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MPLA

Mountain Plains Library Association

Newsletter

April 2007

Volume 51 #5

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MPLA on the
Web
www.mpla.us

MPLA Executive Board 2007 Officers



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*Robert Banks
Vice-President/President-Elect*



*David Alexander
Recording Secretary*



*Sharon Osenga
Past President*



The MPLA Newsletter is published
by-monthly by the Mountain Plains
Library Association

ISSN 0145-6180

Material of regional
interest may be submitted to:

Judy Zelenski, Editor
MPLA Newsletter
14293 West Center Drive
Lakewood, Colorado 80228
(303) 985-7795
judyz@operamail.com

Submissions:

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

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

Advertising:

There is no charge to MPLA
personal or institutional members
for classified advertising.
Non-members are charged
\$1.25/line. Display
advertisement copy rates are
available from the Editor
(see address above).

**MPLA Membership or
Subscription Business:**

Matters pertaining to individual or
institutional membership, address
changes, and claims or orders for
back issues should be sent to:

Judy Zelenski
Executive Secretary
14293 West Center Drive
Lakewood, Colorado 80228
(303) 985-7795
mpla_execsecretary@operamail.com

Domestic Subscription Fees:
1 yr./\$25
2 yrs./\$45 3yrs./\$65

MPLA Board & Staff

President

Wayne Hanway
Southeastern Public Library
System
401 North 2nd Street
McAlester, Oklahoma
74501-4624
(918) 426-0456
whanway@sepl.lib.ok.us

Vice-President/President-Elect

Robert Banks
Topeka & Shawnee County
Public Library
1515 SW 10th Ave
Topeka, KS 66604
(785) 580-4481
rbanks@mail.tscpl.org

Past President & Chair.

Administration Committee
Sharon Osenga
Meridian Library System
1015 Central Avenue, Suite B
Kearney, Nebraska 68847
(308) 234-2087
sosenga@frontiernet.net

Recording Secretary

David Alexander
University of South Dakota
I. D. Weeks Library
414 East Clark Street
Vermillion, SD 57007
(605) 677-6078
david.alexander@usd.edu

Awards Committee

Beth Avery
Leslie J. Savage Library
Western State College
Gunnison, Colorado 81231
(970) 943-2898
bavery@western.edu

Communications Committee

David Oberhelman
Oklahoma State University
306 Edmon Low Library
Stillwater, OK 74078
(405) 744-9773
d.oberhelman@okstate.edu

Leadership Institute Committee

Patti Butcher
Kansas State Library
300 SW 10th, 343-N
Topeka, KS 66612
(785) 296-3875
pattib@kslib.info

Membership Committee

Michele Seikel
Oklahoma State University
Edmon Low Library
Stillwater, OK 74078
(405) 744-9724
michele.seikel@okstate.edu

Nominating Committee

JaNae Kinikin
Weber State University
2901 University Circle
Ogden, Utah 84408-2901
(801) 626-6093
jkinikin@weber.edu

Professional Development
Committee

Sandra Barstow
University of Wyoming
Libraries
1000 E. University
Laramie, Wyoming 82071
(307) 766-5621
sbarstow@uwyo.edu

Webmaster

Dan Chaney
Oklahoma State University
306 Edmon Low Library
Stillwater, Oklahoma 74075
(405) 744-9772
dan.chaney@okstate.edu

Executive Secretary

Judy Zelenski
14293 W. Center Drive
Lakewood, Colorado 80228
(303) 985-7795
mpla_execsecretary@operamail.com

State Representatives

Arizona

Shirley Condit
Pinal County Library District
shirley.condit@co.pinal.az.us

Colorado

Annie Epperson
University of Northern
Colorado Michener Library
annie.epperson@unco.edu

Kansas

Susan Moyer
Dorothy Bramlage Public
Library
susanm@jclib.org

Montana

Eileen Wright
Montana State University-
Billings
ewright@msubillings.edu

Nebraska

Julie Simpson Beno
Lincoln City Libraries
j.beno@mail.lcl.lib.ne.us

Nevada

Janet Mastalir
Paseo Verde Library
jmastalir@hdpl.org

New Mexico

Valerie Nye
College of Santa Fe
Fogelson Library
vnye@csf.edu

North Dakota

Sally Dockter
University of North Dakota
Chester Fritz Library
sally_dockter@mail.und.nodak.edu

Oklahoma

Barbara Ray
Northeastern State
University
dbjray@earthlink.net

South Dakota

Colleen Smith
Huron Public Library
csmith@sdl.n.net

Utah

Susan Spicer
Salt Lake County Library
Services
sspicer@slco.lib.ut.us

Wyoming

Richard Landreth
Campbell County School
District
rlandreth@ccsd.k12.wy.us



President's Message

I am feeling a certain sense of awe and disbelief that I am actually writing this column as the incoming president of MPLA. I became vice-president / president-elect in October 2005, almost a year-and-a-half ago, and a whole lot has happened between then and now.

Although it will be history by the time you read this, as I write there are just two weeks until I see many of you at MPLA's first-ever joint conference with the New Mexico Library Association, and my excitement is growing day by day. I have been working for over a year with a really fine group of our New Mexico colleagues and also with MPLA members on planning for it, and I am fully convinced that it will be a conference not to be missed. We will have top-notch authors, librarians who are on the leading edge of change, a wide range of vendors - - - all coming together in Albuquerque,

one of the oldest cities in the western United States, but also up-to-date, colorful, growing, and welcoming, with a fascinating blend of cultures at a scenic crossroads.

For the past two months, I have been working on putting together the team that will work with you toward MPLA's goals in the coming year. Besides conference planning, one of my major responsibilities in the past year was working with the executive board on updating the long range plan. I hope you will take a few minutes to go to the MPLA web site (www.mpla.us), click on Publications, and read the plan. We have a lot to do, and that means opportunities for every member to contribute.

How do others know that you want to be involved? You have to take some initiative. Go to the MPLA web site, log into MemberClicks, and update your profile. There are specific places for you to indicate your willingness to serve and, believe me, I have been looking at them.

While on the subject of MemberClicks, I want to encourage you to make it user-friendly for you by choosing a password that is familiar and easy for you to remember. MemberClicks is a powerful key, because it can connect you with every other member of MPLA and help you quickly locate one person or a group of people. Your password does not need to be one of those complex, ultra-secure ones, because it is not protecting your life savings or our national security.

