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MPLA

Mountain Plains Library Association

Newsletter

June 2006

Volume 50 #6

INSIDE

- 2 ... MPLA Roster
- 3 ... President's Message
- 4 ... Electronic Community Moderators
- 6 ... "Caveat Emptor" Government Docs Column
- 8 ... MPLA Website Links
- 8 ... Art21 Museum Library Partnerships
- 9 ... NMLA/MPLA Conference
- 9 ... Leadership Institute Mentors
- 11... MPLA Directory Links
- 12... Welcome New MPLA Members
- 14... "Americans with Disabilities" Business Sense Column
- 16 ... Upcoming Conferences
- 17 ... Around the Region
- 23 ... Classified Advertising
- 24 ... Membership Renewal Form

New Website Address
www.mpla.us

Electronic Communities Plug In

Thirteen Electronic Communities are now organizing so that MPLA members will have opportunities for discussions on topics of specific interest. They will also facilitate connections and networking for those unable to attend conferences. There is no additional cost for members to belong to Electronic Communities.

Former section chairs have become moderators of similarly focused electronic communities, with the remaining moderators appointed by President Sharon Osenga. Moderators may experiment with different sites and technology for engaging the community. The communities are projected to become active sometime in the summer. Moderators will serve until the joint conference with New Mexico in March 2007. Moderators will also be members of MPLA's new Program Council to assist in planning conference programs.

continued on page 4





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Submissions:

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

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Nina Little

Nevada

Martha Greene

New Mexico

Valerie Nye

North Dakota

Sally Dockter

Oklahoma

Barbara Ray

South Dakota

Colleen Smith

Utah

Peter Kraus

Wyoming

Richard Landreth



President's Message

"The Pinzgauer"

I know, I know, you're probably wondering what a Pinzgauer is and what it has to do with libraries or MPLA!

In mid-April, I attended the New Mexico Library Association Conference as part of my MPLA presidential responsibilities. While there, MPLA Vice-President Wayne Hanway and I decided to tour the Farmington Public Library. After the tour of a truly stellar modern library facility (<http://www.infoway.org/LibraryTour/index.html>), we began to talk with the Security Officers. In the course of the conversation, I discovered that one of them had worked with the Forestry Service just one mile from my home town in California (population 1200!) After reminiscing about various places, security guard Ken invited Wayne and me out to the parking lot to see something unusual. You guessed it: the Pinzgauer! This six-wheel drive Swiss Army vehicle sure beats the Humvee! Wayne and I were taken for an exhilarating ride over Bureau of Land Management land; over boulders and up and down sheer hills, through sand and water. It was a once in a lifetime experience! If we had not taken the time to connect with the staff, we would have completely missed out on this opportunity.

Ironically, the theme of the New Mexico conference was Making Connections. By making this particular connection, Wayne and I experienced something new. Let me encourage you to make connections—through membership in MPLA and your state organization; through attending the annual MPLA joint conference; and through new acquaintances with people in other states. Your connections

may not bring you something as fun as riding in the Pinzgauer but they might bring you friends and colleagues who can help you in many other ways, such as new job opportunities, help with problems or just a shoulder to cry on!



---Sharon Osenga
MPLA President

Electronic Community Moderators

continued from page 1

Electronic Communities and their Moderators are:

Academic Libraries

Jan Fandrich, Technical & Access Services Librarian; Montana State University - Billings

Archives & Special Collections



Stephen Van Buren
University Archivist and Head of Special Collections; South Dakota State University
Hilton M. Briggs Library

Technical Services

Michael Kim, Assistant Professor/Assistant Cataloger; Oklahoma State University Library
Edmon Low Library

Children's Services & School Libraries



Julie Bartel, Librarian; Salt Lake City Public Library, Utah

Collection Development



David Oberhelman, Associate Professor Humanities-Social Sciences Division; Oklahoma State University
Edmon Low Library

Hot Topics



Michele Seikel, Cataloger; Oklahoma State University
Edmon Low Library

Intellectual Freedom & Censorship Issues



Jim Heckel, Director; Great Falls Public Library, Montana

Electronic Community Moderators

continued from page 4

Library Administration



Laura DeBaun, Library Service Coordinator; Northeast Kansas Library System

New Members



David Alexander, Reference & Electronic Resource Librarian
South Dakota State University
Hilton M. Briggs Library

Reference Services



Kirsten Clark, Government Documents Librarian; New Mexico State University

Library Instruction



Cassandra Osterloh,
Continuing Education
Coordinator; New Mexico
State Library

Public Libraries

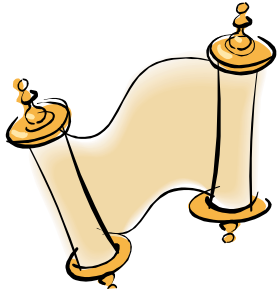


Kathy Ellerton, Director;
Northeast Library System,
Nebraska

State Agencies, Systems & Cooperatives



Brian Greene, WYLD
Program Manager; Wyoming
State Library



Caveat Emptor

By Dan Stanton
Arizona Local Documents Librarian
Arizona State University Libraries;
PO Box 871006; Tempe, AZ 85287
govdocsman@asu.edu

A consumer is a shopper who is sore about something. – **Harold Coffin**

The history of consumer issues in the United States is an interesting mix of legislation, investigation, commerce, regulation, court cases, public interest (often sparked by a good scandal!), and pressure from industry. Two excellent sources on this topic are:

Mayer, Robert N. *The Consumer Movement: Guardians of the Marketplace*. Boston: Twayne Publishers, 1989.

