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# MPLA Newsletter

A Publication of the Mountain Plains Library Association

June 2004

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<http://www.usd.edu/mpla>

### MPLA Listserv

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## *Hot Jazz and Hot Topics* Come Jam With Us at the CAL/ MPLA Conference Oct. 21-24

It is a major coup for the CAL/MPLA October 2004 Conference to book Connie Willis, six-time Nebula and Hugo award winner as the opening keynote speaker as well as Avi, the Newbery Medal winner, for the closing session. In addition, Michael Willhoite will be the speaker at the Julie J. Boucher Memorial Lecture. His book *Daddy's Roommate* is one of the most challenged books in our libraries. In between the fun will be an excellent offering of hot, informative workshops and seminars, and entertaining cool jazz. Jazz is the theme – make it happen for you at the CAL/MPLA Conference Oct. 21-24, 2004 at the Denver Tech Center in Denver. For more information on the conference, check out [www.cal-webs.org/conference.html](http://www.cal-webs.org/conference.html).



### Submit Your Ideas!

### Weavers Help Make Conference Connections

Making great connections at library conferences with cool people, ideas, and restaurants can be more than random luck. The Weavers' Project at the upcoming CAL/MPLA Conference in Denver, Oct.

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

January 1	July 1
March 1	September 1
May 1	November 1

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**MPLA Membership or**

**Subscription Business:**

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21-24 will help you make connections three ways!

First, weavers (a term for great networkers who like people and enjoy connecting them with other people and resources) will again be staffing our resource table and wandering around the conference to help you with any kind of need. So, if you are looking to connect with local librarians, find a class, or solve a sticky problem, we will be there for you!

Second, we will be offering help and advice to MPLA members before and during the conference, looking for information to make their visit to Colorado complete. Do you want insider tips on restaurants and shopping from locals? Want to know the off-the-beaten track places that native (and near-native) Coloradoans visit? Help making your trip into town smoother? No matter how big or small your concern, the Weavers are here to help! Whether your iguana gets sick on the road, you need a place to buy handmade jewelry, you want the best fish in town, or are looking for size 12 high heels, we can help.

Third, we have a way for you to connect with libraries of all types before and during the conference...

The Mountain Plains library community is considered one of the most innovative in the country! Please help us collect your best ideas to share with other libraries before and during the Colorado Association of Libraries/Mountain Plains Library Association meeting. We are looking for everything from tips on managing library users at closing, to successful Web initiatives, to

collaborating with teachers, to developing bibliographic instruction for off-campus students. It can be a frontline tip from reference and circulation or a backroom strategy from tech services and cataloging. Volunteers and board members are also invited to participate. Consider that your great idea is something some other library might want to copy, so please be clear and concise. Your contributions will be edited, organized, and shared with other libraries before and during the CAL/MPLA Conference. Pick your favorite "brags" about your library and send us:

Your name, position, and library  
Your cool tip or idea--50 words or less

Anyone who works in a MPLA library can contribute, including our great state libraries. We have two goals - that every MPLA library of every type contributes at least one idea and that we gather at least 1,000 ideas! You can help by sending in your ideas AND encouraging colleagues and co-workers to do likewise. Maybe you work with someone who takes for granted their contributions and needs to realize how good they really are. What is commonsense for you might be a magic solution for someone else! Big or little, you have something to share. Sorry, we can not return print submissions.

Please send your ideas and concerns to The Jam Session, c/o Pat Wagner, Pattern Research, PO Box 9100, Denver CO 80209 or e-mail them to [pat@pattern.com](mailto:pat@pattern.com). (If you don't receive an e-mail acknowledgment within 48 hours, please send again.) Sorry, we can not accept ideas over the phone.

## Fourth Annual International Meeting Focuses on User Information Skills

A user information skills conference, Information Competencies: Toward Program Implementation, will be held in Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, México will be held Oct. 21 to 23, 2004. Juárez University Libraries invite librarians, educators, library products and services suppliers, and professionals involved in the facilitation of information literacy competencies, to participate in its fourth international conference.

Please consider attending and participating by...

- Submitting a paper;
- Reporting on a user education program experience;
- Exhibiting/demonstrating user education materials;
- Taking part in discussion groups.

For more information, please see the conference's Website at [www.uacj.mx/dhi/](http://www.uacj.mx/dhi/) or contact the organizers via e-mail: Jesús Cortés at [jcortes@uacj.mx](mailto:jcortes@uacj.mx) or Jesús Lau at [jlau@uv.mx](mailto:jlau@uv.mx).

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# President's Letter

By Carol Hammond

## On becoming a leader

This weekend I watched the Russell Crowe movie *Master and Commander*. Although both of those words have a really negative connotation in contemporary management, they absolutely fit the British navy and the captain of any of its ships at that time, and the situations in which they found themselves. Crowe succeeded by being both master and commander, when one of his midshipmen failed for lacking the strength of personality to become either. You will not see ads for CEOs that seek a master or a commander, but I'd say you are likely to find many library directors who can tell you about some crisis or event in which they were, well, very much the master and commander and saved the library "ship" from sinking by accepting that responsibility. They would just never use those words.

I'm also reading *Into the Unknown: Leadership Lessons from Lewis and Clark's Daring Westward Expedition*. (Can you tell I'm also a historian?). This military expedition was as close to perfectly executed as it could be; considering all the risk and danger, only one man was lost. They covered thousands of miles through uncharted territory. Selecting the right people, planning well, sharing leadership, providing discipline, and inspiring trust resulted in a tremendously successful mission that was of very great importance. Lewis and Clark also had a style that fit the situation.

Both have given me a reason to think about leadership. These were different kinds of leaders, different places, and different situations. But each had the same sense of personal courage, displayed confidence that inspired others, had the ability to make difficult decisions, understood the goal and communicated that to followers, and reached success through people. But they could not have accomplished anything alone; leadership is all about building a team and working as one.



I don't spend a lot of time thinking about leadership, although it's something I use every day in my work as a library director, and for this year as the president of a large professional group. We've all been in organizations with leaders we admired or worked for ones we thought were incompetent, so none of us can doubt the value of a good

leader and the enduring need for them in nearly every aspect of life. The right leader can bring about productive change, create a good workplace, build an efficient organization and make an enterprise succeed. Almost every human endeavor needs one.

This is why I am so enthusiastic about MPLA's Leadership Institute at Ghost Ranch, New Mexico. Libraries need good leaders, and this program is for that reason alone one of the most significant projects MPLA has undertaken. I believe these participants will be the leaders of our institutions in the years ahead, having a positive impact on all kinds of libraries in our region.

The institute brings together mentors who have significant years of experience in leadership, newer professionals who are interested in leadership, and a leading library consultant to teach and facilitate three days of lessons, exchange, discussion and training. They have an opportunity to consider where their careers are headed and what steps will take them to positions of leadership. Most importantly this is a program that will help the participants know themselves better, for it is a skill to be able to know and see what talents others have, but often a challenge to recognize your own strengths and shortcomings, and to be objective in that analysis. It also helps build a network, since it establishes friendships and contacts these future leaders will be able to rely on as soon as they go back to their home states and which may endure for a long time.

Please think about Ghost Ranch; if this sounds like something you would like to do, plan to apply in

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## Some New Features on MemberClicks

You should find a whole bunch of new bulletin board forums for every committee, section, and state in MPLA on MemberClicks, [my memberclicks.com/mpla](http://my.memberclicks.com/mpla). Please feel free to use the forums to share information, ask questions, etc. We hope you will find them a useful communication tool.

Next, we are adding events to an online Event Calendar also. You can find out a variety of events occurring in the MPLA region.

Finally, we're experimenting with a new poll feature, that allows us to survey membership on just about anything.

Everyone should have received an e-mail a couple of months ago containing your login name and password. If you have problems logging into MemberClicks, send Joe Edelen an e-mail at [jedelen@usd.edu](mailto:jedelen@usd.edu).

