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MPLA Newsletter

A Publication of the Mountain Plains Library Association

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INSIDE

- 3 Librarian One of Top 50
- 4 Libraries--All That Jazz!
- 4 Film Preservation Guides
- 5 Leadership Application
- 6 Money to Give Away!
- 7 Call For Papers
- 8 Hatfield Awarded Fellowship
- 8 Explore Online Collections
- 9 Business Sense
- 10 ... Creating Community
- 12 ... MemberClicks!
- 14 ... Around the MPLA Region
- 17 ... Welcome to New Members
- 23 ... Upcoming Events

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<http://www.usd.edu/mpla>

MPLA Listserv

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jedelen@usd.edu



President's Letter

By Carol Hammond

My Best Library Story

The MPLA Board met in January in Las Vegas, a change of venue for us and a chance to sample some of the diversity of our region, and also experience one of America's – *nay, the world's* - most amazing cities. Librarians in Vegas we were indeed, but this is not my best library story.

At the end of that meeting at which we passed a budget, brainstormed about how to increase membership, and took care of other business, our Oklahoma State Representative Wayne Hanway made an appeal as part of his report. The Oklahoma Library Association has taken as their conference theme this year "Telling Library Stories." They are collecting good stories that tell how libraries make a difference and change lives, and they want to hear yours. Wayne invites anyone in MPLA to share their stories. I am taking the opportunity to go first and hope all of you will follow. After the many years I've spent in libraries, I have quite a few, but here is my best library story.

Mine was an Air Force family. I was born overseas when my parents were on a tour of duty in Germany, and like all military families, we moved a lot. "A lot" was every two years as Dad was transferred to a different U.S. Air Force Base. One of my very clear childhood memories is about dropping a library book in a stream on a family camping trip, because we were moving again in a few weeks and I was frantic to finish that book. I brought it along when I should not have, and it met a bad end – but that is not my best library story either.

(Continued on page 3)

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Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson
MPLA Newsletter Editor
Montana Legislative Reference Center
State Capitol, Room 110
P.O. Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706
(406) 444-2957--Phone
(406) 444-2588--Fax
Ljackson@state.mt.us

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Joe Edelen
MPLA Executive Secretary
I.D. Weeks Library
University of South Dakota
414 East Clark Street
Vermillion, SD 57069-2390
(605) 677-6082--Phone
(605) 677-5488--Fax
jedelen@usd.edu

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MPLA Officers

President

Carol Hammond
Inter. Business Info. Centre
15249 North 59th Ave.
Glendale, AZ 85306
(602) 978-7234-P
(602) 978-7762-F
hammondc@t-bird.edu

Vice-President/President-Elect

Beth Avery
Leslie J. Savage Library
Western State College
Gunnison, CO 81231
(970) 943-2898-P
(970) 943-2042-F
bavery@western.edu

Past President

Jean Hatfield
Johnson County Library
Box 2933
Shawnee Mission, KS 66201
(913) 261-2345-P
(913) 261-2325-F
hatfieldj@jocolibrary.org

Executive Secretary

Joe Edelen
I.D. Weeks Library
University of South Dakota
Vermillion, SD 57069
(605) 677-6082-P
(605) 677-5488-F
jedelen@usd.edu

Recording Secretary

Basha Hartley
Norman Public Library
225 North Webster
Norman, OK 73069
(405) 701-2632-P
(405) 701-2649-F
basha@pls.lib.ok.us



Academic Section

Mary Caspers-Graper
H.M. Briggs Library
South Dakota State U.
Brookings, SD 57007
(605) 688-5565-P
(605) 688-6133-F
mary_caspers-graper@sdsstate.edu

Children's/School Section

Kristi Hansen
Salina Public Library
301 W. Elm
Salina, KS 67401
(785) 825-4624-P
(785) 823-0706-F
khansen@salpublib.org

Gov. Docs. Section

Venice Beske
Wyoming State Library
2301 Capitol Ave.
Cheyenne, WY 82002-0060
(307) 777-7982-P
(307) 777-5920-F
vbeske@state.wy.us

New Members Roundtable

Erin Kinney
Wyoming State Library
2301 Capitol Ave.
Cheyenne, WY
(307) 777-6332-P
(307) 777-5920-F
ekinne@state.wy.us

Preservation, Archives, S.C.

