

# Newsletter

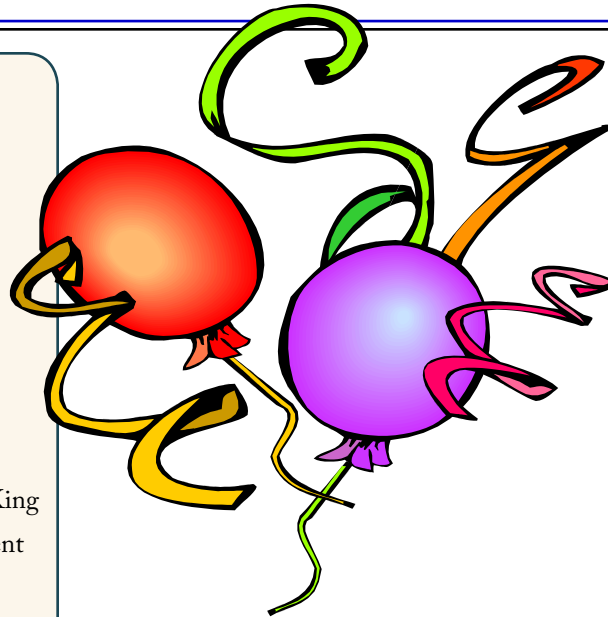
April 2008

Volume 52 #5

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◆  
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Birthday  
MPLA!

## Join the Celebration at the ULA/MPLA Conference

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Fun and Food

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Find more conference information on  
pages 7, 10, 11, 13,14, & 16!

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## President's Message

It didn't seem that way when I was young, but how short a year is! This is my final column as President of MPLA, and all the sayings about how time flies by are certainly true for me.

It has been a busy and eventful time. MPLA has been experiencing changes, and the path of change is usually bumpy. The electronic communities that we set up in the re-organization of MPLA in 2006 did not live up to their potential. The task force set up to work out a better plan recommended a new approach to make it easier for our members to make connections and share ideas and news. Because it involves web technology, it has taken longer to plan and implement than I had hoped. Look for an announcement soon that our new portal is up and running.

Another bump along the way came when we could not secure outside sponsorship funding for the Leadership Institute for 2008. Higher prices meant that we were already looking at a deficit budget for 2008 because of the Institute, and not getting a sponsor meant it was time to pause and consider what changes are needed to put the Institute on solid footing for the future. There is no question of its value. As I write, I have over half the members appointed to a task force that is charged with working out a strategy for the Institute's long-term success.

And that has been the most satisfying thing about the privilege of serving you as President: the way so many people have said "Yes!" when asked to do something, whether it has been serving on committees, task forces, the Program Council, or the Executive Board, volunteering to help staff the MPLA booth at conferences, sending articles and pictures for the Newsletter, or proving in so many other ways that our new slogan, "Big Horizons, Close Community" is truly descriptive of where, who, and how we are.

Please join me in thanking some very special MPLA people. Past President Sharon Osenga and President-Elect Rob Banks have had many responsibilities this year and have been great to work with. I salute Judy Zelenski, our Executive Secretary and Newsletter Editor, for her unfailing responsiveness, good cheer, and hard work, and Webmaster Dan Chaney, who is likewise quick to respond and whose redesign of the web site was proactive and well thought out.

Each of the committee chairs this year has demonstrated leadership and initiative in delivering on their charge: David Oberhelman, Communications; Michele Seikel, Membership; Beth Avery, Awards; JaNae Kinikin, Nominating; Sandy Barstow and Connie Lamb, Professional Development; Patti Butcher, Leadership Institute; Sharon Osenga, Administration; and Rob Banks, Program Council.

As we turn with anticipation to MPLA's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration in Salt Lake City and the stimulating joint conference with the Utah Library Association it will be part of, I invite you to come and join in. Celebrate yourself and all your colleagues who continue to make MPLA a special place where the closeness and warmth of our library community is as great as our expansive horizons.

Thanks for a wonderful and memorable year, and best wishes for the journey ahead.

--Wayne

## MPLA Leadership Institute – Important Notice

*The MPLA Leadership Institute will not be offered in 2008. We were unable to obtain corporate funding to help underwrite the cost.*

*The Leadership Institute has influenced many lives during its six years of operation, and the alumni have demonstrated its success in many ways, particularly through their active professional involvement, and in a number of cases, by promotions and other moves up the career ladder. The Institute has been a bright jewel in the crown of MPLA.*

*Not finding a corporate donor for 2008 points to the need to give thoughtful study to the future of the Leadership Institute, for 2009 and beyond. MPLA does not have the funding to continue to operate it as it has been. Ghost Ranch is an expensive venue, potential attendees find the Institute fees and travel costs a heavy burden, even if they receive assistance, and MPLA needs to guard against future deficit budgets. Plus, there is concern that MPLA should be providing other continuing education opportunities, in order to serve more of our membership. Add to this a time of transition, because Mary Bushing, who has been the Leadership Institute's coordinator, is resigning that position this year.*

*A task force will soon be appointed and charged to study these questions, with the expectation that they will make their report and recommendations to the MPLA Executive Board's fall 2008 meeting. MPLA members who have not been LI mentors, fellows, or members of the LI Committee, who would be interested in serving on this task force are asked to contact me or President-Elect Rob Banks as soon as possible.*

*--Wayne Hanway, MPLA President*

## Update Your MPLA Directory Profile!

• MPLA uses MemberClicks, an online membership maintenance service, for its Directory. The information is available only to members, not to the public.

• At the MPLA website: [www.mpla.us](http://www.mpla.us), choose "member area" at the top right, or the login section at the lower left (from the MPLA homepage.)

• Login with your username and password. If you don't remember these, click on "Forgot Your Password" (be sure to enter the e-mail address which you originally used in the directory).

• Upon arrival at the MPLA Membership Website, click on "My Profile" at the top left, or use the "Quick Name Search" to find your profile. Click on "Edit."

• When your profile information appears you may add or change contact information, indicate your preferences, and change your username and password. "Save" the changes to your profile before exiting.







