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MPLA

Mountain Plains Library Association

Newsletter

October 2006

Volume 51 #2

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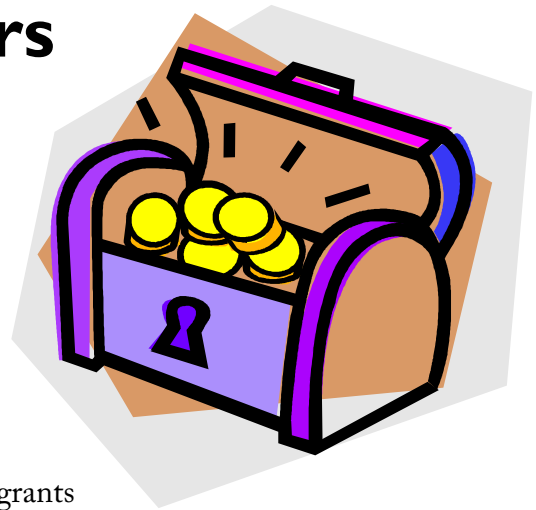


NMLA/MPLA
2007

Albuquerque
New Mexico

March 14-16, 2007

Members Benefit from MPLA Grants



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 Committee.

MPLA also awards State Library Association Pre- or Post-Conference Grants, previously administered by the Continuing Education Committee. Under the 2006 reorganization, the CE committee was folded into the Professional Development committee, which now handles both grants.

Several excellent applications for professional grants have been funded for 2006 and late 2005, resulting in all this year's grant funds either expended or encumbered. Deadlines for 2007 grant applications will be posted to the MPLA website later in the fall.

MPLA congratulates the recent recipients of professional development and state association conference grants. Winners and descriptions follow.

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President's Message

Literary Ireland

The Regional Library Systems in Nebraska sponsored a two week Literary Ireland tour this summer. We focused on literary sites of interest and also took in normal tourist sites. Our first day included Trinity College - the Book of Kells and the Long Room. The Long Room is quite overwhelming with floor to (very high!) ceiling bookshelves. Only trained archivists have access to the old materials on these shelves. We also visited the National Writer's Museum and the National Library which was sponsoring a Yeats exhibit. Our Literary Pub Tour in the evening included short excerpt performances from works of various Irish authors as we toured their favorite pubs. In Belfast, we visited the Linenhall Library. This private subscription library houses many rare books and is the only depository of documentation on "The Troubles" (Northern Ireland's history). Some of our group had a very special moment when visiting St. Columb's Church in Londonderry. The docent brought out the first edition of the King James Bible printed in Ireland for their perusal. Non-literary stops included tours of Guinness and Bushmills distilleries, a tour of Belleek Pottery and time in the gorgeous areas of Connemara and Dingle.

At the last MPLA Board Meeting, the board discussed the possibility of MPLA sponsoring a trip such as this. I hope that we will move forward on this in the next year. The trip was educational and fun and a great time to make new friends in the profession!

--Sharon Osenga
MPLA President



Wright Librarian Dyes Hair Green

The challenge was simple: If, by the end of the summer, teens read a cumulative total of 50,000 pages, Campbell County's (WY) Wright Branch Librarian Jan Stout would dye her hair whatever color the teens decided. Approaching the end of the summer, Stout thought she would get off easy. "They weren't even close to 50,000 with two weeks to go and I thought I was home free," says Stout. The teens were hoodwinking the librarian! At the last minute they turned in nearly 40,000 pages and brought the total pages read to 61,500. True to her word, Stout dyed her hair – green. After her visit to the local beauty parlor for her new color, Stout visited the local school and received thumbs up, high fives, and ovations from students.



To see this photo in color visit the MPLA website: www.mpla.us -> What's New



Planning for the first-ever joint conference of MPLA and the New Mexico Library Association, March 14 – 16, 2007, in Albuquerque, is moving rapidly along, and it is indeed shaping up to be a memorable experience. Several stimulating principal speakers have been confirmed, a very special opening reception focusing on a major western author is planned, and communities, committees, and individual members throughout MPLA are busy developing program proposals. By the time you read this, the MPLA Program Council will have sorted through a wide range of proposals and voted to submit many of them to the conference program committee.

The conference theme, *Libraries: Launching the Future*, reflects both the colorful presence of hot air balloons in New Mexico and the key role that libraries will continue to play in connecting people with the knowledge and inspiration that are essential in our changing society and world.

Keynote speaker for the conference will be University of

Plan Now for NMLA/MPLA Joint Conference

Wayne Hanway, MPLA Co-Chair

Washington library science professor and *Library Journal* columnist Joseph Janes. The banquet speaker will be Michael Wallis, award-winning author of *Route 66: The Mother Road* and numerous other books and the voice of the Sheriff of Radiator Springs in the recent Disney/Pixar movie *Cars*. Critically acclaimed science fiction and fantasy author Jane Lindskold will be one luncheon speaker.

Random House is sponsoring the appearance of Kathy L'Amour, widow of the great western novelist Louis L'Amour for the Wednesday evening opening reception, which will be at the Albuquerque – Bernalillo County Library's Central Library, and also will provide books for all conference attendees to enable participation in a book discussion program during the conference.

Special tours and other events are also being planned. Mark your calendar now and check the conference web site at www.nmla.org/abq2007/ for more details.

MPLA Grants *continued from page 1*

Kirsten Clark, IMLS Grant Project Manager, Government Publications, University of Colorado, Boulder, received a \$600 grant to make a program presentation on “Transitional Librarians: Generation X in the Library,” at the Montana Library Association, May 2006; Missoula, Montana.