You can also show your interest by contacting your state's representative on the executive board (see their names and pictures on the web site), by contacting the chair of a committee you are interested in, or the moderator of one or more electronic communities. You are welcome to contact me. And please remember that Judy Zelenski, our Executive Secretary, is a great resource any time you have a question of any kind about MPLA. She either knows the answer or knows who to contact.

I am looking forward to your help as we work together this year in MPLA, a warm, neighborly community that just happens to be spread across a very large area.

--Wayne

Newly Elected Officers



Robert Banks and David Alexander, winners of MPLA's recent 2007 election, join continuing officers Wayne Hanway and Sharon Osenga. They begin their terms following the NMLA/MPLA Conference in New Mexico in March.

Robert E. Banks, Deputy Director of Operations, Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library, begins his term as Vice-President/President Elect. A member of MPLA since 1999 he previously served as Chair of the Public Library Section 2001-2003. He is an ALA Councilor, serving as Kansas Chapter Representative since 2005 and has been on the Kansas Library Association


Council since 2005. His MLS degree is from Emporia State University.

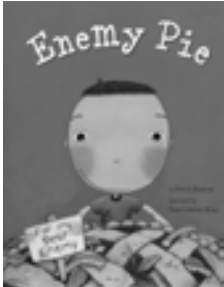
"Whatever our professional needs," Robert says, "it is important for us to work together in the library field. At our library we are constantly asking ourselves, 'What is best for our customers?' I will bring that same customer-focused attitude to my tenure as president, including customer satisfaction of the MPLA members. I am excited about the prospect of working in the newly re-organized MPLA, with the outstanding leadership in the new structure, and helping to build on the great work previously done by others. This new struc-

ture positions MPLA to continue its strong leadership role and to help the libraries in the region set standards for excellence."

David Alexander, MPLA's newly-elected Recording Secretary, is Digital Access Librarian at the University of South Dakota. He was previously Electronic Resources Librarian, South Dakota State University. David was most recently Moderator of the New Members Electronic Community and a member of the PR/Membership and Communications committees. He was a participant in the 2003 Ghost Ranch Leadership Institute. A member of MPLA since 2000, he was

Chair of the Academic Section, South Dakota Library Association, 2005-06. Currently an Ed.D candidate at the University of South Dakota, he has MA degrees in Library and Information Science and in Asian Civilizations from the University of Iowa.

"As recording secretary," David says, "I would like to continue the current practices that have been developed to utilize the accurate recording and timely dissemination of minutes." 




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EBSCO to Sponsor MPLA 2007 Leadership Institute

The Mountain Plains Leadership Institute provides the professional development that we all need to reach our full potential. EBSCO has a long-term commitment to the library community and is happy to invest in our industry's future leaders.

Stanley G. Terry
Vice President/General Manager
EBSCO Information Services

What a Friend!

By Marilyn Hinshaw, Leadership Institute Committee Chair, 2000 - 2004; 2006 - 2007

In the year that the Leadership Institute Committee began to coalesce for planning, and then for the even harder task of funding, one vendor became the support system for the new MPLA project. The 2002 Institute under the committee leadership of **Marilyn Hinshaw**, who retires from the post at the Albuquerque conference, created a vision that beckoned to a vendor representative who made a significant commitment to bring the fledgling Institute to life.

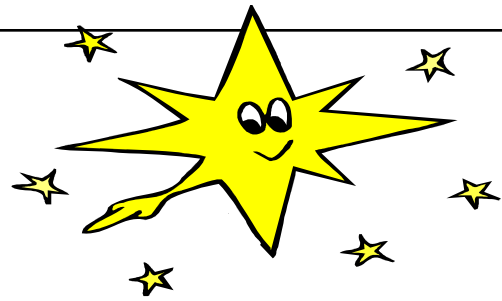
Over three years and totaling \$30,000 of support for MPLA, the vendor then followed up with an extra year and another \$10,000. The vendor that made this commitment to MPLA was **EBSCO**, and the moving force behind the company's commitment was **Stan Terry**, the Mountain Plains area regional manager, headquartered in Denver. This incredible work on MPLA's behalf earned Stan the Carl Gaurmer Exhibitor Award at the Tahoe NLA/MPLA conference.

"It's apparent that Stan Terry has MPLA and its investment in leadership training at heart." said **Donna Morris**, Utah State Librarian and a member of the Leadership Institute Committee's 2006-2007 fund raising subcommittee. "It was clear to me, as I talked to Stan at ALA Midwinter and then on the phone afterward, that Stan is one of those individuals who believes in the value of people and in giving back to those who support his business." Donna adds these words, "Thank you, Stan for working with the company to once again share our vision."

Patti Butcher, who will take over as chair of the LI Committee is proud to make the announcement that the Leadership Institute for 2007 will be funded. "Now in its sixth year--and having graduated 169 Fellow and Mentors--the Leadership Institute is thrilled to once again partner with EBSCO Information Services in our mutual commitment to the profession. MPLA is indebted to Stan Terry and EBSCO for their continued support of our efforts."



MPLA Award Winners



By Cassandra Osterloh, Awards Committee Chair

The purpose of MPLA is to promote the development of librarians and libraries. One of the ways we do this is to recognize outstanding contributions to state, local, and regional library services. Nothing makes a library worker feel better than a heartfelt “thank you”. Through our awards MPLA honors colleagues, volunteers, and library supporters. Every year MPLA honors these amazing colleagues, volunteers, and library supporters with an array of accolades. This year is no different. We are privileged and honored to announce the following award winners. Join us in praising and thanking them for all their hard work.



*Carl Gaumer Library
Champion Award*
Ghost Ranch
Abiquiu, New Mexico

Ghost Ranch is recognized for its role in making the MPLA Leadership Institute a tremendous success. The current slogan on the Ghost Ranch organization’s website is “Let our world change your world.” It is strikingly fitting in the case of

the Leadership Institute. Ghost Ranch has changed many worlds for librarians in the MPLA twelve-member states. More than 165 individuals, both fellows and mentors, have benefited from the services, atmosphere, and serenity of Ghost Ranch. Many agree that the Leadership Institutes could not have been as successful if they had been held anywhere else.