Nadel, M. V. *The Politics of Consumer Protection*. Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill, 1971.

By the late 1800s mass production of goods, coupled with the expansion of the rail system allowed cheap products to be sold throughout the country, and railroad companies took advantage of their position to help themselves. Pushed by farmers and businesses, Congress enacted the Interstate Commerce Act of 1887 setting the stage for future regulatory actions by targeting a specific industry and setting up an independent commission to oversee compliance.

Society was industrializing and urbanizing, and workers had cash to buy ready-made products rather than making them at home. People

also began buying national “brands” that appeared more attractive through advertising and packaging, rather than local goods. Health and safety issues began to arise as food products were “processed” to stave off or hide spoilage, and addictive “medicines” were marketed to the public.

Public outrage showed itself to be a force for change. Muckraking journalists sold copy by investigating and sensationalizing issues of concern. The fictionalized account of the meat packing industry, *The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair, spurred independent investigations confirming the abhorrent conditions in which food was prepared for sale to the public. The Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906 was the first *major* federal legislation in this area, although there had been earlier measures dealing with over imported drugs and cattle (sound familiar?).

By the early 1930s, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) was using graphic posters depicting a “Chamber of Horrors” created by unregulated drugs and cosmetics. Pressure was also mounting on legislators to do something about advertising, which was often more creative than informative. In 1938, the Federal Trade Act gave advertising oversight to the Federal Trade Commission, and the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act gave government new powers to enforce labeling, and not allow drugs to be marketed until proven safe.

Industry exerted its own pressure, often leading to “voluntary” compliance provisions, and government agencies often didn’t have the power or resources to take industry on. Social movements stifled during 1950s McCarthyism were rejuvenated in the 1960s with Rachel Carson’s *Silent Spring* and Ralph Nader’s *Unsafe at Any Speed*. The public became more aware and demanding of government to take a more active role in protecting consumers. Resulting legislation includes the National Traffic Safety Act, Truth in Lending Act, and Consumer Product Safety Act.

continued on page 7

Caveat Emptor - continued from page 6

The issue continues today: ID Theft, Vioxx, Auto-mobile Airbags, Tenant/Landlord Legislation, etc.

Key Federal Resources:

FirstGov for Consumers

<http://www.consumer.gov/>

Consumer Action Center

<http://www.consumeraction.gov/>

MPLA Resources: State Attorneys General provide consumer protection resources:

Arizona - <http://www.azag.gov/consumer/>

Colorado - http://www.ago.state.co.us/consumer_protection.cfm?MenuPage=True

Kansas - <http://www.ksag.org/Divisions/Consumer/main.htm>

Montana - <http://doj.mt.gov/consumer/default.asp>

Nebraska - <http://www.ago.state.ne.us/content/consumer.html>

Nevada - http://ag.state.nv.us/menu/action_bttn/bcp/bcp.htm

New Mexico - <http://www.ago.state.nm.us/divs/cons/cons.htm>

North Dakota - <http://www.ag.nd.gov/CPAT/CPAT.htm>

Oklahoma - <http://www.oag.state.ok.us/oagweb.nsf/Consumer?OpenPage>

South Dakota - <http://www.state.sd.us/attorney/office/divisions/consumer/default.asp>

Utah - <http://www.attygen.state.ut.us/consumerassistance.html>

Wyoming - <http://attorneygeneral.state.wy.us/consumer.htm>



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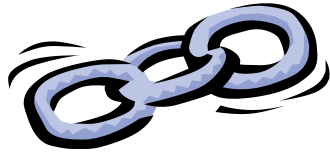
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Where to Find It on the MPLA Website

Selected Links



Login to MPLA's Membership Directory

<http://www.mpla.us/memberlogin.html>

Membership Application or Renewal Form

<http://www.mpla.us/forms/membership.html>

Professional Development Grant Information and Application

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

State Association Preconference CE Grant Application

<http://www.mpla.us/forms/stategrantform.html>

Leadership Institute Information

<http://www.mpla.us/leadership/index.html>

Executive Board Meeting Minutes

<http://www.mpla.us/documents/reports/minutes/>

Administration Committee Meeting Minutes

<http://www.mpla.us/documents/reports/committee/administration/index.html>

Jobline

<http://www.mpla.us/jobline/index.html>

Newsletters

<http://www.mpla.us/documents/newsletter/index.html>

Long-Range Plan

<http://www.mpla.us/documents/lrp/lrp2004-2009.doc>

MPLA Roster of Officers, Chair, State Reps, Electronic Community Moderators, Staff, Committee Members

<http://www.mpla.us/personnel/executiveboard.html>

Art21's Museum + Library Partnerships: A Call to Participate

By Kelly Shindler, Manager of Public Programs and Outreach, Art21, Inc.