With Eileen Wright from Montana State University-Billings, Kirsten presented research on generational differences within society and how these differences relate specifically to the library setting, especially with Generation X and Millennials.

Kirsten's comments: I hope to use this topic to develop my tenure-related research goals. As with any research, I find myself looking differently at things that happen in my own institution. I find myself trying to see the same situation from other peoples' perspective. This grant did allow me to make connections with people that I would normally have little or no chance of contact with. The attendees that talked to us afterwards had great ideas of their own and I continue to correspond with some of them.

Patty Collins, Assistant Director for Youth Services, Dorothy Bramlage Public Library, Junction City, Kansas, received a \$600 grant to attend the Public Library Association 2006 National Conference, March 2006; Boston, Massachusetts

Patty took advantage of a variety offerings that would assist her in her positions as a Youth Services coordinator and Circulation Supervisor.

Patty's comments: Attending a conference that was precisely directed towards public libraries and librarians was extremely heartening and beneficial. Attendees were

able to connect over shared goals and experiences, regardless of community or library size or position. Overall the experience proved worthwhile offering a host of ideas to try as soon as I was back in my building as well as jump-starting my outlook on my position and the operation of the library. I would encourage those working in public libraries to consider the PLA National Conference. The quality and variety of programs and speakers is second to none.



Patty Collins with Children's Author Jon Scieszka

Wes Edens, Electronic Resources Librarian, Thunderbird International Business Information Centre, Garvin School of International Management; Glendale, Arizona, received a \$600 grant to attend MPLA Leadership Institute, October 2005; Ghost Ranch, New Mexico.

Wes was a participant in MPLA's 2005 Leadership Institute. The program involved lectures, lively discussion, and activities aimed at increasing the leadership potential of the attendees.



Wes's comments: While I have taken leadership courses as an MBA student, I believed that the Institute would be more directly beneficial, since it is conducted by leaders in the library community. This was indeed the case. The Institute was

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FIRE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO LIBRARY

*By Linda K. Lewis, Collection Development Coordinator and
Frances C. Wilkinson, Interim Dean of Library Services, Zimmerman Library*



Just before 11 p.m. on Sunday, August 30, 2006, the University of New Mexico's Zimmerman Library was on fire. Library staff quickly evacuated the students preparing for finals. The fire department arrived and put out the fire which was confined to the basement periodicals area. The cause of the fire is still officially under investigation. Thankfully, no one was hurt, and the damage was limited to the periodicals area; our

books, special collections, and archives were not damaged.

The Library's Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Plan guided our emergency response. Our first priority was to re-establish services to our customers. We set-up minimal reference and information services in the Student Union Building and arranged for extended hours at the Union for students to study. We also extended hours at two

of our branch library locations. We staffed information tables near both entrances to Zimmerman. In addition, we created a webpage with information about the fire and our recovery. As soon as we regained partial access to Zimmerman Library, we developed a paging system to retrieve books. Our staff was relocated to our other campus libraries. To stay in communication with each other, we arranged

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MPLA Grants *continued from page 5*

very helpful in translating ideas about leadership from the corporate setting in which they are usually presented, into the world of libraries. I feel much more prepared to take on leadership roles at my institution and with MPLA now, than before the Institute. For example, I learned quite a bit about the difference between teams and teamwork; how to manage time more effectively; how to conduct effective meetings; and how to influence others. I also come away from the experience as a much more enthusiastic supporter of MPLA! I would—and will—highly recommend the Institute to other librarians with leadership interests. I am not exaggerating when I say that I learned more about leadership from the Institute than from my entire MBA program.

Paul Holland, Director, Sweetwater County Library System, Green River, Wyoming, received a \$600 grant to attend the Public Library Association Conference, March 2006; Boston, Massachusetts

Paul attended ten program sessions, two author luncheons, the All Conference Reception, and spent considerable time in the exhibits area visiting and talking with vendors. He was specifically interested in new products and ways to best use an expanded materials budget.

Paul's comments: *I felt that the conference went very well. One specific objective was to listen and find speakers that would be worth bringing as major speakers to Wyoming Library Association Conference. A second objective was to find good ways to spend the money that the Wyoming State Legislature has given county public libraries. It was good to have the chance to view the products and work with the vendor's sales staff. How much more we can buy by cooperating was made clear to us by the vendors and I worked on building momentum to do that with the State Librarian and Directors who were in attendance. My third objective was to get the staff of the Sweetwater County Library System involved outside the state of Wyoming. The three who attended*

besides me had a wonderful time and spent time at the programs and in the exhibits. They all obtained grants to help cover costs and I hope will serve to recruit future attendees. For a public librarian, I think that the PLA National Conference is the best event that they can attend. It provides quality programming with a size that makes it possible to get to the programs and an excellent chance to deal with library vendors. The best part is the chance to talk to public librarians from other parts of the country.

Judith Howard, Media/Distance Education Librarian, Augustana College Mikkelsen Library, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, received a \$600 grant to attend ACRL Information Literacy Immersion 05, July 2005; Eckerd College, St. Petersburg, Florida



Judith attended the Teacher Track of the ACRL Institute for Information Literacy Immersion Program which brings instruction librarians from across the country together for a week-long development program.