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# GovTwoPointOh

by Dan Stanton, Arizona Local Documents Librarian & Coordinator, Organizational Development, Arizona State University Libraries  
[danton@asu.edu](mailto:danton@asu.edu)



*The reasonable man adapts himself to the world; the unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt the world to himself. Therefore, all progress depends on the unreasonable man.*

- George Bernard Shaw

Information and services provided by the federal government of the United States permeates our lives. A good deal of time and energy is spent making sure citizens have access to these resources, which they have paid for. Many government agencies are embracing the spirit of Web 2.0 through technologies that allow users to collect, build, and share government resources in communities of their own design. Even the casual user can find information of interest, accessible through a variety of media (email newsletters, blogs, podcasts, RSS feeds, etc.) and able to be manipulated and shared through hosted services such as Del.icio.us, Tailrank, Twitter, etc.

Highlights include:

**Email Newsletters** - <http://apps.gsa.gov/CommonSubscriptionService.php> - An attempt at a 'one stop' subscription page; I suggest clicking on specific newsletter links you *might* be interested in, as the summaries can be a little vague. A wide range of topics from exports, to coral reef conservation, to Cyber Security.

**Agency Press Releases** - <http://www.pueblo.gsa.gov/call/pressreleases.htm> - The press release

is a common means for the government to shape and share information with the public via the media. Press releases may be reported as is, but often are starting points for media stories developed by journalists looking into the facts and claims of the government. Most, if not all, government agencies provide links to their official releases.

**Podcasting** – Podcasting allows content creators to share digital media files online

<http://www.usa.gov/webcontent/technology/podcasting.shtml> . Government offerings range from Peace Corps Volunteer Voices <http://www.peacecorps.gov/wvs/multimedia/podcasts/>, to recalls and product safety news from the Consumer Product Safety Commission <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/podcast.xml>, to podcasts en español <http://www.usa.gov/gobiernousa/MasNoticias/Podcasts.shtml>.

**RSS Feeds** – RSS allows the user to subscribe to feeds which deliver notification of changes and updates in user-selected, specific web content. A sample of agencies include the Federal Reserve <http://www.federalreserve.gov/feeds/>, State Energy News [http://www.eere.energy.gov/states/news\\_via\\_rss.cfm](http://www.eere.energy.gov/states/news_via_rss.cfm), and Current Weather Conditions [http://www.weather.gov/data/current\\_obs/](http://www.weather.gov/data/current_obs/).

**Blogs** – **Weblogs** allow the online 'publishing' of information which may be news and/or commentary, or more like an online diary. While official government bloggers use the medium to get information out, there are many personal bloggers who use the medium to comment on the government. Some blog examples include the Transportation Security Administration <http://www.tsa.gov/blog/>, Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) <http://www.globe.gov/fsl/wordpress/>, and the National Agriculture Library <http://weblogs.nal.usda.gov/infotfarm/>.

*continued on next page*

See <http://www.usa.gov/Topics/Multimedia.shtml> for comprehensive listings of government 2.0 that also include photos, graphics, and videos. And because these are government owned and/or produced, many of them can be used for free, without permission!

Similar services available in the MPLA Region:

**Colorado:** Enews - <http://www.colorado.gov/colorado/e-subscribe.html>

**Kansas:** RSS Feeds and Audio Files - <http://www.kansas.gov/> - See Kansas.gov *Tile*

**Montana:** NewsLinks - <http://newslinks.mt.gov/>

**Nebraska:** RSS - [http://www.nebraska.gov/rss/rss\\_help.phtml](http://www.nebraska.gov/rss/rss_help.phtml)

**Nevada:** Newsletters - <http://nv.gov/new-newsletters.htm>

**North Dakota:** Agency News - <http://www.nd.gov/category.htm?id=119>

**Oklahoma:** Gov News Report - <http://ok.gov/triton/modules/oknotify/index.php?id=130>

**South Dakota:** State News Web - <http://www.state.sd.us/news/>

**Utah:** Govcast - <http://www.utah.gov/multimedia/index.html>

**Wyoming:** Governor's Media Center - <http://governor.wy.gov/media-center.html>



## Conference Highlight

### Conference Breakfast David Lee King

Friday, May 2

The breakfast features techie extraordinaire David Lee King, who's into blogging and web 2.0 stuff of all kinds at the Topeka & Shawnee Public Library in Kansas. He has spoken in the U.S. and Canada about emerging trends, website usability and management, digital experience planning, and managing techie staff, and has been published in many library-related journals.

David writes the Internet spotlight column in *Public Libraries* magazine with Michael Porter and maintains a blog at <http://www.davidleeking.com>. Check out his personal video on [YouTube](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V6Kki_WJJRA).



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The advertisement features a black and white photograph of two children, a boy and a girl, smiling. The text is overlaid on the image. At the bottom, there is a call to action and contact information. A small image of the book cover for 'Enemy Pie' is also included.

# MPLA Professional Development Grant Recipients 2007

**Deborah Hagemeier**, Assistant Director, Mikkelson Library, Augustana College, Sioux Falls, SD, attended *EDUCAUSE 2007 Information Futures: Aligning Our Missions*, October 24-26, 2007 in Seattle, WA. She attended programs focused on Emerging Technologies and Practices; Information Resources, Digital Content, and Libraries; and Teaching and Learning.



resources, Digital Content, and Libraries; and Teaching and Learning.

Deb's comments: *The program has helped shape my thinking about how we will provide library services in the coming year while our library is undergoing a complete renovation. Some of the Web 2.0 technologies will help us nourish a relationship with the students. I believe this conference provided much needed impetus. EDUCAUSE continues to gain in popularity with over 7,000 attendees this year. It is nearly overwhelming in the number of excellent programs and the scale of its exhibits--especially for those with less technical expertise! I would definitely recommend it to anyone in higher education.*

**Bridgett Johnson**, Library Director of the Lewistown Library, MT, attended the MPLA Leadership Institute at Ghost Ranch, NM, October 28 – Nov 2, 2007.