Diane B. Lunde
University Libraries
Colorado State University
Fort Collins, CO 80523
(970) 491-1825-P
(970) 491-1195F
dlunde@manta.colo.edu

Public Library Section

Pam Bohmfalk
Hastings Public Library
571 West 4th St.
Hastings, NE 68901-0849
(402) 461-2346-P
(402) 461-2359-F
pbohmfal@hastings.lib.ne.us

State Agencies Section

Jim Minges
Northeast Kansas Lib. System
3300 Clinton Parkway Ct.
Lawrence, KA 66047-2629
(785) 838-4090-P
(785) 838-3989-F
jminges@neksl.org

Technical Services Section

Sandra Barstow
University Library
University of Wyoming
Laramie, WY 82071-3334
(307) 766-5621-P
(307) 766-2510-F
sbarstow@uwoyo.edu

Webmaster

Dan Chaney
Oklahoma State University
306 Edmon Low Library
Stillwater, OK 74075
(405) 744-9772-P
(405) 744-5183-F
dwcosu@okstate.edu

State Representatives

Arizona

Teri Metros

Colorado

Kay Lowell

Kansas

Susan Moyer

Montana

Ken Kempcke

Nebraska

Nina Little

Nevada

Linda Deacy

New Mexico

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Kansas Librarian, Martin, One of Nation's Top 50

Bonner Springs, KS City Library Director Kimberly Martin was recently named one of the nation's top 50 librarians by *Library Journal*. A special supplement to the March 15, 2004 issue of *Library Journal*, Movers & Shakers, will feature Martin and 49 other up-and-coming people from across the U.S. and Canada who are innovative, creative, and making a difference.

In November of 1998 Martin became one of the youngest library directors in the state of Kansas when she took the position at Bonner Springs City Library.

Since then, Martin has proved that youth is no obstacle to getting the job done.

As well as overseeing the library's day-to-day operations, Martin is responsible for making and recommending library policy to the library board, developing the library's budget, and hiring and training all library staff.

Since November 1998, Martin has taken the Bonner Springs City Library in new and exciting directions

(Continued on page 4)

My Best Library Story...

(Continued from page 1)

We were always starting over in a new school, and we lived in Michigan, Virginia, and Canada before my Dad was sent to Colorado where the new Air Force Academy was under construction in Colorado Springs. There were only a handful of families on the site when we arrived, which was when the land had been acquired and the planning done but the construction had just begun. We went to school in a building meant to be a barracks for housing GIs, but because there weren't very many of them but quite a few of us, a schoolhouse it became.

If our school wasn't the best facility, our library certainly was. The base library at the Air Force Academy served the families who at that time were living in a pretty remote place, and that included all of us in elementary and high school. I remember it being wonderful because it was all brand new; the building, the furniture, and all the books. It had big windows and lots of light. But a single experience at that library and the person who helped me find just the right book taught me lessons about service I have never forgotten.

My fourth grade class was taking a trip to the library; one of those sessions when a whole lot of noisy children descend on the place, creating a frantic hour for the staff. Being a reader and library user already I thought this field trip was unnecessary, since I had

already been in that library a lot. But we were told we could ask about books on anything that interested us. I had never talked to a librarian before that trip, and I was actually in serious need of information. I had captured a toad and had no idea how to take care of it. Who would think a librarian could help me? I had nothing to lose and I explained my situation.

I received excellent and perfect assistance, targeted exactly to my need and delivered to match my ability. He listened and without a pause (and also without laughter) I was told to go to the bookshelves on the back wall and stand right in the middle under the clock. Count three shelves up from the floor, and look for a book called "Odd Pets." The book of my dreams! Unbelievable! I had no idea the librarian would know how to find such a book - or that one would even exist! It covered a lot of other really appealing pets like snails, worms, and caterpillars as well. I no longer remember what happened to the toad but it and my parents had to be relieved this book and I found one another through the able assistance of a librarian who knew his collection and how to listen to his patrons. And beside this memory of a good library and its librarian is this enduring principle: Every reader her book, and every book its reader.

Don't forget to send Wayne your best library story!

Plan Now To Attend... *Libraries--All That Jazz!*

Mark your calendars for the Colorado Library Association/MPLA Joint Conference, Oct. 21-24, 2004 at the Marriott Tech Center in Denver, CO. This year's theme – Libraries – All That Jazz!