Distinguished Service Award
Susan Pinkerton
Assistant Professor of Library
Science, Doña Ana
Community College / New
Mexico State University, Las
Cruces, New Mexico

As a library educator and leader of the Library Science Program at NMSU-Doña Ana, Ms. Pinkerton has developed a completely online program which has enabled those who might not have otherwise been able to pursue a career in library science the opportunity and access to library education and a degree. Graduates and students of her program have positions in libraries throughout the Moun-

tain Plains area and nationwide. Her program is recognized and highly regarded nationwide. In 2006, she was instrumental in developing additional upper level school library courses at NMSU, also available online for persons needing the School Library Endorsement, and created several online 1-credit library science courses now available for professional development and continuing education for librarians nationwide. In 2006 *Library Journal* recognized her as one of the “Movers and Shakers”, shaping the future of America’s libraries



Youth Services Excellence Award
**Campbell County Public
Library System**
Gillette, Wyoming

At Campbell County Public Library, every age group of children receives special attention and care, including a major remodeling project of the children’s space and the library attitude towards children as valuable community assets. The Children’s Department provides story times, summer reading programs, plus no-school-days and holiday

programs for grade-school children. The Young Adult Department has an active Teen Advisory Board which helps decide on activities that have included a teen writers group, early release day activities, Battle of the Bands, and teen volunteers. An annual teen book sale allows teens to raise funds for other youth oriented agencies in the community. Both departments work with other agencies and organizations, the school district, and the recreation district to provide an After-School Snack program at the library for all ages of children, bus service from the schools to the library, and author visits. The library is a student destination and is a model of excellence in library services to youth.



Legislative Leadership Award
Wyoming State Legislature

The members of the Wyoming Legislature are recognized for their outstanding support of Wyoming libraries demonstrated through recent legislative actions and continued encouragement for Wyoming libraries to collaboratively build the information infrastructure for Wyoming citizens. Most recently the Legislature, with strong support from Governor Freudenthal, passed in 2006 the

Libraries Funding Amendment as part of the general appropriations for Wyoming. Ten million dollars in one time funding was provided to strengthen library collections throughout the state, with 10 sponsors representing both houses and parties – a demonstration of the significance of this legislation and the strong support for libraries in Wyoming.



News Media Support Award

Ron and Sheryl Nutt

Station Owners, KCTU TV
Wichita, Kansas

In February 2005, KCTU invited the Wichita Public Library for a series of four weekly six-minute segments on *Your Hour*, a daily informational show airing weekdays. The arrangements worked so well for both the Library and KCTU that the relationship continues to this day. While it reaches approximately 274,000 homes in Wichita, it also reaches around the world through live streaming broadcast on its website. They have dedicated over 300 minutes to face-to-face interviews on topics determined by the Library ranging from upcoming programs to electronic resources. The enthusiasm of co-host Sheryl Nutt for the Library's resources and reading is

infectious. KCTU's dedication to supporting the Library does not end with the Library's segment. They regularly air PSAs supporting the summer reading program and always have brochures on hand. KCTU provides the Library an excellent opportunity to inform current and future customers about library services and programs. Their library advocacy deserves applause.



Intellectual Freedom Award

Cindi Hickey

Continuing Education
Librarian; State Library of Kansas

During 2004 and 2005, Cindi Hickey led a Kansas Library Association task force to develop a website and resources for Kansas libraries. She developed the first online edition of the KLA Intellectual Freedom Handbook after hours of research, writing, development, feedback, and evaluation. Since its debut in 2005, the website has proven to be a valuable tool for librarians and trustees not only in Kansas but across the country. Through her leadership the Kansas Library Association boasts a shining example of Intellectual Freedom resources accessible to all Kansas libraries and the larger library community.



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Death and ...

By Dan Stanton

Arizona Local Documents
Librarian, Arizona State University
Libraries; govdocsman@asu.edu



Unquestionably, there is progress. The average American now pays out twice as much in taxes as he formerly got in wages. - H. L. Mencken



Although Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution states, "The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States..." taxation was used sparingly prior to the Civil War. Given the colonial attitude toward government taxation and the Federal Government's ability to function on customs duties, direct taxation was mostly limited to the time of the War of 1812.

President Abraham Lincoln and Congress created the Office of Internal Revenue in 1862 to help pay for the Civil War, which had lasted longer and cost more than had been expected. The Commissioner of Internal Revenue assessed, levied, and collected internal taxes, and could seize assets and prosecute individuals to enforce tax laws. "In addition to incomes, the new law taxed estates, public utilities, occupations, liquors, beer, tobacco, banks, insurance companies, advertisements, slaughtered cattle, railroads, ferryboats, and other specified commodities. It provided stamp taxes on certain commercial papers, perfume, cosmetics, medicines and playing cards."¹ Internal Revenue collected \$36.6 million in its first year!

After the Civil War, Congress reduced many taxes and eliminated others - including the in-

come tax in 1872. The income tax returned in 1894, only to be declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in 1895 due to apportionment. In February 1913, Congress passed the 16th Amendment to the Constitution stating that, "Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several States, and without regard to any census or enumeration." In October, Congress enacted a tax law on the income of individuals and corporations. The personal income tax rate was 1 % on net income over \$3,000 with a surtax of up to 6% on incomes over \$500,000.

Since 1913, personal income tax rates have risen and fallen as the country experienced wars, economic downturns including the Great Depression, and Prohibition (alcohol had been a big source of revenue). The agency itself has gone through a number of changes and restructures aimed at making it more effective and public service oriented. Education has always been a large part of Internal Revenue's mission.

Key websites:

Internal Revenue Service - www.irs.gov - This site provides information for individuals, businesses, and non-profit organizations, and includes online forms, explanations of and changes to taxes, and contacts for further assistance.

MPLA State Tax Agencies - The States want their/your money too!

Arizona Department of Revenue - <http://www.azdor.gov/>

Colorado Department of Revenue - <http://www.revenue.state.co.us/main/home.asp>

Kansas Department of Revenue - <http://www.ksrevenue.org/>

continued on page 10

Death and....., continued from page 9

Montana Department of Revenue - <http://www.mt.gov/revenue/>

Nebraska Department of Revenue - <http://www.revenue.ne.gov/>

Nevada Department of Taxation - <http://tax.state.nv.us/>

New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department - <http://www.tax.state.nm.us/>

North Dakota Office of State Tax Commissioner - <http://www.nd.gov/tax/>

Oklahoma Tax Commission - <http://www.tax.ok.gov/>

South Dakota Department of Revenue and Regulation - <http://www.state.sd.us/drr2/revenue.html>

Utah State Tax Commission - <http://tax.utah.gov/index.html>

Wyoming Department of Revenue - <http://revenue.state.wy.us/>

Federation of Tax Administrators - www.tax-admin.org/fta/link/forms.html - The FTA is a group serving tax administrators in the United States. This page provides links to State tax forms throughout the country

¹Internal Revenue Service. (1963). Income Taxes 1862-1962: A History of the Internal Revenue Service. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.



