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MPLA

Mountain Plains Library Association

Newsletter

April 2006

Volume 50 #5

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New Website Address
www.mpla.us



**Celebrating
MPLA's**

Reorganization

April 2006



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President's Message

The MPLA Executive Board experienced a first this past month. We met for our board meeting via telephone conference call, acting upon a recommendation from the reorganization committee. MPLA Vice-President Wayne Hanway and I set up some ground rules in advance of the call to avoid confusion and interruptions. Reports that did not need discussion were submitted and accepted in advance of the meeting. Only items of business needing discussion were handled during the call. Overall, I have to say it was a very positive experience. We managed to conclude our business in just over two hours. Using a phone conference call in place of an in-person board meeting results in the following: 1) a significant savings in travel/hotel/meal cost for MPLA; 2) a cost savings for each member state. They do not have to pay for travel to and from the board meeting for their representative and 3) a time savings for every board member. For each board meeting, board members arrive in Denver on the day prior to the meeting, stay overnight, attend the board meeting and return to the airport directly afterwards for the return flight. Two hours instead of two days is a significant savings! In the future, in-person board meetings will be limited to a conference meeting and one (or at most two) in-person meetings during the year, alternating with telephone conference calls.

I want to express my thanks to a few people who have been guiding forces as MPLA began to work on reorganization this past year. First of all, thanks to Donna Jones Morris for guiding the ad hoc committee who came up with the plan. Donna kept us on task and managed to get the work finished within a few months. Secondly, to Executive Secretary Judy Zelenski, who is doing an excellent job in tracking statistics for us (often before we even ask for them!) Finally, to our Steward Carol Hammond who is making sure we meet all our deadlines. There is still more work to be done but I think we are set to institute the necessary changes this April!

---Sharon Osenga, MPLA President

**Please Update Your Information in the
MPLA Directory**

It's easy and quick to do online!

Go to <http://www.mpla.us/memberarea.html>
to login and update your profile.

Also, please add memberclicks.com to your "trusted senders" list
so you will be sure to receive MPLA messages!

Carol Hammond

Steward for Reorganization and Transition

Carol Hammond has held various positions within MPLA, including Arizona State Representative and President, but the assignment that has been unique is the one she now holds, that of the “Steward for Reorganization and Transition.”

Carol appointed the Reorganization Task Force, which was identified as a needed step in the 2004 long range plan, during her term as President, and served with the task force as they developed the new model for MPLA. She accepted the assignment to see the reorganization implemented, and to plan the transition to the new structure. She has worked on the necessary bylaws revision, update of the Manual of Procedure, survey of interests for establishing the electronic communities, and other aspects of the reorganization over the past year. The project is anticipated to be completed this summer.

She brings to this task over 15 years of membership in MPLA and a record of leadership in the Arizona Library Association (AzLA) which awarded her their Distinguished Service Award in 1997. A graduate of Colorado State University, she has a MSLS from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and a Master’s degree in History from Gonzaga University. She has worked in public services in the libraries at UCLA, Gonzaga University (Spokane, Washington) and Arizona State University before taking the position as Director of the International Business Information Centre at Thunderbird, The Garvin School of International Management in Glendale, AZ. Carol has published in various library journals including *College & Research Libraries*, *Research Strategies*, and *Reference Services Review* and has also been a book reviewer for journals in the field of history.



Carol describes her current assignment in MPLA as “truly a labor of Love.” She says MPLA has given her a wonderful network of colleagues and a talented group of people to work with, and her hope is that everyone in MPLA can find the connections and opportunities that she has to grow, be inspired, learn, and contribute. She will be serving as one of the mentors this year at MPLA’s Leadership Institute at Ghost Ranch, NM.

THANKS Carol!

Sign up Now!



New to MPLA for the First Time!
Electronic Communities!

by Carol Hammond, Steward for Reorganization and Transition

What is an Electronic Community?

In MPLA, these are interest groups which will have virtual spaces where members can ask each other questions, seek advice, look for best practices, new ideas, and benefit from professional exchange. Our long-standing “sections” that have represented different specializations and interests in the past will now be replaced with electronic communities. Each community will have a moderator who will help plan conference programs in this area, as well as organize and lead online discussion and exchange among the members.

How do these work?

Moderators of electronic communities may choose from some options of how to orga-

nize and conduct discussion and exchange among the members. They may announce a topic for discussion and a time frame for members of the community to join an online discussion, such as: The Reference Services Electronic Community is invited to join an online conversation on “Using instant messaging in reference” for three days, May 5-7, at our site on MemberClicks.” Or : The Children’s Services and School Libraries Electronic Community will discuss “New Ideas for Summer Reading,” February 2-8, at our discussion site at Yahoo.”

Moderators may also establish an open forum for members to post questions for the group, such as: “Does anyone use a vendor for cataloging foreign language materials, and can you

share your experience and advice about this?” or “I am looking for a good source for how-to manuals for home and car repair in DVD format.”

We are encouraging moderators to experiment with different sites and technology for engaging the community, as long as it is available to all and at no cost beyond the MPLA membership dues. MemberClicks provides some discussion features as does Yahoo and other sites. Whatever the program to be offered and wherever it is available, you will receive the information you will need to participate in an email.

What are the choices?