Bridgett's comments: *I received much useful information to help me become a better leader in my personal and professional life. I was given the means and resources to work on my leadership skills. Working on leadership is always an open-ended and ongoing life long task. The skills garnered from the Institute itself will serve as an important milestone in my development. I would and will recommend this Institute to everyone that might be interested. This was the best workshop training that I have ever been to. I am so thankful for the privilege to go to this Institute. I am one of those with a MA equivalent in the related field, Educational Media, and to finally be able to attend a training of this caliber was a dream come true. Thank you for MPLA's sponsorship and making this opportunity happen.*



*continued on next page*

## MPLA Professional Development Grant Application Deadlines 2008

**April 2    June 4    August 6    October 1    December 3**

For additional eligibility requirements, funding priorities and application procedures see <http://www.mpla.us/committees/profdev/grants.html>



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## Professional Development Grant Recipients - continued

**Elvita Landau**, Director, Brookings Public Library, SD, attended *Refresh, Recreate, Redesign, Remodel, Retail* - part of the PLA Spring Symposium 2007, March 1-3, 2007 in San Jose, CA



Elvita's comments: *I attended this one and a half day workshop to become more familiar and confident about redesigning our library. With so many activities happening in the community and so many online opportunities for information and entertainment, this redesign is essential to maintain our library as a destination. This workshop gave me many insights into what the possibilities are. The presentations by Christine Hage, Rochester Hills (MI) Public Library and by the GASP group from West Palm Beach (FL) Public Library both showed me ways to look at my library with a critical eye. Anne Marie Luthro from EnviroSell presented a great talk on retail and how people use libraries and businesses. This workshop was excellent and well organized. I would recommend this program to anyone willing to look at the big picture at their library.*



**Richard Landreth**, Librarian, Campbell County School District, Gillette Wyoming, attended the MPLA Leadership Institute at Ghost Ranch, October 28-November 1, 2007.

Richard's comments: *WOW! It was amazing! The positive aspects: 1) the pace and content of programming was perfect. 2) Networking with other professional librarians across the region with similar situations and concerns. 3) Group, and individual, help in finding direction with professional concerns. This is the ABSOLUTE best professional development experience I have attended in years! The topics were up-to-date and relevant to all attendees and beneficial to us for several years in the future. I have campaigned for years to get people to attend the Leadership Institute and finally took my own advice. My plan is to campaign even harder for MPLA and the Leadership Institute.*

**Jacqueline L. Lewis**, Branch Manager, New Harmony Valley Branch, UT, attended the Utah State Library's Cataloging Training—**UPLIFT Program**, August 14-16, 2007.



*Jacki Lewis (l) receives award from Daughters of Utah Pioneers for community service and founding the New Harmony Valley Branch Library. Presenter is Lin Floyd.*

Jacki's comments:

*This course offered to get me "up to date" in the area of cataloging skills. My objectives were to understand the proceedings of "adding to the holdings" which is the cataloging done at our library. Furthermore, I expected to learn the complete procedures of cataloging, to include original cataloging. I feel comfortable in being able to share this information with my co-workers. The Utah State Library's presentations of the UPLIFT sections is excellent! Susan Sutch was the presenter and she was an excellent speaker as well as instructor! I recommend this program to everyone interested.*

*continued on next page*

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*From Mary Bushing,  
Leadership Institute Coordinator 2003-2007*

## **Celebrate the Six Years of the MPLA Ghost Ranch Leadership Institute!**

The 180+ fellows and mentors (plus other interested parties) are invited to attend this 2008 Reunion at the ULA/MPLA Conference in Salt Lake City. Join us for a no-host **reunion** for the fellows, mentors, and others associated with the six years of the **MPLA Ghost Ranch Leadership Institute**. The reunion reception will be held on **Tuesday evening, April 29th at the Salt Lake City Library**. The cost for each attendee is **\$20** which will cover catered snacks, wine and other beverages. **The time is 7:00 PM until 9:30 PM.**

If you wish to attend, please send name, phone number, email address and year of attendance (if applicable) along with a check for \$20 for each person, payable to Mary Bushing. Mail to:

**Mary Bushing  
2121 S. Tracy Ave  
Bozeman, MT 59715**

Checks must be received **no later than April 27th.**

If you are not able to attend but would like to provide a message to those attending, please send an email to [marying@msn.com](mailto:marying@msn.com) and include contact information. **MPLA will not be sponsoring a Leadership Institute this year** so this reunion is of particular importance to all of us. Come and reconnect with those who attended during the same year as you did and meet others who attended during a different session over the six year period.

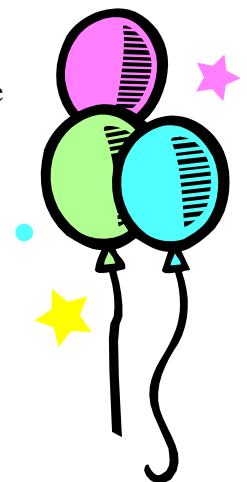
This reunion will also be my last activity as coordinator for the institute and I hope to see many of you there!

Dr. Mary C. Bushing, Library Consultant & Educator  
MPLA Leadership Institute Coordinator  
2121 S. Tracy Avenue; Bozeman, MT 59715  
[marying@msn.com](mailto:marying@msn.com)

## **Professional Development Grant Recipients - continued**

Holly Mercer, Coordinator of Digital Content Development, Kansas University, attended the *Open Repositories 2007: Achieving Interoperability in an Open World and DSpace User Group Meeting*, January 23-26, 2007 in San Antonio TX. The conference presentations focused primarily on the technologies that allow open access.

Holly's comments: *This was an international conference that presented both very practical case studies and cutting edge research into repository design, interoperability, and usage. The technical information presented in the formal programs was complemented by informal conversations with other conference attendees during breaks and meals. This conference was more technical in nature than I had anticipated, but this allowed me to see new (technical) approaches to addressing scholarly communication issues. There are some very exciting advances in improving both access to and preservation of research in digital repositories. I would highly recommend this conference to any institution who has implemented or is considering an institutional repository.*



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## Conference Highlight

Luncheon speaker Thursday, May 1


### Newbery Award winner Susan Patron

Susan Patron specialized in Children's Services for 35 years at the Los Angeles Public Library before retiring in 2007, the same year her novel *The Higher Power of Lucky* was awarded the John Newbery Medal. As the library's Juvenile Materials Collection Development Manager, she trained and mentored children's librarians in 72 branches.