## President's Letter ...

(Continued from page 4)

future years. You may need to look ahead a little more than usual and plan to save the time in your schedule to attend. If your institution has limited travel funds, count on saving some of it for this experience. It's a selective process and not everyone who applies can go, so you may need to try more than once. If you are already in a leadership position, help identify and encourage those who may benefit from this experience to apply and help them to get there. If you are in need of a leader, look to those who have attended the institute. Many of them are now taking leadership roles in MPLA.

You won't see an ad for a job as master and commander, or leader of an expedition into the unknown, but you might give some thought to whether you'd like one of those positions. MPLA offers an opportunity to help you get ready if you think you might.

**EBSCO AD**

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## CALL FOR PAPERS

### MPLA Academic Section Professional Forum

The Academic Section of the Mountain Plains Library Association (MPLA), in co-sponsorship with the Colorado Association of Libraries (CAL), announces a call for papers to be presented at the:

CAL/MPLA Joint Conference  
Denver, Colorado  
October 21-24, 2004

The MPLA Academic Section sponsors the Professional Forum, which presents new ideas, innovations, and case studies in librarianship that benefit the profession. Research methodology is encouraged, but not essential. Academic, school, and public librarians are all invited to participate. The papers are peer reviewed for an award of a \$300 prize to the winning paper presentation.

#### GUIDELINES FOR PAPERS

- Problems are clearly identified and solutions proposed
- Themes may include locally implemented experiences resulting in success or failure, 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 selected on:

- Significance of topics to library profession
- Development of concept and quality of organization
- Clarity of ideas and objectives

Final presentations will be judged at the annual conference on:

- 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
- Papers in length from two to six pages, with bibliography and appendices as needed
- Selected authors will make a presentation of the paper at the CAL/MPLA Joint Conference 2004
- Submit an abstract electronically by AUGUST 1, 2004 to: [m\\_heckard@umwestern.edu](mailto:m_heckard@umwestern.edu)

For more information contact:

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*MPLA Professional Development Grants are available to fund research and travel!*  
See application information at the MPLA Website: [www.usd.edu/mpla/grants.html](http://www.usd.edu/mpla/grants.html)

*For additional details of the CAL/MPLA Joint Conference, go to:  
Colorado Association of Libraries at [www.cal-webs.org/conference.html](http://www.cal-webs.org/conference.html)*

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## Looking for MPLA Award Nominations for 2004

THE MPLA Awards committee is once again soliciting nominations for the various MPLA awards that will be awarded at the 2004 conference in Denver.

The MPLA awards are a way of saying “thank you” to special staff members, volunteers, and library supporters. These are people who allow us to perform our jobs more efficiently and easier.

The following awards are provided by MPLA: the

Carl Gaumer Exhibitors Award, the MPLA Distinguished Service Award, the MPLA Legislative Leadership Award, MPLA News Media Support Award, MPLA Literary Contribution Award, MPLA Beginning Professional Award, MPLA Youth Services Excellence Award, and the MPLA Intellectual Freedom Award. A complete description of these awards and nomination forms are available at the following link: [www.usd.edu/mpla/committees/awards/awardsindex.html](http://www.usd.edu/mpla/committees/awards/awardsindex.html)

## Teton Director Bernfeld Leaving for Law School

After 12 years of service to the Teton County Library, Director Betsy Bernfeld has announced that she will be leaving her position this summer to begin law school. Bernfeld has been an active MPLA member. Library Assistant Director Debra Adams will assume the role of acting director upon Bernfeld’s departure.

“I want to stay in the library profession,” Bernfeld said, “but specialize in law.” She explains that many of the issues that reach her desk cannot be resolved through a knowledge of librarianship or with management skills. They are legal issues involving intellectual property, intellectual freedom, licensing contracts, privacy, and the Internet.

“In the past, the Constitution and federal laws have provided public libraries with advantages and safeguards, such as the rights of ‘first sale’ and ‘fair use,’ to guarantee free public access to information,” Bernfeld said. “As more and more information is available in digital format, contract law is supplanting copyright law, and free use is tending toward pay-per-use. Public libraries, and thus the public, will lose out unless librarians step up into the legal realm.”

Library Board President Bill Resor said, “The Library has blossomed under Betsy’s leadership. She has built not only a staff of great individuals, but a staff that works as a great team. She has always focused on what the community wants and needs, and library

usage has soared.”

After six years as adult services supervisor in the old library, Bernfeld assumed the director’s position in 1998, shortly after the move to the new building. She oversaw the development of new collections in the expanded space and directed the creation of four new departments—a professional reference service, a computer center, an outreach office to coordinate programming and public relations, and Latino services. Bernfeld has instituted a team management structure that has received recognition from the Mountain Plains Library Association and in professional library literature. In 2000, she worked with the community to create a five-year strategic plan, and its implementation is now nearing completion. Her most recent project has been a comprehensive community-wide survey, which has the library poised for a new five-year planning process.



Bernfeld was named the Wyoming Library Association’s Librarian of the Year in 2000. She was selected to participate in the national Snowbird Li-

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# Leadership Institute Rocks On!



Above are (L-R) Marla Roberson, Peggy Kaney, and Cylinda Richardson-Martin, Oklahoma's 2003 Ghost Ranch attendees. This photo was taken during their poster session presentation at the April Oklahoma Library Association conference in Tulsa.

At the close of the day on May 14 (the application deadline) there were 82 applicants interested in attending the 2004 Ghost Ranch Leadership Institute!

AZ 6  
CO 23  
KS 9  
MT 5  
ND 3  
NE 4  
NM 9  
NV 3  
OK 5  
SD 5  
UT 3  
WY 7

(Continued from page 7)

library Leadership Institute and Mountain Plains Library Leadership Institute in 2000 and 2002 respectively.

Assistant Director Debra Adams has been at Teton County Library since 1987. After 13 years of service as Alta Branch Manager, she moved to the Jackson library in 2000 into the position of circulation supervisor. She was promoted to assistant director in July 2001 and served for six months as acting director in 2003.

"The library board has complete confidence in Deb as acting director; she did a great job when she served in this role before. The library will continue to be in experienced hands as we begin the search for a new director," Resor said.

Library Board Vice-President Amy Robinson will travel to the American Library Association Conference in Orlando in late June to interview potential candidates.

"Betsy has done such an outstanding job, we owe it

to the community to conduct a broad search for a replacement," Robinson said. "However, we realize we have a great deal of talent close to home, and we will also be advertising within the library, the community and through regional library associations."

Bernfeld has been accepted at the University of Wyoming College of Law and is on the waiting list at the University of Arizona, where she has been working on a doctorate in library science for the past year.

"No institution that I'm aware of offers a joint J.D./Ph.D. in Library Science," Bernfeld said, "so I'm going to have to get creative." She hopes to work with both UW and UA to eventually complete both degrees.

"Taking on the position of Teton County Library Director was one of the most difficult endeavors of my life," Bernfeld said. "Leaving it is just as hard."

Adams will begin her duties as acting director the second week of June, and Bernfeld will stay during a transition period at least until the end of June.





# Business Sense

Jean Anderson  
Business Librarian  
Fort Collins Public Library, CO

(Note: This column is designed to be a handout for public library business patrons. I would be happy to share this column and previous columns with you - Word format. E-mail me at [anderson@julip.fcgov.com](mailto:anderson@julip.fcgov.com).)

## Manufacturing Systems

Are your manufacturing practices highly efficient? These sites and journals can help you shape your strategic decisions.

### Best Manufacturing Practices

[www.bmpcoe.org](http://www.bmpcoe.org)

The goal of the BMP program is to identify and validate best practices, to document them, and to encourage industry, government, and academia to share information about them. This site gives details of current news, seminars and conferences, and best practice surveys.

### Intelligent Manufacturing Systems

[www.ims.org](http://www.ims.org)

IMS is an industry-led, international research and development program established to develop the next generation of manufacturing and processing technologies. Companies and research institutions from Australia, Canada, the European Union and Norway, Japan, Korea, Switzerland, and the United States of America participate in this program.