Love contemporary art or are curious about it? Looking to expand your library's audience by partnering with other organizations? Seeking inspiration for dynamic public programming ideas? Art21, the nonprofit contemporary art organization, has designed a focused outreach initiative that addresses all of these questions. Launching as a national pilot program in May 2006, Museum + Library Partnerships encourages collaboration between local cultural institutions to explore contemporary art from interdisciplinary perspectives. The initiative focuses on 3 thematic episodes from the Emmy-nominated, PBS documentary series, Art:21—Art in the Twenty-First Century in order to inspire further engagement in the art and ideas presented in the broadcast.

Year-round, Art21 works with libraries, museums, schools, PBS stations, and local and national organizations. Screening events and public programs special projects with artists, and series-related materials serve

continued on page 16

NMLA-MPLA Conference

March 14-16, 2007

Albuquerque, New Mexico

The New Mexico Library Association- Mountain Plains Library Association Joint 2007 conference will be held March 14 - 16 at the Albuquerque Convention Center. The DoubleTree is the conference hotel, with a rate of \$90 per night.

See the Conference website at <http://www.nmla.org/abq2007/home.htm>

MPLA members are reminded to be thinking about program and speakers to propose for the conference. For more information contact Wayne Hanway, MPLA President-Elect, whanway@sepl.lib.ok.us.

MPLA Leadership Institute Mentors Chosen for 2006

Mentors for MPLA's 2006 Ghost Ranch Leadership Institute, to be held October 29- November 3, will be:

Joe McKenzie, Director, Salina Public Library, Kansas;

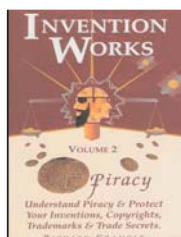
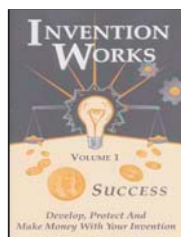
Roseanne Siemens, Executive Director, Kansas Library Association, Topeka, Kansas;

Carol Hammond, Associate Vice President, Information Services, Thunderbird: Garvin School of International Management, Glendale, Arizona;

Jan Elliott, Library Director, Safford City-Graham County Library, Arizona

Mary Bushing, Institute Coordinator, also serves as a mentor.

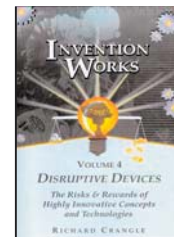
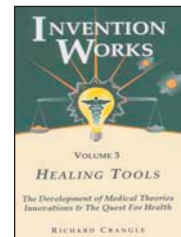
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* Scholarships are made possible by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

MPLA Directory

The Mountain Plains Library Association uses “Memberclicks,” an online membership maintenance service, to keep its Directory on a secure server. A significant advantage for members is that their contact information is not available to the public, eliminating the possibility of spam being initiated from MPLA directory listings. Another advantage is that the database is always current,, day-by-day, minute-by-minute (as long as members update their directory information).

There are many search options when you are logged in, as well as bulletin board forums, events, and a calendar. You can use the Directory to find contact information for other members, send e-mails, and participate in forums.

It’s easy to update your membership information. Here’s how:



Go to the MPLA website: www.mpla.us.



Choose “member area” at the top right, or the login section at the lower left.



Login with your username and password. If you don’t remember these, click on “Forgot your password” and they will be automatically e-mailed to you.



Click on “My Profile” at the top left. (If you use the “quick name search” to find your profile, then click on “edit.”)

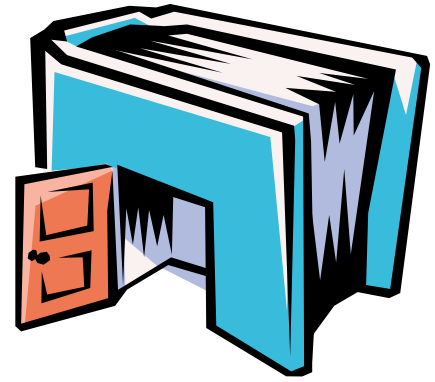


When your profile information appears you may add or change contact information, indicate your preferences, and change your username and password. Also, please choose the “Electronic Communities” in which you would like to participate and committees that you might be willing to serve on in the future.



