 5599, Fargo ND 58105-5599
(Phone) (701) 231-8862 (Fax) (701) 231-6128
Kathy.Enger@ndsu.nodak.edu

A review committee of five members from all three library associations will respond to submissions by June 1, 2002. Any and all ideas are welcome.



Business Sense

Jean Anderson
Business Librarian
Fort Collins Public Library, CO

Being Socially Responsible

Although governments have made considerable environmental progress over the last 25 years by advancing and implementing responsible legislation and policy, it is widely agreed that ongoing progress will not be accomplished by government intervention alone. Today's environmental leaders extend beyond government programs and include such diverse players as activist organizations; individual citizens, investors, and employees; non-governmental organizations; institutional investors and mutual funds; and businesses.

Responsible corporate behavior is the key to an environmentally sound future. Tomorrow's environmental successes depend on the willingness of today's corporations to lead, rather than be led, in the transition to a more ecologically sound

economy. The following Websites can provide insight to businesspersons into socially responsible business practices and ideas.

Business for Social Responsibility

www.bsr.org

Founded in 1992, Business for Social Responsibility (BSR) is an U.S.-based global resource for companies seeking to sustain commercial success in ways that demonstrate respect for ethical values, people, communities and the environment. This organization provides practical products and services to help member companies design, implement and evaluate socially responsible business practices, enabling viable, sustainable growth that benefits stakeholders as well as stockholders. BSR creates publications and hosts annual conferences and global workshops. Take a visit to BSR's Website to find news articles, a products store, and membership information.

Coalition for Environmentally Responsible Economics

www.ceres.org

The Coalition (CERES) is a network of U.S. environmental, investor, and advocacy groups working together for a sustainable future. CERES began its work in 1989 when several members of the Social Investment Forum, an association of socially responsible investment firms and public pension funds, decided to form an alliance with leading environmentalists to change corporate environmental practices. Currently, the CERES network has 70 organizations and 50 corporations that adhere to the Coalition Principles. The Website has membership listings, a list of the Principles, and conference information.

Co-Op America

www.coopamerica.org

Co-op America, a national nonprofit organization founded in 1982, provides economic strategies, organizing power, and practical tools for businesses and individuals to address social and environmental problems. Co-op America stresses education and empowerment of U.S. businesses to make significant improvements through the economic system. Co-op America has nearly 50,000 individual and 2,000

business members. In partnership with the Social Investment Forum, they also offer memberships to financial professionals and institutions interested in socially responsible investing. Check out the Website to see Co-Op's many programs, membership information, links to green businesses, and responsibility ratings of various companies.

Business Ethics Magazine

www.business-ethics.com

This publication covers socially responsible investing and business practices, and offers practical advice for the interested businessperson. The site includes headlines, lists of recommended books, some back issue articles, and free e-mail reports. One e-mail report, BizEthicsBuzz, contains up-to-the-minute insider scoops, facts, interesting Website reviews, and much more.

SustainableBusiness.com

www.sustainablebusiness.com

This commercial site has four main sections: 1) Sustainable Business Insider: a monthly, online magazine with articles from over 35 leading sustainable business publications; 2) Business Opportunities: an interactive resource for postings between businesses; 3) Green Dream Jobs: a global listing of green-related jobs; 4) Links Directory: a subject-related listing of links to organizations, discussion groups, and Internet publications.

GreenPages Online

www.greenpages.org

Stop by this site of over 10,000 companies to find green businesses in your area. You can search by zip code, keyword, or by choosing a category. GreenPages also offers resources and readings on socially responsible lifestyles, businesses, and investing.

Environmental Protection Agency

The EPA has a site just for the small businessperson. This site provides documents and guidelines to environmental regulations as well as opportunities to participate in EPA programs. URL: www.epa.gov/smallbusiness/geninfo.htm. The EPA helps small businesses determine their environmental costs

through the Environmental Accounting Project.
URL: www.epa.gov/opptintr/acctg.

Environmental Entrepreneur

The Environmental Entrepreneur software is an environmental business game that introduces participants to environmental aspects of business planning. It can be used as a training program for introducing environmental aspects to business practitioners, or for introducing business thinking to environmentalists. (The software is part of STEP, Special Training for Environmentally-sound Production, a three-year pilot project financially supported by the European Union's LEONARDO program that emphasizes lifelong learning.) URL for STEP: www.tek.fi/step/. URL for the game: www.tek.fi/step/eeweb.html.

Some of the above sites were recommended by Joseph Conlin in the article, "Natural Order," from *Entrepreneur Magazine*, November 2001.

Jean Anderson is the Business Librarian for the Fort Collins Public Library. Suggestions for future columns are welcome: anderson@julip.fcgov.com

Teton County Library Staff Habla Español

Teton County Library employees are finding new ways to reach out to the community's growing Latino population through their latest staff training, an eight-week Spanish communication program called "Spanish that Works in the Library." Staff learned basic tools to assist Spanish-speaking patrons in many library transactions including checking out materials, getting a library card, and signing up for the Internet.



According to the library's Latino Outreach Coordinator, Margaret Thompson, 20 people, more than half the full-time staff, completed the program. The course teaches library vocabulary and phrases, and utilizes role playing in specific library situations. Thompson organized the education effort and native

Spanish speaking library employees Patty Rocha and Tatiana Elejalde taught the classes. To keep their skills sharp, staff members now participate in monthly conversation sessions.

"The goal of the training is the mastery of basic library communication rather than fluency in Spanish, which can take years of study and/or living in a Spanish-speaking country to accomplish. We want the staff to feel confident assisting patrons without the need of a translator, which will result in improved library service to Latino patrons," said Thompson.

According to Thompson, the training is a necessary element in meeting the library's mission of offering, "open and equal access to literature, information, and ideas."

"A language difference can impede this access to library services," she said. "Our Latino patronage has tripled in the past three years, and we expect this growth to continue. We aim to provide a high level of service to this group."