Judith's comments: *The Immersion Program gave me a toolbox of skills and methods to use when planning both bibliographic instruction sessions and classes with collaborating faculty ... and a host of ideas for creating active learning modules. Immersion challenged me to think about teaching and learning in a new way. This is an excellent program, with instructors who not only know the material, but are able to model effective teaching. I would definitely recommend this program to any academic librarian who delivers library instruction or who teaches information literacy. I look forward to serving MPLA in some capacity in the future. It seems that the profession benefits from having members who continue to develop and grow throughout their careers. Opportunities like Immersion support that development.*

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MPLA Grants *continued from page 7*

Cheryl Jorgensen, Assistant Director for Adult Services, Bramlage Public Library, Junction City, Kansas, received a \$600 grant to attend the Public Library Association Conference, March 2006; Boston, Massachusetts.



In addition to a Pre-Conference on the Fantasy genre, Cheryl attended ten sessions and activities related to improving service to patrons.

Cheryl's comments: *I went to the PLA conference because I wanted to rejuvenate my mind*

set and absorb the newest and best ideas on improvements in public library service. I have already started to share my enthusiasm with my colleagues and others in my library system. A conversation on how we can reorganize our internal space and how we can improve service, especially in the way our reference staff assists patrons has already begun. I gleaned valuable information out of all the discussions and presentations that I attended. I appreciated the exposure to new concepts, ideas, products, and materials and even though many of these innovations come with a high price tag, smaller libraries like the one I represent can use and modify these ideas to fit our budgets. I would recommend this experience to any in the public library community.

Cindy Moore, Reference/Interlibrary Loan, Sweetwater County Library System, Rock Springs, Wyoming, received a \$150 mini-grant for "Legal Issues for the Library and Information Manager" course, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, School of Information Science, January 2006.

Cindy is in the Masters distance education program from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.



Cindy's comments: *I would not have entered graduate school if not for the distance education option as I am working and have a busy family. I believe that distance education also requires more motivation, discipline and organization than an on campus program. I think those skills directly transfer to the working world. I would highly recommend Dr. Tomas Lipinski, UW-M and this Library Science program to anyone interested in furthering their library career. Adherence to and understanding of the law as it relates to libraries, especially in our current political climate is paramount to the operation of libraries. I would like to see more people involved in library work taking legal courses.*

Robert Russell, Electronic Resources Coordinator, Northern State University; Aberdeen, South Dakota, received a \$150 mini-Grant to attend MPLA/Wyoming Library Association Annual Conference, October 2005; Jackson, Wyoming



Robert attended sessions on the impact of improving search engines, information literacy skills for college students, and effective teaching techniques for millennials. He also presented a paper "Reference E-books: Do They Fit in the Small Academic Library" for the Academic Section's Professional Forum. His presentation was named Best in the Professional Program

Robert's comments: *These sessions provided a great deal of current information in areas that I deal with on a daily basis. Another positive of my experience in Jackson was being part of the section meetings. I was able to participate in the Academic and Preservation sections' meetings, and found several worthwhile discussions therein. It was also very enjoyable to network with other professionals in similar situations. My experience at MPLA was a positive one all around. The presentations were very high quality, the other participants were warm and open to discussion, and the setting was*

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MPLA Grants *continued from page 8*

conducive to group interaction. MPLA members, as a group, are very welcoming, and were quite receptive to my presentation. I would definitely recommend the MPLA annual conference to an interested colleague. I intend to remain active in the group, and will encourage others to do the same.

Amelia Shelley, Manager, Youth and Outreach Services Division, Laramie County Library System, Cheyenne, Wyoming, received a \$600 grant to attend “Behind Bars: Books and Teens and the Criminal System” workshop at the 2006 ALA Annual Conference; New Orleans, Louisiana.

Amelia attended several YALSA programs at ALA Annual Conference as well as the program “Behind Bars: Books and Teens and the Criminal System.”



Amelia's comments: *My goal in attending this particular program was to gain a greater understanding of the breadth of services we could be offering and to use existing successful programs as role models for improving our particular program. The program as a whole was an excellent set of model programs designed for a number of different library budgets and staffs. One of the biggest benefits of this program was hearing author Jack Gantos's experiences as an incarcerated teen and having a greater understanding of what it is like to be in jail. There was much to be gleaned by anyone attending this program to take back to their own library system. I would highly recommend that other MPLA librarians take advantage of attending national conferences as time and money allows. This is especially important for librarians working with teens who need a larger support group since many of them work without peers.*

Erin Smith, Children's Librarian, Fargo Public Library; North Dakota, received a \$150 mini-grant to attend WLA/MPLA Conference, October 2005; Jackson, Wyoming.



Erin was a presenter at the conference and also attended a variety of other sessions. Her program was “Tried and True Programs for Gradeschool Boys and Girls.”

Erin's comments: *As a relatively new librarian, the ability to present and share my ideas with others in the profession was rewarding and fun! A great growth experience! I was able to network with colleagues and discovered a variety of new and exciting programs and ideas I took back to use in my own department. I thought the quality of the conference was exceptional. The keynote speakers are well-known and well-respected members of the profession and I was excited to see them at this regional conference. I would definitely recommend attending an MPLA conference—a great chance to learn and network with other library professionals in your region.*

Oklahoma Library Association received a pre-conference grant for program: “Connexion Macros” March 2006; Tulsa, OK.

The “Connexion Macros” workshop discussed the creation and use of macros for OCLC's Connexion client program. Attendance: 29.

Sarah Simpson, Chair of Technical Services Roundtable comments: *There were many positive aspects to this workshop. Harvey Hahn is one of the few acknowledged experts on this topic, and his expertise was evident in his presentation. This is also information that is not readily available and few in-person courses are taught on this topic. In addition, macros can really increase the efficiency of cataloging on OCLC, so the information itself was extremely valuable to attendees. On a side note, the luncheon was wonderful.*

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MPLA Grants *continued from page 9*

Utah Library Association received a post-conference grant for “Disaster Preparedness for Librarians” May 19, St. George, Utah.