Many of you participated in our recent survey to determine

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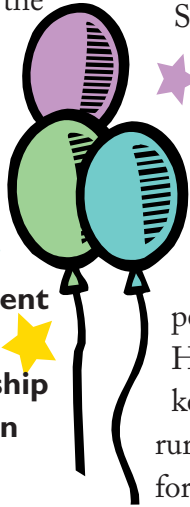
Electronic Communities, *continued from page 5*

which electronic communities to initially establish, and with your input we have chosen the following:

- **Academic Libraries**
 - **Archives and Special Collections**
 - **Children's Services & School Libraries**
 - **Collection Development**
 - **Intellectual Freedom, Privacy and Censorship**
 - **Library Administration**
 - **Library Instruction**
 - **Public Libraries**
 - **Reference Services**
 - **State Agencies, Systems & Cooperatives**
 - **Technical Services**
- Plus**
- **New Members**

The New Members Community will automatically enroll all new members for two years after they join MPLA; Board Choice Award winners will also be members. The purpose will be to help new members understand how MPLA works, how they can get involved, how they can benefit from membership, and help them make connections with other new members. Senior members of MPLA will serve as mentors and moderators for this group.

The Hot Spot! Hot Topics Discussions



Special interest topics that may not be covered elsewhere will be announced ahead of time and interested members may join an online discussion for a set time period, like a week. Some Hot Topics might be “marketing ideas for small and rural libraries” or “solutions for working with a student workforce in circulation.”

Discussions might creatively borrow tactics from talk shows: lobbing out current hot button issues, surveying people about what’s important or their reactions to something, or starting a debate by introducing a provocative twist. MPLA welcomes ideas and volunteer moderators for hot topic discussions. Contact Judy Zelenski: email: mpla_executivesecretary@operamail.com if you would like to lead or be part of a hot topic discussion.

How do I join an Electronic Community?

We need all MPLA members to sign up for the electronic communities they wish to join. This will let us know who to notify about discussion and provide your email so we can

contact you. There is no limit on the groups you may join, and no fee beyond your annual MPLA dues.

To Sign Up

Find directions to the sign-up at the MPLA website, www.mpla.us, or use this direct link: www.mpla.us/forms/sign-up.html.

When will the Electronic Communities become active?

Members should sign up for their choices now. We will identify moderators for the Electronic Communities and you may be contacted about discussions or programs in June or July of this year (2006).

What about the Section to which I belong?

Sections are no longer going to exist after April 15, 2006 and are being transitioned to the Electronic Community with the same or very similar interests. We will no longer have elected Section Chairs.

What else should I know?

Electronic Communities rely on your participation to succeed, so register now and try the new discussion when you are contacted! You will have the opportunity in most cases to suggest

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Electronic Communities,

continued from page 6

discussion topics, or volunteer to serve as a moderator.

If you don't see a group that covers your interest, you can organize a discussion in the "hot topics" zone, or start a new Electronic Community! If you are interested, contact Judy Zelenski for more information: mpla_execsecretary@operamail.com.



Sign Up for
Electronic Communities at
www.mpla.us/forms/sign-up.html

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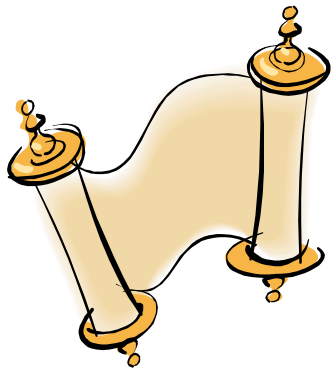
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DOÑA ANA BRANCH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DABCC
OF NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY



Branches of Government

By Dan Stanton
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This is the second column of what will be a regular feature written by Dan Stanton on behalf of the former MPLA Government Documents Section - ed.



Government is too big and too important to be left to the politicians. -- *Chester Bowles*



As I write this column, Congress is gearing up for a mid-term election in the Fall, the president is under fire for overreaching his authority, and the Supreme Court recently replaced two Justice vacancies. I don't know about you, but I think a refresher in 8th grade Social Studies/Civics is in order! In this issue I'd like to provide a general overview of the branches of government. In future issues I'll examine each branch more in depth.

Wary of the absolute power wielded by the British monarchy and smarting from the failure of the Articles of Confederation in coalescing a central government, the members of the Constitutional Convention created a government consisting of three separate branches, each with its own independent powers – making law, enforcing law, and interpreting law. The cornerstone of the Unit-

ed States Government is the Constitution, made public on September 17, 1787.

Article 1 defines the legislative branch and the powers of the Congress of the United States, which include minting money, declaring war, regulating commerce, and amending the Constitution. Article 2 defines the executive branch and the powers of the President of the United States. This article empowers the President to be Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces and to nominate ambassadors, Supreme Court Justices, federal judges, cabinet Secretaries and other Executive Department heads. Article 3 defines the judicial branch and vests power in “one supreme court” and lower courts that interpret whether laws violate the rights and liberties granted by the Constitution. While this system enjoys a “separation of powers” with each branch operating independently of the other, it also provides a system of “checks and balances” which prevent any one branch from wielding too much power. For example, while the President nominates Supreme Court Justices, the Senate votes to confirm them; and while only Congress can pass legislation, the President can block it with a veto, or the Supreme Court can declare it unconstitutional; and Congress can impeach the President.

Core Documents of U.S. Democracy -

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/coredocs.html> - A “Greatest Hits” page, including the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution, as well as links to current governmental activity in all 3 branches. I recommend the Constitution's Analysis and Interpretation link for any hard-core political science types!

The Government of the United States

http://bensguide.gpo.gov/files/gov_chart.pdf - See your government reduced to a one-page diagram!

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Branches of Government,

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Legislative Branch

U.S. House of Representatives - <http://www.house.gov/> - Find and contact your Representative, or find out the status of legislation and oversight in the House.