Staff Spanish classes were sponsored by the Teton County Library Foundation. To find out more about

A Good Practice Reminder From Pattern Research:

Increase the effectiveness of your library board training by making it a community affair! Invite elected and appointed officials, members of nonprofit and church boards, business owners, students—anyone who wants to come! Community training promotes goodwill. Individuals and groups can share resources and solve problems together. It also improves the board skills of your pool of future candidates.

Pat Wagner, Pattern Research,
PO Box 9100, Denver CO 80209-0100
303-778-0880; fax: 303-722-2680
pat@pattern.com; www.pattern.com

additional Latino services at the library, contact Margaret Thompson at mthompson@will.state.wy.us.

Around the MPLA Region

ARIZONA

One Book Arizona -- Animal Dreams by Barbara Kingsolver was the title selected for Arizona's inaugural OneBook program. Bringing communities together through literature is the driving force behind this project that encouraged people across the state of Arizona to read the same book during April 2002 and participate in discussion and programs centered on that book. According to Karen Drake, Chandler Public Library Manager and project spokesperson, "One BookAZ is intended to generate excitement and increase library awareness. It will also help build a stronger sense of community."

Barbara Kingsolver kicked off the event at the Arizona Book Festival on April 6th in Phoenix. There was a grand finale celebration in Clifton/Morenci, the mining community that is the setting for *Animal Dreams*.

ONEBOOKAZ was sponsored by Maricopa County Library Council, HarperCollins, Arizona State Library Archives and Public Records, Arizona Humanities Council, The Arizona Republic, and Lucky Dog, a Creative Group who designed all of the promo-



tional materials for the project.

Arizona Convocation -- The fourth annual Arizona Convocation, held March 3rd and 4th in Tucson, featured Beverly Sheppard, Deputy Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, talking about Libraries, Archives and Museums and the 21st Century Learner and David Levy, author of *Scrolling Forward: Making Sense of Documents in the Digital World*. The purpose was to continue the exploration of collaboration among Arizona's cultural institutions. Award winners at the Convocation were Rhian Evans, Arizona Director, Libraries for the Future, for her work with the State Library and Carol Tapia, Library Development Division, Arizona State Library, for her work within the agency.

Phipps Named Academic/Research Librarian of Year -- Shelley E. Phipps, assistant dean for team and organization development at the University of Arizona Library in Tucson is the 2002 ACRL (Association of College and Research Libraries) Academic/Research Librarian of the Year. The award recognizes an outstanding member of the library profession who has made a significant national or international contribution to academic research librarianship and library development.

In announcing their selection, the award committee commended Phipps' visionary leadership, noting, "Shelley was one of the first to signal a need to transform our libraries to become organizations that will meet the challenges of the 21st century. She has facilitated significant change at the University of Arizona Library and in numerous other libraries where she has served as a consultant. Shelley's commitment to teaching and mentoring has created an enduring legacy that will continue to touch and influence the development of academic librarianship for years to come. Most importantly, her accomplishments demonstrate that an academic librarian can be a visionary and influential leader without holding the director's position.

Phipps will receive a \$3,000 award and a citation at a ceremony and reception on Monday, June 17, dur-



Instrumental in initiating the ONEBOOK AZ program were Mala Muralidharan, Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records, Dan Shilling, Director of the Arizona Humanities Council, and Karen Drake, Director, Chandler Public Library.

ing the American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference in Atlanta.

COLORADO

Colorado Library Manager Recognized -- Brenda Bailey-Hainer, Director of Networking and Resource Sharing for the Colorado State Library, has been



Brenda Bailey-Hainer

selected as one of *Library Journal's* "2002 Movers & Shakers" in the March 15 issue. She was cited for her vision in creating the Colorado Virtual Library (CVL), an Internet-based delivery system, that shares library resources to serve all Coloradans.

Students and educators in particular utilize the CVL, which includes the Colorado Virtual Library for Kids and provides more than 6,000 quality Websites for children, to use for homework and classroom resources. In addition to the Colorado Virtual Library, Bailey-Hainer has been instrumental in creating an electronic statewide interlibrary loan system, single-search digitized historical and scientific collections, and statewide licenses for databases offered through schools and libraries.

The last dance -- The last Colorado Library Association Board meeting took place on Feb. 5, 2002. The Colorado Association of Libraries (formerly CLA and CEMA) Board has been meeting for several months. They continue the work of merging the two associations with all the accompanying bylaws and procedures changes. The CAL Board will meet monthly for awhile. The new CAL president is Donna Jones Morris.

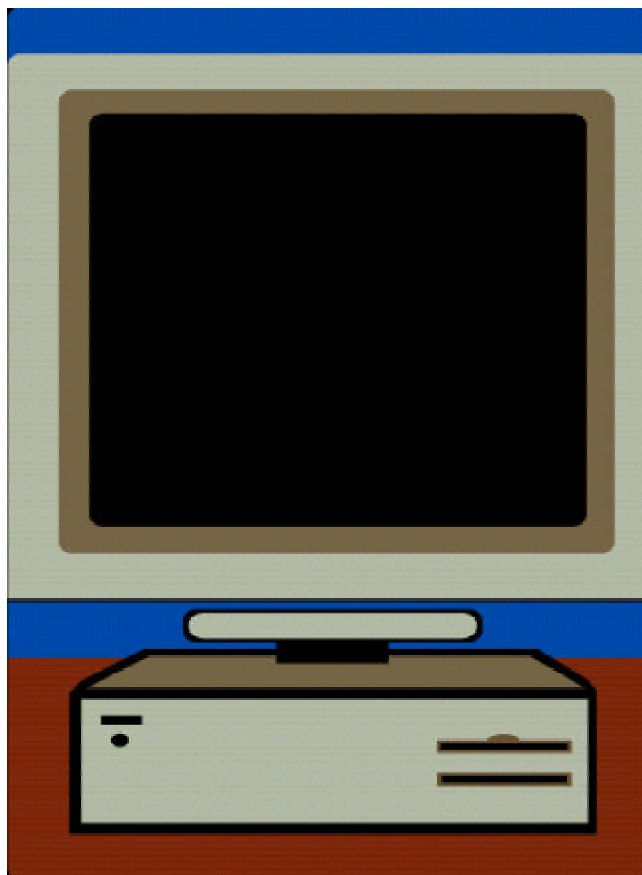


Red Zinger/Coors Classic Archives on Permanent Loan to DPL -- The Denver Public Library has acquired 14 (1975-88) years of Red Zinger Bicycle Classic and Coors International Bicycle Classic materials for