When finished editing be sure to click on “SAVE”

Welcome New MPLA Members



COLORADO

Monica Martens
Assistant Law Librarian,
National Indian Law Library
Boulder CO

Eladia Rivera
Westminster CO

Carol Timblin
Denver CO

Debbie West
ILL/Distance Ed. Librarian
Adams State College Library
Alamosa CO

Lori Wylie
Government Publications/
Periodicals Librarian; Western
State College Library
Gunnison CO

Susan Zernial
Elizabeth CO

KANSAS

Jane Ballagh
Reference Intern, Washburn
University Mabee Library
Topeka KS

Sue Blechl
Emporia Public Library, KS

Susan Carlson
Director, Herington Public
Library KS

Andrew Evans
Gov Docs/Legal Reference
Washburn University Law
Library, Topeka KS

Sheryl Baber Evans
Topeka KS

David Guilliams
Wichita Area Technical College
Wichita KS

Dorothy Hicks
Wichita KS

Gina Millsap
Executive Director, Topeka &
Shawnee County Public Library
Topeka KS

Scotty Zollars
Director of Library Services
Labette Community College
Parsons KS

MONTANA

Chad Hutchens
Electronic Resources Librarian
Montana State University
Renne Library, Bozeman MT

NEBRASKA

Sue Block
Library Assistant, Lincoln City
Library Loren Corey Eiseley
Branch, Lincoln, NE

Jennifer Jazyuka
Library Director, Gretna Public
Library, Gretna NE

Diane F. Johnson
Stromsburg Public Library, NE

Joyce Keber
Student, University of Missouri,
Columbia; Arlington NE

Laura Renker
Crete Public Library NE

Lexington Public Library NE

Ruth Seward
Lexington Public Library NE

Stephen R. Shorb
Dean, University of Nebraska
Omaha NE

Karrie Simpson
Youth Services Librarian, Lin-
coln City Libraries Anderson
Branch Library, Lincoln NE

Sally Snyder
Coordinator Children & YA
Services, Nebraska Library
Commission; Lincoln NE

Beth M. Steffensmeier
Nebraska Children's Home So-
ciety Foundation; Omaha, NE

Matthew Williams
Director, Kearney NE Public
Library & Information Center

NEVADA

Richard Kelly
Cataloger, Nevada Historical
Society; Reno NV

Nadine Phinney
Reno NV

Donna Ridley Smith
Resource Librarian, Washoe
County Library System; Reno
NV

NEW MEXICO

Marilyn Belcher
Director, Clovis Carver Library
Clovis NM

Laurie Canepa
New Mexico State Library
Santa Fe NM

Jill Conner
Director, Pueblo of Pojoaque
Public Library; Santa Fe NM

Donna George
Marshall Memorial Library
Deming NM

Allyson James-Vigil
Serials Technician, TVI Com-
munity College Library;
Albuquerque NM

Anne E. Lefkofsky
Collection Development
Manager, Albuquerque/Bernalil-
lo County Library System NM

Sandy Mietty
Assistant Librarian, Farmington
High School; Farmington NM

Peggy Miller
New Mexico State Library
Santa Fe NM

Christy Sandoval
Santa Clara Pueblo Library
Fairview NM

Barbara Sategna
Librarian, Farmington High
School; Farmington NM

Pam Schwartz
The Public Library Silver City
Silver City NM

Laurie Treat
Bloomfield High School
Library; Bloomfield NM

NORTH DAKOTA

Marilyn Hedberg
Life Sciences Librarian, North
Dakota State University; Fargo,
ND

Cheryl A Lackman
Library Associate – Circulation
Fargo Public Library ND

Victor Lieberman
Reference Librarian, University
of North Dakota Chester Fritz
Library; Grand Forks ND

Renae Tholkes
Documents Associate, Univer-
sity of North Dakota Chester
Fritz Library; Grand Forks ND

OKLAHOMA

Muhammad Afzal
Cameron University Library
Lawton OK

Victor Dominguez Baeza
Director of Graduate and
Research Services, Oklahoma
State University Library;
Stillwater OK

Kathryn Caldwell
Student, University of
Oklahoma; Norman OK

Pat Corbin
Eastern OK District Library
System Henderson Public
Library; Westville OK

Jennifer Finley
Children's Consultant, Oklaho-
ma Department of Libraries
Oklahoma City OK

Keith Jemison
Tulsa City County Library
Rudisill Regional Library OK

Kevin Mix
Moore Public Library
Norman OK

Penni Pace Mix
Noble Public Library
Norman OK

Tom Thorisch
Oklahoma State University
Tulsa OK

Deborah Willis
Manager of Library Operations
Metropolitan Library System
Midwest City Library OK

continued on page 16



Business Sense

Jean Anderson
Branch Manager
Aliante Library
North Las Vegas, NV.

Americans with Disabilities

Large gaps still exist between adults with disabilities and other adults with regard to employment, education, income, frequency of socializing and other basic measures of ten major indicator areas of life. Furthermore, most of these gaps show little evidence of narrowing. In some cases, the gaps have even widened over time. The following web sites will assist the small business owner with understanding the issues surrounding serving and employing persons with disabilities.

- **Social Security Administration**

www.socialsecurity.gov/work

This site provides a comprehensive and navigable access point to the Social Security Administration on matters affecting the employment of Social Security beneficiaries with disabilities.

- **Americans with Disabilities Act**

www.ada.gov

This site is the main portal to federal information and technical assistance primarily for the employer. The site also includes regulations, legal standards, Q & A sections, free software, and proposed legislation.

- **Office of Disability Employment Policy**

www.dol.gov/odep/

The Office of Disability Employment Policy provides national leadership by developing and influencing disability-related employment policy as

well as practice affecting the employment of people with disabilities.