“Disaster Preparedness for Librarians: When nature crosses the boundary into your books” was presented by Randy Silverman, Preservation Librarian at the University of Utah’s Marriott Library. Attendance: 12.



Photo of Katrina aftermath - by Randy Silverman

Galen Fletcher, Chair ULA Government Documents Roundtable comments: *MPLA’s support made a significant difference in ULA being able to host this post-conference. The attendees were asked to write down their comments about the post-conference at its conclusion. Their comments were uniformly positive.*

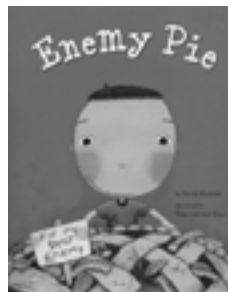
For more information on MPLA professional development or conference grants see <http://www.mpla.us/grants.html>, or contact Professional Development Committee Chair Robert Shupe (Robert.Shupe@co.mohave.az.us).



NMLA/MPLA 2007
Joint Conference
Albuquerque, New Mexico
March 14-16, 2007
Albuquerque Convention Center

Libraries: Launching the Future
See the conference web site
www.nmla.org/abq2007/home.htm

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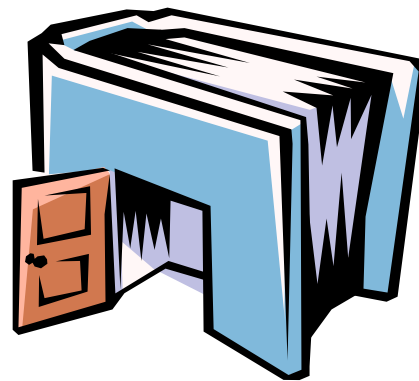
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WYOMING

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Library System, Green River,
Wyoming



UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO FIRE *continued from page 6*

for cell phones. We also borrowed laptop computers from various campus and state organizations for our displaced staff.

While the fire had been confined to part of the basement, it was very intense. Some materials were burned completely; there was some water damage, and the smell of smoke and soot spread through the building. The odor of smoke could be detected outside the building for days. After the ashes were removed, the entire building, excluding the burned-out basement—every shelf, every book, every wall—was cleaned.

All the surviving journals and microforms in the basement were packed in 18-wheel trucks and taken to an out-of-state disaster recovery company for cleaning. We estimate that we lost 30,000 volumes of journals in American history, Latin American studies, ethnic studies, Southwestern studies, anthropology, social sciences and humanities.

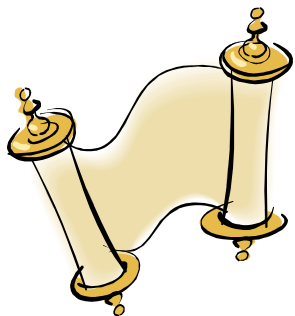
We reopened part of the Zimmerman first floor on July 26, providing reference and circulation services, access to the Center for Southwest Research, and study space in our historic West Wing. Starbucks, located in our lobby, also reopened. Our paging service continued until our second and third floors reopened to the public a few weeks later.

Our reference area located directly above the basement fire area sustained significant smoke damage. We are taking this opportunity to remodel the area to provide additional public space, more computers, more collaborative study spaces, and a fire suppression system. Completion of the project is expected in late November. Reconstruction of the extensively damaged basement will take considerably longer.

Lighting and smoke detectors were melted, the flooring and walls were destroyed, and even the shelving warped and collapsed. The basement has now been cleared completely down to the cement. The estimated date for reopening the basement is summer 2007.

Zimmerman's fire was tragic, and it will take a long time to rebuild some of the collections that were lost. We will rebuild the physical library into an even better facility. While it is a cliché, we have become stronger through this disaster and view it as an opportunity for improvement. We are deeply grateful for all the support we have received from our campus, our colleagues throughout New Mexico and nationally. We know that we could not rebuild without that support.

?NT?LL?G?NC?



By Dan Stanton
Arizona Local
Documents Librarian
Arizona State
University Libraries
govdocsman@asu.edu

For all its mystique, the term “intelligence,” at its most basic, means information. Because it is used in the decision-making process by governments in such critical areas as national security, defense and military operations, and foreign policy, it is *important* information, to say the least. Intelligence is also the process in which information is collected, evaluated, analyzed, integrated, and reported to the end user who may (or may not) make a decision based upon this information. It is important to note that intelligence often involves information that is intentionally concealed by one group, or, at least, not intended to be readily available for use by another group. It is also important to note that hindsight is 20/20, and while the raw information may be out there, the “finished” intelligence is dependent upon the entire process.

Use of intelligence by our government predates the creation of the United States. General George Washington paid agents to secretly collect and report information on British troop levels and movements during the Revolutionary War. Over the years, the government got bigger and intelligence programs got more specialized and separated, leading to agency isolation and communication breakdown in the intelligence process. And while all intelligence operations fall under agencies within the Executive Branch of government, the failures of 9/11 spurred the creation of the Office of Director of National Intelligence so that

one office was responsible for all the intelligence from various agencies and for creating a guiding national strategy.

The Intelligence Community - www.intelligence.gov – The gateway to all the U.S. intelligence agency websites (at least the ones they can tell us about!). A good source of information about the history and ongoing importance of intelligence in shaping our national power.

<http://www.intelligence.gov/0-glossary.shtml>
Intelligence terms and definitions (presented in beaureaucratese)

The National Intelligence Strategy - http://www.dni.gov/press_releases/20051025_release.htm - The current plan to repair and improve the capabilities of the intelligence community in today’s world.