permanent installation in their Special Collections Archives. The collection was donated by Michael Aisner and Kay Groeneveld, owners/promoters of America's premier international stage race and National Cycling Tour. The multi-day race through California, Nevada and Colorado reigned as one of the top five stage races in the world, attracting top pros and amateurs. The collection includes printed material such as annual race magazines and yearbooks, spectator guides, wall calendars, race manuals, contracts, correspondence and sponsorship proposals, along with ephemera, videos, and footage from the film "American Flyers," shot at the race.

Librarian and bookseller event -- The Romance Writers of America are sponsoring a Librarian and Bookseller Event on July 17, 2002 as part of their annual conference taking place in Denver. There will be a number of speakers including Jayne Ann Krentz, Maggie Osborne, and Elizabeth Lowell. Information about the event can be found at the RWA's Website at <http://www.rwanational.com>.

(Around the MPLA Region continued on page 16)



Library Card Program Offers Innovative Way to Access Resources



One of the most exciting recent developments in Kansas is the creation of the Kansas Library Card program. Made possible through a cooperative effort by the Kansas Library Network Board, the Kansas State Library and the University of Kansas Medical Center, this card gives residents convenient access to various licensed reference and research database services from almost any computer. Where patrons once had to visit a library and have a staff member log them into the databases on a library computer, they can now log on themselves at any time from any workstation that is connected to the Internet.

To obtain their card, state residents can visit any participating public library and request a card from their staff. After showing proof of their current Kansas address, applicants will only need to provide their full name and date of birth--used to establish their patron record and personal identification number. With this, they can log in to the card's Website and begin searching the databases.

Currently, five reference and research databases are available from this site including Infotrac, FirstSearch, Informe! Revistas en Espanol, SIRS Discoverer Deluxe, and netLibrary. These are provided through the cooperative efforts of the Kansas State Library, the Regents libraries, the regional library systems and other partners, and are funded through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).

All academic, public, and school libraries are eligible to utilize the subscription databases at no charge. Corporate, for-profit, and other special libraries are eligible if they participate in resource sharing activities such as interlibrary loan and include their material holdings in the Kansas Library Catalog.

(Continued on page 14)

MPLA Featured State Kansas



Get fired up!

Kansas State Conference Featured Super Programs

The annual Kansas State Library Conference was held recently and it was a whopper! With seven preconferences and more than one hundred sessions, it was one of the largest conferences in the history of the program. Co-sponsored by the Kansas Library Association, the Kansas Association of School Libraries, and the Kansas Association for Educational Communications and Technology, the annual Tri-Conference is one of the highlights of the year and a great opportunity to get fired up with new ideas and things to try.

The offerings at this year's event covered just about every area of the spectrum. Preconference topics included increasing the adult's awareness of the art and evaluation of picture books; training on Marco Polo, a free-standards based K-12 Internet site for the classroom; the Kansas Library Card; young adult services; and resolving conflict in the workplace. The regular sessions began with a program on science reference sources and ended with one on streamlined planning. In between was everything from how to make a touring exhibit work in your library to how to use your palm pilot to one entitled "Leadership in Absurd and Chaotic Times."

In what has become a tradition, one of the days featured a series of sessions geared toward trustees and library friends. These included "The Well-Informed Trustee=More Effective Meetings," "Policies And Legal Issues That Can Trip Up Your Board," "60 Minutes Of Problem-Solving With And For Trustees," "Disaster! Is Your Library Prepared," and

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(Continued from page 13)

“What Are Friends For? We Mean FoKL (Friends of Kansas Libraries) Friends!” That day ended with a banquet and a program by Kansas author Max Yoho in an event co-sponsored by FoKL and the Kansas Library Trustees Association.

Tri-Conference is always fun and exciting and this year was no exception. The best part as usual though, was the opportunity to see and visit with old friends and to make new library friends from all types of organizations around the state.



Greetings from Kansas!

My name is Susan Moyer and I am the Kansas Library Association representative for MPLA. For the past ten years (egad!), I have served as the Director of the Dorothy Bramlage Public Library, a small- to medium-sized library depending upon which scale you use, in Junction City. The fact that our library is difficult to categorize is nothing compared to our community. In many respects it is a typical small, Midwestern city with a grain elevator and a livestock barn and some small industry. On the other hand, Junction City is less than two miles from Fort Riley, a major army instillation, and less than ten miles from Milford Lake, the largest lake in Kansas. Consequently, we deal with a lot of urban issues, have a highly mobile population, 45% percent of which is minority including 35% African-American, have ESL needs for native speakers of Spanish, German, Korean and Tagalog, and have a fair amount of tourism of the boat and camper variety.



MPLA Rep. Susan Moyer

Before beginning as Director at DBPL, I also worked in a special library (Legislative Reference Library, Texas State Capitol), a small college library (Cody Memorial Library, Southwestern University) and a major academic system (General Libraries, University of Texas at Austin). I received both my bachelors and MLS from UT-Austin and have been known to yell “Go Horns” for no particular reason. I was born and raised in Junction City though, so am now “back home” and married to a farmer/stock-

man and living in the beautiful Flint Hills.

When I began my current job, one of my first acts was to join the Kansas Library Association. As a newly-returned native, I needed to learn the Kansas ropes and could think of no better teachers than my fellow librarians. Through KLA, I have met staff from large state universities and small private colleges, from urban systems with many branches to one-person libraries in tiny rural towns. Getting to know them and talking to them has provided as much of an education as library school and has definitely made my job easier.