What's great about CAL/MPLA? It's all the Jazz! It's the perfect opportunity to meet people, talk shop, exchange ideas, gather information, brag a little about your library, learn new techniques, hear national speakers (and local ones too!), and just have a great time!

Why should you attend CAL/MPLA? It's an excellent way of obtaining learning opportunities at a relatively low cost. It's a great place to give presentations and share what you have done in your library. There will be sessions for everyone, professionals, paraprofessionals, volunteers, trustees and administrators.

How will your library profit? New ideas will be generated, you will be energized, a solution or two may be found. You'll make new contacts who can help you in the future. You may find a mentor.

New Film Preservation Guides for Libraries and Museums Available

The National Film Preservation Foundation, the non-profit organization created by the U.S. Congress to help save America's film heritage, recently announced the publication of two new guides to assist archives, libraries, and museums in preserving their films.

Free copies of *The Film Preservation Guide* can be downloaded from the NFPF Website (www.filmpreservation.org) or requested in book form by mail. There is an \$8.00 fee for domestic shipping (\$12 for international requests), payable in advance, for each copy. The *IPI Media Storage Quick Reference* may be purchased directly from IPI. Free copies of the IPI booklet can be downloaded from the IPI Website at www.rit.edu/ipi.

HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT MEMBERCLICKS?

For more information as it becomes available check the Website at www.cal-webs.org/#25.

CALL FOR PROGRAMS FOR CAL/MPLA 2004 CONFERENCE

Do you have an idea that you'd like to see presented at the CAL/MPLA Joint Conference 2004? We're looking for programs that inspire, excite, or provide helpful information no matter what our job or what type of library we work in.

Even if you just have an idea for a session and no presenter to recommend, the program committee would like to hear from you!

Program suggestions must be submitted online by April 15, 2004. Submit online at www.formsite.com/claforms/callforprograms/index.html.

CALL FOR 2004 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

We are now recruiting for 2004 Conference Committee members! Contact Patt Paul at (303) 841-3503 or e-mail or Beth Avery at (970) 943-2898 or bavery@western.edu for details on how you can help.

Martin One of Top 50...

(Continued from page 3)

by expanding collections, staff, and services. She was instrumental in creating and organizing the library's most successful and visible fundraiser, Jazz on the Lake. An annual event, Jazz on the Lake features an evening of music, dinner, dancing and both silent and live auctions. The proceeds from the fundraiser are used for special collections and programs in the library.

Martin is a recent graduate of the Mountain Plains Library Association's Leadership Institute in Ghost Ranch, NM and a member of graduating Class XV of Leadership 2000 in Wyandotte County. Martin also serves as vice-president of the Bonner Springs/Edwardsville Chamber of Commerce and co-chaired the Bonner Springs Tiblow Days Celebration in 2002 and 2003.

THE DEADLINE APPROACHES!

APRIL 30TH AT MIDNIGHT

IF YOU THINK YOU ARE ONE OF THE "BEST IN THE WEST"
AND YOU HAVE NOT YET ATTENDED AN
MPLA LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

GET BUSY!

**FIND THE APPLICATION AND QUALIFICATIONS
ONLINE AT**

WWW.USD.EDU/MPLA/leadership/

COMPLETE AND SUBMIT THE APPLICATION NOW

During May, state committees will review applications and recommend at least two individuals from each of the 12 MPLA member states.

The MPLA Leadership Institute Committee will then make up to six additional selections from the remaining qualified MPLA member applicants. Selected individuals will be notified by mid-summer and registration fees and final arrangements will be made during the autumn.

**2004 MPLA Leadership Institute
November 30th – December 5th
Ghost Ranch, Abiquiu, New Mexico**

**Do something important for your
professional development!**



Money to Give Away!

Deadline Approaching for Pre-Conference Grants at State Conferences

The MPLA Continuing Education Committee would like to disburse all of the money which has been set aside by the Executive Board for the purpose of supporting pre-conference grants. These “[g]rants are awarded to encourage opportunities for continuing education for the MPLA membership through pre-conferences at the annual meetings of state associations in the region. If a state does not offer pre-conference programs, that state can be awarded a grant for a presentation of comparable significance during the conference.”