- **Job Accommodation Network (JAN)**

www.jan.wvu.edu

JAN provides free information and consultation service on job accommodations and related information. JAN's web site has a searchable on-line database (SOAR), which can be used to research accommodation options. JAN provides four person-to-person worksite accommodation technical assistance services, three electronic technical assistance services, a quarterly electronic newsletter, and an electronic topical newflash called Consultant's Corner.

- **Rocky Mountain Disability & Business Technical Assistance Center**

www.adainformation.org

This regional web site provides information on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and accessible education-based information technology to Colorado, Utah, Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota and South Dakota.

- **National Business and Disability Council**

www.business-disability.com

The National Business & Disability Council is the leading resource for employers seeking to integrate people with disabilities into the workplace and companies seeking to reach them in the consumer marketplace. Stop at this site to find recent legal rulings and more.

- **One Stop Toolkit**

www.onestoptoolkit.org

This website provides accessible and comprehensive tools and information to grantees who provide services that help individuals with disabilities find and keep good jobs. The resources on this website will help grantees widen the array

of services available to individuals with disabilities at One-Stop Centers, and integrate those services seamlessly into One-Stop operations.

- **International Center for Disability Resources**

www.icdri.org

This non-profit is an international policy center with the goal of global equalization of opportunities for people with disabilities.

- **Disability Information**

www.disabilityinfo.gov

This centralized federal interagency site provides access to disability-related information and programs available across the government on numerous subjects, including civil rights, community

life, education, employment, housing, health, income support, technology and transportation.

- **National Center on Workforce and Disability**

www.onestops.info

The National Center on Workforce and Disability/Adult (NCWD) provides training, technical assistance, policy analysis, and information to improve access for all in the workforce development system.

Jean Anderson is Branch Manager of the Aliante Library, North Las Vegas, Nevada



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Natrona County Public Library
Casper WY

Susan Stanton
Technical Services Librarian
Natrona County Public Library
Casper WY

Teton County Library
Jackson WY



UPCOMING MPLA CONFERENCES

2006: No conference - transition year to spring conferences

2007: March 14-16 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

Art 21 *continued from page 8*

to promote discussion. This spring and summer, Art21 encourages your library to take part in Museum + Library Partnerships. Partner with a museum to host a series of public programs, workshops, and other activities. Events can be tailored for adult, family, and youth audiences, and encourage an interdisciplinary approach to navigating the art of today. Upon registration at Art21's Web site, you will be able to access online project toolkits containing planning materials, educational resources, and publicity aids. To inspire broad participation, Art21 will also offer a limited number of incentive grants and free Art:21 DVDs. Photographs and synopses of these events will be featured on the Art21 Web site and presented as model programs to inspire other libraries and museums across the country.

Email your name and library affiliation to outreach@art21.org to receive the Call for Proposals. Museum + Library Partnerships pilot programming will take place through Fall 2006.

For more information contact Kelly Shindler, Manager of Public Programs and Outreach, at kelly@art21.org, or by phone at 212-741-7133 x30.

Around the Region

News from the region is primarily provided by State Representatives to MPLA. Others are welcome to submit short items of interest. Please e-mail to judyz@operamail.com.



Shirley Amore will be the Denver Public Library's new city librarian, to begin in June. An executive director of community services for Sarasota County, Florida, she is the ninth person to oversee the city's library system since the library's opening in 1889. She is the first woman to hold the job.

Arizona

The Arizona Library Association (AzLA) recently launched a Skills Bank, an online database resource for librarians, students, and others who would:

- Be interested in connecting with like-minded folks;
- Like to gain tips and advice and help in a particular area of librarianship;
- Be willing to share their skills and areas of expertise with others;

Anyone can sign up for the Skills Bank any time.

Glendale Public Library's Paws Fur Spring event at the Glendale Public Library drew over 1,000 dog lovers and their pets in April. Presented by Banner Thunderbird Medical Center and the Glendale Public Library, the expo benefited Banner Thunderbird Dog Therapy, a not-for-profit program that has more than 70 dogs that make more than 50,000 patient visits annually. It included dog obedience demos, first aid classes for pets, pet adoption, a spay-and-neuter clinic and a wide array of vendors.

Colorado

The Colorado Association of Libraries annual conference, *A ClassiCAL Celebration of Libraries and Literature*, will be held November 9-12, 2006. See the CAL website (<http://cal-webs.org/>) for information, including deadlines for preconference, workshop, and poster session proposals.

Keith Curry Lance, Director, Library Research Services, Colorado State Library; affiliated professor, Library and Information Science Program, University of Denver; and independent consultant, is the 2006 recipient of the Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies Leadership Achievement Award.



The Five State Government Documents Conference will be held in Boulder, Colorado on August 2-4, 2006, hosted by the University of Colorado at Boulder. Superintendent of Documents, Judy Russell will speak and programs will focus on Indian treaties, the historical U.S. Serial Set, genealogical resources, New Deal art, and blogging government information. Librarians and staff from all 50 states are invited.