The Law - http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/html/uscode50/usc_sup_01_50_10_15_20_III.html - United States Code: Title 50 – War and National Defense, Chapter 15 – National Security, Subchapter 3 – Accountability for Intelligence Activities

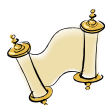
9/11 Intelligence - <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/serialset/creports/911.html> - Joint inquiry into intelligence activities related to the attacks of September 11, 2001, as conducted by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence <http://intelligence.senate.gov/> and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence <http://intelligence.house.gov/>

Congress as a Consumer of Intelligence - <http://feinstein.senate.gov/crs-intel.htm> - Recent Congressional Research Service report on the relationship between Congress, the Executive Branch, and the Intelligence Community

continued on page 15

The Intelligence Resource Program - <http://www.fas.org/main/content.jsp?formAction=325&projectId=6> – A “selection of official and unofficial resources on intelligence policy, structure, and operations,” from the Federation of American Scientists, a non-governmental policy group concerned with “national security issues of the nuclear age” and promotion of humanitarian uses of science and technology.

This article will self-destruct in five seconds. – Mission Govdocsible.



Transborder Library Forum (FORO) 2007 Call for Proposals

The 2007 Transborder Library Forum (FORO) Program Planning Committee invites original proposals for Papers, Workshops, Round Tables, and Poster Sessions that support this year’s theme and FORO objectives. Volunteers willing to moderate Plenary and Concurrent Sessions are also sought. The 2007 FORO is hosted by Arizona State University Libraries, February 20-24, 2007 in Tempe, Arizona. For more information see http://www.asu.edu/lib/foro/Call_Props.htm.


Proposals should be submitted no later than October 31, 2006

FORO, the Transborder Library Forum, is a volunteer organization that cultivates a venue for the cooperative exchange of ideas, and the discussion of experiences and efforts concerning the provision of library services in the border regions between the U.S., Mexico, and Canada.

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Around the Region

ARIZONA

Robert Shupe, formerly Director of the Mohave Community College Library, is now Public Services Manager for the Mohave County Library District, which includes Kingman, Bullhead City, Lake Havasu City and several smaller communities. Robert Chairsof MPLA's Professional Development Committee.

First lady **Laura Bush** accepted an invitation from the Maricopa County Library District to attend a July performance of *Tomás and the Library Lady*. About 200 people attended,.

The first **Arizona Tribal Gathering** was in May and a second in September. The tribal libraries worked on a mission and vision statement and exchanged ideas for programming. Staff from the Arizona State Library assisted.

Mala Muralidharan, Editor from the Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records was a winner of WebJunction's first annual "Member Choice Awards." She was recognized for sharing ideas and collaborating with Community Partners to make WJ better for library and museum staff.

COLORADO

Kirsten Clark, formerly with the New Mexico State University Library, is now IMLS Grant Project Manager for the University of Colorado, Boulder, Libraries' *Government Information in the 21st Century* IMLS Grant. Kirsten is Moderator of MPLA's Reference Services Electronic Community.

Michaela Hansen has been appointed Director of Library Development for the Colorado State Library. She most recently was with the Missouri



State Library as Public Library Administration Consultant.

Planning for the Nov. 9- 12 **Colorado Association of Libraries** Conference is underway. Kirk Weisler ("Chief Morale Officer"), John Naisbitt (author of *Mega-trends*, *High Tech High Touch*, among others), and Brent Hartinger (author of YA titles *The Geography Club*, and *The Last Chance Texaco*) are on the program as speakers, as is Jill Conner Browne, author of the *Sweet Potato Queens* series of hilarious books. Visit <http://www.cal-webs.org/conference.html> for more information.

Kristin Johnson has been selected Virtual Reference Coordinator of Ask Colorado, the 24/7 online live reference service of the Colorado State Library. She was previously Information Literacy/Instruction Librarian for Meriam Library, California State University, Chico.

KANSAS

MPLA member **Rita Severt**, formerly Public Services Librarian at Newman University, Wichita, Kansas, is now Director of the Library Learning Resource Center, Wichita Area Technical College, Main Campus.

The State Library of Kansas and Kansas public libraries launched **HomeworkKansas**, an interactive online tutoring service for Kansas children grades four through 12 and college intro students. The service is available for free to Kansas residents throughout the state. The program, is made available with an agreement with Tutor.com.



The **Kansas Tri-Conference Planning Committee** has moved the location of the 2009 Joint Conference with MPLA from Overland Park to Wichita. The dates are April 1-3, 2009. MPLA will join KLA, KASL and KAECT.

The Young Adult Galley Project group at **Johnson County Library** is one of five selected nationally as a YA Galley Nominating Group. The teen group will create a national list of new titles that is voted on by teens during the Young Adult Library Service Association's (YALSA) Teens Top Ten list, and is ultimately voted on by teens across the U.S. during Teen Read Week in October.



The **Kansas State Historical Society Library** recently added more than 25 additional years of Indian agents' correspondence and other federal records relating to Native American affairs in the Central Plains. The microfilm records include the years of non-Indian settlement and the removal of most Native groups to the Indian Territory in present Oklahoma.

The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) presented two Awards of Merit to the **Kansas State Historical Society** at its annual September meeting in Phoenix. The AASLH Award of Merit goes to the Kansas Museum of History's Special Exhibit, *Blazing Guns & Rugged Heroes: Kansas in the Westerns*, and the publication, *Territorial Kansas Reader*, edited by Virgil W. Dean, director for publications at the historical society.