### Assoc. of Manufacturing Excellence (AME)

[www.ame.org](http://www.ame.org)

The Association for Manufacturing Excellence (AME), founded in 1985, is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to cultivating understanding, analysis, and exchange of productivity methods and their successful application in the pursuit of excellence. AME is practitioner-based, and their events and workshops focus on hands-on learning. AME publishes the *Target* magazine.

### Institute of Industrial Engineers

[www.iienet.org](http://www.iienet.org)

IIE is the world's largest professional society dedicated solely to the support of the industrial engineering profession and individuals involved with improving quality and productivity. Founded in 1948, IIE is an international, non-profit association that provides leadership for the application, education, training, research, and development of industrial engineering. Non-members can browse messages on the discussion center and news articles.

### National Association of Manufacturers

[www.nam.org](http://www.nam.org)

The NAM's mission is to enhance the competitiveness of manufacturers and to improve American living standards by shaping a legislative and regulatory environment conducive to U.S. economic growth, and to increase understanding among policymakers, the media, and the public about the importance of manufacturing to America's economic strength. The NAM is the nation's largest industrial trade association with 14,000 members (including 10,000 small and mid-sized companies) serving manufacturers and employees in every industrial sector and all 50 states.

### MAMTC

[www.mamtc.com](http://www.mamtc.com)

The Mid-America Manufacturing Technology Center (MAMTC) is a service organization that helps small and mid-sized manufacturers increase their sales and productivity, reduce costs, and improve quality. MAMTC provides low-cost technical assistance mostly through on-site consultation, to manufacturers in the areas of engineering, operations, management, and marketing. There are 19 MAMTC offices working with manufacturers in Colorado, Kansas, and Wyoming.

### Links and Resources

[www.mamtc.com/linksResources.asp](http://www.mamtc.com/linksResources.asp)

MAMTC provides this exhaustive list of Weblinks about manufacturing and related information with special links to state resources.

Jean Anderson is the Business Librarian for the Fort Collins Public Library, Fort Collins, CO. Suggestions for future columns are welcome: [anderson@julip.fcgov.com](mailto:anderson@julip.fcgov.com). Current and past issues of *Business Sense* are available at: [www.fcgov.com/library/adult.php](http://www.fcgov.com/library/adult.php)

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## MPLA Sponsored Site, Prairies and Plains, Needs Contributors

The Mountain Plains Library Association is the sponsor of a Website called Prairies and Plains. The purpose of this site is to cite as many materials as possible relating to the study of the Western prairies and the Great Plains. The principal investigator is Robert Balay, editor of the 11th edition of the ALA publication *Guide to Reference Books* and presently Reference Editor at *Choice* magazine.

At this stage, the compilers hope to include citations to primary sources, studies, reference works, unpublished materials, electronic sources, dissertations, government publications, sections of books, periodical articles—the entire range of materials students of the Prairies/Plains region may want to examine. The project is being compiled in a random access database, and records are structured in such a way that printed sources (for example, a guide to reference sources) can be extracted and issued separately.

The period covered will begin with the first European incursions into the region, roughly 1540, to the present. Most materials will be in English, but those in other languages, chiefly Spanish and French, will be cited as well. The region is defined as the area of tallgrass prairie and shortgrass plains reaching from northeastern Mexico to the Canadian Shield, from the Missouri River to the Rocky Mountains, including the states of Kansas, Nebraska, and the Dakotas, western regions of Missouri, Iowa, and Minnesota, the plains regions in the west-

ern parts of Texas and Oklahoma, eastern parts of New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, and Montana, and the plains provinces of Canada—Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta.

The URL for the site is [www.prairiesandplains.com](http://www.prairiesandplains.com). The database will be made available to interested users as soon as a respectable number of records have been added.

Prairies and Plains is in its beginning stages. If you are interested in becoming a contributor and having a role in shaping the project — in helping decide about how the project should be organized, what should be included or omitted, how the classification should be arranged — we invite you to write the general editor. It will be helpful if you have had formal training in Plains history, or are associated with an institution — a university or a library — in the Prairies and Plains region, since those institutions are most likely to hold materials relating to the region. But the principal requirement is a firm interest in the Prairies and Plains; for that there is no replacement. We would like a mix of librarians and faculty, and need individuals with training in various disciplines, literature to zoology. Send your inquiry to the general editor, Robert Balay, at [arebee@prairiesandplains.com](mailto:arebee@prairiesandplains.com). If convenient, attach your current vita, but if you do not have it in current or presentable shape, write anyway. Formalities

can follow later. Look at it as an opportunity to join the honorable company of P & P contributors.



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## “No Frontiers to Information”

# Submissions Sought for International Library Forum

The program of Information Science at the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters of the Autonomous University of Chihuahua summons the library and academic community, the producers and providers of information services, as well as those who feel interested in the field of information and education processes, to attend and take part in the Transborder Library Forum Chihuahua 2005, “No Frontiers to Information” to be held March 9 to 11, 2005 in Chihuahua City, Mexico, under the sponsorship of the University of Chihuahua, the University System of Academic Libraries, (SUBA), The Government of the State of Chihuahua, and the Administrators Association of Information Resources. (ASAR). Arizona has hosted both the 1991 and 1996, FOROs and New Mexico has hosted in 2000.



The objective of the program is to share experiences and exchange ideas about the transborder cooperation between Mexico, USA, and Canada on the subject of libraries and information. This leads us to strengthen links, propose solutions, diffuse theoretical trends and practices related to actions that contribute to integrate our shared efforts in the North American region.

The topics will be related to the problems that deal with librarianship and those of science information, and thus with them it looks forward to a solution, and discusses the role that the international collabora-

tion plays in the subject of library and information services within the context of cultural development of the region TLC/NAFTA. In this context, the subtopics to be examined could be:

1. The influence of information and its processes in individual culture.
2. The influence of information and its processes in organizational culture.
3. The influence of information and its processes in social or collective culture.
4. Information as a means of cultural influence in regions that differ from our own region.
5. Information and changing processes.
6. Planned changes and information.
7. Cultural presence of information in library and non-library contexts.
8. Information and education as a binomial change.
9. The importance of culture in the formation of professionals in information.
10. Bonds of culture and information with educational, governmental, business world, commercial, and individual contexts, etc.
11. Other topics of interest for people related with information science.

Conditions of entry can be found at [www.uach.mx/foro](http://www.uach.mx/foro).

All works must be remitted by e-mail to [jtarango@uach.mx](mailto:jtarango@uach.mx). The closing date for reception of works is Dec. 17, 2004. Authors of chosen works will be notified by Jan. 31, 2005.

**HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT MEMBERCLICKS?**  
[my.memberclicks.com/mpla](http://my.memberclicks.com/mpla)

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We Should Be Giving...

# *Hungry for Book Groups*



Cheryl's inaugural book group, above, discusses the most recent book of choice.

By Cheryl Wright  
Park County Library System, Cody, WY

People in our area are hungry for book clubs. They like to read and they want to discuss what they read with someone else. Perhaps it is because the winters get so long in our part of the Rockies, or maybe it is because there is so little to do in our small town when we can't get outside to play or hike or garden. Well, you can go outside but you will either freeze or the wind will beat you to death. At any rate, I have tried to join several book clubs and they are always full by the time I find out about them. So, I thought, the next best thing would be to start one of my own. But I was not sure where to begin.

I not only work at the library, I am a master gardener, the author of one gardening book, and in the process of writing three more. Our local radio personality, Mac Frost, is also the chairman of our conservation district. After hearing about my literary accomplishments, he asked me to appear on his morning talk show to speak about the book, *High Country Herbs*, and about gardening in the Rocky Mountains in general. The first program was so well received that it led to several more appearances.

Then, my publisher, Annette Chaudet, and I, with some input from Mac, decided to start a book discussion group on the air called "Speaking Volumes." This in turn generated so much interest that we have been asked to write a small book review newsletter for our local purveyor of fine literature. And it also produced another child, the thing I started out to do in the beginning, my own book club, to be sponsored by the library where I work.