MPLA Website Receives 2-1/2 Million Annual Visits



Dan Chaney, MPLA Webmaster, recently presented web site statistics for the period January 1 – December 31, 2006

Total Website Hits: 2,532,474

- Average Hits Per Day: 6,919
- Average Hits Per Hour: 289

Total Visitors: 164,765

- Average Visitors Per Day: 450
- Average Page Views Per Visitor: 2.04

Total Unique IPs: 40,676

- Visitors Who Visit Once: 29,896
- Visitors Returning: 10,780

Total Page Views: 336,455

- Average Page Views Per Day: 919
- Number of Visitors Bookmarking Site: 46,564

Most Visited Resource

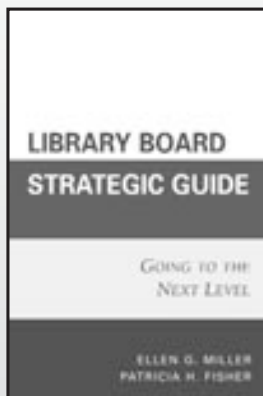
- MPLA Jobline: 62,184 Hits (38,185 Visitors)
- MPLA Home Page: 31,188 Hits (15,880 Visitors)
- MPLA Publications and Documents: 15,258 Hits (2,412 Visitors)
- Leadership Institute Site: 3,900 Hits (1,764 Visitors)

Most Downloaded Files

- 2003 Conference Handout "Theme Book Groups" 5,174 times
- August 2005 MPLA Newsletter: 4,250 times
- August 2006 MPLA Newsletter: 4,102 times



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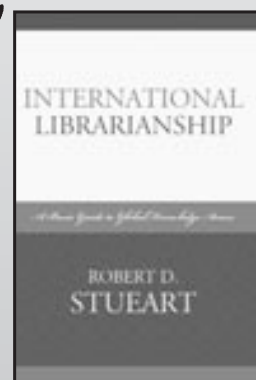
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LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANSHIP

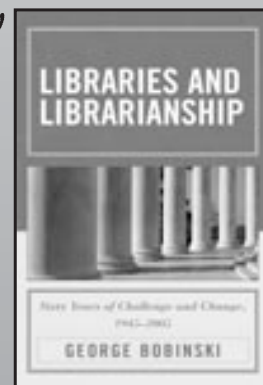
SIXTY YEARS OF CHALLENGE AND CHANGE, 1945 - 2005

GEORGE BOBINSKI

April 2007, 218 pages

0-8108-5899-1 (978-0-8108-5899-2) \$40.00 cloth

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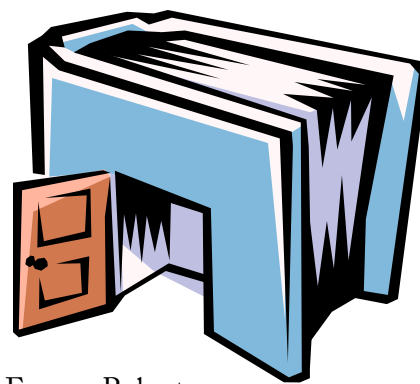


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Wahoo, Nebraska

Karen Mier
Computer Support Technician,
Baright Public Library
Ralston, Nebraska

Pamela Soreide
Director, Holdrege Area Public
Library; Holdrege, Nebraska

NEVADA

Deborah Blackman
Special Projects Librarian
Douglas County Public Library
Minden, Nevada

NEW MEXICO

Anansi Charter School Library
c/o Brenda Peterson, Library/
Media Teacher; El Prado, New
Mexico

Rosa Armstrong
Teacher/Librarian, Gallup
McKinley County Schools Red
Rock; Fort Wingate, New Mexico

Denise Burnett
Director, Portales Public Library
Portales, New Mexico

Laura Calderone
MSLIS student, University of Il-
linois Urbana Champaign
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Ji Cloteaux
College Instructor, New Mexico
State University Dona Ana
Community College, Las Cruces,
New Mexico

Linda Davis
Branch Manager, Albuquerque/
Bernalillo County Library System.
Taylor Ranch Library
Rio Rancho, New Mexico

Christine Nelson
Librarian, CCA/CCCC
Grants, New Mexico

Aimee Quinn
Associate Director, Central New
Mexico Community College
Montoya Campus Library
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Phyllis Reiche
Chair, Board of Trustees, Gila
Valley Library, Gila, New Mexico

Danielle Swopes
Assistant Director, Portales Public
Library; Portales, New Mexico

NORTH DAKOTA

Michael Safratowich
Bibliographic Control Librarian
University of North Dakota
Harley French Library -Health Sci-
ences, Grand Forks, North Dakota

OKLAHOMA

Mark Carlson
Branch Manager, Tulsa City
County Library System Skiatook
Library; Skiatook, Oklahoma

Catharine Cook
Director, Chickasha Public Library
Chickasha, Oklahoma

Bethia Owens
Sequoyah County Librarian,
Eastern Oklahoma District Library
System Muldrow Public Library
Muldrow, Oklahoma

Sheila Pickering
Youth Services Librarian, South-
eastern Public Library System,
Wister Public Library; Oklahoma

Kim Zahller
Norman Public Library
Norman, Oklahoma

SOUTH DAKOTA

Linda Allbee
Trainer, South Dakota Library Net-
work; Spearfish, South Dakota

Roy Burr
Board Member
South Dakota State Library;
Pierre, South Dakota

Stephanie Charging Eagle
Board Member
South Dakota State Library
Dupree, South Dakota

Linda Whitney
Board Member
South Dakota State Library
Forestburg, South Dakota

TEXAS

Marsha Barker
Coordinator, Texas Panhandle
Library System; Amarillo, Texas

UTAH

Randy Christensen
Technical Services Librarian,
Southern Utah University
Gerald R. Sherratt Library
Cedar City, Utah

Megan Davis
Health Sciences Librarian, Weber
State University Stewart Library
Ogden, Utah

Dorothy Horan
Metadata Coordinator, Corpora-
tion of the President Family His-
tory Library; West Jordan, Utah

IHW-City of Refuge
Intl Inst for Health and Wellness
City of Refuge, Rio Verde Univer-
sity; Orem, Utah

WYOMING

Lalia Jagers
Reference Services Specialist
Campbell County Public Library
Gillette, Wyoming



MPLA Winter Weather Report

Frigid temperatures - snow and more snow - ice storms. The winter weather hit the MPLA region hard this winter. As Past President **Marilyn Hinshaw** says, "Most people of the plains states know the meaning of extremes. From super hot to super cold, we can plan on the weather being the most exciting news story of the day."

