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Melody Kuehn
North Dakota Representative

UNT MLIS program

The North Dakota State University Libraries are pleased to host Dr. Philip Turner, Dean of the School of Library and Informational Science at the University of North Texas, Friday March 2, in the NDSU Main Library. The UNT program is beginning its second cohort of students in the Minnesota/Dakota area next Fall (2001). Only 40 students will be admitted to the group.

Emporia State MLIS Program

Emporia State might be offering its MLIS degree program in North Dakota once again.

Radio Station Awarded Money

The Mandan Chapter of the AmocoCares Foundation (Amoco's retired employees in service) awarded the North Dakota State Library's Dakota Radio Information Service (DRIS) with \$1000.00 recently. The foundation gives money to organizations that utilize volunteers who are retired employees of Amoco. DRIS is a free radio reading service for persons who are visually, physically, or reading impaired, and are not able to read their local newspaper because of their impairment.

N.D. Legislative Update

Requesting a study of the library system in North Dakota to determine the most efficient and effective methods of delivery of services, SCR 4011 will be considered by the 2001-2002 Legislative Council as a possible interim study.

The 2001 Legislative Assembly added an additional citizen member to the North Dakota Library Coordinating Council in SB2055. Currently of the ten Council members only one represents the general public.

House Bill 1013, the Department of Public Instruction's appropriation bill, includes the State Library. In preparing a budget for the Executive Budget Office to consider prior to the 2001 session, the State Library included a supplemental request of \$363,000 for full-text online magazine and newspaper services and an additional one million for state aid. Those two items did not survive executive budget review.

The State Library's base budget for 2001-2003 incorporated \$888,745 for state aid to public libraries and \$ 250,000 for Library Vision 2004 grants. As of April 12th, HB 1013 remains in committee.

Letters About Literature

An awards ceremony honoring the finalists in the 2001 Letters About Literature essay contest, was held on April 6th at the North Dakota Historical Society in Bismarck. Over two hundred fifty students from across the state took part in the essay contest. The contest was sponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, the Weekly Reader Corporation, the North Dakota State Library and the North Dakota Center for the Book.

The students are asked to read a book and then write a personal letter to the author of the book explaining how the author's work changed their view of the world or themselves. Samantha Offerdahl from Bismarck took top honors in the Level I essay competition (including grades 4-7), for her letter to author Mark Twain for his book *The Mysterious Stranger*. LeAnna Lesmeister from Williston took top honors in the Level II competition (including grades 8-12), for her letter to author George Orwell for his book *Animal Farm*.

Statistical Abstract

If you are looking for information about crime in North Dakota, the average income of the citizens who live here, or a list of every North Dakota Governor since statehood, the North Dakota Statistical Abstract has the information you are looking for. You can now access the fourth edition via the Internet through the North Dakota State Library's homepage at [HYPERLINK "http://ndsl.lib.state.nd.us" http://ndsl.lib.state.nd.us](http://ndsl.lib.state.nd.us) .

It has been over ten years since the information in the abstract has been updated, and that North Dakota is one of a few states that has this information available online. Scott Stradley is the project editor.

Highlights of the NDLA Executive Board Meeting, March 30, 2001
Cathy Langemo, is the newly hired NDLA Executive Secretary. She will assume her duties in May.

The 2001 Conference theme will be "Back to the Future." It fits the fifties/sixties motif for the NMRT social and banquet. NDLA Conference information will be sent to the Montana Library Association and the Manitoba Library Association. Total NDLA membership as of March 29, 2001, is 406.

Canoe Kudos: Kuehn presented design options for a canoe pin. Board consensus was for a canoe design on a gold cloisonné pin. NDLA will be part of the final design. As stated in the December 11, 2000 minutes, Canoe Kudos is a fundraising and recognition effort. The idea is to recognize individuals who have shown support or done something special for libraries. NDLA members can nominate deserving individuals by donating \$10 to the Professional Development Grant fund and submitting a written nomination. NDLA will then give the honoree a pin and a certificate, send a press release to the honoree's local newspaper, and also publicize Canoe Kudos honorees in The Good Stuff. After expenses are paid, the profits will go to the Professional Development Grants fund.

Lewis and Clark Update: Kuehn reported that the North Dakota State Library is doing a spring workshop on preparing for the Lewis and Clark bicentennial celebration. She suggested that we tie the summer reading program to Lewis and Clark. Kuehn reported that Clay Jenkinson charges \$5000/hour for his presentations on Thomas Jefferson and Lewis and Clark. Moen suggested that Richard Stenberg of Williston State College also has expertise on Lewis and Clark. Johnson noted that Diane Briggs, NDLA member and Outreach Coordinator at the Fargo Public Library, portrays Sacajawea as part of a series of reminiscence programs. She is a possible contact for programming.

CIPA (Children's Internet Protection Act.) Suzanne Morrison, Intellectual Freedom Chair will post the resolution supporting ALA on the NDLA website.

2002 MPLA/NDLA/SDLA Conference: The 2002 Conference will be held in Fargo, October 2-5, 2002. Kuehn suggested that we post program planning proposal forms on the NDLA web site.

2002 Conference idea Bob Dambach, director of programming and productions, Prairie Public Television, Fargo, was a featured luncheon speaker for the 1999 NDLA Convention in Fargo. He was very well received.

Prairie Public Television and the NDSU Libraries have been closely involved with the fund-raising and production of two award-winning videotape documentaries: "The Germans from Russia: Children of the Steppe, Children of the Prairie" (1999) and "Schmeckfest: Food Traditions of the Germans from Russia" (2000).

A third major documentary on the Germans from Russia iron crosses will premiere on PPTV in March, 2002. Filming is being done in Saskatchewan, Dakotas, and western Kansas. Funding for this production will be from Members of Prairie Public Television and the NDSU Libraries.

Bob can share the success story of a PBS station working closely with the NDSU Libraries and the Germans from Russia Heritage Collection. He may be able to show video clips as part of the program. Prairie Public Broadcasting plans to have a booth at the Fargo MPLA Convention. Bob Dambach can be reached at 1-800-359-6999 - Prairie Public Television, PO Box 3240, Fargo, ND 58107.