I recently read Mitch Albom's book, *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*. In the book it says, "no story sits by itself. Sometimes stories meet at corners and sometimes they cover one another completely, like stones beneath a river." And that is how it is with this story. We in Cody are in desperate need of a new library. Our library is too small and outdated to serve the needs of our community. One way to point out these inadequacies is to get people more involved in the library. And what better way to get people involved in the library than through reading and discussing; i.e. book clubs.

I could go on and on about how the pieces and parts of my life have met and intertwined so that I wrote a book and started working at the library at the precise time that the decision was made to try to build a new library. Don't get me wrong; I am not saying that without me and my stories the new library idea would

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# A Prescription for Information: MedlinePlus

By Siobhan Blackwell  
Health Sciences Library, Creighton University  
Omaha, NE

Patrons often have questions about health conditions, treatments, and medications. From the public library patron needing information on diabetes to the student doing a project on anthrax, MedlinePlus ([www.medlineplus.gov](http://www.medlineplus.gov)), the National Library of Medicine's consumer health Website, gives librarians a comprehensive, authoritative, and free resource for meeting their patrons' health information needs.

More than 650 Health Topics form the core of MedlinePlus. The Health Topics pages are the entry point for hundreds of subjects, with more being added each week. They provide links to information on the topic, current news, connections to related topics, and more. All of the resources included on the Health Topics pages provide the full text online for free.

MedlinePlus also includes a number of *Interactive Health Tutorials*, which use sound, pictures, and easy-to-read text to walk a patient through the important information on a given health topic. *Drug Information* is available for thousands of medications, and can be accessed by either the brand or generic name, while a comprehensive *medical dictionary and encyclopedia* provides definitions and spellings for over 4,000 terms, tests, and procedures. Be sure to also notice the *Current Health News* which lists news by date and topic for the last thirty days.

A Spanish-language interface is available; simply click on the term "Espanol" on the right hand side to move to a Spanish language version. If you do not speak Spanish, simply find the health topic of interest to your patron and the click on Espanol on that health topic page and you will be directed to information in Spanish. You will find health topics, interactive tutorials, drug information, a medical encyclopedia, and news from the last 90 days.

MedlinePlus can be accessed from any computer with a connection to the Internet at [www.medlineplus.gov](http://www.medlineplus.gov),

and more information can be found by clicking on the "About MedlinePlus" link available at the top of each page. Feel free to link to MedlinePlus from your library's Website. You will be providing your patrons with access to quality, reviewed medical information.

If you are helping a patron who would like more information than what is provided on the Health Topics page, simply click on "Search MEDLINE for recent research articles on...." This section is located on the left hand side under the table of contents. Clicking on this button will take you to a preformulated search in PubMed which is the free Web-based interface to MEDLINE. PubMed provides access to the complete health sciences citation database used by health professionals.

The NN/LM has a toll free number, 1-800-338-7657, that will put you in touch with the regional medical library that serves your state. <http://nmlm.gov>.

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## Hungry ...

(Continued from page 12)

never have come into being. But everything has seemed to work together to bring me to the point where I am in a very good position to help, along with many, many others, bring this idea to fruition. And this gives me a very good feeling.

I am very involved in my community through master gardeners, Meadowlark Audubon, our local writers group and the library. I am constantly amazed at how many times a day I am asked for help or advice on some issue or another. Today I was asked to give the library Friends group a list of local writers and speakers; I was asked for a book on native plants and what trees to plant for a wind break; I was asked about a certain species of bird and its habits; I was asked about finding a writers group. I think we, as librarians, should be involved in our communities. We should be giving, especially when we are asking our communities to give back to libraries.

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# Around the MPLA Region



## COLORADO

*As True Today as Yesterday: From Colorado's Historic Newspaper Collection* -- "Does the young man who persists in being a loafer, ever reflect how much less it would cost to be a decent, respectable man? Anybody can be a gentleman if he chooses to be, but it is mighty expensive being a loafer. It costs time-days, months, years of it. It costs friends. Your consorts will be only the buccaneers of society. It costs health, vigor, comfort-all true pleasure in living, honor, dignity, self-respect, and the respect of the world when living, and finally all regret and consideration when dead." From the *Sunshine Courier*, May 25, 1878.

The foregoing is an example of the content of historic newspapers in the state. The Collaborative Digitization Program, the Colorado State Library (CSL), and the Colorado Historical Society (CHS) are partnering to create "Colorado's Historical Newspaper Collection." This project serves as the foundation for a statewide historic newspaper database, beginning with 44 newspapers dating from 1859 to 1880. The database will include full text indexing of all articles, graphics, letters to the editor, and advertising. The user can view articles individually or in the context of the full page of the paper. Users are able to search a topic, individual, or organization in a single newspaper, any combination of papers, or all 44 papers. The papers will be digitized from the microfilm version of the papers that are owned by the Colorado Historical Society. The Collection now has 18 papers from Boulder, Clear Creek, Denver, Gilpin, Jefferson, and Pueblo Counties ranging from 1859 through 1883. View or search these newspapers at: [www.cdphheritage.org/newspapers](http://www.cdphheritage.org/newspapers) or [www.aclin.org](http://www.aclin.org) - click on "Historic Papers."

*Colorado continues to struggle with its budget situation* -- Several 90s-vintage constitutional amendments, such as TABOR (Taxpayer's Bill of Rights), have

the unfortunate effect of "ratcheting-down" the base budget during times of poor economic growth. For public and academic libraries, as well as the regional library services networks, there has been a tremendous negative effect as dwindling state budget dollars go to more "vital" services. A number of bills being considered, that would have either suspended or altered the problematic amendments, failed to pass. There is a possibility that the governor may call a special session to deal with the budget crisis.

## KANSAS

*A State Library team wins coveted major award* -- A Kansas State Library team won a 40" leg lamp (ala A Christmas Story) April 1 at the 2004 "Give KLA a Leg Up Spelling Bee" at a state library conference held at the Hyatt and Convention Center in Wichita. The Grand "Pronouncer," Judge G. Joe Pierron, presented the major award to the state library three-person winning team of Anne Damme, Personnel Officer, Jeff Hixon, Director-Library Information Technology, and Rhonda Machlan, Resource Sharing Specialist-Library Information Technology. Ten three-member teams competed using only 21 words. Tension mounted as the team successfully spelled the final word — hippology, a study of the horse.

Judges for the spelling bee were: Cindi Hickey, Institute for Continuous Education, Emporia State University, [ice.emporia.edu/](http://ice.emporia.edu/); Roseanne Goble, Executive Director for Kansas Library Association (KLA), [skyways.lib.ks.us/KLA.org](http://skyways.lib.ks.us/KLA.org); and Duane Johnson, State Librarian, Kansas State Library, [skyways.lib.ks.us/KSL.org](http://skyways.lib.ks.us/KSL.org).

The timekeeper was Hans Fischer, member of the Kansas Library Trustee Association, Lawrence. Corporate sponsors for the event were: AutoGraphics and KAN ED.

Teams competing: Northeast Kansas Library System (Lawrence), "Three Syllables or Less"; Northwest Kansas Library System (Norton); Southeast Kansas Library System, "Spellers R Us — the R is backward, not the team!"; Southwest Kansas Library System

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(Dodge City), “The Book-etts”; Northcentral Kansas Library System; Johnson County Public Library; Kansas Association of School Libraries; Topeka Shawnee County Public Library; Wichita Public Library; and the Kansas State Library (Topeka), “Spellbinding.”

Vikki Jo Stewart, Literacy and Volunteer Management Coordinator for the state library, [skyways.lib.ks.us/LITERACY.org](http://skyways.lib.ks.us/LITERACY.org), who serves as Promotions Chair for KLA, coordinated the event.

## MONTANA

*Fools Crow* chosen as 2004 One Book Montana -- The Montana Center for the Book, in partnership with Montana Public Radio, Yellowstone Public Radio, Penguin Group USA, and other organizations, announces the 2004 One Book Montana selection, *Fools Crow* by James Welch.