U. S. Senate - <http://www.senate.gov/> - Find and contact your Senator, or find out the status of legislation and oversight in the Senate.

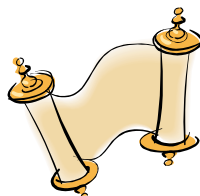
Executive Branch

President of the United States - <http://www.whitehouse.gov/> - The President is the focal point of our government, tasked with enforcing the laws of the land and being Commander in Chief of the military. He gets assistance from the Executive Branch, which includes the Vice President, Cabinet members, and independent agency directors.

Judicial Branch

Supreme Court of the United States - <http://www.supremecourtus.gov/> - The most visible and powerful of the federal courts, responsible for ensuring "Equal Justice Under the Law", the Supreme Court has the final decision about the meaning of laws, how they are applied, and whether they violate or uphold the Constitution.

Questions, comments, and suggestions to govdocsman@asu.edu



Recent MPLA Professional Development Grant Recipients

MPLA sponsors a professional development grants program to improve library services in the Mountain Plains region by supporting continuing education and research experiences for individuals employed in the library or related professions. The program is administered by the Professional Development Grants Committee.

Recent grant recipients include:

Cindy Moore, Sweetwater County Library System, Rock Springs Wyoming, received a regular grant to attend course work leading to an MLIS from the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee School of Information Sciences

Judith Howard, Media Librarian, Augustana College Mikkelsen Library, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, received a regular grant to attend the ACRL Information Literacy Immersion Program, 2005.

Wes Edens, Electronic Resources Librarian, Thunderbird, Garvin School of International Management, Glendale, Arizona, received a regular grant to attend the 2005 MPLA Leadership Institute

Robert Russell, Electronic Resources Coordinator, Northern State University, Aberdeen, South Dakota, received a mini grant to attend the WLA/MPLA Annual Conference, 2005.

Erin Smith, Children's Librarian, Fargo Public Library, North Dakota, received a mini grant to attend the WLA/MPLA Annual Conference, 2005.

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* Scholarships are made possible by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.



Business Sense

Jean Anderson
Business Librarian
Fort Collins Public Library, CO

Venture Capital

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. Email me at Janderson@fcgov.com

In spite of the recent downturn in the overall U.S. and global economies, the challenge of starting a company has never been less expensive. Below are great web sites for investigating venture capital options.

- **VC Fodder**

www.vcfodder.com

This site is designed to help entrepreneurs understand finance issues and is directly targeted for entrepreneurs. This site provides practical advice with plenty of downloads and a message board.

- **vFinance Inc.**

www.vfinance.com

This commercial site offers plenty of extras for both investors and entrepreneurs. Try out the VC Quiz or VC Starter Pack. Users can post business plans or search through a database of venture capital firms or angel investors. Quarterly and annual reports are available as well as a host of premium services like a business plan review.

- **National Association of Investment Companies**

www.naicvc.com

NAIC is an industry association for venture capital and private equity firms. Its members are

privately owned equity investment firms, small business investment companies licensed by the U.S. Small Business Administration, and investment companies chartered by state and local governments. This site offers several resources for entrepreneurs including a self-test for equity financing.

- **National Association of Small Business Investment Companies**

www.nasbic.org

NASBIC is a nonprofit industry association that has represented and served small business investment companies (SBIC) for over 40 years. It provides educational programs for investment professionals through the Venture Capital Institute and cooperates with other business associations. Entrepreneurs can purchase resource guides and industry studies. Click on the "Success Stories" link to see business profiles.

- **National Venture Capital Association**

www.nvca.org

The National Venture Capital Association is a trade association providing advocacy, education, and networking opportunities for the venture capital industry. This site has numerous press releases, statistics, and industry news items. Prospective businesses would be interested in the list of model legal documents.

- **PriceWaterhouseCoopers Moneytree Survey**

www.pwcmoneytree.com

This survey, sponsored by the accounting firm of PriceWaterhouseCoopers, provides a comprehensive list of venture capital investing by industry, stage of funding, geography and type of financing on a quarterly basis. The report tracks venture capital firm investments and the enterprises receiving capital by region/state and industry.

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Business Sense, *continued from page 11*

- **Private Equity Analyst**

www.assetnews.com

This monthly newsletter covers the private equity market, dealing mainly with venture capital, leverage buyouts (LBOs), mezzanine investing, and turnaround.

- **Venture Capital Journal**

www.venturecapitaljournal.net

VCJ is a monthly journal covering the private equity and venture capital industry. It provides news and analysis of deals, company profiles, and interviews. Sector wrap-ups and monthly headlines are free. Premium information is available with a subscription.

- **Venture Economics**

www.ventureeconomics.com

News, statistics, production information, and a glossary of terms are to be found on this site, provided by a publisher of journals and research on the venture capital industry worldwide. Premium services include a Limited Partners Directory, the Pratt's Guide, and the Venturexpert Web.

Jean Anderson is the Business Librarian for the Fort Collins Public Library. Suggestions for future columns are welcome: JAnderson@fcgov.com. Current and past issues of Business Sense are available at: www.fcgov.com/library/adult.php



Professional Development Grant Recipients, *continued from page 9*

Patty Collins Assistant Director for Youth Services, Dorothy Bramlage Public Library, Junction City, Kansas, received approval for a regular grant to attend the Public Library Association 2006 National Conference

Cheryl Jorgenson, Assistant Director for Adult Services, Dorothy Bramlage Public Library Junction City, Kansas, received approval for a regular grant to attend the Public Library Association 2006 National Conference

This year's grant application deadlines are:

- April 6, 2006
- June 1, 2006
- August 3, 2006
- September 28, 2006
- December 6, 2006.