Cowboy poet Baxter Black will headline the Friends of the **Johnson County Library's** 50th anniversary event in October. Black is a former large animal veterinarian and the author of several best selling books, including *Horseshoes, Cowsocks and Duckfeet*, *Hey Cowboy, Wanna Get Lucky*; *Hey Cowgirl, Need A Ride?* and *Cactus Tracks and Cow-*

boy Philosophy. A Friends Round-up and reception with Black will be held prior to the performance

The **Kansas Museum of History** Fall Story-time program for preschool aged children is returning this fall. The free program for preschoolers takes children on a trip back in time, traveling the Oregon Trail with books, songs, finger plays, and games.

Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library will once again host *Celebrate the Book: A Regional Readers' Advisory Conference* on November 3, 2006. Kansas University Chancellor Robert Hemenway and author Mark Spragg will be the featured speakers.

MONTANA

Harry and the Potters played at **Parmly Billings Library** in early July. The band of two brothers and two friends specialize in songs that are based on the Harry Potter books, and their focus is playing concerts in libraries, especially for "tweens," young children, parents, and fans of the Harry Potter books.

The 2006 **Montana Festival of the Book** is September 28-30 in historic downtown Missoula.



The Festival features scores of the region's writers in a variety of readings, panels, exhibits, demonstrations, signings, workshops, entertainments, receptions, and other events.

The **Montana State Library** has scheduled two fall workshops for Trustees on *Fundraising Essentials*. The presenter will be Illene Roggensack of Third Sector Innovations in Colorado.

This House of Sky: Landscapes of a Western Mind by Ivan Doig is the 2006 **One Book Montana** Selection. Guides, project suggestions, and opportunity for reader's comments and other tools can be found at www.montanabook.org.

NEBRASKA

The University of Nebraska at Omaha library has a new look - and a new name: the Dr. C.C. and Mabel L. Criss Library. The new Dr. Guinter Kahn Addition is also open to the public for use. Each floor of the new addition offers rich oak woodwork, comfortable seating, and a fo-



cal point of interest: a new courtyard, a new cafe, and a reading room with 20 foot glass walls and Jun Kaneko sculpture. The Criss Library plans a week of festivities including a student appreciation lunch at the library's new cafe, alumni visits, and a new exhibit opening, *The Yellow Barn Press: A Typographical Adventure*. Community users will tour the new facility and the University Library Friends group will offer free memberships. MPLA member **Steve Shorb** is Dean.

MPLA State Representative **Nina Little** reports that one of the most serious issues Nebraska Libraries are currently facing will be a state spending limit which will be on the Nebraska's November ballot. The **Nebraska Library Association** has joined a coalition to make sure voters are aware of the ripple effect it would have on funding for public schools, universities, roads, and social services.

MPLA member **Beth Goble**, Government Information Services Director at the Nebraska Library Commission since 1993, will accept the NLA President's gavel during the NLA/NEMA Conference in October.

The **Nebraska Library Commission** awarded \$253,323 in fifteen technology grants to organizations in Nebraska. The LSTA/IMLS grants will be used to increase access to electronic information resources and fund digitization projects.

A new **Nebraska Library Commission** training portal has been introduced. The database-driven service brings information about all Commission-sponsored training together in one convenient location. Users can find and register for training opportunities by keyword search, date, class title, or location.

The **Nebraska Library Commission** established 21st Century Librarian Scholarships to provide financial support to eligible Nebraskans seeking masters, bachelors, or associate degrees in library science or school library media. The scholarships are supported by an IMLS grant.

The **Nebraska Library Commission** announced the renewal of all NebraskAccess databases, including Fiction Connection, for another subscription term. For more information see <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/nebraskaccess>.

NEVADA

MPLA member **Arnie Maurins**, Deputy Director of the Washoe County Library System, was awarded Librarian of the Year by the Nevada Library Association.



Martha Greene, Nevada's representative to MPLA and Collection Development Librarian at the Washoe County Library System, received a Special Citation from the Nevada Library Association for her work on choosing statewide data-

bases. **Marc Tiar** and **Mary Claire Hutchinson** also received citations.

Jason Adams, Library Assistant at the Washoe County Library System's partner library at the Mendive Middle School received the Dorothy McAlinden award for his service to young adults. The award is given for paraprofessionals doing excellent, creative work.



Jason Adams with fiancée Tracy

Melody Ballard, formerly deputy director at Washoe County Library System, has taken the position of deputy director at the Tucson-Pima Public Library. That means the library's "Admin Dog" Sheba is also moving to Arizona.



Sheba Louise in her new bed, a going-away gift from the Washoe County Library Staff

Larry Scritchfield, formerly webmaster at Washoe County Library System, is the webmaster at the Cochise Public Library in Bisbee, Arizona.

NEW MEXICO

Cassandra Osterloh, MPLA member and Moderator of the Library Instruction Electronic

Community, received WebJunction's Member of the Year Award. Winners were nominated by Web Junction members and Cassandra was nominated by multiple members in all four nomination categories: contributor, moderator, advocate, and editor.

Lois Ruby, author and MPLA member, has published her thirteenth book, *Sanghai Shadows*. Now living in New Mexico, Lois is a former youth services librarian, former Wichita Public Library trustee, and is a life member of ALA. Lois gives writing workshops in schools across the country talking to children about books and reading.

The **Bloomfield Public Library** has received a national grant for a collection of books called "We the People Becoming American." The purpose is to encourage reading and understanding of good literature while exploring themes in American history.