She launched an ongoing project, *Meet the Author*, in which local authors and illustrators met informally with children in community branches. Patron served on many book award committees, including the Caldecott and Laura Ingalls Wilder Committees of the American Library Association and the PEN Literary Award Committee. She also reviewed children's books for *Publisher's Weekly* and *School Library Journal*, and serves currently on the Advisory Board of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators.

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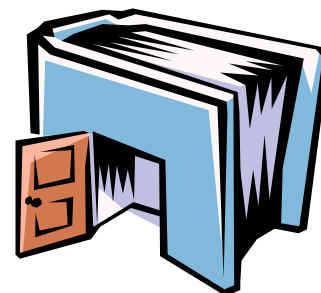
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# Welcome New MPLA Members



## COLORADO

**Shana Wade**  
Public Services Director, Mesa  
County Public Library District  
Grand Junction, CO

**Eve Tallman**  
Director, Mesa County Libraries  
Grand Junction, CO

**Khristine Gamer**  
Youth Services/YA Librarian,  
Weld Library District Centennial  
Park Library; Greeley, CO

**Nancy Gauss**  
Interim Director of Library Ser-  
vices, Western State College of  
Colorado Leslie J. Savage Library  
Gunnison, CO

**Diann Cullen**  
Library Media Specialist, Colo-  
rado School for the Deaf and the  
Argo Library & Adams Library  
Colorado Springs, CO

**Kauffman & Meier Library  
Facilities Consultants LLC**  
Pat Kauffman & Gary Meier,  
Nathrop, CO

**Lisa Priebe**  
Assistant Director, Colorado Li-  
brary Consortium;  
Centennial, CO

**Susan Gilbert**  
Teacher Librarian, Clear Lake  
Middle School; Denver, CO

**Sharon Morris**  
Director, Library Development  
& Innovation, Colorado State  
Library; Denver, CO

## KANSAS

**Dr. Gwen Alexander**  
Dean, Emporia State University  
School of Library and Information  
Management; Emporia, KS

**Ellen Miller**  
President, Ellen Miller Group  
Lenexa, KS

**Gail Santy**  
Reference Outreach Services,  
Central Kansas Library System  
Great Bend, KS

## NEBRASKA

**Marjorie Harrison**  
Coordinator, Panhandle Library  
System; Scottsbluff, NE

**Gloria Sorensen**  
Public Services Manager and  
Training Coordinator, Omaha  
Public Library W. Dale Clark  
Library; Omaha, NE

## NEW MEXICO

**Jemez Pueblo Community  
Library**  
Tamara Sandia, Librarian,  
Jemez Pueblo, NM

**Lynette Schurdevin**  
Library Supervisor, Thomas  
Branigan Memorial Library  
Las Cruces, NM

**San Juan College Library**  
Louise Hoffmann, Director of  
Library; Farmington, NM

## NORTH DAKOTA

**Derek Jorgenson**  
Reference Associate, North Dakota  
State University Library  
Fargo, ND

## OKLAHOMA

**Robin Leech**  
Head, Digital Initiatives,  
Oklahoma State University  
Edmon Low Library  
Stillwater, OK

**Leslie Langley**  
Librarian, Southeastern Public  
Library System - Wister Public  
Library; Wister, OK

**Susan Stringer**  
Branch Manager, Pioneer Library  
System Tecumseh Public Library  
Tecumseh, OK

## SOUTH DAKOTA

**Judy Trzynka**  
SD State Library board member,  
South Dakota State Library  
Watertown, SD

**Joan Upell**  
SD State Library board member,  
South Dakota State Library  
Eagle Butte, SD

**Tad Perry**  
SD State Library board member,  
South Dakota State Library  
Vermillion, SD



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Alison Bruinsma  
YA Librarian, Brookings Public  
Library; Brookings, SD

## UTAH

Trevor Alvord  
Gifts Coordinator/Special Collec-  
tion, Utah State University Mer-  
rill-Cazier Library  
Logan, UT

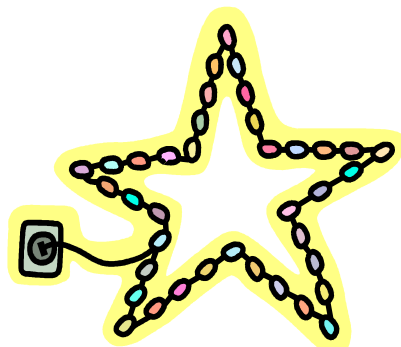
Darrah Rogers  
Assistant Agency Manager, Salt  
Lake City Public Library Main  
Library  
Salt Lake City, UT

Chris Hauser  
Information Technology Librarian,  
Weber State University Stewart  
Library  
Ogden, UT

Cheryl Walters  
Head, Digital Library Program,  
Utah State University Merrill-  
Cazier Library  
Logan, UT

## WYOMING

Gena George  
Head, Copy Cat. & Database  
Maintenance, University of  
Wyoming Libraries  
Laramie, WY



*MPLA Co-Sponsoring  
ULA/MPLA Preconference*

*Tuesday, April 29*

*8:30 - 5:00*

# Extreme Library Makeover

MPLA's Professional Development Committee approved a \$500 grant toward the cost of the *Extreme Library Makeover* Preconference. Participants will learn how to make the library space welcoming, patron friendly, and more like retail stores. This full day workshop includes:

**Put Las Vegas Glitz into your Library** by Anna Vaillancourt, Las Vegas-Clark County Library District, and 2007 Leadership Institute fellow. View a district-wide circulation desk remodeling project in both urban and rural libraries.

**Wheelchair Roundup: Interactive Exercises in Access** by Jane Hatch, Kansas City KS Public Library. Through a group of interactive exercises participants will experience access challenges that can be alleviated with practical fixes.