Grants can be any amount up to \$500. MPLA “must be identified as an assisting agency in pre-conference publicity and during the pre-conference” and “MPLA members attending the pre-conference must receive at least a 15% reduction in any pre-conference registration fees.” Approved grants are disbursed when the CE Committee Chair receives an evaluative report of the pre-conference upon its completion.

Applications for pre-conferences for those associations holding conferences in Fall 2004 are due on May 1, 2004. The online application can be found at <http://www.usd.edu/mpla/grants.html>. For more information contact Jeffrey Belliston, Chair, MPLA Continuing Education Committee at jeffrey_belliston@byu.edu.



Scholarship money is available to MPLA members through the Professional Development grant program. For full information on eligibility and application forms, go to www.usd.edu/mpla/committees/profdev. Due dates for applications for 2004 are April 7, June 11, Aug. 4, Oct. 6, and Dec. 8.

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**Accelerating Library Services
Wednesday, April 28th
11:00 MST**

CALL FOR PAPERS

MPLA Academic Section Professional Forum

The Academic Section of the Mountain Plains Library Association (MPLA), in co-sponsorship with the Colorado Association of Libraries (CAL), announces a call for papers to be presented at the:

CAL/MPLA Joint Conference
Denver, Colorado
October 21-24, 2004

The MPLA Academic Section sponsors the Professional Forum, which presents new ideas, innovations, and case studies in librarianship that benefit the profession. Research methodology is encouraged, but not essential. Academic, school, and public librarians are all invited to participate. The papers are peer reviewed for an award of a \$300 prize to the winning paper presentation.

GUIDELINES FOR PAPERS

- Problems are clearly identified and solutions proposed
- Themes may include locally implemented experiences resulting in success or failure, theoretical models, statistical studies, or state-of-the art reviews
- Although formal research methodology is not required, papers should develop clear positions or concepts

EVALUATION

Papers will be selected on:

- Significance of topics to library profession
- Development of concept and quality of organization
- Clarity of ideas and objectives

Final presentations will be judged at the annual conference on:

- Objectives are evident, with clear ideas and concepts (15 points)
- Quality of organization (15 points)
- Quality of presentation, use of visuals, etc. (15 points)

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Authors must be current members of MPLA
- Papers must be original – not published or presented elsewhere
- Papers in length from two to six pages, with bibliography and appendices as needed
- Selected authors will make a presentation of the paper at the CAL/MPLA Joint Conference 2004
- Submit an abstract electronically by AUGUST 1, 2004 to: m_heckard@umwestern.edu

For more information contact:

Melissa Heckard, Asst. Librarian
Lucy Carson Library
University of Montana-Western
710 S. Atlantic
Dillon, MT 59725
m_heckard@umwestern.edu (406) 683-7494

MPLA Professional Development Grants are available to fund research and travel!
See application information at the MPLA Website: www.usd.edu/mpla/grants.html

For additional details of the CAL/MPLA Joint Conference, go to:
Colorado Association of Libraries at www.cal-webs.org/#25

Hatfield to Follow The Yellow Brick Road?

Jean Hatfield, Johnson County Library, KS and Past President of MPLA, has been awarded the prestigious Louise Seaman Bechtel Fellowship. This reward is designed to allow qualified children's librarians to spend a month or more reading and studying at the Baldwin Library of the George A. Smathers Libraries, University of Florida, in Gainesville. The Baldwin Library contains a special collection of 85,000 volumes of children's literature published mostly before 1950. The fellowship, which is administered by ALSC (the children's division of ALA) is endowed in memory of Louise Seaman Bechtel and Ruth M. Baldwin and will provide a stipend of \$4,000.



Jean will be studying the similarities between the Harry Potter phenomenon and the brouhaha that occurred after the publication of *The Wizard of Oz* and the classic film based on L. Frank Baum's book.