The Professional Development Grants Committee meets by conference call approximately three weeks after each deadline. Robert Shupe, Dean of Library Services, Mohave Community College in Kingman, Arizona, is chair of the committee. Contact him at rshupe@imail.mohave.edu.

Professional Development Grant guidelines and grant applications are available on the MPLA website at:

<http://www.mpla.us/committees/profdev/grants.html>

Electronic Communities Survey Results Available on Website

Two-hundred and sixty-five MPLA members responded to the February 2006 survey on Electronic Communities. Respondents were asked to pick up to four communities they were most interested in and were also asked to suggest additional groups. The top vote-getters were:

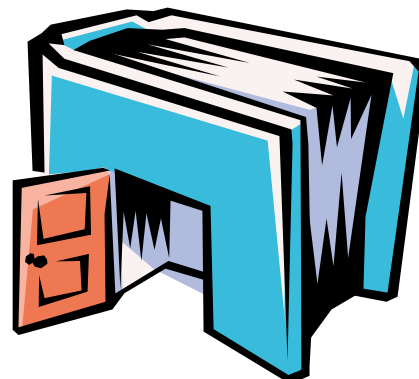
- Public Libraries - 109
- Academic Libraries - 104
- Collection Development - 96
- Library Administration - 92
- Library Instruction - 78
- Reference Services - 73

See the complete results of the survey on the MPLA website at: <http://www.mpla.us/surveyresults.html>.

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Sign-up for the new Electronic Communities begins April 1. The sign-up form will be available on the MPLA website, www.mpla.us, or go directly to www.mpla.us/forms/sign-up.html.

Welcome New MPLA Members



Arizona

Catherine Coffman, Librarian
Peoria Public Library - Sunrise
Mountain Branch, Peoria AZ

Vicki Ann Duraine, Director
Larson Memorial Public Li-
brary; Pinetop AZ

Colorado

Sally Dunphy, Technical In-
formation Specialist, Rocky
Mountain Research Station
Library; Fort Collins CO

Nichole Quinby, Reference &
YA Librarian, Weld Library
District - Farr Library;
Greeley CO

Vail Public Library, Susan Boyd,
Manager; Vail CO

Kansas

Michael Daniels
Baldwin City KS

Paula Elder, Assistant Adult
Department Librarian, Hays
Public Library; Hays KS

Andover Public Library
Carol Wohlford, Director;
Andover KS

Nebraska

Richard Miller, Library Devel-
opment Director, Nebraska
Library Commission; Lincoln
NE

New Mexico

Barbara Lah, Librarian/Lec-
turer, University of New Mexico
Law Library; Albuquerque NM

Oklahoma

Dana Belcher, Assistant Direc-
tor, East Central University -
Linscheid Library; Ada OK

South Dakota

Linda Kott, Library Associate
South Dakota State University
Briggs Library; Brookings SD

Wyoming

Jessica Morrison
Teton County Library;
Jackson WY

Applications Now Being Accepted for MPLA 2006 Leadership Institute

By Mary Bushing, Leadership Institute Coordinator

Excitement is building about the 2006 MPLA Leadership Institute! The institute will again be held at Ghost Ranch Education & Retreat Center near Abiquiu in northern New Mexico. This will be the fifth leadership institute sponsored by MPLA. We are pleased to have SirsiDynix as this year's funding partner for the institute to be held Sunday, October 29 through Friday morning, November 3. Thirty attendees, four mentors from the MPLA membership, institute facilitator Maureen Sullivan, and coordinator Mary Bushing will attend the institute in the fall.

The five criteria for applicants to this year's institute were approved by the MPLA Board at the suggestion of the Leadership Committee. This year's criteria are:

- (1) Current membership in one of MPLA's affiliated state library associations
- (2) Employment in a library within the 12-state MPLA region
- (3) MLS or equivalent master's degree relevant to the library field



- (4) 2 to 12 years post-master's work in a library-related job (prior to the institute)
- (5) A record of experience that demonstrates leadership potential

The application form is available on the MPLA leadership web page www.mpla.us/leadership/index.html. The deadline for email application files (MS Word) to Institute Coordinator, Mary Bushing, is midnight CDT on Sunday, May 14. Following the deadline, eligible applicants will be evaluated by their state committee (the state MPLA representative, the president of the state library association and sometimes the state librarian). The state committees forward their recommendations to the coordinator and the MPLA Leadership Committee. It is not unusual for three times as many applicants to ap-

ply as there are attendee slots in the program. All applicants will be notified by August 1 of their status.

The costs for the institute are kept extremely low through the generosity of vendor partners and MPLA who together underwrite almost two-thirds of the expenses for the weeklong professional development event. Individuals selected to attend must only secure funding to cover their transportation and their registration fee. The registration fee is \$450 for librarians who are current members of MPLA and have been for at least two years. Non-MPLA members pay a registration fee of \$550. The fee covers room and board for five and a half days, morning and afternoon snacks, all the bottled water one can drink (and everyone drinks a lot of water given the altitude and the high desert air), institute learning materials including a large notebook of articles and other supporting items, and the fabulous expertise of Maureen Sullivan, a nationally recognized trainer and consultant on leadership and organizational

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Leadership Institute

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development in libraries of all types. Attendees will be engaged fully throughout the institute and their retreat from the world is made even more complete by the remote location where cell phones do not work, there are no televisions, and email access is almost totally non-existent.