**Merchandising your Library** by Marsha Leclair-Marzolf & Scott Russell, Salt Lake County Library Services. A practical discussion of the importance of merchandising and displays in the library, including display design basics and a slide show of ideas from bookstores and libraries around the country.

**Extreme Library Makeover** by Anne Marie Luthro of EnviroSell. A fascinating look at her firm's research on how customers shop, all tailored to libraries. She will include the look of your library from the outside in, shopping behavior, entrances, oases, checkout counters, and what we can do to become more service oriented in our library design. After almost 15 years of watching people shop, Anne Marie still professes a love of her job and of shopping.

Cost: \$38.00--MPLA members;  
\$45.00--non-members and on site.

MPLA sponsors grants for pre or post conferences at the annual meetings of state associations in the region to encourage opportunities for continuing education for the MPLA membership. This grant program is administered by the Professional Development Grants Committee. For more information on these grants see <http://www.mpla.us/committees/profdev/statepreconf.html>



Where Paths Meet



and our communities

salt lake city  
april 29-may 2, 2008

Conference Website: <http://www.ula.org/conference/2008conf/>

## Conference Highlights

From Dorothy Horan, President, Utah Library Association

Our joint conference is rapidly approaching, beginning Tuesday April 29th and ending at noon on Friday May 2nd in the Downtown Salt Lake City Hilton hotel. Some of the highlights are:

Our keynote speaker will be **Jim Rettig**, the current American Library Association President-Elect.



Our luncheon speakers are Carolyn Hart on Wednesday for the Author President's Message Luncheon and Susan Patron for the Children's Author Luncheon.

Carolyn Hart is a bestselling mystery writer. I am a big



fan of her *Death on Demand* series featuring the owner of a bookstore.

**Susan Patron** is a librarian who found herself in the middle of a censorship controversy when she wrote the children's



book *The Higher Power of Lucky*.

We have two breakfasts scheduled: Wednesday morning **Brandon Sanderson** will attend the "Breakfast with Brandon" breakfast. A major fantasy

author, including the teen book *Alcatraz and the Evil Librarians*, Brandon



has recently been selected by the widow of the recently deceased

fantasy author Robert Jordan to write the last book of Robert's *Wheel of Time* series. Brandon has taught creative writing at BYU and also has an interest in library services to young adults.

The speaker for the Friday morning breakfast will be **David Lee King**. David is a well known



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Library 2.0 speaker and blogger.

Some prominent speakers who have agreed to present programs are:

**Camila Alire**, current candidate for President-Elect of ALA, Dean Emerita at the



University of New Mexico and Colorado State University and

Adjunct Professor at Simmons College.

**Susan Guevara**, illustrator of the award-winning children's books **Chato and the Party Animals** and **Chato's Kitchen**.



**Curt Wicher**, prominent genealogist and librarian at the Allen County Public Library.



**Carrie Russell**, ALA Copyright Specialist and the author of a column in *School Library Journal*;

**Dr. Chris Finan**, author of *From the Palmer Raids to the Patriot Act: A History of the Fight for Free Speech in America* and President of the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression;



**Anita Silvey**, author of *500 Great Books for Teens*, who has appeared on NPR, the Today Show and 60 minutes.

**Diana Tixier Herald**, a member of the Advisory Board for The Reader's Advisor Online.

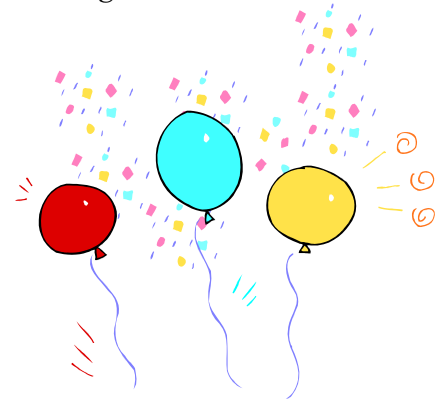
**Carole Fiore**, YALSA and

PLA trainer, Library Consultant, the author of multiple publications dealing with summer reading contests and of numerous articles in various library journals, Booklist Advisory Board, and former Youth Consultant at the State Li-



brary of Florida who directed an award-winning bid for the John Cotton Dana Library Public Relations Award for the Florida State Library; and **Jim Gill**, recorder of "May There Always be Sunshine."

Other events at the conference include an opening reception in the exhibit hall on Tuesday night, the MPLA Birthday Bash at the award-winning Salt Lake City Public Library on Wednesday evening, and the Presidents' Reception and Awards Banquet on Thursday evening.



There will also be opportunities to participate in Dine Arounds to several local restaurants, tours of local attractions such as the Family History Library, and the possibility of attending a rehearsal of the world-famous Tabernacle Choir.

It should be a great conference! Please plan to attend!

<http://www.ula.org/conference/2008conf/>



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## Awards Banquet Speakers

# Kathleen O'Neal Gear and W. Michael Gear

### Thursday, May 1

Winners of the MPLA Literary Contribution Award for 2008, Kathleen and Michael Gear are authors of dozens of international best-sellers including *The First North Americans* series, *Anasazi Series*, *Forbidden Borders Trilogy*, *Genetic Thriller Series*, and *Spider Trilogy*.



Kathleen has a bachelor's degree from California State University in Bakersfield and master's degree from California State in Chico. He studied at the Hebrew University in Israel for a year and did Ph.D. study at UCLA for a year. Her specialty was pre-literate culture and religion, training that influences her writing. She worked for the United States Department of the Interior as the Wyoming State Historian, and later as the Archaeologist for Wyoming, Kansas and Nebraska.

Michael has a master's degree from Colorado State University in physical anthropology and has conducted both archeological as well as anthropological fieldwork all over the world. He has published twelve novels under his own name and co-authored another seventeen with Kathleen. His work runs the gamut from historical, to prehistorical, to science fiction, to modern thrillers. All of his work deals with some aspect of anthropological theory. His *Morning River* was nominated for the Pulitzer prize in fiction, and the National Book Award in 1998. The Gears live on a buffalo ranch in northwestern Wyoming in the Owl Creek Mountains at the edge of the Wind River Indian Reservation.