The One Book Montana program offers an invitation to all Montanans to read *Fools Crow* over the spring, summer, and fall. MCB will provide reading and discussion guides, suggestions for library, school, and book group projects, and opportunities for reader comments and other tools on its Website, [www.montanabook.org/onebook.htm](http://www.montanabook.org/onebook.htm). Additional programming on the work will include readings and discussions of Montana’s public radio stations, events at the Montana Festival of the Book, Oct. 1 and 2, 2004 in Missoula, and much more.

*Fool’s Crow*, first published in 1986, tells the story of a small band of Blackfeet Indians in the Two Medicine Territory of northwestern Montana in the 1860s. Fools Crow, a young warrior, has seen the future. He knows the tribe must either fight a brave but futile war or surrender their lands and their way of life. Wallace Stegner called the work “a novel that in the sweep and inevitability of its events, in the human persuasiveness and variety of its characters, in the scrupulous authenticity of its cultural reconstruction, and in the sheer flow and strength of its prose, is a major contributor to Native American literature.”

The Montana Center for the Book promotes Montana literature, libraries, and literacy, and co-sponsors the Montana Festival of the Book. The Montana Center for the Book is a program of the Montana Committee for the Humanities, Montana’s independent non-profit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

*First edition books donated to library* -- The William P. Sherman Library at the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center, Great Falls, MT is the recipient of eight boxes of rare, historical books, some dating to 1808 and 1814.

“They’re easily worth a quarter million dollars,” said Jill Jackson, director of the library which is run by the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation Inc.

The books are a donation from the family of Earle Barnes, who died in March 2003. Barnes joined Dow Chemical in the 1940s and was chairman of the board when he retired in 1982.

“The family didn’t really understand the significance of the gift, just that Mr. Barnes was extremely proud of these books and really liked to show them off,” Jackson said.

Perhaps the rarest volume is *A Journal of the Voyages and Travels of the Corps of Discovery* by Sgt. Patrick Gass, described as “one of the persons employed in the expedition. It’s a first edition published in London in 1808, six years before Meriwether Lewis’ notes were published by Nicholas Biddle. It’s just in beautiful condition,” said Jackson.

The gift to the Sherman Library includes a set of the Coues volumes as well. “What’s really fascinating about this one is that it’s the first edition to include other types of materials,” Jackson said. “They made facsimiles of the original Lewis and Clark letters and bound them into a book,” she said, “so it includes some of the original source documents.”

There’s speculation that Charlie Russell saw a copy

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of this book and that it inspired his Lewis and Clark paintings which began appearing in 1896. Ultimately, Russell painted about 20 different versions of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

The library also was given its first full set of the journals edited by Reuben Gold Thwaites and published in 1904 as the centennial of the expedition peaked interest.

“It says it’s an eight-volume set, but it actually has 15 volumes, printed on Van Gelder hand-made paper,” said Jackson. It’s one of only 200 copies printed.

Tom Barnes said his father was fascinated by Western history, and collecting first-edition books became a hobby of his. “It seemed logical to make those books available to researchers and to the public,” he said.

But the Moulton volumes are special for yet another reason. “Gary Moulton undertook the job of editing those journals at the suggestion of Bill Sherman,” Jackson said, “so it’s wonderful to have them coming back to the Sherman Library.”

## NEBRASKA

*Attention conference goers* -- You will want to grab your calendars and mark the following dates: The Nebraska Library Association and the Nebraska Educational Media Association invite you to join us for “Virtual Places, Physical Spaces - Nebraska Libraries Now,” Oct. 6-8, 2004, at the joint NLA/NEMA 2004 conference to be held at the Holiday Inn Midtown and Howard Johnson Riverside Inn in Grand Island. Visit the conference Website at: [www.papillion.ne.us/~NLA2004/](http://www.papillion.ne.us/~NLA2004/) for a tentative schedule, exhibitors and convention coordinator information.

The Nebraska Library Association and Nebraska Educational Media Association are proud to announce that the Nebraska Library Commission will sponsor the appearance of Dr. Mary Pipher as the Keynote speaker at the annual conference. Dr. Pipher will speak on Friday, Oct. 8 and will lead conference goers through an exploration of how “cul-

tural brokers” (schoolteachers, caseworkers, public health nurses, library staff and volunteers) can help new arrivals to make intentional decisions about what to accept and what to reject in America, easing us into each other’s cultures. In her book, *The Middle of Everywhere: The World’s Refugees Come to Our Town*, Dr. Pipher tells the story of how Lincoln, Nebraska became a gathering place for refugees from all corners of the globe. Nebraska, sometimes described as the “middle of nowhere,” is increasingly becoming a “cultural crossroad.” Dr. Pipher says, “We’re becoming a richer curry of peoples.” She immersed herself in the lives of the refugee families that comprise this “rich curry” and emerged with a collection of warm, touching, anecdotal stories of how new arrivals to the United States strive to make sense of this new place, while holding fast to their cultural heritage. “Arrival stories are survival stories,” she says, expressing admiration for the resiliency the refugees exhibit.

*Library Paraprofessional Award given* -- Each year the Paraprofessional Section of the Nebraska Library Association presents an award to the paraprofessional who has demonstrated outstanding service in a library setting. This year’s award went to Gayle Roberts who works as a library assistant in the Reference Department at the University of Nebraska at Omaha Library. Some of Gayle’s accomplishments as listed in *Keynote for Paraprofessionals*, the section’s newsletter, are writing newsletters in support of the library’s outreach efforts to student organizations, establishing a “Swap-N-Read” program where library visitors can swap recreational reading books, and hosting other library activities. Gayle was described as being extremely customer focused and regularly going above and beyond what is required in meeting the needs of students. Her enthusiasm and dedication is in making the library a better place not only for the patrons, but also for library staff. Gayle is pursuing her Master’s in Library Science degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia. With her award, Gayle received a check for \$50, a certificate from the Paraprofessional Section and a free one-year membership in the Nebraska Library Association.



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*Over 150 attended Legislative Day 2004* -- Over 150 librarians, trustees, friends and Senators attended Legislative Day 2004 held in Lincoln on Feb. 19, 2004. The day began as attendees were greeted by representatives of the Nebraska Library Association's Trustees, Users and Friends Section and everyone shared in a coffee and doughnut time. Activities for the day included recognition of eight young people from across Nebraska who do volunteer work at their public library or school library. The speakers included Bill Johnson, publisher of the *Lincoln Journal Star*, who spoke about the media and community building; Library Commissioner Wally Seiler from Alliance who spoke on the importance of mentorship; and Mike Nelson, city administrator from Norfolk who spoke on servant leadership. According to Kathy Tooker, NLA's Legislative Committee Chair, one Senator looking out over the crowd said, "Libraries really have a lobby group now and I've heard from it!"

*NLA Public Library Section holds spring meetings*- This year's NLA Public Library Section meetings were co-sponsored by: the Public Library Section; the Trustees, Users and Friends Section; the Special and Institutional Section; School, Children's and Young People Section; and the Nebraska Library Commission. Two workshops were offered, one being "Being a Professional Person-it is not all about the Credentials." Topics included characteristics of a professional person, ways to be more professional, and identifying ways to help others grow. Mary Bushing, retired faculty member from Montana State University, was the presenter. The other workshop, "Teen Space: Capturing Teen Imagination in the Library," covered creating youth/adult partnerships, designing an inviting library space, developing a viable young adult collection, and marketing and customer service to teens. Kimberly Bolan Taney, network administrator and patron services librarian at the Webster Public Library in New York was the presenter.

*Need a fundraising idea? Start wining* -- With the budget crunch like it is, libraries have had to come up with some



original ideas to raise needed operating funds. Why not try a wine tasting? Nebraska's Eastern Library System scheduled such an event for February and when it had to be rescheduled for an April date because of a snow storm not one single reservation was cancelled. For \$25 per person, attendees sampled several different wines while the provider, an extremely knowledgeable wine merchant, explained the differences, told of the history of the wine, how wine is made and what makes a good wine. It was an enjoyable and educational evening and the profit made will allow the systems board to provide more awards and scholarships to its libraries.