In the past, many libraries have been quick to recognize the tremendous professional development opportunity granted to their employees and have provided funding for attendance. Most of the MPLA state library associations also provide financial support for those selected to attend. In addition, individuals have sought grants from MPLA or other sources to assist with their attendance costs. In the first four years, there have been more than a few individuals who have paid all of their expenses themselves recognizing the expense as a career investment and therefore worth it. Registration fees are not due until late September thus giving selected applicants time to arrange a funding package that meets their needs.

The mentors for 2006 are being selected at this time and will be announced later in the

spring. Mentors are generally selected to represent a wide range of library types and all mentors have had both administrative and leadership positions during the course of their careers. Mentors typically have reputations as individuals who freely give of their time as formal and informal mentors, assisting others within the library workplace and the profession with career struggles and planning as well as the day-to-day challenges of library work and organizational culture.

Unlike some leadership institutes, MPLA does not assign mentors to attendees but

**Leadership Institute
Application Deadline
May 14, 2006**
**Application Form
available at
MPLA Website
[www.mpla.us/
leadership/index.html](http://www.mpla.us/leadership/index.html)**

rather creates an environment and schedules opportunities for attendees to meet with mentors one-on-one or in small groups as their needs and inclinations inspire them. Additionally, attendees select learning partners from among their peers and

these individuals serve as peer mentors and sounding boards both during and after the institute. Mentors and attendees alike serve as role models for one another.

If you want to power-up your career and invest in your leadership potential, or if you know of someone else who ought to be encouraged to do so, please see the MPLA Leadership Institute information on the web page and start the application process! We want the very best in the West to be part of this wonderful initiative. We can already point to dozens of institute alumni or “fellows” as we like to call them, who have quickly moved into more responsible positions within their own libraries, other libraries, state or regional associations, and even national professional associations. While we have resisted the temptation to put a brand or tattoo on the forehead of each fellow, you can still tell who they are: they are happy to be librarians, they recognize their own worth and potential, and they are moving and shaking the MPLA library world!

Mary Bushing, Institute Coordinator will be happy to answer any questions regarding the application process or the institute itself. You may contact Mary at marying@msn.com.

Around the Region

Arizona

The University of Arizona School of Information Resources and Library Science (SIRLS) was recently granted a full 7-year accreditation from the American Library Association's Committee on Accreditation.



Colorado

Scottsdale Public Library's Teen Learning Center Grand Opening. The celebration of the opening of the Knowasis: Thunderbirds Charities Teen Learning Center culminates three years of work with the community and Scottsdale teens to create a safe, special library place just for teens that supports their educational and development needs. The Friends of the Scottsdale Public Library spearheaded the fundraising drive and successfully collected \$570,000 to pay for construction of the teen center. The Friends capital campaign garnered widespread support from community foundations, organizations, businesses and private donors. This successful project represents a collaboration and community partnership with the Friends of the Scottsdale Public Library benefiting Scottsdale's youth for generations.



Teen Center Opening. Photograph by Mary Warner



Annie Epperson, MPLA Colorado Representative, on the north side of Rocky Mountain National Park -- about to climb a mountain

Jim Connor, MPLA member and Trustee with the Jefferson County Public Library in Colorado, is Coordinator of "The Traveling Trustees Consulting Team," a group of consultants and trainers in public library administration and trustee development who provide workshops and presentations. For more information contact jimconnor32@msn.com; 303-906-9552.

State government partners with Colorado libraries online. AskColorado, the 24/7 online reference service provided by Colorado libraries, has joined forces with a new, real-time online ser-

vice that is part of the state of Colorado web site. Live Help is available on the state web site, www.colorado.gov, by clicking on the “Live Help” icon to reach a member of the Colorado.gov customer service staff or a librarian through AskColorado. Live Help is available on the state website, www.colorado.gov, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, except on major holidays. The Live Help service is delivered through a collaboration between Colorado.gov, Ask Colorado, and the Statewide Internet Portal Authority, which was formed in 2004 to oversee the success of Colorado.gov. Ask Colorado is a collaborative effort of 61 libraries from around the state.

Staff at the University of Northern Colorado Michener Library recently undertook a quilt project as a service activity. About 20 people including faculty and classified staff contributed money, time, materials and enthusiasm to the cutting and piecing that occurred February 23. People brought sewing machines, irons, and ironing boards into Michener Library’s processing area, which was converted into a sweatshop of sorts for the evening. The pieces needed for the top were created. A talented faculty member will do the final steps of assembly and quilting. The quilt will be donated to A Woman’s Place, a battered women’s shelter in Greeley, which will raffle it off as a fundraiser.



Kansas

The Jay Johnson Public Library in Quijter was selected as WebJunction’s Library of the Month. The February issue of the WebJunction electronic newsletter focused on space planning. The Jay Johnson Public Library was chosen for acquiring “breathing room through creative remodeling,” enabling it to move from a very small space (50 by 60 feet) to a much larger space. See the complete article and accompanying pictures at <http://webjunction.org/do/DisplayContent?id=12759>

Johnson County Library is the Kansas winner of 2006 NCLIS Health Award for Libraries in recognition of the JoCoHealth.net Partnership. The partnership consists of 10 partners that work together to enhance the health and quality of life of people who live and work in Johnson County by providing current, understandable, and reliable health information in a well-organized, easy to use, online format at www.jocolibrary.org. Web Content Developer Sarah Handgraaf and Web Content Manager Erica Reynolds have led the partnership most recently. From the state awardees the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science will determine 10 finalists and a grand prize winner.