Read more at their website <http://www.gear-gear.com/>

60 Years old and  
refusing to act our age!

**Make sure your path crosses the  
MPLA 60th Birthday Party**

Salt Lake City Public Library April 30, 2008





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# Around the Region

## Arizona

The **City of Mesa Library** is celebrating its 100th birthday in 2008 with displays at the library and local museums, open houses, and a community festival.

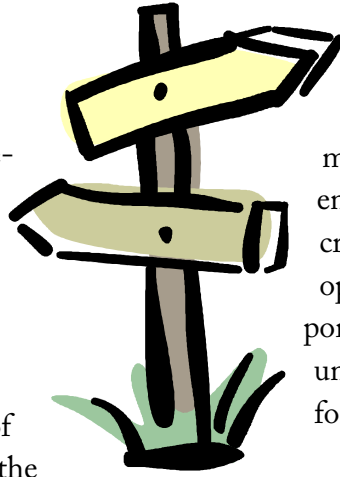
The **Arizona State University Music Library** features an exhibit of Parisian Opera Score Publishers of the 19th and 20th Centuries, with many early and first-edition scores.

The **REFORMA Tucson Chapter** is hosting a border book drive from February 29-April 30th. Books will be donated to Primaria Felix Soria, an elementary school in San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora.

**Don Riggs**, former head of the Arizona State University Library, died on Feb. 19. As an MPLA member he was instrumental in promoting Arizona's participation in the association. He retired recently from the Nova Southeastern University in Florida.

## Colorado

**BCR**, a multistate library cooperative based in Colorado and Institutional member of MPLA, recently announced *People, Action, Noise: The Rebranding of BCR*. The new brand identity is a comprehensive makeover, including logo, mission, tagline, colors, Web site and message. See [www.bcr.org](http://www.bcr.org).



The **Colorado State Library** has offered the Public Library Interface Kit *Plinkit!* for small and rural libraries that may need assistance in creating a Web presence. *Plinkit!* is a template-based Web site creation toolkit that has been created using open source software. The project is supported by funds from U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services. For additional information, visit <http://www.CoLibraries.org/>

## Kansas

The **Johnson County Library** presents online programming via OPAL (Online Programming for All Libraries). Featured in January were online interviews with four authors on the *2008 Kansas Notable Books* list plus a program on *Finding Quality Childcare in Johnson County* cosponsored with the Johnson County Health Department.

## Montana

The **Great Falls Public Library** now has video on its web site which are used as a way of alerting people to special events, and for story-hour samples tours, performances, plays, etc. See [www.greatfallslibrary.org](http://www.greatfallslibrary.org), click on Coming in February, scroll down to "Tickling the Ivories" and hear a short version of Piano Jack, a favorite local piano player who appeared at the library.

The **Great Falls Public Library**, along with sponsorship from Humanities Montana, The City of Great Falls, The Chamber of Commerce, MSU-GF, and the Great Falls Development Authority, sponsored *Can We Talk? A Conference on Civil Discourse* on March 6. The core of the conference was a workshop on *Gracious Space*.

# Nebraska

**Carol Connor**, Director of Lincoln City Libraries for 30 years, will retire in September. Carol served as President of MPLA 1997-1998. An article in the *Lincoln Journal Star* quoted a Lincoln Cities Library board member: "We've got one of the finest library systems around, and I give a lot of the credit to Carol." The Mayor stated "She is one of our very best (city) managers. She's built a world-class library system and ... impacted the lives of generations of children." Connor came to Lincoln in 1972, started in the Bennett Martin Library's cataloging department, moved up to assistant libraries director, and assumed her current position on July 1, 1978.



**Jim Bothmer**, director of Creighton University's Health Sciences Library, has been elected to a three year term on the Board of the Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries. He has been Creighton's library director since 1991.

The University Libraries at the **University of Nebraska-Lincoln** lost a colleague and friend from injuries suffered in a car accident February 5. **Kent Hendrickson** was Associate Vice Chancellor for Information Services, 1995-2008. He was Dean of Libraries, 1985-95.

**The One Book for Nebraska Teens** encourages librarians and students across the state to read and discuss *The Book Thief*, by Markus Zusak. In addition, Nebraskans are invited to read the contemporary memoir, *Restoring the Burnt Child*, by Nebraska State Poet Bill Kloefkorn. Both are part of the **2008 One Book One Nebraska** statewide read.

The **University of Nebraska Omaha** Library Science Education program was awarded the 2007 Chancellor's Strategic Planning Award for Student Focus. MPLA member **Dr. R.J. (Becky)**

**Pasco** received the award on behalf of faculty, students and administrators.

**Nebraska Library Legislative Day** is set aside annually to remind legislators of the importance of media centers and public, academic, institutional, and correctional libraries in Nebraska. Sponsored by the Nebraska Library Association, the theme for this year's Legislative Day was *Why Libraries Matter: Literacy, Learning and Quality of Life*. Thirty-three senators, 113 librarians, trustees, volunteers and families attended. A selection of six postcards were prepared for senators.



# Nevada

The **Las Vegas-Clark County Library District** celebrated Pet Month during February with various programs culminating with the *Petstacular Pet Fair* on February 23. The *Petstacular* included A Pet-Look-Alike contest, a performing dog variety show, a pet psychic, and dog yoga. Free dog and owner photos were given for the first 300 attendees and free pet scoops for the first 100 attendees.

Northern Nevada community organizations, agencies and educators will host events in celebration of National Women's History Month during March. **University of Nevada-Reno, Truckee Meadows Community College** and **Washoe County Libraries** are among the organizations offering events.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual *Reading Las Vegas* program returns to **Las Vegas-Clark County Library District**. In partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts program *The Big Read*, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and Arts Midwest, residents are encouraged to read and discuss F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel, *The Great Gatsby*. For details, see [www.lvccld.org](http://www.lvccld.org).

Groundbreaking was held on February 28 for a new **North Las Vegas Library District Branch**. The library, scheduled for completion in early 2009, is planned to accompany a small park with walking trails on its 4-acre plot.