Kansas

Jean Hatfield is the new branch manager of the Lionel Alford Regional Branch Library of the Wichita Public Library system. She has worked as a school librarian and for Kansas State University, the St. Joseph Public Library, and Johnson County Library System. She is on the 2007 Newbery committee and has served as past president of the Mountain Plains Library Association.

Ofonime Ikpe has been promoted to Circulation Supervisor at the Wichita Public Central Library. Ikpe emigrated from Nigeria as a child. She has a degree in business administration, with an emphasis on computer information systems. Before coming to the Wichita Public Library, she held positions in project management and quality control for manufacturers.

Dodge City Public Library has received two ALA grants: the *Let's Talk about It: Jewish Literature Book Discussion* series sponsored by ALA and Next Book; and The *We the People Bookshelf* grant on the theme of "Becoming American". **Dr. Jane Holwerda** of the Dodge City Community College is Resident Scholar for the *Let's Talk About It* program. **LaShaina Lee Flax** and **Alba Ortiz** worked on the *We the People* grant.

The Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library (TSCPL) is one of five libraries nationwide to receive a new Public Library Association (PLA) grant called *Grow Your Own @ Your Library*® program. The primary goal of the program is to increase the number of public librarians by offering funding for continuing education in the fields of Information Management, specifically the Masters of Library Science degree. The PLA awarded an \$8,000 tuition reimbursement grant to each of the five winning libraries. Five TSCPL employees currently seeking the MLS degree,



Robin Brooks, Stephanie Hall, Jill Pfuetze, Shari Schawo, and Jeffrey Tate worked on the grant pro-

posal, and will receive grant funding. The Library will also create a mentoring program with current library employees who will work with the grant recipients as they progress through their schooling.

The Johnson County Library will receive the *Excellence in Community Service Award* from the United Community Services of Johnson County. The award recognizes an organization that has significantly improved the lives of residents.

The Johnson County Library is one of 80 libraries, chosen from among hundreds of nominations, to be featured in *Heart of the Community: the Libraries We Love*. The book is to be published in October 2006 by the Berkshire Publishing Group.

The Cops 'n Bobbers Program co-sponsored by the Johnson County Sheriff's Department made a big splash at the rural Edgerton Branch of the Johnson County Library. Volunteers from the Sheriff's department taught 27 children and 10 adults at a Fishing Clinic held at the Library.

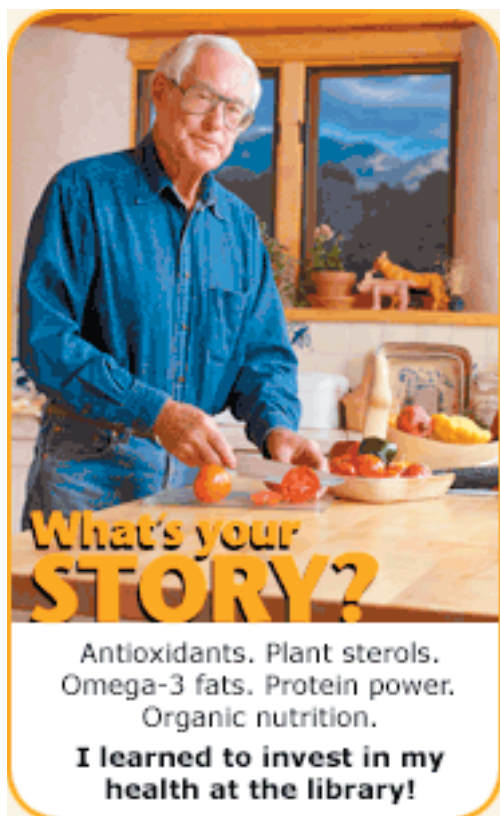


They also provided new fishing poles and tackle boxes for check out from the library. Then they practiced at Edgerton Lake with Information Specialist **Peggy Hendershot** tagging along.

Montana

Montana "Women of the Year" include several library people: **Alice Meister**, Director of the Bozeman Public Library, was named Woman of the Year by the Bozeman Business and Professional Women. Livingston Library Expansion Campaign Co-Chairs **Janet Bernthal** and **Nancy Danaher** were named Women of the Year by the Livingston Business and Professional Women.

The Montana State Library's "What's Your Story?" campaign was recognized with a gold Addy at this year's Addy Awards sponsored by the Great Falls Advertising Federation. The award recognized a series of posters that were created for the campaign by Q Communications Group of Helena. The Addy Awards competition is an annual event to recognize and reward creative excellence in advertising.



North Dakota

Bismarck State College hosted its "Classics Redux" book talk discussion series this past winter. Participants read three contemporary works inspired by classic works: *Ahab's Wife*, or, *The Star-Gazer* by Sena Jeter Naslund (inspired by *Moby Dick* by Herman Melville); *The Hours* by Michael Cunningham (inspired by *Mrs. Dalloway* by Virginia Woolf); and *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel (inspired by *Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe).

North Dakota State University Libraries have a new exhibit, "Prairie Churches," a look at North Dakota's rich legacy of ethnically and architecturally diverse historic churches. The National Trust for Historic Preservation named the Prairie Churches of North Dakota to its 2001 list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places.

Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library held its first community book discussion blog. **Christine Kujawa**, the creator and moderator, offers discussion questions and book information, reviews and author biographies. Also at Bismarck Public, teen librarian **Kathy VanderVorst** coordinated a bookfair at the local Barnes and Noble. Teen volunteers handed out book coupons to library patrons and customers. Barnes and Noble donated 10% of customer purchases to support the Teen Summer Reading Program.

Chester Fritz Library at University of North Dakota opened a Digital Scanning Center in the Periodicals Department and Special Collections area. It contains equipment and software to scan practically anything and convert it into a usable electronic file. Special Collections expects to release some materials from archives as fully indexed digital collections after scanning at high resolution and creation of appropriate metadata for keyword searching.

Nebraska

Baright Public Library in Ralston was visited by *Harry and the Potters* at the opening of the library's new teen space. Three years ago two brothers, now 26 and 18, combined their love of music, the Harry Potter books and libraries by forming a band and writing songs as they imagined Harry Potter and his friends might. *Harry and the Potters* were on a three-week tour of the Midwest, playing at libraries, colleges, clubs and

high schools when they stopped in Ralston. The teen space was the brain-child of the library's teen advisory board and was funded by a grant of \$3,500 from the Nebraska Library Association. The concert was provided by a memorial gift from a Ralston resident.

The Charles B. Washington Library branch of the Omaha Public Library celebrated its remodeling by presenting rapper-turned TV star **Ice-T** as the main attraction at its reopening. Over 500 people attended the ribbon cutting and listened as Ice-T spoke, answered questions from the audience, and signed tapes, CDs, T-shirts and copies of his book "The Ice Opinion." The Washington branch is widely used by teens, computer users and community groups. The city spent \$3.2 million on the makeover, which included a 5,000 square foot addition.

The Nebraska Library Commission request for supplemental funding for statewide access to online information services through the **NebraskAccess** program, went to the legislature during the latest session. Though included in the legislature's proposed budget, the governor vetoed funding for statewide library access to an online encyclopedia database. Nebraska libraries will try again during the next session.

New Mexico

The University of New Mexico's Zimmerman Library sustained damage when a fire started in the basement at 10:30 pm on April 30. About 70 patrons and workers were evacuated from the library. The fire closed the library during finals week, one of the library's busiest weeks of the year. Librarians are working to get students materials they need through other campus libraries and interlibrary loan. The fire is under investigation and

damage to the library and collection is currently being assessed.

The New Mexico Library Association Annual Conference, held in Farmington, was a success, with over 300 registered attendees, nearly 60 individual sessions,

and keynote speaker John Y. Cole, Director of the Center for the Book. NMLA partnered with the Farmington Public Library and San Juan College Library for the conference. During the conference, **Anne Lefkofsky** became



Anne Lefkofsky, NMLA President

the Association's President. NMLA was proud to have MPLA Vice-President, Wayne Hanway, and MPLA President, Sharon Osenga, as conference attendees.

New Mexico GO Bond was approved for libraries by Governor Bill Richardson. House Bill 301 provided \$9 million to be divided between academic, school, and public libraries. The bond will be on the ballot in New Mexico's November election.

New Mexico State Library's \$529,500 application for a Hardware Upgrade Grant (HUG) was approved by the Gates Foundation. Public and Pueblo libraries that have been eligible for Gates Hardware grants will be eligible for the upgrade.

San Juan College in Farmington opened a new library in April. The library has wireless capabilities. Students may check-out laptop computers for use in the library. The new technology in the library also allows students to self-checkout materials.

The Socorro High School Library had books, including *3x3 Eyes*, removed from the collection in March after school administrators and a parent issued complaints about the books' contents. Library Media Specialist, **Marian Royal**, threatened to take the issue to the American Library Association and American Civil Liberties Union. The school's administration reversed its decision and returned the books to the library, deciding to follow the school district's formal challenged materials policy. Marian Royal was quoted in *School Library Journal* as saying, "I would willingly have sacrificed my job if necessary; however, since I was only defending board-approved policy, I hope that wouldn't have been the final outcome."

Nevada

Washoe County Library System's Northwest branch has been chosen as one of just 80 libraries around the country to appear in the book *Heart of the Community: the Libraries we Love*.

Nevada State Library and Archives has a new Library Planning and Development calendar that does everything but take the class for you! Check on what classes are offered, get a detailed description, sort by date or alphabetically and register. It's reported to be very user friendly.

Nevada Library Association conference is coming up August 15- 9 at the Texas Station in North Las Vegas. The theme is *Tools for the Future*.

Las Vegas Clark County Library District is having a busy time. April is *Reading Las Vegas* month with programs and book club meetings everyday of the month.

Jean Anderson, formerly the Business Librarian for the Fort Collins Public Library, Colorado, is the new Branch Manager for the Aliante Library in the suburb of North Las Vegas, Nevada. A member of MPLA since 1993, Jean also writes the "Business Sense" column for the MPLA Newsletter.