Johnson County Library wins “Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve “Above and Beyond” Award. Six such awards are given in Kansas this year to recognize businesses and other organizations that have supported employees who are members of the armed services. The library was nominated for the award by Maintenance Specialist Mike Rivera, who serves in the Navy Reserves and who wanted to publicly show his gratitude to the library for its support. Currently, the library has two staff members in the armed services, Circulation Clerk Andrew Guerrero, who is currently on active

duty in Pakistan, and Mike, who is on call for possible active duty.

The Super Monkey Ball Deluxe (Xbox) and Marvel Nemesis (Xbox) Video Game Tournament – the library’s second teen gaming tournament – was held at the Johnson County Library on March 17 during Spring Break. Xboxes and televisions used in the event are to be distributed to the branches for more programming.

Johnson County Library was presented with a 2005 National Award for Museum and Library Service in a ceremony at the White House in Washington D. C. January 30, 2006.



L-R: Mary Chute, Acting Director, Institute of Museum and Library Services; Mona Carmack, County Librarian, Johnson County Library; Denise Upah, Entrepreneur, small business coach and Johnson County Library patron; and First Lady Laura Bush. Photo by Steven E. Purcell.

Johnson County Library wins 2006 ASCLA Exceptional Service Award. The prestigious national award recognizes exceptional library service to patients, to the homebound, to medical, nursing, and other professional staff in hospitals, and to inmates, as well as professional leadership, effective interpretation of programs, pioneering activity, and significant research of experimental projects. Congratulations to the Outreach Department: Coordinator C.J. Sullivan, Youth Outreach Librarian Kathy McLellan, Teen Services Coor-

dinator Tricia Suellentrop, Senior Services Librarian Lynn Wild, Secretary Bobbi Grossi and the 11 volunteers who provide services to those who cannot come to the library.

Montana

Montana’s 2006 Centennial Library Conference May 3 –5 in Missoula will feature pre-conference workshops with educator, Bill Moen on “21st Century Library Cataloging” which will be co-sponsored by MPLA. Other pre-conferences feature librarian, author, and web expert, Rachel Singer Gordon on “The Accidental Library Manager”, and Montana’s own Jan Fandrich on “Funny Bones for Customer Service.”

The Summer Institute for Library Directors will be June 19-22 at the MSU campus in Bozeman. Sponsored by the Gates Foundation its title is “Keeping Your Patrons Connected.” The workshop, part of the Gates Rural Library Sustainability Program, is designed to help small and rural libraries create and implement technology sustainability action plans.

Three tribal college libraries are added to the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP). Little Priest Tribal College in Nebraska, Fort Peck Community College and Salish Kootenai College in Montana join the more than 1,250 Federal depositories nationwide. They are the first Native American libraries to join the FDLP.

Kalispell Regional Library Medical Center Library received a \$2000 Planning Award the Pacific Northwest Region/National Network of Libraries of Medicine. Part of the award is for a survey of consumer health information services which will assess Montanans’ access to consumer health information through libraries.

Montana's Networking Task Force has secured the Testing and Education Reference Center for subscribers of the statewide contract-provided Gale/InfoTrac full-text databases. The TERC combines Peterson's college search references with interactive educational and vocational test preparation instruments. It includes information about graduate and undergraduate degrees and vocational and 2-year degrees. The higher education school database is searchable by location, major, tuition, sports and more. It also includes interactive online practice tests (22 education-related, 23 career-related tests). Some e-books are included.

Nebraska

University of Nebraska, Omaha. Regents of the University of Nebraska approved Alley Poyner Architecture to provide architectural and engineering design services for Phase I of the library building project on the Omaha campus. Phase I is the expansion component of the project, a 31,500 square foot addition. Ground was broken on August 8, 2005, and construction is presently underway. The three-story addition is to be completed in August 2006. For additional slides and information regarding this project visit <http://library.unomaha.edu/aboutthelibrary/bldgnews/>



Nebraska Library Legislative Day. February 14, 2006 was both Valentine's and Nebraska Library Legislative Day. More than 180 Nebraska librarians, trustees and foundation members attended an early morning coffee at the state capitol, heard a legislative briefing, and had lunch with senators. The highlight of the luncheon was the introduction of nine outstanding youth volunteers

who came from libraries in legislative districts across the state. The senators from those districts presented certificates of recognition to the youth volunteers. Following the luncheon, Emily Sheketoft, executive director of the ALA Washington Office addressed the audience regarding library issues at the federal level.

The 2006 Nebraska Library Association/Nebraska Educational Media Association Conference will be held in Omaha, October 26- 27 at the Quest Center. The conference theme is "Libraries, Vital, Vibrant, Visionary". Keynote speakers will be Stephen Abram and Nancy Pearl. For further information see the conference web site: <http://www.papillion.ne.us/~nla-nema2006/>.

The Nebraska Library Commission has established the 21st Century Librarian Scholarship Program to provide financial support to eligible Nebraskans seeking masters, bachelors, or associate degrees in library science or school library media. The scholarships help to fulfill the requirements of the grant awarded to the Nebraska Library Commission by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to recruit and educate the next generation of librarians. The Commission will award scholarships of \$1,000 for students working at the bachelor's or the associate level and \$2,500 each year for students working on master's degrees

Nevada

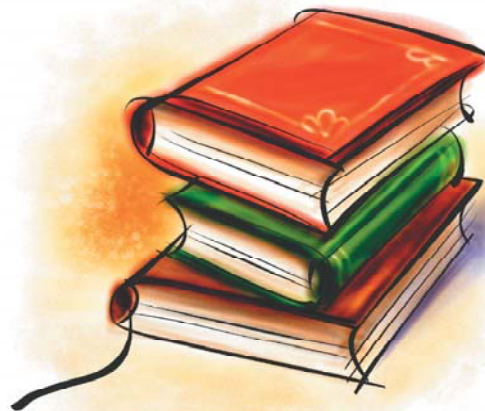
Washoe County Library System is hosting a national exhibit called "Anne Frank: a history for Today". The 56-panel exhibit is housed at the downtown Reno library, with plays, book discussions and Chautauqua events happening through-

out the system. Attendance has been strong for the display and all the events, often with standing room only. The exhibit is a collaboration of the University of Nevada, Reno Center for Holocaust, Genocide & Peace Studies with help from the City of Reno, the Washoe County School District and a local casino.