Lately, I have served as the Chair of the Membership Committee and of the Public Library Section and am also currently on the Legislative Committee. Each of these activities has helped to broaden my perspective and to develop a better understanding of the challenges that lie

ahead.

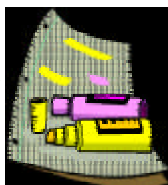
Though I’ve only been a member for a little more than a year, much the same can be said about MPLA. In this short time, I’ve already met many wonderful, smart, energetic, caring people. I had a great time at the joint conference in Phoenix in December and took home a truckload of ideas. Each MPLA Board meeting is like taking a course in what’s happening now in library service. I’m looking forward to the next joint conference and, hopefully, meeting more of you. On to Fargo!

(Continued from page 12)

The Kansas Library Card is a great benefit to all residents, particularly students. With it, they can research their papers and speeches whenever they have a little free time and access the Internet, whether during a break between classes or deep into the night as they burn the midnight oil. It has also proved very beneficial to working patrons who can now access professional journals from their desks as they prepare for a project.

In a recent review of LSTA-funded projects, the databases received a statewide thumbs-up by librarians from the smallest to the largest institutions. All agreed they give the best bang for the buck and that the Kansas Library Card is the tool that will make them even more successful.

Kansas Excels at Library Continuing Education



Providing continuing education for library staff at all levels of responsibility is a primary aim in Kansas. The Kansas Library Association (KLA), the State Library, the regional library systems and the School of Library and Information Management (SLIM) at Emporia State University have all demonstrated their commitment to this goal and library staff around the state have responded in large number.

Like many MPLA states, Kansas has a few urban centers, a handful of middle-sized cities and a lot of small towns. In many cases, the librarians in smaller communities are former trustees who said yes when the director's position became available and whose only previous library experience was as a patron and a board member. To help these and other staff who want to know more about library operation, the State Library and SLIM developed a crash course in Library 101 called KPLACE.

In the beginning, KPLACE was an acronym for Kansas Public Librarians Acquiring Continuing Education. Now, few remember the original title and the initials stand on their own as the name of the pre-

(Continued on page 15)

Liebst Selected as Kansas Board Choice Winner

Kansas is proud to announce Anne Liebst as the recipient of the Mountain Plains Library Association Board Choice Award for 2002. Anne is the Government Documents/Periodicals Librarian at Baker University in Baldwin City, a position she has held since 1988.

Anne holds a BFA in Music History from the University of Kansas and an MLS from the School of Library and Information Management (SLIM) at Emporia State University. In addition, she is currently enrolled in the SLIM Ph.D. program and has completed three classes.

She has been an active member of the Kansas Library Association since 1989, including the Private Academic Libraries Section (Chair, 1997-98), Government Documents Roundtable (Chair, 1992-93 & 2001-02), Library Instruction Roundtable (Coordinator 1997-98), and the College and University Library Section. She also participated in the Blue Skyways Development team and served on the Reference Networking Committee. Since the summer of 2000 she has held the position of KLA Webmaster, which she says "I dearly love and am able to give back to KLA in some degree for all the hard work they have shown me as a KLA member.

On the national front, Anne has been a member of ALA for eleven years, including GODORT, ALCTS, and ACRL. She is on the ALA-GODORT Education Committee and serves as their Webmaster and is Co-Managing Editor of the CD-ROM Documentation Project for ALA-GODORT-GITCO (Government Information Technology Committee). In addition, she is running for ALA-GODORT Publications Chair-elect for 2002-2003.

Other organizations, that enjoy Anne's participation, include AAUW, Friends of Lawrence Youth Symphony, and PTO. In her "spare" time she enjoys reading and book reviewing, gardening, collecting Depression Glass (the Madrid pattern) and antiques.

(Continued from page 14)

mier learning opportunity for library staff who do not currently hold an MLS degree. The three-year program meets for one week in May and covers a variety of topics including technology, budgeting, marketing and public relations. For the last three years Susan Moyer, Kansas MPLA rep., reports that she has been lucky enough to serve as a presenter for the second- and third-year classes and have witnessed first-hand the confidence and camaraderie that the program inspires.

For those seeking education opportunities beyond KPLACE or those who just want to brush up on a specific area, SLIM has developed a new library services certificate program. In it, library staff can take weekend intensive classes in various areas of library study including reference, administration, children's services and collection development. These can be taken for undergraduate credit or just as a learning experience. If taken for credit, completion of the set of classes in any one subject area will result in the award of a certificate and will hopefully qualify some staff for promotions and raises and give others a certain degree of professional mobility.

The certificate program is one component of the new Institute of Continuing Education (ICE) at SLIM. Another major element is the development of learning opportunities for trustees. In addition to ICE, SLIM has also recently added an undergraduate degree in Information Resource Studies and a degree completion program for those with some college credit who want to finish their bachelors.

In addition to these classroom-type activities, the seven regional library systems also routinely offer workshops to help staff gain more knowledge in a particular area. Among the recent offerings are trainings in the areas of advanced FirstSearch and Infotrac searching, book repair, virtual reference services, public library funding and budgets, disaster and emergency preparedness, young adult services, Webpage creation, and instruction in Microsoft Publisher and desktop security.

For their part, KLA also sponsors workshops and

conferences through their various subsection and roundtable groups as well as the annual state conference. In addition, they also recently established an education foundation to generate funds for continuing education grants to help librarians take advantage of some of these opportunities.

All Aboard!



Artrain Rolled into LeRoy, KS

Artrain USA, the nation's only traveling art museum on a train arrived in LeRoy, Kansas on March 9 and 10 to present its exhibition *Artistry of Space*, featuring artworks from NASA and the National Air and Space Museum art collections. The museum was hosted by The Coffey County Library, Coffey County Economic Development, Coffey County Historical Society, Coffey County Arts Council, Coffey County Council on Aging-Transportation, Burlington Recreation, LeRoy Pride Committee, Country Haven Inn, First Christian Church of LeRoy, LeRoy-Gridley USD 245, Burlington US 244, local donors and merchants. Artrain USA's *Artistry of Space* national tour is sponsored by Daimler Chrysler. Union Pacific and South Kansas and Oklahoma Railroad Companies were responsible for transporting Artrain USA to LeRoy, KS, located six miles east of Highway 75 on K 57 between Iola and Burlington.