The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual *Henderson Teen Talent Show* was presented twice at the **Paseo Verde Library**. Both evenings saw a standing-room-only crowd enjoying a variety of talent. Prizes were awarded to the top three performers each evening.



The **Henderson District Library Board** received a check for \$19,000 from the Friends of Henderson Libraries' Library Tree Lane Committee, proceeds from the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Library Tree Lane fundraiser. The money will be used to purchase children's books for the opening day collection of the **Green Valley Library**.

The inaugural *Read & Run For Your Health 5K & 1 Mile Walk* to benefit **Henderson Libraries** was held in February. Over 400 participants raced and walked through the Water Street District in downtown Henderson.



## New Mexico

The **SLA Rio Grande Chapter** sponsored *Virtual Worlds: Libraries, Education and Museums Conference*. The conference provided a gathering place for librarians, information professionals, educators, museologists, and others to discuss the educational, informational, and cultural opportunities of virtual worlds. The Rio Grande Chapter took an avatar (a virtual self) into Second Life to attend. Local Second Life users discussed their Second Life experiences the impact on their real professional and personal lives.

**New Mexico State University Alamogordo** is offering an online, 1 credit, 8 week class, *Introduction to Second Life*, taught by Library Science Instructor, Jenna Kammer. The class teaches the basics of *Second Life*, an online virtual world, including setting up an avatar, basic building and scripting and other *Second Life* fundamentals. It also explores the Library islands, including the reference desk that is staffed 24/7 on Info International, and libraries that allow book check out "inworld." For more information, contact [jkammer@nmsu.edu](mailto:jkammer@nmsu.edu).

MPLA member **Linda Morgan Davis**, Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Library System, received a Thomson Scientific/Frank Bradway Rogers Information Advancement Award. The award will be presented in May at the Medical Library Association Conference in Chicago.



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**Ida Mazzoni** and **Dean Smith** recently joined the administrative team for the **Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Library System** as assistant directors. Ida Mazzoni most recently managed the Main Library. Before that she held positions at the NATO Defense College Library in Rome, the United Nations in Rome, and Fleming College in Florence. Dean Smith arrived in New Mexico following his tenure as senior development librarian in the Southwark Libraries in London. Prior to his time in England, Dean served as senior children's librarian and regional librarian for the New York Public Library.

## North Dakota

**Tim Dirks** is the new Director of the Fargo Public Library. He was director of the Marinette County Consolidated Public Library Service since 2003. Originally from Waterford, Wisconsin, he replaces Charles Pace.

The **Morton Mandan Public Library** and **Bismarck-Mandan Yarn Lover's Club** have partnered to provide new born babies from Mandan with a book delivered in a hand knitted bag. The book chosen was *Read to your Bunny*. The books,

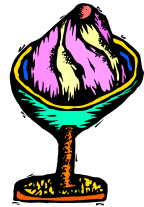


along with the handmade bags, are delivered to the hospitals before the baby goes home.

Also included in the bag is *Babies First Library Card*, which can be taken to the library to

exchange for an actual library card. The Yarn Lover's Club, along with the Kiwanis Club of Mandan and the local chapter of Delta Kappa Gama, are part of the Morton Mandan Public Library Friends *Raising Readers* program, which provides support for early childhood literacy.

This year marks the centennial anniversary for the **Minot Public Library**. On January 13, 1908, the first Library Board rented two rooms at \$25 per month. Miss Clara H. Kunst, the first librarian, assumed her duties on January 1, 1908. To



celebrate, the Minot Public Library hosted a free *Decadent Hot Fudge Brownie Sundae Social*. During National Library Week the Library will have a Grand Birthday Bash.

The 2008 **North Dakota State Library** Spring Workshops are just around the corner, to be held in Grant Forks and Bismarck. The workshops are going *Back to the Basics* with programs on teen library services, summer reading program, organizing a book club, de-selection and weeding, applying for E-Rate for telecommunication services, North Dakota State Library services, and tips on applying for State Library grants.

## Oklahoma

The **Oklahoma Center for the Book** celebrates the Oklahoma Book Award winners for 2008 in March. David Dary will be honored for the Arrell Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award and Danney Goble for the Ralph Ellison Award as an acclaimed Oklahoma Historian. The Center's mission is to celebrate the literary heritage and authors from Oklahoma as well as to encourage reading for pleasure by all ages. Other activities this past year have been expanding the statewide Oklahoma Author Database, hosting author programs in small rural libraries throughout the state, awarding cash prizes to elementary students during the promotion of *Kids Caught Reading*, and sponsoring state entries in the national contest for young people, *Letters about Literature*.



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Two Oklahoma public library systems will participate in the *Big Read*, a program of the National Endowment for the Arts which includes more than 120 communities. The **Pioneer Library System** will read *Bless Me, Ultima* by Rudolfo Anaya, and the **Public Library of Enid and Garfield County** will read Tolstoy's *The Death of Ivan Ilyich*.

MPLA Member **David Oberhelman**, and **Sharon Saulmon** from the Oklahoma Library Association Career Recruitment and Retention Committee are sponsoring an organizational conference for the Teen Library/Information Team (TILT), a group for ages 12-14 interested in libraries, computers or reading. It will be held at Rose State College March 29.

Information regarding the **2008 National Institutes for Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums** to be held at the Cherokee Resort and Casino in Tulsa (Catoosa), Oklahoma is now available at [www.tribalconference.org](http://www.tribalconference.org). At the website you may submit a proposal to be a presenter, register, apply for a scholar stipend, and link to the hotel to make room reservations. Each Institute has a day-long workshop associated with it.

Stephanie Vance, known as the "Advocacy Guru," conducted a workshop for the Legislative Committee of the **Oklahoma Library Association**. Her website offers information on learning



how to communicate effectively with legislators: [www.advocacyguru.com](http://www.advocacyguru.com).

The **Edmon Low Library - Oklahoma State University** recently acquired 400 titles focused on the black American military experience. It is the first of its kind at a library in Oklahoma. Resources begin with the French and Indian War and conclude with Desert Storm.