Las Vegas Clark County Library District has installed a new integrated library system (ILS). A new feature allows clients can pay fines and fees on-line with a debit or credit card.

Henderson District Public Libraries is hosting an ambitions series called "Author Chats." Visiting authors include Nancy Pearl, plus Clive Cussler will be the speaker for a library fundraiser.

The Northeastern Nevada Regional Bookmobile is going strong and serves clients in both the northeast corner of Nevada and some sites in Utah. The bookmobile was paid for out of LSTA funds and has been in use for about a year. It operates out of the Elko branch of the Elko-Lander-Eureka County Library System.



New Mexico

NMLA Annual Conference, Community Connections, Community Collections, will be held April 19-21 in Farmington NM. Several MPLA members from outside of New Mexico have been selected to present programs at the conference. MPLA members are invited to attend, as are members of the Arizona, Utah, and Colorado library associations. For more information on the conference visit: <http://www.nmla.org/>

[Events/2006_Conference.html](#)

Tessa Horan Library. Tessa was 24 years old, a native of Santa Fe and was serving in the Peace Corps in Tonga when she died on February 1 as a result of injuries sustained in a shark attack in Vava'u. As part of her Peace Corps work, Tessa wanted to start a library on the island of Vava'u. Her family is now raising funds for a library there in her memory. For more information visit: <http://www.tesshoran.com>.

YALSA/Sagebrush Award. Vaunda Nelson, teen librarian at the Rio Rancho Public Library in Rio Rancho, won the award for the *Lights! Camera! Books! 2005 Teen Summer Reading Program*. The six-week reading program tied the theme of books and movies together with a fresh new take. Through teen participation Nelson and her Teen Advisory Group created a commercial promoting the reading program for each of the schools.

Librarians publish book. Pam MacKeller, who works at the Corrales Community Library in New Mexico, and Stephanie Gerding, who is currently with the Arizona State Library, announced the release of their new book, *Grants for Libraries: A How-To-Do-It Manual* (1-55570-535-9. 2006).

Library Legislative Day. New Mexico Librarians gathered at the State Capital on January 25. Librarians and library supporters lobbied legislators, encouraging passage of the \$53.5 million in General Obligation Bond.

North Dakota

The **Stoxen Library** and the **Department of Language and Literature at Dickinson State University** sponsor the *Heart Rivers Writers' Circle* which brings to the west river area significant, contemporary writers whose work interests a range of readers on the northern plains. The Circle also involves faculty members, students, and area community members in follow-up discussions of books by the authors. The Writers' Circle supports the use of libraries, and the authors provide role models for students interested in writing. Author appearances for this spring include Poet Ron Slate and Charles Johnson. Ron Slate is a finalist for 2006 National Book Award for poetry and the winner of the 2004 Katharine Bakeless Nason Prize for Poetry. Charles Johnson gained prominence when his novel *Middle Passage* (1990) won the National Book Award. Previous writers include: William Least Heat Moon, Larry Watson, Bill Holm Jay & Martha Meek, Tim O'Brien, Michael Kincaid Tracy Potter.

The 10th anniversary of the movie " Fargo " is being celebrated in downtown Fargo during the Fargo FilmFest this month with the movie being projected on to the outside north wall of the 10 story Radisson Hotel. A local radio station will be providing the sound on massive speakers. The MPLA conference was held in Fargo in 2002.

The **Valley City Barnes County Public Library** recently was visited by the artist who painted a Snow White mural on a wall inside the library in 1940. She had been back in 1979 to repair the wear and tear that had occurred in the past 39 years. She was back again after another 26

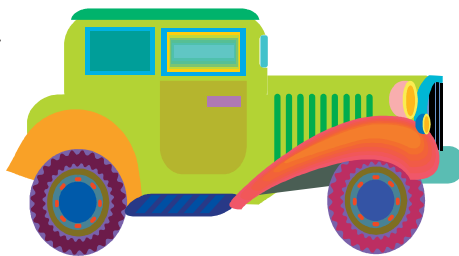
years for her class reunion with her daughter and stopped in to visit and see the mural. She said she received \$20.00 for her work in 1940, which she spent by taking a trip to California..

Oklahoma

The 2006 OLA Annual Conference will be held from March 29 to April 1 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel (formerly the Adams Mark Hotel) in Tulsa. Banquet speakers are Bill Barnes and Gene Ambaum, authors of the hilarious "Unshelved" comic strip. To read their latest strip (or browse the archive) visit their website: <http://www.overduemedia.com/>. The theme of this year's conference is "Just So You Know!" The conference preview is available at <http://www.oklibs.org/OLA2006/OLA2006Preview.pdf>.

The OLA Legislative Committee sponsored Legislative Day on March 7, 2006. With many issues affecting libraries now in the legislature (The Taxpayers' Bill of Rights -TABOR, removing "homosexual" or "sexually explicit" themed books from children's areas, a "65% Solution" bill affecting school libraries, there was a great need for all to come out and talk to their elected representatives.