The **Border Health Information and Education Network (BIEN!)** was named the New Mexico winner of the 2006 NCLIS Health Information Awards. Selection criteria included how well the program encouraged lifestyle improvement among the target population, the program's adaptability, collaboration with other community organizations, and how the program was able to reach out to people with low information literacy skills.



*Richard Akeroyd, Norice Lee and Sylvia Ortiz celebrate NCLIS health information award
--Photo by Jeanette Smith, NMSU Library*

Doña Ana Community College of New Mexico State University is offering 3-credit online library courses that will begin in October. Courses include Introduction to Library and Information Services, Introduction to Information Literacy, and Advanced Cataloging. For more information about these classes and others email MPLA member **Susan Pinkerton** at spinkert@nmsu.edu

NORTH DAKOTA

The **North Dakota Library Association** is purchasing 10,000 stickers that say "I Love Libraries and I Vote" to be distributed to libraries around the state. It follows a similar successful publicity campaign in Wisconsin.



Former President **Bill Clinton** will attend the dedication of the **George and Eleanor McGovern Library at Dakota Wesleyan University** on Oct. 7. Activities will include 60s folk musicians Peter, Paul and Mary in concert at the World's Only Corn Palace. In addition to the state-of-the-art library facilities and special collections, the library will house classrooms, offices, a coffeehouse, the campus bookstore, and the McGovern Center for Leadership and Public Service.

Charles L. Pace has been named Library Director of the St. Louis County Library, Missouri. He was formerly Director of the Fargo Public Library.

The North Dakota Legislature mandated audit of state aid laws a few years ago resulted in an interpretation that caused half the public libraries to lose significant funding. Efforts are underway to change the laws, with the **North Dakota Library Association** endorsing the efforts.

Nearly 3,800 people attended the **Bismarck Public Library Paws, Claws, Scales and Tales Summer Reading Kick Off** on June 1, exceeding expectations, MPLA member **Marvia Boettcher**, Childrens Librarian, says over 700 children registered with their local libraries.

The **North Dakota State Library**, in partnership with the North Dakota Library Coordinating Council, recently awarded grants totaling \$264,077 to 37 libraries in North Dakota. The goal of the grants is to improve library services through technology, to encourage resource sharing, and to target services to persons having difficulty using a library, and to underserved urban and rural communities.

The **North Dakota State Library**, with support from WebJunction and the Gates Foundation, will present WebJunction's Rural Library Sustainability Project workshops in February 2007. Areas addressed in the program include technology planning, community outreach, and funding and promotion of library public access computers. For more information visit <http://webjunction.org/do/Navigation?category=11131>.

The **North Dakota State Library** staff spent a week doing outreach at the annual State Fair in Minot recently. The staff was on hand to provide State Fair goers with information about State Library services and online library resources available at many North Dakota libraries and to promote local libraries.



In November Morton County residents will decide whether the **Mandan Public Library** and **Morton County Library** will merge. A merger subcommittee addressed issues of staffing, budget, circulation management and conversion, a memorandum of understanding and community information.

Darlene Schwarz is the new School Library Media Coordinator for the Bismarck Public School District. She was previously Simle Middle School Librarian

Twenty-four communities across North Dakota will host a traveling Buseum exhibit called *Vanished German American Civilian Internment, 1941-1948*. The unique multimedia exhibit, housed in a bus, uses ten narrative panels, an NBC "Dateline" documentary and a 1945 U.S. Government color film. It comes from TRACES: Center of History and Culture in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

OKLAHOMA

Tulsa Public Schools' libraries were featured when school started in August. Bond issues dedicated to school libraries from 1996 to 2005 resulted in \$34.43 million for resources and facilities. Fifty-two school libraries were constructed or remodeled between 1996 and 2001. Funds from the 2005 bond issue will result in eight additional major library building projects.

The Oklahoma Library Association Endowment Committee announced the success of their special screening of the Disney/Pixar "Cars" and dinner at the Governor's mansion on June 3, 2006. The OLA Endowment Fund netted \$33,827.26 and the project brought many groups together for fun, fellowship, and a good cause

The April, 2007, the **Oklahoma Library Association Conference** will feature past Governor



George Nigh. General session speaker will be Steven Abrams. One hundred library legends will be showcased as well as collages featuring the history of individual libraries throughout Oklahoma.

Professional development opportunities in Oklahoma include *Collection Survivor Management*, October 27 in Stillwater; *Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources: An Oklahoma Response to the OCLC Study*, November 7 in Stillwater; *Advanced Serials Cataloging*, October 18-19 in Tulsa; and *Integrating Resources*, October 20 in Tulsa.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Presho Public Library purchased the Legion Club building for their library after being housed in a former bank building for several years. The uneven and unstable floor in the bank building had been a safety issue for heavy shelving.

Several South Dakota libraries have been involved in building projects during the past year. The **Sturgis Public Library** completed the construction of an addition and are in the process of moving into their new space. The **Watertown Public Library** moved into a downtown building while the library is being rebuilt and expanded. They are serving the public with very little interruption. MPLA member **Mike Mullin**, Library Director, anticipates that August 2007 will be moving time again – this time into their new library. An asbestos removal and renovation project is in process at the **Aberdeen Public Library**. **Rapid City Public Library** has added a coffee shop. The **George and Eleanor McGovern Library and Center for Leadership and Public Service** opened its doors to the public in August.

William 'Joe' Van de Rostyne, long-time South Dakota State Library Board Member and former MPLA member, died in August 2006.

The **South Dakota State Library** has several

staffing changes. MPLA member **Colleen Kirby** has been appointed Coordinator of Continuing Library Education. Previously, she was Coordinator of Technical Services. **Julie Erickson** is the Electronic Services Coordinator and **LaVera Rose** is Coordinator of Digitization and Technical Services.