## NEVADA

*Building goes on at Washoe County Library* -- Despite higher steel and trucking costs, construction is set to begin for a ranch-styled Washoe County Library in Spanish Springs. The Washoe County Commission recently approved a \$5.6 million contract with West Coast Contractors to build the 29,000-square-foot building at the Lazy 5 Regional Park on Pyramid Highway.

The total budget for the new library, including design costs, furnishings, books, computers and other equipment, is pegged at \$6.6 million. From the outside, the style is reminiscent of an old ranch barn. The interior features open beams in the atrium. Petroglyphs will be featured on rock walls on the building and/or on boulders as part of the landscaping, she said. The county will consult with the Nevada Rock Art Association to make sure the rock art looks authentic and compares favorably to American Indian work in surrounding desert mountains.

The Spanish Springs Library will require 17 new employees. Construction was stalled for a year because of staffing issues. In the last few years, the county has balanced its budget by not hiring new employees and keeping positions open when vacancies have occurred. All branches now are open either Saturday or Sunday except for the North Valleys branch. It's closed all weekend because of staff vacancies.

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Meanwhile, construction bids will be opened later this week for a new library in Incline Village to replace an outdated branch.

The lodge-styled library at Lake Tahoe is being built with funds from a county-approved tax for libraries in 1994. The Spanish Springs and South Valleys Libraries are being paid for with a voter-approved bond issue in 2000.

*Laxalt become Literary Landmark* -- Robert Laxalt, whose eloquent books about Basque immigrants in 20th-century Nevada won him acclaim as a writer, has been honored as a Literary Landmark—a program that recognizes the great achievements of deceased literary figures.

Laxalt, son of an immigrant Basque sheepherder and brother of a Nevada Governor and U.S. Senator, wrote dozens of novels, short stories and non-fiction titles, including *Sweet Promised Land, Nevada: A History, A Basque Hotel*, and other absorbing reading.

His poignant stories insightfully describe the lives of his ancestors in the Pyrenees mountain region of France and Spain, his parents' immigration to America, their raising of a large family in Carson City, Nevada's capital, herding sheep in the Sierra Nevada mountains, and Laxalt's own visits to the Basque homeland.

A Literary Landmark bronze plaque was erected at the Nevada State Library and Archives on Oct. 31 in a spot that overlooks the state capitol, where the library was housed when Laxalt frequented it as a youngster in the 1930s. He was inducted into the Nevada Writers Hall of Fame in 1988.

*Retiring director expects bright future* -- Since 1995, local voters have shredded every ballot measure seeking money to build libraries, including a funding initiative from the Henderson Library District that went down in flames two years in a row. Last year, the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District floated a \$50.6 million bond issue only to have it torpedoed by nearly two-thirds of voters.

But Henderson District Public Libraries Director Joan Kerschner can't help but smile when she thinks about the future, and it's not just because she retired on March 31 after more than 35 years in the library field. Kerschner firmly believes that library bond issues are bound to succeed here eventually. "Based on the growing number of people who are using the valley's libraries, it is inevitable," she said.

Kerschner ought to know. Before she began her five-year stint as director of Henderson's library district, she spent 26 years on staff at the state library and archives in Carson City. In 1986, then-Gov. Richard Bryan named her state librarian. In 1993, then-Gov. Bob Miller picked her to lead the newly formed Department of Museums, Library and Arts, now the Department of Cultural Affairs.

In retirement, Kerschner hopes to go from someone who frequents libraries to someone who builds them. Her first order of business, after a vacation and some time with family, is to organize a foundation that will provide large grants for library construction and major equipment purchases.

*After many delays, library to finally open* -- The dedication and naming ceremony of the new Prim Library will take place in the early fall - just a few short months away! Students will use three classrooms in the library beginning in the fall 2004 semester. Humanities and general education classes are being scheduled for two of the larger spaces, each holding 25 to 30 students. A third classroom, adjoining the Sharon M. Croom Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership, will house entrepreneurship and general education classes.

Only nine months ago, Sierra Nevada College officials said they couldn't pin down when the school's library and resource center would be completed. Then Trustee Wayne Prim came forward with the funding to complete the \$11 million project.

The Library and Learning Resource Center got off the ground in 2001 when Incline Village businessman William Zink pledged \$4 million toward the project. That summer, an official groundbreaking was followed in the fall by a completed foundation. Yet,

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from that point on, the project was plagued with financial setbacks, including a lawsuit. The 32,000 square foot center was put on a piecemeal schedule as funding became available. The process became frustrating and embarrassing as college officials were forced to renege on previous completion dates. But even more important, its slow pace could have threatened the institution's accreditation.

Lake/Flato Architects, Inc. of San Antonio, Texas, has designed a classic barn timber style structure. The center will be built with state-of-the-art safety, technology and security. A large, sloping roof line and plenty of glass throughout will facilitate the building's energy systems. The library/resource center's space will be divided between large, open spaces, such as a multi-purpose meeting room, and small, intimate study areas. It will include the Sharon M. Croom Entrepreneurial Leadership Center, as well as an art gallery and faculty offices.

*Western Nevada College library opens* -- The new 34,000-square-foot Library & Student Center on the Carson City Campus is now open. The library houses about 20 computer work stations, a hands-on research instruction lab, a video presentation room for satellite downlinks, four group study rooms, and thousands of books and videos. Funds for the project were appropriated by the Nevada Legislature, thanks in large part to the efforts of Assemblyman Joe Dini of Yerington.



## NEW MEXICO

*Southwest book donated to public libraries* -- The University of New Mexico's Center for Regional Studies, with the University of New Mexico Press, donated more than 800 books to rural and underfunded public libraries. Donated books included bestsellers, new releases, and backlist titles including *Place Names of*

*New Mexico* and *Paintings of the Southwest*. Tobías Durán and the Center for Regional Studies donated the \$10,000 that was used to purchase the books.

*WebJunction New Mexico* -- New Mexico, along with Colorado and three other pilot states, will be producing state specific WebJunction sites (the nationwide site is available at [www.webjunction.org](http://www.webjunction.org)). The New Mexico State Library will be working with all of the state's libraries to create a portal that will provide New Mexico libraries with their primary means for access and connectivity to the full resources and capacities afforded by today's networked digital information technology. New Mexico's site will be launched in June as part of the activities at ALA.

*Rudolfo Anaya donates manuscripts* -- New Mexico writer Rudolfo Anaya has donated a number of original manuscripts to the Center for Southwest Research/Special Collections at the University of New Mexico General Library. The manuscripts include various versions of his novels, *Albuquerque*, *Zia Summer*, *A Chicano in China*, *Tortuga*, *Rio Grande Fall* and others, as well as letters between Anaya and his publishers, and other papers. Of special potential interest to scholars is an unpublished manuscript from his first novel. Anaya's papers are now being inventoried by general library archivists and are expected to be opened to the public in early fall.

*BIEN! Named ALA Library of the Future* -- The Border Health Information and Education Network (BIEN!), is a partnership of 21 libraries and health agencies in southern New Mexico and west Texas. The Library of the Future Award recognizes an individual library, library consortium, group of librarians or support organization for innovative planning for, applications of, or development of patron training programs about information technology in a library setting. BIEN!'s mission is to create opportunities to improve the health of residents of the borderland by providing health information in all formats in English and Spanish. The network has provided computers, electronic health information resources and user training in southern New Mexico, west Texas and Palomas, Mexico, for more than four years.

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*ACRL vice-president* -- Camila A. Alire, dean of library services for the University of New Mexico, has been elected vice president/president-elect of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL). She will assume office following the 2004 American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference in Orlando.