## South Dakota

The **South Dakota Library Association's** March **Spring Forums** were held in Rapid City and Brookings. The one day events were developed to offer continuing education opportunities in addition to the annual conference. Featured speaker at both forums was Michael Sauer, Technology Innovation Librarian for the Nebraska Library Commission. Other programs included *SDLA 101*, *Anatomy of a Book*, *Have you seen my jumper cables?* and *Public Library Accreditation/Certification*.

South Dakota school children have submitted entries for the Seventeenth Annual **South Dakota Student Media Fair**. Sponsored by the South Dakota Association for Communications and Technology (SDACT), a section of the **South Dakota Library Association** and the Northern Plains AECT, affiliated with the National Association for Educational Communications and Technology (AECT), this event's media categories are video, commercial authoring program, computer generated art, and photography. Winners will be selected in four grade categories in each media type. All entries will be on display at the Technology in Education (TIE) Conference in Sioux Falls in April 2008.

The Sioux Falls City Council approved an additional \$1.5 million to the \$11.3 million for the expansion and renovation of the main branch of the **Siouxland Libraries**. The project will add about 18,000 square feet to the 45,000-square-foot building and is scheduled to begin later this year.

Eight cities - **Sioux Falls Rapid City, Madison, Martin, Ridgeview, Spearfish, Scotland and Pierre** - have been selected as the South Dakota **Big Read** communities for 2008 and will host events celebrating *Fahrenheit 451*, science-fiction and Bradbury. To kick off the year's discussions, a two day event was held to allow librarians, teachers, and other interested persons to immerse themselves in the science fiction/fantasy genre and works of author Ray Bradbury. Some of the sessions included were *Catch the Fire Fahrenheit 451 and the Fate of Reading, Lawless Behavior to Preserve the Freedom to Read, Banned Books and Libraries in Post 9/11 America, Beyond Fahrenheit 451, Sensing Censorship, Science Fiction Writing Today*, and *Let the Light Shine*.

MPLA member **Heidi Nickisch Duggan** became the Northwestern University (Chicago, IL) Galter Health Sciences Library's new Associate Director on January 14, 2008. She was most recently Head of Access Services and Systems at the Lommen Health Sciences Library, University of South Dakota. A former MPLA Newsletter Editor, she was also Moderator for MPLA Hot Topics Electronic Community and Ghost Ranch Leadership Institute fellow.



## Utah

The **Salt Lake City Library System's** 2008 annual **Dewey Lecture Series** features monthly programs with noted experts from across the country and around the world. Upcoming speakers include Edward M. Burke, Dean of the Chicago City Council; Jabari Asim, editor-in-chief of *Crisis* magazine, a journal of politics, ideas, and culture published by the NAACP; and Jeff Thredgold, president of Thredgold Economic Associates, an economic consulting and professional speaking firm based in Salt Lake City.

The ULA/MPLA Conference is April 28 – May 2 in Salt Lake City. See articles throughout this issue.



## Wyoming

The **Wyoming State Library's** Publication and Marketing Department won several awards at the annual 2008 Wyoming Press Association Convention. The library won first place for General Information Publications with the **Wyoming Library Roundup**. **WREN Magazine** took second place followed by Laramie County Community College with **Viewbook**. The Wyoming Book Festival placed first for an Information Program and second in the same category for the Wyoming Library Stickers Campaign. The Wyoming Quarter Information Publicity Committee with the Wyoming Quarter Information Campaign received a third place.

*Aboy thar matey! Read me hearty Cougars!* is the slogan of the **Campbell County School District's Conestoga Elementary School** as reported by MPLA Member and Library Media Specialist **Richard Landreth**. He says "as you can tell from the picture we don't have any fun. This is a shot of a second grade class reading in the pirates' ship. Shrek was captain at the time. He has since walked the plank."



Following the success of *Fiber Show Ten*, which ran October 2 through October 28, 2007 on the **Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library Mezzanine**, the Sheridan Fiber Arts' Fiber Show Committee purchased and donated 15 books to the library system's circulating collection.

**Teton County Library** programs cover varied topics. The library presented tips on how both teens and parents can make the most of social networking sites in a program *MySpace for Parents and Teens*. Humanitarian Greg Mortenson, the subject of the *New York Times* bestselling book *Three Cups of Tea*, will speak in April. Muslim scholar and feminist Amina Wadud shared a women's perspective on reading the Qur'an at the program *Qur'an, Women and Islam: A Conversation with Islamic Scholar Amina Wadud and Pro-*

*fessor Seth Ward*. Waldud is the author of *Qur'an and Woman: Rereading the Sacred Text From a Woman's Perspective* (Oxford University Press, 1999.)

**Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library** is hosting a reading by the local authors who contributed to *Wyoming Fence Lines: An Anthology of Prose and Poetry*, published by the Wyoming Humanities Council and the Wyoming Arts Council in conjunction with the "Between Fences" exhibit.

- CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING -

**IFCPP Regional  
Cultural Property Protection Course  
Denver, CO -- Thursday, May 1, 2008**

The International Foundation for Cultural Property Protection will be conducting its management-level certification and training workshop on May 1, 2008 at the Hyatt Regency Denver Convention Center in connection with the American Association of Museums annual conference. IFCPP welcomes administrators, facilities managers, registrars, curators, proprietary or contract security managers, librarians, law enforcement, or other staff with additional duties in facility protection. Program content includes the latest information on emergency preparedness, crisis management, violence prevention, fire protection, business continuity planning, screening/hiring/firing/training, protection of valuable collections, public relations and more. Courses are presented by a highly skilled team of expert instructors and leaders in the cultural property protection community. Contact IFCPP at 800-257-6717 or [info@ifcpp.org](mailto:info@ifcpp.org) for registration or additional information

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**RETIREE** \_\_\_\_\_ \$15/yr. **STUDENT** \_\_\_\_\_ \$15/yr. **TRUSTEE MEMBERSHIP** \_\_\_\_\_ \$15/yr.

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## Mountain Plains Library Association

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- Support of regional library efforts

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