The MPLA Executive Board held a meeting by conference call on January 17, 2007. Northern state representatives reported sub-zero temperatures. Denver had several feet of accumulated snow. But Oklahoma had the worst weather, with ice storms and power outages that closed libraries and sent residents to shelters.

Vice-President/President-Elect **Wayne Hanway** in McAlester, Oklahoma attended the meeting from a dark closet with a camping lantern for light. Committee Chair **Marilyn Hinshaw** was unable to attend because of power outages in Muskogee, Oklahoma. Parka-clad, she was interviewed on television news from her home. See the television interview and Marilyn's detailed storm story on the MPLA website: www.mpla.us, link from "What's New."



Effects of ice storm at Eastern Oklahoma District Library System Offices in Muskogee, Oklahoma. Library Director is MPLA member Marilyn Hinshaw.

Nevada Representative **Janet Mastalir** reported that "It's unusual to see snow in the Las Vegas valley, but on December 19, 2006 Paseo Verde Library and James I. Gibson Library in Henderson were blanketed in snow."



Montana Representative **Eileen Wright** had a positive view, saying "When the cold temperature descends upon us for our long winter nights and the colors of our world have faded to browns and whites, colors explode within the MSU Billings Library. It's time for the annual quilt show. Whimsical, creative, and works of art quilts arrive from the campus community to be displayed and admired."



Around the Region

Arizona

Robert Shupe is now Director of the **Mohave County Library** based in Kingman, AZ. A member of MPLA since 1990, Robert was most recently Chair of the Professional Development Committee.

Abbie Zeltzer is the new chair of the Services to Diverse Populations Special Interest Group. Abbie is a new member of MPLA.

The University of Arizona School of Information Resources and Library Science is offering a new post-baccalaureate certificate program in Digital Information Management (DigIn). The six-course, 18 credit hour graduate program is online, and may be completed in 18-30 months. The program was developed in part with funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Colorado

In celebration of **Library Lovers Month**, the month of February, 50 members of the Colorado State Legislature noted their favorite children's books. Their favorites are compiled in a booklist from the Colorado State Library. Some titles occur several times. For example, *Where the Wild Things Are*, by Maurice Sendak, a perennial for over 40 years was selected by three senators, with one noting "Max was sent to his room for mischief - something I could relate to." Three women legislators favored the Carolyn Keene series of Nancy Drew mysteries. One said "These popular books are an early example of girl power, how girls can make a difference." The list contains many classics like *Charlotte's Web*, *Make Way*



for *Ducklings*, and *The Little Engine That Could*. The booklist is available on the Internet at www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/slpubs.htm (scroll down to "Favorite Children's Books") and may be downloaded and copied at no charge.

The **Collaborative Digitization Program (CDP)** and the **Bibliographical Center for Research (BCR)** will merge effective April 1. Both organizations provide services to libraries and other cultural heritage organizations throughout a multistate area focused in the West. The digital services program offerings of the merged organizations will be known as CDP@BCR. **Leigh Grinstead**, currently CDP Operations Coordinator, will transition to BCR in the newly created position of CDP Program Coordinator, providing continuity to CDP members and partners.

The **Colorado Academic Library Summit 2007**, will be held May 31-June 1, 2007. While the focus of the Summit is on academic libraries, participants from any type library are welcome. Find more information about the Summit at <http://clicweb.org/calc2007/>

The **Colorado State Library** has launched **Library Jobline**, a searchable database of job openings in libraries and related information organizations. See www.LibraryJobline.org. Users may set up an account as either an employer or a job seeker. For more information, see www.lrs.org/blog/ViewItem.asp?Entry=139

The **Special Libraries Association** Annual Conference will be in Denver, June 3-6. **Al Gore**, 45th Vice President of the United States and **Scott Adams**, Dilbert cartoon creator, will speak.

Kansas

Cynthia Berner-Harris, Director of the **Wichita Public Library** and MPLA member since 1982, received a “Shining Star” certificate of accomplishment from the State Library of Kansas to recognize exemplary Kansas library service. She was cited for outstanding leadership with the 2006 Kansas Book Festival and the Board of Affiliates of the Kansas Center for the Book.



Vikki Jo Stewart (left) of the State Library of Kansas presents Cynthia Berner Harris of the Wichita Public Library a Shining Star Award. Photo by Dan Holder.

The Johnson County Library recently formed a partnership with the Kansas City *Star* newspaper for online business information. Since late Summer 2006, the library has been providing Web-based information packages that complement the *Star's* lead business-related feature in its Sunday edition. The library believes this to be the first-ever such relationship in the United States. Links to the library's Web-based information packages – which consist of selected websites, da-

tabases, and books – appear in the online version of the *Star* at www.kansascity.com and in print in the hard copy version of the newspaper. The service is one of several projects that the Specialty Reference Services staff is initiating to underscore its “real-time reference” and how the library can be present in people's daily lives and in their decision-making processes.

The **Olathe Public Library** received a Certificate of Merit in the Private/Public Institution category of the twenty-fifth Friends of Education Award Program for *OLATHE READS*, a collaborative partnership formed in 2005 between the library, the City of Olathe and the Olathe District Schools. *OLATHE READS* enhanced the Summer Reading Club last year and increased participation by 83%. Through a grant from the Comcast Corporation, the library was able to provide more books and publicity. Proceeds from the grant also aided the mayor's “I Read with Mayor Mike” school visits and the library's volunteer reading program at local daycare centers. At the end of the summer, more than 800 children and their families were treated to a special concert by “Trout Fishing in America” to celebrate the completion of the Summer Reading Club.

The **Kansas State Historical Society** is presenting an Elderhostel program in June on “William Allen White: The Power of the Press Then and Now.” The program is presented in association with Emporia State University. Emporia is White's hometown where he was editor and publisher of *The Emporia Gazette*.

The Lavender Library of WATC: The Wichita Area Technical College Library's recently renovated its Central Campus facility which serves the departments in Allied Health, Adult Basic Education, and the Interior Design program. The library is now a cheerful shade between lavender and periwinkle. Interior Design instructor

Bridget Mack planned the library's new layout. WATC students and staff are reported to be pleased with the change and the color! Director **Rita Severt** and Librarian David Guilliams are members of MPLA.



l-r: Ebony Freeman, Library Assistant; Rita Severt, Library Director David Guilliams, Librarian.

Mona Carmack, Johnson County Librarian, retired January 26, concluding more than 18 years as director. During that time, she built or expanded eight library facilities, including a 90,000 square foot Central Resource Library, and renovated two facilities.



