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Oklahoma Report  
Mountain Plains Library Association  
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The 2011 OLA Annual Conference will be held on March 30-April 1, 2011 in Tulsa Oklahoma.

Internet users at more than 40 public libraries across the state will see a dramatic increase in access speed as early as 2011 thanks to a national grant. High-speed broadband capabilities will increase library Internet connections from between 4.6 megabytes per second to 100 mbps.

The Oklahoma Department of Libraries (ODL) received the major grant from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration last July to upgrade broadband and computing capabilities at the public libraries.

NTIA awarded the state \$2.3 million through the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP), part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act passed by Congress in 2009. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is providing matching funds and in kind services worth \$1million, bringing the total to \$3.3 million to implement the improvements in Oklahoma.

The current Oklahoma State Legislature will be grappling with serious economic issues for our state. Like many other states, we are facing a significant shortfall and serious budget considerations.