KELO Television and Slumberland have collaborated on library promotion. Free Public Service Announcements promoting library services in South Dakota have been aired over KELO TV. KELO and Slumberland also promoted a state-wide used book sale. Proceeds from the sale will be granted to libraries in South Dakota for library projects and collections.

The **South Dakota State Library** has announced a state-wide project to promote literacy, especially to parents of small children. Publicly funded public libraries are eligible to receive '100 favorite children's books' to add to their children's collections. To promote their use each new child born in South Dakota will receive a growth chart and a '100 Favorite Books' brochure. The brochure will include a message to "Visit your Public Library to borrow these favorite books."

UTAH

Wondering what to do with those deleted books in your library? **Brigham Young University's Howard W. Hunter Law Library** has come up with a creative solution: they've composted them! Online access to law materials allowed the library to delete 3000 hardbound volumes. The books were run through the school's shredder and then composted for use in the flower beds.

Utah Valley State College has broken ground on their new 180,000 square foot library. The "Digital Learning Center" will include 140 com-

puters and a variety of learning technology, group study rooms, and an extended hours area.

The **University of Utah**, in collaboration with the Utah Education Network is kicking off a program designed to protect children from online sexual exploitation. Outreach efforts will target Utah's entire community, with a special focus on teens, parents, and their teachers.

The illustrated fantasy book *Voyage of the Basset* will remain in the **Davis County Library** young adult collection. A parent requested the book be reconsidered after her five year old son showed her pictures of topless mermaids and partially clothed mythical creatures. The Library Board voted unanimously to retain the book. "We don't rate books and never will." trustee **Mike Gann** asserted. "Our job is to make things available."



A workshop *Bridging the Gap for College Success* will be held November 3 at Horizonte School, Salt Lake City. Keynote speaker is **Jill Wilks**. Presenters include **Britt Fagerheim**, **Melissa Bowles**, MPLA member **Wendy Holliday**, Merrill-Cazier Library, Utah State University; and MPLA member **Scott Lanning**, Gerald R. Sherratt Library, Southern Utah University. The workshop is designed to provide school library media teachers to talk with college/university librarians and faculty members about ways to help students develop lifelong learning skills as well as to help college-bound students better prepare for college.

The Library Effect: Preparing Students for the 21st Century will be explored at the Great Issues Forum, October 18, at the Salt Lake City Public Library. **Keith Curry Lance**, Director of Library Research Service at the Colorado State Library, will be the keynote speaker

WYOMING

Teton County Library offers is inviting teens in grades six to 12 to bring their own book to a new club called Teen B.Y.O.B. Bring Your Own Book. The free program offers a new twist on traditional book clubs by allowing teens to talk about their picks rather than requiring everyone to read the same book. No sign-up is required for the low-key club, which meets once a month. The club also offers teens a chance to write book reviews and recommendations for the library's teen Web page www.TCLib.org/teens.



The **Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library** Announces a reading and discussion program on *Books That Endure: Classic Studies of Human Relationships*, a series that looks at both romantic and realistic views of rural life. This program is one of 14 offered by the Wyoming Council for the Humanities through its 2006-07 Book Discussion Program "Reading Wyoming."

Campbell County Public Library is hosting a Wyoming Public Television *Ready to Learn* workshop. *Becoming An Emotional Coach* will be the subject for parents and caregivers. Participants receive free educational materials and children's books to take home.

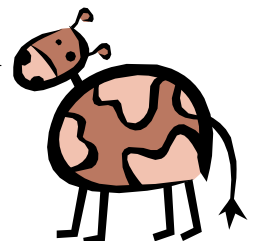
To help consumers go to reputable Web sites for up-to-date and accurate medical information, the **Teton County Library** offers a hands-on workshop, "Online Medical Information for Baby-Boomers Plus." Each participant is loaned a laptop computer for the interactive workshop, which is limited to 12 participants. Participants also receive a bibliography of additional helpful library books and Web sites, compiled by the library's Reference Department.

Move over Dr. Spock! Jackson's home-grown author Muffy Mead-Ferro came to **Teton County Library** to deliver some parenting insights of her own, as well as memories of her valley childhood. Author of the best selling books, *Confessions of a Slacker Mom* and *Confessions of a Slacker Wife*, Mead-Ferro read from her newest work in progress with the working title, *My Wyoming*, during the library's Writers Showcase.

The **Yellowstone Research Library** is currently recruiting retired (or current) librarians to do some project work for several months during the fall and winter. There is no salary or stipend; however, housing is provided at no cost. Contact Carol Shively, Manager, Yellowstone Heritage & Research Center; (307) 344-2663.

Women of Mystery, a discussion of mysteries written by women, begins at the Wright Branch Library of the **Campbell County Public Library** System. The discussion begins following *Women of Mystery: Three Writers Who Forever Changed Detective Fiction*, a film about the authors included in the series. MPLA member **Patty Myers**, Campbell County Public Library System Director, will lead the discussion.

The 2006 Summer Reading Celebration ended at the **Laramie County Library System** in Cheyenne and it was a record-breaking year with more people joining the celebration than ever before. This year, 5,492 people joined the reading program, exceeding last year's record-breaking success by roughly 20%. Nearly half of all participants completed the program at least once, which is another big statistical jump from previous years. MPLA Member **Amelia Shelley**, Manager of Youth and Outreach Services, also reported that \$150 was raised for Heifer International through *Read To Feed*, a secondary reading program.



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