Artistry of Space is a collection of paintings, drawings, prints, and sketches that reflect the excitement and energy of space exploration. Since the inception of NASA's Art Program in 1962, NASA has invited more than 250 American artists to be involved in the U.S. space programs and to interpret

Attendance Numbers for the Artrain, USA visit to Coffey County, KS

Adults	654	Children	250
Seniors	151	Reception	66
Tours-Children	732	Tours-Adult	93
Volunteers	67	Artists	8

TOTAL 2,001

To put this in perspective, LeRoy, KS has a population of 590 and Coffey County has a population of 8,300.

space flight through art. In a creative melding of art and space, the artists, responding to space exploration on emotional and spiritual levels, documented the work of engineers, astronauts, and scientists. From the excitement of the initial effort to put a man on the moon to recent endeavors such as the *Mars Pathfinder* mission and the *Hubble Space Telescope*, artists including Peter Max, Robert McCall, Robert Rauschenberg, Norman Rockwell, Andy Warhol and James Wyeth have captured the spirit of space exploration.

“Artrain USA is about touching lives and opening doors for people and communities. For some children and adults, it’s the first time they have had the experience of visiting an art museum,” said Debra Polich, President and C.E.O. of Artrain USA. “We are so pleased that this program, that has introduced so many young people to the arts and brought so many communities together through the arts, continues to thrive.”

Artrain USA has traveled to 44 states and the District of Columbia, delighting more than 2.78 million visitors in more than 675 communities since its first stop in 1971.

MPLA Member Honored by Kansas Library Association

Mona Carmack, County Librarian at the Johnson County (KS) Library and longtime MPLA member was recently honored at the Kansas Library Association Annual Conference with the “Library Personnel Award,” one of only three awards given by the state association each year.

Carmack, a Lenexa resident, joined the Johnson County Library staff 14 years ago and has 30 years of experience as a public library director. She was honored in the Library Personnel category for notable contributions to the library profession, significant development of libraries in Kansas, and long-time exemplary service.

“This award is extremely special, because I was nomi-

nated by the people I work with,” Carmack said. “Leadership is nonexistent if you’re not supported by your staff. I’m fortunate to have outstanding support.”

Carmack’s Kansas library career highlights include serving as the leader of the Kansas Urban Libraries Coalition for the KLS Legislative Committee and on the State Library’s Library Laws Review Study Technology Committee, which recommended a statewide Internet backbone for better access to information.

She also served on the State Education Technology-Based Network Task Force, which issued a recommendation to establish KAN-ED, a broadband network for schools, libraries and rural hospitals.

Since becoming county librarian, Carmack has overseen the library’s growth campaign, which has included the opening of three new branches, the replacement of three existing branches with larger facilities, and several branch renovations.

“Recently, I’ve been overseeing the library’s new strategic plan, which envisions a new future for public libraries where the library has a major role in the community and the community process,” Carmack said.

Around the MPLA Region

(Continued from page 11)

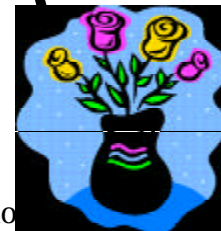
KANSAS



The vast North American prairie and the progressive farmers who are using farming methods that preserve the prairie environment are the foci of “Listening to the Prairie: Farming in Nature’s Image,” a national traveling exhibit that began a six-week visit at the Wichita Public Library on May 4, 2002. Wichita is one of 20 cities selected for the national tour of the exhibit. Other stops include San Diego, CA, Glendale, AZ, and Des Moines, IA. The tour is anticipated to conclude in 2004. Because of the significance of the exhibit, the display will also be an official event of the Wichita River Festival.

Welcome to MPLA

New Members



ARI ZONA
Bonnie Campbell
Mohave County Library District

Ruby Gordon
Retired

COLORADO
Beth Avery
Western State College

FLORIDA
Orietta Pappas
Sirs Publishing, Inc.

KANSAS
Jennifer Gergen
Manhattan Public Library

Heather Guillen-Woltje
Dodge City Public Library

Cindi Hickey
Cindi Hickey Consulting

Judy Korn
U.S. EPA Information
Resource Center

Tone Mendoza
Kansas State University

Kimberlee Ried
Kansas City Kansas
Public Library

NEBRASKA
Christa Burns
Nebraska Library Commission

Alicia Graybill
Fairbury Public Library

Janet Johnson
Gering Public School

Dr. Nina Little
Valley Public Library

Larry Parker
King Science-Ops

Hope Schawang
Lydia Bruun Woods Library

Rose Schinker
La Vista Public Library

James Shaw
University of Nebraska Omaha

Rosselle Tesch
Chadron Public Library

Barbara Voeltz
Nebraska Game & Parks

Richard Voeltz
University of Nebraska Lincoln

NEVADA
Jean Adams
Amargosa Valley Comm. Library

Karen Dannehl
Great Basin College Library

Duncan Deacy
Friend/Volunteer

Anita Guymo
Wells Combined Schools

Eileen Horn
Clark County School District

Timothy Skeers
University of Nevada Las Vegas

NEW MEXICO
Amy Bethel
Sandia National Laboratories

Ana Vigil
Librarian/Teacher

NORTH DAKOTA
Kirsten Baesler
Bismarck Public Schools

Wendy Denton
Minot Public Library

Carla Eisenzimmer
Bottineau Central School

Deborah Igoe
Student

Mary Jo Lorenz
Grand Forks Public Library

Liz Mason
North Dakota State University

Johanne McClay
Bismarck State College

Through stunning photographs, a colorful mural, and a windmill replica, "Listening to the Prairie" takes viewers on a journey through the life, landscape, and natural world of the North American prairie, one of the most productive agricultural regions on earth. The exhibit also contains an interactive shopping cart filled with everyday products made with ingredients from the prairie region.



at the Johnson County Juvenile Detention Center. The program provides the center with a deposit collection of hundreds of paperback books, each bearing a "Read To Succeed" sticker.