## **NORTH DAKOTA**

*MPLA member chosen as director* -- In April 2004, the Mandan Public Library appointed Kelly Steckler as its library director. Kelly has been a member of MPLA since 1997 and has a B.S. in business administration from the University of Mary, Bismarck, ND and her M.L.S. from the University of North Texas, Denton, TX. The library will benefit from her years of managerial experience along with her leadership activities within the community.

*"Making a Case for Libraries"* -- The 2004 North Dakota Library Association (NDLA) Conference will be held in Minot at the International Inn, Sept. 24-26, 2004. The conference theme is "Making a Case for Libraries" and will build upon the theme of the 2003 conference, "Successful Libraries: Successful Communities." Conference planners expect that a significant portion of the programming will focus on how librarians can market and advocate for their libraries with local citizens, local groups, and officials; build and sustain grassroots support; and influence legislative issues at the local, state, and national levels.

*Radio Information Service helps those with disability* -- It was high noon, March 8, 1984. In a small, dark, soundproof booth on the second floor of the North Dakota State Library, a volunteer read the *Bismarck Tribune* into a microphone. Thirty-nine people in the Bismarck area listened in, some at home, some at work. After three years of planning and fundraising, Dakota Radio Information Service was on the air. Dakota Radio Information Service (DRIS) is a radio station tucked into a corner of a government library, run by state employees, yet dependent upon volunteer talent and the generosity of strangers. In addition, it can only be heard by a select few: those

who have print disabilities. Dedicated to providing access to local news to those who cannot read a regular newspaper, DRIS today provides readings of six daily North Dakota papers (Bismarck, Minot, Dickinson, Jamestown, Valley City, and Williston). Its original 39 listeners have grown to 470, and DRIS is on the air around the clock. Volunteers provide 20 hours per week of local readings, and the InTouch Network of New York fills in the rest of the day with many newspapers and magazines. In February, of 2004 an agreement was forged between the North Dakota State Library, DRIS, and Minnesota Radio Talking Book Network to provide service to eligible listeners in eastern North Dakota as well. Minnesota's radio reading service, created in 1969, was the first in the world and served as a model for those that followed. Their signal can be received along the Red River Valley from approximately Hankinson to Grafton.



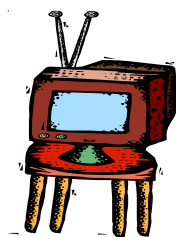
*Database usage class offered to media* -- Media personnel from across the state were invited to a hands-on training session at the North Dakota State Library to learn how to access and use the Gale Group and ProQuest Online Resources. Al Peterson, head of public services and training at the state library, conducted the media training session and says this is a great way to showcase the multitude of valuable resources available. "All patrons can benefit from accessing these databases, including your local press and local business community. It's important to get the word out to your communities that these resources are available through your local library." Linda Sailer, Lifestyle Editor for the *Dickinson Press*, says she was impressed by the type of resources available. She particularly likes the fact that she can access this information right from her computer at work. "I do a lot of lifestyle and health-related stories, and now I can flush out the information and expand my knowledge of the subject I am working on."

*Librarians featured in marketing effort* -- Stoxen Library at Dickinson State University began a concentrated focus on marketing two years ago in order to meet

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several strategic goals. The @your library campaign was kicked off last fall with “Learning Spaces and Online Databases@Your Library to highlight two major enhancements: the rearranging of space to provide additional area for collaborative learning and the addition of dozens of new online databases. Director Lillian Crook comments, “When we saw the new products in the ALA catalog last spring, specifically the customizable ‘Ultimate Search Engine’ poster, we knew we had to have it.” They purchased personalized bookmarks with the librarians’ pictures on them. As finals and end of semester approached, the librarians sent all faculty and staff a personalized bookmark, gave out bookmarks when answering reference questions, and hung their personalized poster at the library entrance. ALA chose Stoxen Library’s personalized “The Ultimate Search Engine is @Your Library” picture for their catalog. Check out the ALA Graphics Spring 2004 catalog, page 16.

*TV technology delivers information in library* -- Patrons at the Bismarck Public Library are now able to receive information service without anyone ever speaking a word! Using conventional TV technology, the new “Inhouse Information System” delivers information in PowerPoint slide show format to patrons in the library on three TV screens. IIS will tell you the daily meeting room schedule, list of special events, new books, videos, and DVDs, and other library related informational items of interest. Set up in the youth services, commons, and main circulation desk areas, the televisions continuously run a 3-4 minute presentation of the days’ events tailored for the area of the library where it is displayed. Another information service delivered with value added.



## OKLAHOMA

*MPLA members honored* -- Among those honored by awards at the recent Oklahoma Library Association Annual Conference were three MPLA members. Ginny Dietrich, continuing education consultant at the Oklahoma Department of Libraries received the

Special Project Award for her leadership of Oklahoma’s Public Librarian Certification Program. Bill Young, public information officer at the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, and Christina Owen, director of the Anadarko Community Library, received Oklahoma Library Service Awards recognizing their exceptional services and contributions.

*New Legislative Champion Award Named for Library Leader* -- Oklahoma librarians recently decided to create their own award to specifically honor legislators who have advocated for libraries. The Oklahoma Library Association also decided to name the award to recognize the contributions of long-time Pioneer Library System director, Bill Lowry. Bill retired in 1987 and moved to Boston, but has continued to attend the Oklahoma Library Association annually. The 2004 OLA conference marked his 50<sup>th</sup> straight, a remarkable record. Lowry was on hand to award the first William Lowry Library Champion Award to the Governor and First Lady of Oklahoma, Brad and Kim Henry for their work with the Read Y’All publicity campaign to promote literacy and reading.

*Certification Milestone Celebrated* -- At the recent Oklahoma Library Association Annual Conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma Library Association/Oklahoma Department of Libraries Public Library Certification Program celebrated the milestone of 500 certifications. The certification program has been highly successful in giving new librarians a solid grounding and encouraging professional development among all librarians. At the celebration, certified librarians who received Oklahoma Department of Libraries grants to attend the Public Library Association conference in Seattle each shared one good idea they had heard at the PLA conference.

*Literary Landmark Dedicated* -- On April 17<sup>th</sup>, the Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma (FOLIO) and the Oklahoma Library Association dedicated Oklahoma’s fourth Literary Landmark, recognizing the work of noted historian Angie Debo. The ceremony was held in Marshall, OK, the longtime home of Ms. Debo. There will be a second ceremony in October at the Oklahoma State University Library in Stillwater, where Ms. Debo’s papers are held. Hon-

ored earlier by Literary Landmarks were Woody Guthrie, Ralph Ellison, and Lynn Riggs.

*New Literacy Poster Unveiled* -- A highlight of the opening general session of the OLA 2004 Annual Conference was the unveiling of the second Read Y'All poster promoting literacy and reading. This poster features popular musician Toby Keith, recently named Oklahoman of the Year, who is shown holding a copy of *The Honk and Holler Opening Soon*. This book by Billie Letts was the first book selected for the Oklahoma Reads Oklahoma, a One Book/One State project, and newly-approved Oklahoma Centennial project. *Honk and Holler Opening Soon* is being read and discussed across the state in 2004. The new poster was funded by the University of Oklahoma Athletic Department and the University of Oklahoma Libraries.

*Centennial Endowment Fund* -- In early 2003, the Centennial Endowment Fund for the Oklahoma Library Association was formally launched. The OLA 2004 Annual Conference marked a big step ahead for the fund, as a challenge between the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University resulted in over \$14,500 in new donations to the fund and substantial progress toward the goal of one hundred percent participation by OLA members. The fund's major goals are to enable funding for more nationally-recognized speakers at conferences and workshops, and to address the Association's future facilities needs. By the way, OU won the challenge, and the largest donor in support of each school won a large gift basket.

*Building construction grants* -- Even in these difficult times, library building projects are going on. The Oklahoma Department of Libraries announced two grants towards the construction of new public libraries recently. The winners, out of 11 competing applicants, were the communities of Mounds and Duncan. The construction grant program is the result of the legislative skills of Marilyn Hinshaw, Executive Director of the Eastern Oklahoma District Library System, former MPLA President and MPLA Distinguished Service Award recipient. The grants are entirely state appropriated dollars and are

awarded annually. Representative Barbara Staggs, the author of the legislation creating this program, won the MPLA Legislative Leadership Award for this legislation.