A member of MPLA since 1989, she was recognized in 2004 by the Mountain Plains Library Association with a Distinguished Service Award.

Following Mona Carmack's retirement, **Donna Lauffer** is serving as Interim County Librarian for the **Johnson County Library**.

Montana

The **Great Falls Public Library** held a successful Valentine's Day event, "Friends, Chocolate and a Movie." A chocolate fountain, several different candies, cakes and cookies, and a raffle for a decadent chocolate cake highlighted the event. It was followed by a showing of "Be With Me," a Chinese film exploring different aspects of love, loss and redemption.



MPLA Member Jim Heckel, Great Falls Public Library Director, and his wife, Pam.

Keynote speaker **Nancy Pearl**, and featured author **Neil Gaiman** will speak at the **Montana Library Association Conference, *The Tipping Point – Moving Montana Libraries from Good to Great***, which takes place April 25-28 in Helena.

Neil Gaiman will not only be the guest author luncheon speaker, but he will also lead one session at the conference and participate in a public book signing event.

Jim Heckel, Director of the **Great Falls Public Library** will be “Mr. May” in a upcoming “Calendar of Hot Montana Babe Libraries”. Watch for more information and a photo in the next issue of the Newsletter.

Sonja Woods, Director of the **Miles City Public Library** since May 2006, was awarded the Individual of the Year Award by the Miles City Chamber of Commerce

Michelle Fenger, has been named the new Director of the **Ronan City Library** following the retirement of former Director **Marilyn Koester**. Fenger was previously the Lake County bookmobile librarian for the last 5 years.


Nebraska

The **Winnebago Library** was awarded a prestigious 2-year \$129,000 Enhancement Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. It will enable the library to provide more services to children and youth in the community. The focus will be on early literacy and reading aloud to children, as the library will receive funds to create new literacy programs and hire a full-time children’s librarian.

The **Falls City Library and Art Center** opened for business January 22. The new 15,000 sq. ft building includes an Art Gallery, technology room, and a genealogy and a storytime room.

The **Nebraska Library Association** celebrated the 2007 Legislative Day with a full day of events starting with coffee & doughnuts, then a briefing, luncheon and seminar. It was their opportunity to

remind the senators of what their libraries are doing in their community. Over 30 Senators attended. Postcards were hand delivered to all the State Senators before the events.




What can you do on the computers at your library?

Well, you can get your hunting license online and print it out, as this hunter from Friend did. Or attend online cattle auctions, pay bills, download tax forms or other federal documents, email your granddaughter in Iraq, or look up your ancestors. How about checking-out an audio book onto your MP3 player or adding a comment to your favorite blog.

Maybe you want to view books or magazine and newspaper articles on health, wealth, or happiness. You can do that through NebraskAccess, a state funded resource for all Nebraska residents which you can use from any online computer.

Or if you just can't take one more minute of your job — update a resume over your lunch hour, apply for a job which closes by five, or check the University class schedule to see what new field of study you want to pursue.

Necessary, recreational, or trivial, library Internet access offers residents a computer and a connection to all the opportunities online - when you're away from home or when there isn't one at home. Libraries also provide expert tech support from library staff and, of course, quick access to the more traditional bearers of information: books.



Need to be online? Log on at the library.

Libraries, right to the heart of the matter.

Omaha Public Library Benson Branch teens read 13,656 pages from Omaha Public Library books. Young Adult Librarian **Nancy Chmiel** waved to bystanders from a billboard at 89th and Fort Streets, 1 to 5 p.m. on Nov. 10 as a way to congratulate the teens on their accomplishment. (She has also been known to dress Goth—What a way to connect with the kids!)



Omaha Public Library YA Librarian Nancy Chmiel

The **University of Omaha’s Criss Library** has a new addition. The SKOLA language center is worth the stop. And if you are hungry stop in the café. This is a remarkable university library.

Nebraska Librarians took their third annual bus trip to an MPLA conference, this one in March to Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Senator Lowen Kruse was awarded the Nebraska Library Association Library Champion Award for 2007. It honors a state or federal legislator or an individual who has promoted and supported legislative efforts that promote Nebraska libraries and librarianship. After the awards luncheon several Senators had their pictures taken for a READ poster.



A golfing trip to Colorado: MPLA members Julie Beno (l) and Becky Pasco (r) plus Jodene Glaesemann (center). "Think Summer" says MPLA Nebraska Representative Julie Beno, as the half foot of snow was about to hit Nebraska!

Nevada

The **Nevada Library Association** hosted *Nevada Library Legislative Day* 2007 on March 22. Library advocates traveled to Carson City to inform state legislators about Nevada library issues.

The 2007 **Nevada Library Association Conference** will be held October 4-6 at the Nevada Legislative Building in Carson City. Theme is the Lighter Side of Libraries. It is hosted by Cooperative Libraries Automated Network. Additional information can be found at www.nevadalibraries.org.

The **American Association of School Librarians** will meet October 24-28 in Reno for their 13th National Conference and Exhibition, *The Future Begins @ your Library*. See <http://www.ala.org/ala/aas/aasindex.htm>.



Web Publishing Workshops, sponsored by the **Nevada State Library & Archives** with funding provided by the Library Services and Technology Act, will be held during March and April, with sessions at the Nevada State Library & Archives in Carson City, and at the Paseo Verde Library in Henderson. Sessions will offer a full range of instruction from web publishing basics to XML.

The **Henderson Libraries** *Reading with Rover* program has been very successful since it began in 2002. Under the guidance of Florica Hagedorn, the program pairs trained certified therapy dogs with children who are uncomfortable reading aloud, or who may be learning English as a second language. They meet once a week for six weeks, one-on-one, with a therapy dog and its handler. Children are inclined to forget about their limitations in this positive environment and their self-confidence is renewed. Reading materials are carefully selected for each participant and weekly evaluations measure progress. See <http://www.hdpl.org/programs/rover.html>



Andrea Moore, Carson City Library's Community Relations Coordinator, was recently honored by the Capital City Arts Initiative. She coordinates volunteers, public programs and is involved with the local National Library Week and Oktoberfest. She began as the library's Hispanic Services Coordinator during which time the Library received a grant for Hispanic collection development, which led to "Fiesta de las Americas" which was the first of its kind in Carson City.

New Mexico

Santa Fe Public Library's newest branch library will open March 23rd. The library, in a high-growth area of town, will be the first branch to be built in Santa Fe in 27 years. On February 6 the first truckloads of books were delivered to the Southside Library. Children at **Cesar Chavez Elementary school** waved to the trucks delivering the new books.