The library is sponsoring free programs and other events for the public in connection with the exhibition. Contact the library at jheinick@wichita.lib.ks.us for more information.

Suellentrop winner of 2002 YALSA award -- MPLA member, Patricia Suellentrop is the winner of the 2002 Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA)/Sagebrush Award for a Young Adult Reading or Literature Program. Patricia is the young adult librarian for the Johnson County Library in Shawnee Mission, KS and won the award for her "Read to Succeed: Serving Teens at Risk" program

Twice a month during the school year and once a week during the summer, Suellentrop and the youth outreach librarian, Kathy McLellan, visit the center to facilitate theme-based literature programs. Approximately, 10 to 15 teen residents participate in each session, and because the clientele of the center shifts constantly, Suellentrop and McLellan service about 1,200 residents a year.

In her application, Suellentrop reflected on the success of her program in initiating discussion of issues important to teens--peer pressure, betrayal, and prejudice--that involve both residents and JDC staff, and help promote communication between the two groups.

The Sagebrush Award provides \$1,000 to support the recipient's attendance at ALA June 13-19.

OKLAHOMA
Kari Moore

MPLA New Members

Linda Herget
Cheyenne Central High School

SOUTH DAKOTA
Nancy Eckert
Alexander Mitchell Library

Carol Leibiger
University of South Dakota

Sheri Levasseur
Teton County Library

Ed Erickson
Black Hills State University

Beverly Lewis
Rawlins Municipal Library

Judy Morris
Burlington School Library

June Erickson
Brookings Public Library

Cheryl Miller
Plankinton School

Peggy Norris
Powell Branch Library

Peggy Exum
Hot Springs Public Library

UTAH
Thomas Kemp
Publication Editor

Pat Robbins
Mountain View Middle School
Library

Clark Hallman
South Dakota State University

WYOMING
Ejenita Calton
Carbon County Library

Debbie Schlinger
Teton County Library

Gary Johnson
South Dakota Library Network

Lori Clark-Erickson
Teton County Library

Susan Williams
Clark County Library

MONTANA

Conference was a great success -- With the theme of "The Sky's the Limit @ Montana Libraries," the annual Montana Library Association convention was held April 25-27 in Great Falls, MT, with pre-conference sessions on April 24.

A tempting "menu" of meals, entertainment, and workshops were offered to attendees, all the way from Joe Raiola, Senior Editor of *Mad Magazine* to John Nichols, Director of the Oshkosh Public Library, (did we also mention that Elvis was there?!), and workshop topics varied from ways that libraries can work with business, to public relations and public speaking, to new opportunities for librarians in all types of libraries.

MLA hosted its annual awards luncheon on Friday, April 26 and convention participants had the opportunity to participate in a silent auction of a variety of contributions from individuals and libraries across the state, with proceeds going to the Sheila Cates Scholarship Fund which benefits students pursuing library education.

Association recruitment effort paying off -- Montana Library Association Board Directors-at-Large John York, from western Montana, and Anita Scheetz, from eastern Montana, are waging a major campaign via mail and e-mail to reinstate lapsed MLA members and recruit new ones. The results have been notable--many contacts and renewals have

been made. They have also developed a new membership brochure which has as its emphasis the rewards of "Working Smart" by joining MLA.

NEBRASKA

Omaha wins! -- Omaha Public Library is the winner of the 2002 Grolier National Library Week Grant for its program "Find your story @ your library*."

The \$4,000 grant, sponsored by the Grolier Publishing Company and administered by the American Library Association (ALA) Public Awareness Committee, is awarded to a U.S. library for the best proposal for a public awareness campaign in support of National Library Week (April 14-20). This year, libraries were asked to develop a National Library Week proposal around "@ your library*," the brand for The Campaign for America's Libraries, ALA's five-year public awareness initiative to promote the value of libraries and librarians in the 21st century. Seventy-four proposals were submitted this year, the highest number ever received for this award.

The Omaha Public Library will partner with Nebraska StoryArts, a non-profit organization that produces storytelling activities around the state, to produce its program, *Find your story @ your library**. The program's goal is to demonstrate the power of individuals finding and telling their own stories.

The Omaha Public Library is also currently committed to a three-year public relations plan using @ your library. For its 125th anniversary this year, the library is celebrating with a series of "Nebraska Authors Live @ your library*," "Celebrating Omaha's Multiculturalism @ your library*," "Celebrating Women of Vision & Courage @ your library*" and more. The library is also incorporating @ your library into a major library card campaign in 2002-2003.

It figures! -- Go Figure--a national traveling exhibit organized by Minnesota Children's Museum and the American Library Association (ALA)—opens at the Morton-James Public Library, Nebraska City, NE June 24, 2002 and runs through July 20, 2002.

The exhibit introduces early math concepts such as sorting and measuring through kid-sized environments inspired by familiar children's books. The library is offering free programs and other events for the public in connection with the exhibit.

Bucks for library training -- Nebraska Library Commission Director Rod Wagner recently announced the award of \$41,731 in library grants for Continuing Education and Training for library staff and board members. The Library Commission will distribute the grants to 17 Nebraska libraries and library organizations. These grants are awarded to projects providing training and education for Nebraska library

personnel, supporting skilled and knowledgeable information specialists to serve citizen information needs. The grant program is based on state funds appropriated to help Nebraska libraries move toward achieving excellence in library service and is a result of the Libraries for the 21st Century campaign.

NEVADA

County courts launch new Webpage -- The Washoe County Courts have recently launched their Website at <http://www.washoecourts.com>. Of particular interest are the forms and department information, including information about the Family Court Facilitator's Office.

The librarians at Washoe County Law Library are available to assist anyone with legal reference questions. They can't give legal advice, but will gladly provide assistance in legal research matters to any patron or librarian at any geographic location. Contact the Washoe County Law Library Reference Desk, (775) 328-3250 or lawlib@mail.co.washoe.nv.us.