Oklahoma

The Altus Public Library recently welcomed historical "Alfalfa Bill." John Hinkle, actor, storyteller and puppeteer, performed the many sides of Oklahoma's ninth controversial and colorful governor through a "living history" presentation of his life and times. William H. Murray, "Alfalfa Bill", was known as an agronomist; lawyer for the Chickasaw Nation fending off false claims for land grabs; secretary to the Indian Territorial Sequoyah constitutional convention; president and legal mind in formatting the Oklahoma constitution; Speaker of the 1st elected house of Representatives of Oklahoma; U.S. Senator during World War I; leader of a utopian society in Bolivia; and governor during the depression and the dust bowl.

Oklahoma Library Association groups are Kicking Up for the Oklahoma Centennial Celebration. The Government Documents Roundtable, Library Education Division, Reference Roundtable, and Centennial Committee are sponsoring a May workshop, *Dirt, Dust, & Digital: Government Resources Can Help You 'Kick Up' Your Oklahoma Centennial Activities*. It will showcase historic and/or forgotten resources at the History Center, Oklahoma Department of Libraries and other collections in the state. Registration is at <http://www.oklibs.org/workshops/dirtndust.pdf>. The



History Center is a new state-of-the-art facility with resources, archival records, and ephemera devoted to all aspects of Oklahoma history. For more information on the center, visit <http://www.okhistory.org>.

South Dakota

Gary Johnson, South Dakota Library Network Director, resigned in April to accept the position of Associate Director of the College Center for Library Automation in Tallahassee, Florida. During the search for a new Director, **Randy Parks** and **Linda Allbee** will be interim co-directors.

South Dakota Children's Book Award Winners for 2006 were announced, with *The Diary of a Worm*, by Doreen Cronin, winning the 2006 Prairie Bud Award in the voting by K – 3rd grade readers. *Spy Cat* by Peg Kehret won the Prairie Pasque Award from 4th – 6th grade readers. Sponsored by the South Dakota Library Association, the contests encourage students in grades K – 6 to read and vote for their favorite book of the year.

Frances Kann, Former Britton, South Dakota Librarian, celebrated her 100th birthday February 11 with family and friends at Wheatcrest Hills Center in Britton. She worked at the Britton Library and was honored by the City of Britton with “Frances Kann Day” when she retired after 24 years.

The Watertown Regional Library, located in northeastern South Dakota, was closed for a few days in April to move the library to an temporary location for one year during the transformation of the current building into a new expanded and renovated library.



South Dakota Libraries will receive funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation “Staying Connected Grant Program,” the grants offer funding to replace or up-grade equipment received from previous Gates Awards.

Utah

Utah Library Association recently presented its annual awards. The **Hyrum Library/Museum Fundraising Committee** received the *Special Services to Libraries Award*; **Kimberly Rollins**, Assistant Library Director at Utah Valley State College, is *Librarian of the Year*. **Julene Butler**, Associate University Librarian at Brigham Young University, received a *Special Recognition Award*.

Wyoming

Teton County Library is hosting the literary arts specialist for the Wyoming Arts Council, **Mike Shay**, in the Writer's Showcase series in May. Shay read from his newly published collection of short stories, *The Weight of a Body*. The free event, sponsored by the Teton County Library Foundation, followed with a book signing. Shay's collection of stories is set mainly in Wyoming and along the Colorado Front Range and spans several decades and generations. Themes include displacement and dislocation, well-known predicaments for westerners from these regions.

Natrona County Public Library's “One Book, One Community” program concluded with Harper Lee's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*. The library kicked off the month-long program by distributing over 200 free copies of the book to interested com-

munity members. A variety of events were offered in conjunction with "One Book," including a concert featuring music from the film, a free showing of *To Kill a Mockingbird* at a local movie theatre and several book discussions for teens and adults. The program wrapped up with a presentation by guest lecturer Claudia Durst Johnson. An estimated 900 participants attended.

Campbell County Public Library continues its remodeling with the goal of completion by September, 2006 in time for Wyoming Library Association conference in Gillette. Over the winter an RFID system was installed with library staff tagging 150,000 items. Security gates and self-checkout was part of the Checkpoint system inaugurated. This year the main floor is being remodeled with new carpet, wall coverings and new data wiring and lighting.



The Wyoming State Legislature, in its recent budget session, approved an amendment appropriating \$2.9 million for the state's 23 county library systems. The one-time appropriation will boost collections beyond what local library budgets ordinarily provide. The funds are to be used exclusively for library materials, including electronic materials and subscriptions. The \$2.9 million appropriation will be distributed through each county's Board of Commissioners.

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The Dean of Learning Resources reports to the Academic Vice President. Required qualifications include a Master's Degree in Library Science (MLS/MLIS) from an ALA-accredited Institution or Master's of Education in media, with preference for a doctorate. Must have five years academic library or Learning Resources experience, becoming progressively more responsible, with at least two years' administrative management.

Position closes June 30, 2006. Interested individuals can obtain a complete job description and application information by visiting the SLCC employment website: jobs.slcc.edu. EO/AA EMPLOYER

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