Julia Clark has been named Director of the **Albuquerque Library System**. Clark has been with the library since 1986. Her goals as director are to improve the use of electronic resources, attract more customers, increase service to Spanish-speaking residents, and promote literacy.

The **Albuquerque Public Library's Friends for the Library** raised more than \$10,500 for library programs in a book sale on February 10.

The **New Mexico State University Library** established the Dave DeWitt Chile Pepper Institute Endowed Fund at the New Mexico State University Library.

The income from the \$25,000 endowment will be used to process, preserve and make accessible to the public the collection of materials that DeWitt has donated to the Library. DeWitt is one of the world's foremost authorities on chile peppers. He donated his collection of books, magazines and other materials on the subject to the Library's Rio Grande Historical Collections.



Bel-Air Elementary School in Albuquerque is renovating the Library/Media Center. Librarian **Susan Rosprim** reports, "the outside structure is still the same as it was in the 50's, we have added shelving, furniture, and a "book nook" storytelling area within 3 foot walls."

Rio Rancho opened its new \$7 million Loma Colorado Library in December. The Esther Bone Memorial Library, the original "main" building, is being remodeled and will become a library branch.

The **University of New Mexico's Zimmerman Library** progress continues after the April 2006 fire. The library is expanding public space; reference and interlibrary loan personnel are in their new offices; professional art conservators will begin restoring damaged works of art, plans for basement renovations are moving forward; and the library is replacing some of the lost journals.

Bloomfield Public Library received a grant from WGBH public television called *Arthur's 10th Anniversary Literacy Initiative*. With this the Bloomfield Public Library will host free workshops for parents and children and form an Arthur the Aardvark book club for kids that will meet while parents attend workshops to help them build their children's literacy skills.

North Dakota

Hebron Public Library, Hebron Public School, and Glen Ullin Public School will have their holdings added to WorldCat as part of a project which allows libraries involved to participate in the state's Interlibrary Loan program no matter what circulation systems they use. The libraries supply the State Library with information on the titles they own and the State Library staff catalogs each title into WorldCat.

Bismarck State College is in the midst of their annual BookTalk discussion series at the Library. The theme is "Behind the Mask," with discussions of three books that "explore the experience of being other ... and hiding who we really are." The selections for the series are:

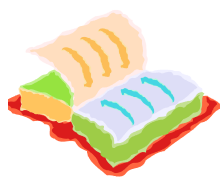
The Human Stain by Philip Roth

Fires in the Dark by Louise Doughty

Hiding in the Open: a Holocaust Memoir by Sabina S. Zimering

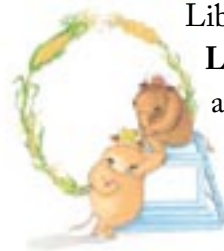
Of special note was when author Zimering joined the discussion by phone. Zimering wrote *Hiding in the Open* about her experiences as a young Jewish woman during World War II. She and her sister posed as Polish Catholic girls and worked in Germany during much of the war. After the war, she went to medical school, then immigrated to Minneapolis where she practiced medicine for 40 years. She currently lives in St. Louis Park, Minnesota. Dr. Zimering learned about the discussion

series from a friend who lives in Bismarck and contacted the library to ask if she could join the conversation by telephone.



The **Dickinson State University Stoxen Library** held a grand opening on March 1 for the Common Grounds Coffee Bar. A communications instructor led a discussion on *Teacher Man* by Frank McCourt.

The **Valley City Barnes County Children's Librarians Mary Ann Anderson and Linda Olason** entertained parents



and children at Jefferson School in honor of *Reading Month*. They read *Minnie and Moo saved the Earth* by Denys Cazet and *Moe the Dog in Tropical Paradise* by Diane Stanley.

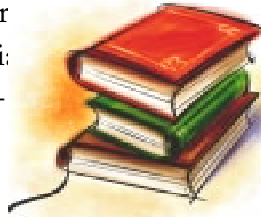
The **North Dakota State Library** is sponsoring a basic fiction writing workshop by award winning author Lauraine Snelling on May 19. Her popular series, *Red River of the North*, was inspired by her Norwegian heritage. Author of over 50 books, her book, *Tragedy on the Toutle*, was published in 1982. Other spring workshops sponsored by the state library include online library resource presentations, collection development policy writing, grant writing, summer reading program, and public library laws and confidentiality

Oklahoma

Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma (FOLIO) is launching a grassroots campaign to increase state aid to public libraries. The goal is to raise state aid to \$2.50 per person. Donations of \$100 from the Miami Public Library Friends and \$400 from the Stillwater Public Library Friends, plus matching funds, bring the total for the campaign to \$1,000! The donations will be used to purchase advertising. The members of the Oklahoma Library Association hope all library users in Oklahoma will write personal stories to legislators about how important public libraries are to them.

For the past 31 years, **Muskogee Public Library and the Hultquist Trust** have sponsored the program Great Decisions. Speakers focus on a particular area of the world and the topics are selected by the Foreign Policy Association, a non profit organization in Washington, D. C. The pur-

pose is to encourage people to learn about world issues. The series beginning in February and ending April 24 will discuss such issues as migration, war crimes, changing world climate and children around the world who face fighting in combat, human trafficking and unsafe labor practices. Areas to be focused are Central Asia, the Middle East, South Africa, and Mexico. The series is open to the public at no charge.



Street School, a non profit alternative school in Tulsa sharing partnerships with Tulsa Public Schools and Tulsa City County Library, has a library for the first time in 34 years. Students no longer need to go on a field trip to the downtown library. They have access to updated computers and reference books to provide research experiences and books for pleasure reading. Street School is supported by United Way and provides education and counseling for students who have dropped out of school. Having a library helps prepare students who wish to go on to college. According to the executive director, it also reinforces the notion that the students are important and there are people who wish to see them successful. Students, community leaders and supporters at the ribbon cutting ceremony were excited to see the facilities and resources made possible by grants from the Sarkeys Foundation and Gelvin Foundation. There is lots of room to grow, but it is a beautiful start to encouraging life long learners.

Clifton Taulbert is the winner of the Arrell Gibson Award for Lifetime Achievement from the Oklahoma Center for the book. The award is given for a body of work that contributes to Oklahoma's literary heritage. In his first book, entitled *Once Upon a Time When We Were Colored*, he shared his Mississippi Delta upbringing with his adored grandmother. In his *Eight Habits of the*

Heart he focuses on the importance of a nurturing attitude, dependability, responsibility, friendship, brotherhood, high expectations, courage and hope. Believing in the importance of community, he founded Building Community Institute. He

is a sought after speaker for presentations geared to writers, business leaders, and education organizations. He has the ability to engaged both children and adults with his sincerity, humor, and storytelling.