Management of electronic government records -- Sara Jones, administrator of the Nevada State Library and Archives, has approved the 15 recommendations made by the Nevada Electronic Records Committee that will serve as the foundation for "life cycle" management of electronic records by all political subdivisions of Nevada government. "While investment in the technology side of the

state IT infrastructure is substantial, the investment in the information side will be our state's most valuable asset," Jones said. "The information content and intellectual property of our state becomes its law, policy, and history, and will be Nevada's legacy to the future." The statutory responsibility for managing the state's information services (NRS 378) constitutes the basis for the recommendations developed by representatives of the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches that serve in an advisory capacity to the State Records Committee. These policies provide the conceptual framework wherein the electronic systems used by state agencies as well as county and city government can be managed in an integrated, fiscally responsible, consistent manner, thus insuring the integrity of the state's important information and assuring public accountability.

NEW MEXICO

High five us! -- The New Mexico Business Journal (December 2001) named the New Mexico State Library's Website (<http://www.stlib.state.nm.us>) to be among its choices for the best Websites in the state for 2001. "There are at least 50,000 [Websites] in New Mexico alone," the "Best of the Web" article stated. Most are essentially useless. But there are some silver needles among this towering hay-



stack, sites that are worth

your attention if you're part of the New Mexico business community." The caption accompanying the State Library's site explains that the site is "nothing flashy," but it is "an excellent collection of links as well as a handy guide to surprisingly deep information vaults of the State Library."

Informational technology grants awarded -- The New Mexico State Library received a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for \$51,600 through the Foundation's State Partnership Program. The purpose of the Program is to provide funds for the promotion of long-term sustainability for public access computing and also to assist with costs for information technology training.

Harry Potter books burned -- A local Alamogordo group of about 400 people received national media coverage on Dec. 30, 2001 by burning Harry Potter books. Christ Community Church Pastor, Jack Brock, who condemned the popular series as "evil," led several hundred churchgoers at the Sunday night bonfire as books from the Harry Potter series and other materials were thrown into the flames.

Jim Preston, Director of the Alamogordo Public Library, expressed disagreement with Brock's analysis of "Harry Potter," but defended Brock's right to free expression. "Tolerance and unbridled access to information are fundamental corner-

stones of our American way. Pastor Brock can choose to burn Harry Potter books at his church since that is his constitutional right, or one can go to the public library and choose or simply not choose to read Harry Potter books.”

NMLA strategic plan approved -- The New Mexico Library Association has approved a strategic plan to be implemented over the next few years. Its goal is to increase NMLA's influence through legislative efforts, membership, and public relations. It will collaborate with regional, state, and national association to exert influence. A needs assessment survey has already been done toward this end.

NORTH DAKOTA

Promotions at state library -- Stella Cone was promoted to a new position at the North Dakota State Library effective March 1, 2002. Cone is now the Head of Local Library and Disability Services. Her duties include working with North Dakota libraries on grant writing, collection development, and Internet policies. She will also be the outreach and workshop facilitator and supervisor of the State Library Disability Services Department the State Library. She has been with the State Library since June of 1995. In addition, Marie Hyatt was promoted to Head of Public Services, Reference, and Circulation. She has been with the State Library since August of 2000.

Open House a Success -- The North Dakota State Library held an open house Feb. 11 - 13. The three-day event kicked-off with a press conference introducing new North Dakota State Librarian Doris Ott. Ott discussed the role that libraries play in our lives. “The libraries of today still offer the same services they always did, but now have a presence on the Internet and are the information centers of the communities.” She says library service in North Dakota is ahead of many other states because of cooperation between librarians and legislative funding

The staff provided library tours and online demonstrations on how to access online magazines and newspapers from a personal computer.



Scholarships for library masters programs -- The North Dakota State Library has established a scholarship program to encourage North Dakotans to pursue a Masters of Library Science degree from an ALA accredited school (ALA/MLS) and to work in North Dakota. The program is for graduate activity that takes place during the current biennium, July 1, 2001–June 30, 2003, or for applicants who will receive their ALA/MLS within this biennium.

A maximum of \$20,000 has been earmarked for scholarship activity for the biennium. North Dakota residents working on their ALA/MLS degree may apply for

scholarships of \$1,000, in increments, not to exceed \$5,000. North Dakota residents who will be granted their ALA/MLS degree during the time period outlined above may apply for a scholarship up to \$5,000.

For further information, please contact Cynthia C. Larson at the North Dakota State Library at (701) 328-2492 or clarson@state.nd.us.

YA Center opens -- Fargo Public Library has developed a new Young Adult Center thanks to a grant from the FM Area Foundation to purchase four computer stations and new print and audio materials. The center focuses on high interest activities for students in grades 6-9. Participants in the first program are learning basic Web design and will create a new teen page for the library's Website. Other classes will be on desktop publishing and finding cool sites on the Internet.

Fargo library extends service -- The first branch library in the state of North Dakota will open on the south side of Fargo near the intersection of 25th Street and 32nd Avenue this summer. The storefront branch is located in a small shopping center and will serve families in the rapidly growing area of south Fargo. Renovation of the former retail store is underway and all of the behind-the-scenes work of choosing materials for the branch collection and planning for programs is keeping staff busy. The public was invited to submit potential names for the

branch and the library board will select the name from a list of finalists submitted by the staff.

OKLAHOMA

Sequoyah Book Awards announced -- Once again, Oklahoma kids have picked great winners! *Dork in Disguise* by Carol Gorman has won the popular Sequoyah Children's Book Award. Ms. Gorman gave a presentation at the OLA conference on April 17. The Sequoyah Young Adult Award was won by Laurie Halse Anderson for her book *I*.

Let's Talk About It, Oklahoma is alive and well! -- Oklahoma Library Association is one of the few state associations that sponsor a thriving reading and book discussion series. The program began in 1985 with six libraries presenting discussion programs. In 2001, *Let's Talk About It* programs were held in 46 libraries! Thanks to this OLA project, all over Oklahoma, humanities scholars are talking about books and authors, historical contexts and literary trends with homemakers, bankers, coaches, salespeople, teachers, retirees and farmers.