## WYOMING



*Smiles and spies stir up summer reading at Teton library* -- Whether an avid older reader or a read-to-me tyke, reading opportunities for all ages abound in two summer reading programs offered by the Teton County Library. "Laugh It Up @ your library" will keep toddlers to fifth graders in literary stitches, while teens in grades six through 12 can take a trip into the territory of espionage and adventure with "Read Between the Lines: International Spy." Registration for both nine-week programs takes place in the youth services department, and they are free and open to the public.

"The library's summer reading program is an essential part of our summer vacation," said Libby Crews-Wood, whose 6-year old daughter Bella has been a participant since she was a toddler. "Our daughter is now of the age and ability to tally books she reads to us. What a delightful change it is!"

Teens begin their summer sleuthing at the town square on June 10 by taking part in a photo scavenger hunt. Using disposable cameras provided by the library, teams of teens will work to photograph items or situations from a list, on the square and in downtown businesses.

"The scavenger hunt brings teens, the library and local businesses together," said Norah Connolly, young adult programs coordinator. "We're fortunate to have such strong community support for Teen Summer Reading, and hope this can be the first of many successful summer events."

Programs for children and teens will be offered throughout the summer. Children ages four to six can look forward to "Silly Summer Storytimes" every Tuesday and Thursday morning. Children's local program presenters include thespian Bob Berky with "fractured fairytales," and Jackson Hole High school chemistry teacher Alan Brumsted masquer-

ading as a madcap scientist. Colorado magician and juggler Cody Langstrom brings his tricks and talents to the library this summer, in addition to a unique percussion and poetry performance by “TVS and Two Fingers.” Returning presenter and Grand Teton Music Festival percussionist Bill Hill makes music at the library with the rest of his talented family on Aug. 4.

Teens taking part in “Read Between the Lines” can enhance their athletic skills with free karate lessons, brush up on their Bond knowledge with showings of old and new James Bond films, and may try their hand at improvisation with a workshop by a local improv theatre troupe “Out of Thin Air.” Weekly raffle prizes benefit ravenous readers and teens will have the opportunity to enter tickets into several grand prize drawings. Book talks will take place regularly throughout the program, and a super-soaker final party wraps the summer up on Aug. 5.

In addition to programming offered this summer, the Library unveils “Go Figure!,” an interactive children’s math exhibit created by the Minnesota Children’s Museum and the American Library Association (ALA). The exhibit opens Monday, June 14 and will be on display until Sept. 24. Books introducing and reinforcing math concepts will be on display in youth services throughout the summer.

This year’s summer reading programs come to an official end on Aug. 7. For more information regarding registration or events, please call youth services at 733-2164 ext. 103, or log onto [TCLib.org](http://TCLib.org).

*Food For Fines* -- Thanks to amazing community support, the Laramie County Library System’s first Food for Fines program was an enormous success.

In just one week, library patrons donated more than 1,600 food items to help Needs, Inc., of Cheyenne and Community Care and Share of Pine Bluffs.

“We were absolutely overwhelmed with the generosity,” Troy Rumpf, LCLS Public Relations Specialist, said. “We had no idea what to expect, but even the personnel from the food banks were

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug. 11-14	<b>Nevada</b> Library Association Conference, Henderson
Sept. 24-26	<b>North Dakota</b> Library Association Conference, Minot
Oct. 6-8	<b>Nebraska</b> Library Association Conference, Grand Island
Oct. 6-8	<b>South Dakota</b> Library Association Conference, Spearfish
Oct. 13-16	<b>Wyoming</b> Library Association Conference, Rock Springs
Nov. 30- Dec. 5	<b>MPLA Leadership Institute</b> Ghost Ranch, NV

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## UPCOMING MPLA CONFERENCES

- 2004:** (Oct. 21-24) Denver, CO  
(joint with Colorado Association of Libraries)
- 2005:** (Oct. 12-15) Jackson Hole, WY  
(joint with Wyoming Library Association)
- 2006:** No conference  
(transition year to spring conference)
- 2007:** Albuquerque, NM  
(joint with New Mexico Library Association)
- 2008:** Salt Lake City, UT  
(joint with Utah Library Association)
- 2009:** Overland Park, KS  
(joint with Kansas Library Association)
- 2010:** Oklahoma  
(joint with Oklahoma Library Association)

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incredibly surprised by the amount we collected.” During National Library Week, April 18-24, every nonperishable food item given to Food for Fines took 50 cents off the patron’s overdue fees. Donations were accepted at every library location: Cheyenne, Burns and Pine Bluffs.

“People who hadn’t used the library in ages because of their overdue fees were more than happy to offer a food donation.” Rumpf said. “Everyone came away a winner - the library, the patrons, and especially the community food banks.”

# MPLA Newsletter

I.D. Weeks Library  
414 East Clark Street  
University of South Dakota  
Vermillion, SD 57069-2390



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## Librarians Benefit with MPLA

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

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

## Checklist of Genealogy Websites

Genealogy is the second most popular use of the Internet today. In fact many beginning genealogist are surprised to see what they get when they type the names of their parents or grandparents into Google. If they don't get anything, they need to remember that someone has to put the information about their families out on the Web before they can find it there. Here is a list of Websites that can be checked. It is a little tidbit from the forthcoming book, *The Librarian's Guide to Genealogical Services and Research* by Jim Swan, Director, Central Kansas Library System, Great Bend, KS.

Ancestor's Name _____	
___ FamilySearch <a href="http://www.familysearch.org">www.familysearch.org</a>	Genealogies, databases, and indexes
___ Ancestry <a href="http://www.ancestry.com">www.ancestry.com</a>	Genealogies, census images, databases
___ Heritage Quest <a href="http://www.heritagequestonline.com">www.heritagequestonline.com</a>	Census images, virtual library
___ RootsWeb <a href="http://www.rootsweb.com">www.rootsweb.com</a>	Genealogies, surname list
___ US GenWeb <a href="http://www.usgenweb.org/">www.usgenweb.org/</a>	State and county data
___ Roots-L <a href="http://www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/">www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/</a>	Mailing lists
___ CyndisList <a href="http://www.CyndisList.com/">www.CyndisList.com/</a>	Search engine to genealogy sites
___ Searchable Death Indexes <a href="http://home.att.net/~wee-monster/deathrecords.html">home.att.net/~wee-monster/deathrecords.html</a>	Links to searchable death data
___ Google <a href="http://www.google.com/">www.google.com/</a>	Global search engine
___ Switchboard <a href="http://www.switchboard.com/">www.switchboard.com/</a>	National telephone directory
___ Best Genealogy Links on the WWW <a href="http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/1637/">www.geocities.com/Heartland/1637/</a>	Links to major genealogy sites
___ GENDEX WWW Genealogical Index <a href="http://www.gendex.com/gendex/">www.gendex.com/gendex/</a>	Index to genealogies on the Web
___ GenServ Genealogical GEDCOM Server <a href="http://www.genserv.com/">www.genserv.com/</a>	Searchable online GEDCOM data files
___ Genealogy.org <a href="http://www.genealogy.org/">www.genealogy.org/</a>	Genealogies, census, data files
___ Making of America <a href="http://www.hti.umich.edu/m/moagrp/">www.hti.umich.edu/m/moagrp/</a>	Digital library of primary sources
___ LIBDEX Library Index <a href="http://www.libdex.com/">www.libdex.com/</a>	Index to 18,000 libraries
___ Vital Records Index <a href="http://www.vitalrec.com/">www.vitalrec.com/</a>	Links to finding vital records
___ FuneralNet Directory <a href="http://www.funeralnet.com/search.html">www.funeralnet.com/search.html</a>	Directory of funeral homes
___ AccessGenealogy.com <a href="http://www.accessgenealogy.com">www.accessgenealogy.com</a>	Links to online genealogies