Explore Online Collections Built from IMLS Digitization Project

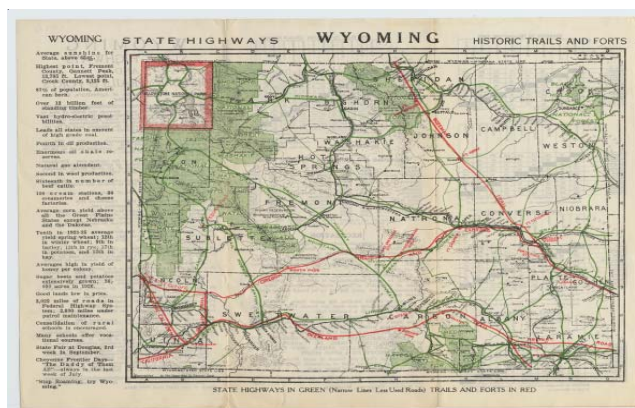
By Mark Shelstad
American Heritage Center, U. of Wyoming

The University of Wyoming's American Heritage Center and UW Libraries are a members of a consortium of repositories in Wyoming, Colorado, Nebraska, and Kansas collaborating on an Institute for Museum and Library Services grant to demonstrate archives' and libraries' ability to broaden access to a collection of widely dispersed digital resources by creating a virtual collection of digital resources using 19th and 20th century Western trails.

An important component of this federally funded project is the development of best practice guidelines for the creation, description, and storage of digital images, which include texts, photographs, maps, and audio-visual materials. The Western State Best Practices Documents for Digital Imaging and Dublin Core Metadata are guides for image capture, presentation, storage, preservation, and description. The recommendations are broad enough to apply to a variety of institutions and collections and attempt to synthesize previous recommendations.

The Western Trails Project has digitized photographs, text, maps, and video that may be searched or browsed in a variety of ways, including by subject, creator, title, and date. Detailed descriptions of the images are provided in detailed cataloged records and the interpretive exhibits explore themes from the collections. The project also features detailed access to large format items through software using a Macromedia Flash application.

Access to the collections are provided through the project Website at <http://digital.uwyo.edu>. This resource is designed to be useful to the general public, students, teachers, and scholars. Users will be able to view and learn from Web-based exhibits on particular topics with pointers for further information to print and online resources. The Website also provides for image browsing and an interface to search University of Wyoming collections or across primary source materials from the Western Trails project participants.



Wyoming State Highways, Historic Trails and Forts, circa 1924. University of Wyoming Libraries.



Business Sense

Jean Anderson
Business Librarian
Fort Collins Public Library, CO

(Note: This column is designed to be a handout for public library business patrons. I would be happy to share this column and previous columns with you - Word format. E-mail me at anderson@julip.fcgov.com.)

Benchmarking

Benchmarking is a management technique that is concerned with establishing performance measures for an organization so that it can analyze its efficiency and compare itself to other, usually competing, businesses – notably, leading firms in the industry. For more information, take a look at these Websites.

American Productivity and Quality Center

www.apqc.org

This nonprofit organization works with people and other organizations around the world to improve productivity and quality. Nearly 500 companies, government organizations, and educational institutions support it. It provides the tools, information, expertise, and support needed to discover and implement best practices in a variety of areas, including knowledge management, benchmarking, and performance measurement.

Benchmarking: An International Journal

www.emeraldinsight.com/bij.htm

This journal reviews different approaches to benchmarking to help develop and refine the best possible approach for any organization. The content focuses on benchmarking as part of total quality, case histories, practical applications, research reports, test scenarios, and the theory of benchmarking. The targeted audience includes academics and students studying quality and related areas; consultants to organizations looking at total quality; and senior company personnel in business and industry responsible for the development and managing of total quality programs. Contributors are from a wide range of countries.

APQC's Benchmarking and Best Practice

www.apqc.org/best

This site summarizes the benefits of benchmarking, outlines a methodology, and lists the key to success in the area. Several studies specific to 11 different industries can be found at the “Industry-Focused Approach” section. The “Metrics” section includes the Performance Assessment Database with several free electronic surveys for members. The “Free Resources” section includes articles, case studies, and white papers to guide you through the benchmarking process.

Avoid These Ten Benchmarking Mistakes

www.benchmarkingplus.com.au/mistake.htm

Many sites tell you how to benchmark. This site lists the ten most common mistakes in benchmarking so that you can avoid making them yourself.

Benchmarking Exchange

www.benchnet.com

This is an extremely comprehensive site with a lot of information on benchmarking practices for both members and nonmembers. Members can conduct benchmark surveys online and have the information collected and returned through the exchange as replies are received.