LTAI Oklahoma offers more than 33 reading and discussion themes, each of which includes multiple copies of books that may be borrowed by participants as well as informative brochures, posters and other publicity materials. Scholars provide in-depth discussion of the topics and literature. Any library in Oklahoma is eligible to sponsor a LTAI series.

Let's Talk About It, Oklahoma's new project has been *Oklahoma Connections*, a humanities-based reading and discussion project that takes adult literacy students beyond the rudiments of learning to read to discoveries about cultural ideas, historical settings and people, distant places, commonplace concepts, human insights and much more. Students read the books on their own, or with their tutors, or have the books read to them before each program. If they complete the series, they keep the books; for some, these will be their first books in a personal library. This has been a very successful project, and rewarding to literacy coordinators, tutors, and students across the state.

For information about *Let's Talk About it, Oklahoma*, or the *Oklahoma Connections* projects, please contact Jennifer Kidney at (405) 329-3395. Also, further information is available on the Oklahoma Humanities Council Website at www.okhumanitiescouncil.org.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Support staff are branching out -- The Support Staff Section of the South Dakota Library Association and H. M. Briggs Library, SDSU, are hosting a one day conference for library support staff and paraprofessionals. The conference will be held July 29, 2002 on the campus of South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD. *Branch Out South Dakota 2002* is an off-shoot of the *Branch Out* conferences which began in Minnesota in 1992. *Branch Out South*

Dakota 2002 will feature presentations on educational opportunities, Web design, professionalism, developing publicity and media presentations, programming and ergonomics, to name a few. The keynote speaker for the conference is Dr. Mary Bushing, Associate Professor at Montana State University. The conference is open to support staff in South Dakota and surrounding areas. Additional information and registration forms will be posted as they become available on the Support Staff Section Webpage at <http://lib.sdstate.edu/salonen/sdclass.htm> or by contacting section chair Deb Yoder at devora52@hotmail.com.

Library Legislative Day -- SDLA held its second annual Library Legislative Day reception on Jan. 16 at the State Library. Approximately 35 legislators and their wives attended the event to talk to the 40 librarians from across the state in attendance. The theme this year was *Build Community @ your library*. The planning committee, chaired by Ronelle Thompson, Augustana College, provided a beautiful display of hors d'oeuvres and refreshment. Each attendee received a hand stamped bookmark which sported the theme on one side and a SD library fact on the other.

Seeking replacement for library network -- Discussions continue in the second phase of the S.D. process for selecting a replacement for the SDLN. Users groups met in January to review

the RFP responses and develop recommendations for the RFP Evaluation Team and the Executive Committee. The decision on which vendors to invite for in-depth demonstrations were made in early March.

Join the Winners Circle -- The second annual JumpStart workshop series was held to introduce library staff to the 2002 Summer Reading Program theme, *Join the Winners Circle*. The workshops were held in five locations across the state: Yankton, Madison, Aberdeen, Pierre, and Rapid City. Lori Wagner, Mitchell Public Library and Betty Ketelhut, Brookings Public Library, assisted Pam Chamberlain, Children's Services Development Coordinator, in preparation and presentation of these workshops. All five workshops were well received; everyone left the workshops energized about summer reading.

UTAH

Historic building for new library -- The Provo City Library is now housed in the Brigham Young Academy building built in 1891. The Academy was a center of learning and a source of local pride for more than 75 years. The BYA first served as a combination senior high, junior high, and elementary education facility. After the institution became Brigham Young University in 1903 with the establishment of a new campus on the foothills bench, the academy complex became BYU's "lower campus." BYU closed the lower campus in 1968, and then sold the property in 1975 to be redeveloped. That project failed, and the building stood empty for 25 years. Finally Provo City purchased the property to preserve the grand, historic building, and use it for the new library. Although several million dollars came from private donations, voters passed a \$16.8 million construction bond in 1997. The building was gutted but the historic exterior preserved was kept. The new city library is four times the size of its previous home.

Voters pass bonds -- Cedar City voters approved a \$6 million general obligation bond for a new library building, which is now in the final planning stages. Steve Decker is library director. St. George voters approved funding for the Washington County Library

UPCOMING EVENTS-2002

July 29	South Dakota Support Staff Conference, Brookings
Sept. 19-21	Wyoming Library Association, Casper
Oct. 2-5	MPLA/North Dakota Library Association/ South Dakota Library Association Tri-Conference, Fargo
Oct. 3-5	Nevada Library Association Conference, Ely
Oct. 16-20	First Annual Colorado Association of Libraries Conference, Keystone
Oct. 23-25	Nebraska Library Association Convention, Lincoln
Dec. 4-6	Arizona Library Association Annual Conference, Phoenix

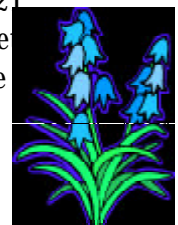
to remodel three existing buildings and build four new branch libraries. Larry Hortin is library director. Both Cedar City and St. George are located in southwest Utah.

Director honored -- Ronald Jenkins, Director of the Logan City Library, received the award of Utah's Library Leader of the Year, presented by Lt. Governor Olene Walker. Ron has served the library for twenty years and was honored for his work to promote literacy in the community.

WYOMING

Wyoming goes with SIRSI -- WYLD, Wyoming's state-wide union catalog, will be migrating to a new software. They will be going live on SIRSI by July 1, 2002. The training and implementation of plans are done and as each hour passes they are nearer to fulfilling the plan. They are moving ahead, at full speed, and by July 1, members hope to have survived and still be their usual smiling selves.

Wyoming Library Association notes -- The 2002 WLA Conference dates are Sept.18-21 2002 in Casper. The theme is not yet set. The 2003 conference dates are Oct. 1-4, 2003 in Evanston and the Wyoming Reading Council will be contacted about having their conference the same time and place.



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