The Oklahoma Council of Academic Library Directors is sponsoring a workshop on the ACRL Standards for Libraries in Higher Education (2004) on April 27, in Edmond, Oklahoma. Speakers are Dr. Bill Nelson and Dr. Bob Fernikes, who are also facilitators for the ACRL pre-conferences at ALA. The workshop will be geared to the Higher Learning Commission of North Central Association of Colleges and Schools accreditation. For more information: 405-736-0259.



Lee B. Brawner, longtime executive director of the Metropolitan Library System in the Oklahoma City region, passed away in February. A memorial service was held on February 12. In lieu of flowers the family requested that donations be made to the OLA Endowment Trust or to the Freedom to Read Foundation. Lee Brawner was a major voice in Oklahoma libraries and an active leader in the Oklahoma Library Association for over 30 years. He will be greatly missed by his friends and colleagues.

South Dakota

The 2006 South Dakota Legislative Reception was held January 18 at the State Library in Pierre where librarians and legislators discussed Bills promoted by SDLA. South Dakota librarians attended both House and Senate Sessions and were introduced to the Legislators. Legislators received reception invitations and a brochure describing SDLA.

State Library Planning and Evaluation.

Consultant Mary Bushing has been hired to lead the South Dakota State Library through this process. During Phase 1, telephone interviews were conducted. Phase 2 was launched in February 2006 with a series of focus groups held around the state. Community leaders, library representatives, and members of local communities were invited to participate in these discussions. It provides an opportunity to gather opinions and suggestions for what kind of library services people think need to be provided by the South Dakota State Library.

Family Time, Prime Time Reading Time Programs. The South Dakota Humanities Council and four libraries received a Prime Time Grant which will provide a 6-week reading program for children and their families. The program helps to establish the habit of reading for parents and their

children. Themes which will be discussed include sharing, fairness, courage and honesty. Sites are the Yankton Community Library, the Huron Public Library, Sinte Gleske University Library on the Rosebud Reservation, and the Oglala Lakota College Library on the Pine Ridge Reservation. The Prime Time Program was developed in 1991 by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities and has spread to more than 500 sites in 36 states. Nine states applied to host the 2006 program. Five were selected – South Dakota, California, Georgia, Kansas, and Ohio.

SDLA will hold two Spring Forums for library staffs in April, one in the eastern part of the state and one for the western. Topics include Disaster Planning, Distance Learning, Book Repair, and Marketing Your Library.

Jump Start Workshops were held in January at various libraries throughout the state. Jasmine Rousey, State Library Children's & Youth Services Coordinator, led the workshops to introduce Children's Librarians to the 2006 Summer Reading Program theme, "Paws, Claws, Scales, and Tales." Suggestions for all aspects of Summer Reading Program activities were shared by participants.

Utah

The Utah Legislature is considering two important library-related bills: HB 41 would mandate that the Utah State Library "preserve, conserve, catalog and make available all Utah government documents in a digital format" HB 251 would provide an increase for on-going support to public libraries in the form of library development grants. Both bills enjoy strong support.

The Utah Library Association is hosting an ALA Library Administration and Management Association (LAMA) regional institute on "Col-

laborating, Partnering, Co-operating: The Good, the Bad, and the Future. The institute will be held May 19, in St. George.

Shannon Hale, a resident of Salt Lake City Utah and recent graduate of the University of Utah, was awarded a Newbery Honor medal which will be presented to her at the ALA annual conference in New Orleans this summer. Ms. Hale is tentatively scheduled to appear at the Utah Library Association's annual conference in May 2006 in St. George, Utah.

Utah's online library, Pioneer is currently celebrating its tenth birthday.

Wyoming



Ju Ju Jazz Performs

Fines for New Orleans @ Natrona County Public Library. Natrona County Public Library was full of festivity, fun and fundraising this February! Through joining the Adopt-A-Library program in October 2005, NCPL partnered with 20 other libraries to help New Orleans Public Library rebuild. Mardi Gras decorations adorned the library and patrons received beads when they paid their fines or made a donation on each Tuesday in February. NCPL combined fine money with grants from the NCPL Foundation and Friends to make a substantial contribution to rebuilding efforts. The fundraising culminated with a Fat Tuesday Celebration on the final day of Mardi Gras. Highlights included live music per-

formed by Ju Ju Jazz and King Cake for all.

Susan Simpson, Albany County Public Librarian, was named one of the New York Times Librarians of the Year in 2005. One of just 50 librarians to receive the award nationwide, she was honored at a ceremony in New York in November.

Wyoming Libraries launch new advertising campaign. On March 1 Wyoming Libraries launched a multimedia advertising campaign to promote increased awareness and usage of the Wyoming library system. Produced by Barnhart Communications, the campaign features print ads, radio spots, billboards, bookmarks, posters and stickers. It will run in Cheyenne, Casper, Sheridan and Riverton/Lander throughout the spring. The campaign features two 60-second radio spots and two four-color print ads highlighting how easy it is to satisfy one's curiosity through resources found at Wyoming Libraries. The tagline "Bringing the World to Wyoming" stresses how Wyoming Libraries are an important community resource. The campaign also promotes Wyoming Libraries' Web site, www.wyominglibraries.org.

UPCOMING MPLA CONFERENCES

- 2006: No conference
(transition year to spring conferences)
- 2007: Albuquerque, NM
(joint with New Mexico Library Association)
- 2008: (April 30-May 3) 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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MPLA Dues Schedule (Membership year is calendar year)

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_____ \$30,000 - \$49,999 - \$55; _____ over \$50,000 - \$65

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