South Dakota

Gates Rural Libraries Sustainability Workshops were held by the **South Dakota State Library** in January and February. Attendees had received updated computer equipment for their public libraries through the 2nd round of Gates Grants. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation developed this Sustainability Workshop to offer suggestions for local libraries to keep their computer equipment updated and maintained. The WebJunction website was also demonstrated.

JumpStart meetings for children's librarians were held in February to introduce the theme for the 2007 Summer Reading Program "Get a Clue @ Your Library." Many public libraries across South Dakota will use theme for Summer Reading Programs. South Dakota is a member of the CSLP (Collaborative Summer Library Program) Committee, which offers a program manual and materials.

The **South Dakota State Library** is implementing a new library service plan after a 2006 study of the South Dakota State Library services was done by **Dr. Mary Bushing**. The mission of the State library has changed from serving citizens directly to a dual primary mission: improv-

ing the quality of library services delivered by the locally-funded public libraries and to serving state government. The State Library will no longer serve as a 'public library' for residents who have no library in their community. The bulk of the State Library book collection will be transferred to other libraries throughout the state. The transition was scheduled to occur over the next two years but the state government accelerated the process. During recent budget hearings, State Library lost four staff positions.

Bang "B.J." Kim announced her upcoming retirement after nearly 38 years of library service at **South Dakota State University**. Her last day of work was January 19. As Head of Cataloging and Head of Technical Services at Hilton M. Briggs Library and through her active involvement in SDLN, she has made a vital contribution to library service in South Dakota.

Utah

The grand opening of **Washington County Library System's** new St. George Branch was held on Presidents Day, February 19. The 30,000 square foot main library includes architectural features designed to echo the style of the century old nearby buildings, while offering the latest in information technologies. The \$5 million dollar building was financed in part by a \$23 million dollar bond passed by voters in 2001.

The **Guild of Book Workers** 100th Anniversary Exhibition is currently on display at the **Utah Museum of Fine Arts** through March 18. The traveling show includes the works of 60 artisans, including those of three local book artists: Madelyn Garrett, Marnie Powers-Torrey and Toni Nelson. Initially the exhibition focused on bookbinding, however, it has grown to promote hand papermaking and decorating, printing, calligraphy and

illumination, and the conservation, preservation and restoration of older book materials.

Utah State University administrators support relieving stress during finals; however, they draw the line at howling in the **Merrill-Cazier Library**, a four-story building where sound tends to carry. The tradition began last spring when a small group of students howled like wolves in an effort to relieve stress. Another howling

session was organized last semester. Junior Eric DeFries, one of the planners, related:

"We went back to the library because we figured that was the place where the most people would be during finals week". In response the

USU vice provost for libraries stated: "I sympathize with them. I'm just not sure the library is the most appropriate place to do it." USU's student government is currently considering a request to sanction future finals week howls, while organizers are exploring new locations.

Ken Verdoia, a former trustee of the **Salt Lake County Library Services** Board of Directors, has been selected as the first recipient of the Public Library Association's 2007 Gordon M. Conable Award. A SLCLS Trustee from 1999 - 2006, he defended and promoted open access to electronic information, library materials and services and contributed to awareness of diverse viewpoints within the Salt Lake community at large.

Wyoming

The **Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library Friends of the Library Book Sale** is now year-round. Instead of saving donated books for the June book sale, they are now placed on a cart near the main desk and are available for purchase during library



hours. Patrons decide what the books are worth to them and pay accordingly. The cart is resupplied weekly from books donated by the public.

Douglas County Libraries is a recipient of the 2007 John Cotton Dana Award. The award honors outstanding library public relations. Douglas County Libraries was recognized for the skillful promotion of its *Page to Stage Productions* literary theatre tour. A theatrical outreach program performed by professional actors, the popular tour is an innovative way to promote library cards, and library programs and services with free performances at schools and libraries.

Teton County Library held *A Magical Adventure with Author T.A. Barron*, a talk and book signing, in March. Barron also made presentations for Jackson Hole Middle School, Summit School and Journeys School students. The Teton County Library Foundation and Charles Engelhard Foundation provided funding.

The **Wyoming State Library** started a 6-month trial with Recorded Books for their on demand 'MyLibraryDV' service. Users will be able to access hundreds of hours of DVD quality programming as well as classic movies and more.

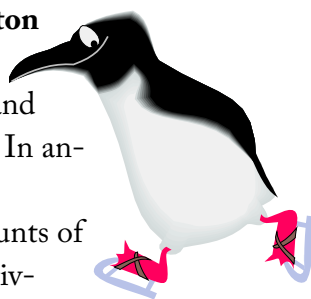
Author **Kelly Tyler-Lewis** presented a talk on *The Lost Men, The Harrowing Saga of Shackleton's Ross Sea Party*, at the **Teton County Library**. Other programs highlighted the life and ecology of Antarctic penguins. In another program Teton County residents share first-hand accounts of their experiences *On the Ice* – giving a local glimpse of the world's hardest to-visit continent.

The **Wyoming State Library** is one of seven winners nationally of the prestigious John Cotton Dana Library Public Relations Award. WSL

won for the statewide library marketing campaign, *Wyoming Libraries: Bringing the World to Wyoming* (www.wyominglibraries.org). The campaign combined images of Wyoming with things from around the world one could learn about at the library: a windmill sits atop the Eiffel Tower; a pickup tows the Trojan horse. The campaign used radio, print ads and billboards. Libraries received marketing kits with posters, mouse pads and other materials for local promotion. The results: Wyoming libraries saw a 21% increase in card holders from 306,550 in 2005 to 389,050 in 2006. **Tina Lackey**, WSL publications and marketing manager, led campaign planning and implementation.

Vicki Hitchcock, Director of the **Carbon County Library System** retired February 28. A member of MPLA since 1997, she began working at the Carbon County Library in 1991 and became director in 1997.

Paula Hurtubise retired in December after working 28 years in the children's room at **Albany County Public Library**. About 100 people attended her retirement party, including many children who had attended "Miss Paula's" story times over the years.



Special! 1/2 Price New Member Offer

New personal members calculate dues below, then reduce them by 50%

MPLA Dues Schedule (Membership is for calendar year)

PERSONAL MEMBERSHIP - Open to anyone interested in library services. _____ up to \$29,999 - \$40;
_____ \$30,000 - \$49,999 - \$55; _____ over \$50,000 - \$65

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