Benchmarking Network

www.benchmarkingnetwork.com

The Benchmarking Network leads benchmarking studies worldwide, provides benchmarking measures and metrics, training in benchmarking, research, and implementation in support of improvement and reengineering efforts in response to benchmarking studies. This site is truly comprehensive in nature, covering several industries and processes with links to global best practice companies. A free newsletter is available to nonmembers and there is a current list of upcoming roundtables.

Best-Practice.com

www.Best-Practice.com

Providing a range of information on benchmarking, this site has links to more detailed research docu-

ments and tools that can be purchased directly from the various partners in the network. For instance, users can purchase qualitative case studies that are detailed and tell why the strategy was needed, how it was researched, implemented, and evaluated, and the positive impact the study has had on the business. A section of key learning points lets the senior manager who implemented the strategy offer advice from their own experience to guide others who choose to adopt a similar approach. Membership is free.

Global Benchmarking Council

www.globalbenchmarking.com

Members have access to a benchmarking database, regular meetings, and research reports, plus a range of other services and detailed information.

Jean Anderson is the Business Librarian for the Fort Collins Public Library, Fort Collins, CO. Suggestions for future columns are welcome: anderson@julip.fcgov.com. **Current and past issues of *Business Sense* are available at:** www.fcgov.com/library/adult.php

Creating Community... Events at Ruidoso Public Library, NM

**By Phyllis Reed
Ruidoso Library Director**

Ruidoso, NM is a small community of approximately 14,000 residents located 138 miles north of El Paso, TX. The feeling at the library is that the taxpayers provide the buildings and the use of the buildings needs to be maximized. In order to do this, the library has formed many partnerships with the community. The library is the place to be in Ruidoso!

Phyllis Reed, Library Director, provides the leadership for this community-centered library. She makes community partnerships with the library a top priority as she develops her staff positions. The library events are a function of Diane Thorgeson, a Reference Librarian and Exhibits Management Specialist. As Diane says, "When one show is moving out of the library, and the other exhibitors have not yet arrived, it is blah. Huge white walls with nothing on them, empty display cabinets, and vacant shelf tops! The new exhibit arrives, and the environment comes

alive again... Every show is different. We have had a local dance conservatory perform, puppeteers, singers, classical groups, potters, painters, quilters, photographers, carvers, and paper cutting artists, to name a few." Diane works with the many community partners to make the events a success, while the entire library staff participates and supports Diane, and all of the partnership activities.

September 11 Commemorative Show

Artists expressed what they felt in all mediums and displayed their works at the library. Over 100 people were involved in this event. The mayor opened the show; fire trucks sounded their sirens in the library's parking lot at 11 minutes after the hour (for the 11th), then everyone observed one minute of silence. There was standing room only in the 15,000 sq. ft. building! It was an extremely memorable moment shared by many community members and library patrons.

International Literacy Day

A day proclaimed by the library to celebrate literacy, the library invited the mayor, the Governor, and mayors of nearby communities to highlight International Literacy Day. Ruidoso Mayor, Leon Engleston, issued a proclamation claiming this to be International Literacy Day. The superintendents of local schools, as well as superintendents of area schools, including the Mescalero Indian Reservation, attended.

Several literacy organizations were invited to participate. They developed booths, passed out literature and basked in the publicity and recognition of their efforts.

Art Exhibit

The library works with the Regional Arts Council to host monthly exhibits of artists in the community. The library is one of three buildings that features "Art in public places." Ruidoso is an artist's community with many artists of different disciplines. There are performing artists, writers, potters, and singers.

In the current art show, the library is featuring the South West Designers Guild, which is a floral de-

sign membership organization. The various floral designers are creating 15 large designs and placing them throughout the library. Some of the designs are geared to children while others carry out different themes.

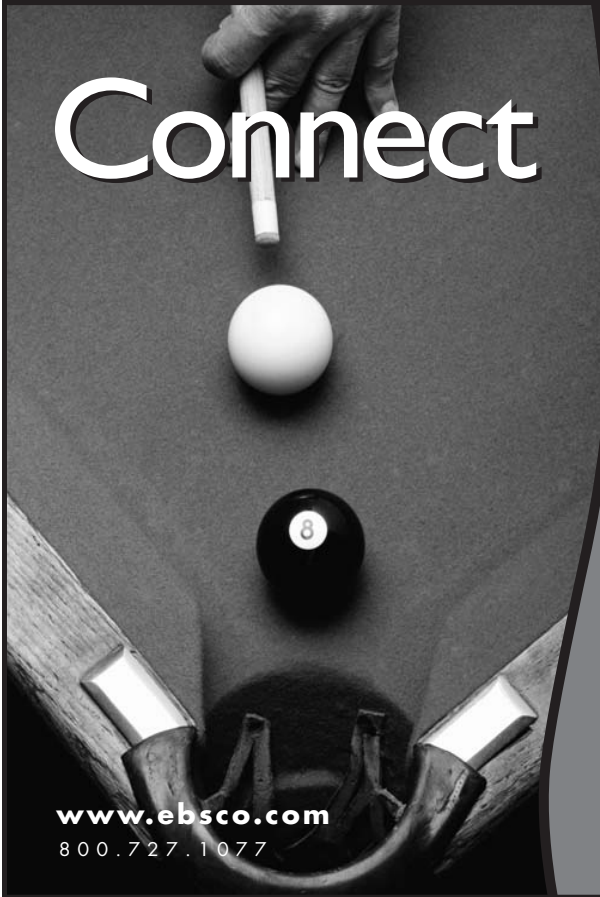
While artists donate work to show, the works are also for sale. When an artist sells a piece of work, 10% of the sale is given as a donation to the Arts Council to build a future cultural arts center.

The first Friday of every month, the Ruidoso Public Library sponsors an Art Show Opening and Reception. This event features musical entertainment and food donated by the artists themselves. The Arts Council helps promote the reception by providing \$25 to the library to provide for paper plates, ice, napkins and punch. This is a “happening!”

In addition, the art on display brings a great deal of public recognition to the library. The arts and entertainment section of the newspaper features the art

shows and displays at the library, bringing the library significant recognition.

This is a tourist town. The library is on the map by being the center of activity. Many people are attracted to the library through the various events. The library contributes significantly to the quality of life of the community through these extended programs. These events create visibility, and enthusiasm by getting the mayor and local politicians to participate. Because we have a wonderful newspaper and get extensive coverage, many people come into the library for one exhibit or event, and become hooked on what our library has to offer! The library, and the Arts Council are benefited by, in turn, receiving support from the community in the form of adequate budgets, volunteers, and community partnerships. The library has established itself as a community center within the city of Ruidoso, NM. We feel we are, as our Website states, “a center for lifelong learning in the mountains”!



Connect

your patrons and your staff
with your library's electronic resources.
EBSCOhost® Electronic Journals Service (EJS) has a simplified interface that makes it easy for patrons to find the information they need and a broad suite of administrative tools that saves you valuable time. And with EBSCO's superior linking technology you'll have access to more content from more sources than ever before.

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MPLA Now on MemberClicks:

Online Membership Service Now Available at my.memberclicks.com/mpla

By Carol Hammond, MPLA President

MPLA will use technology to bridge distances and provide a regional presence in continuing education, professional development and training, as well as to offer unique networking opportunities. – Goal VI, MPLA Long Range Plan.

All of us have experienced in our libraries the shift away from paper to electronic format in the tools we use for our work and the resources in our libraries. MPLA is also making a shift to utilizing technology and providing some new services for members in the process.

We are very pleased that we now have a new online membership directory available from Memberclicks.com. This takes the information that was formerly available to all members in the printed membership directory and puts it on a secure Website which can only be accessed by MPLA members. Each of you was sent a unique ID and password by e-mail to allow you to use the database. [If you have forgotten or lost your ID or password, contact Joe Edelen at jedelen@usd.edu who can give you that information].

MPLA will be using this system to contact you by e-mail for many routine functions. We will send you an e-mail reminder when it is time to renew your dues, for example, and we will use the system to notify you when the conference pre-registration period is about to close. As an MPLA member, you can look up colleagues and using the Contact Center feature, send any other MPLA member an e-mail directly from the database: no writing down and keying in e-mail addresses. You can see who the other

MPLA members are in your state. We'll be able to take quick surveys of our sections to see what programs they would like to have at conferences, and we hope by next year to offer online payment of dues and conference fees.

The Electronic Communications Committee has developed the one-page reference sheet on the opposite page that provides simple instructions for using MemberClicks. Remember to use the pull down menus from the top of the page. You can connect quickly to MemberClicks from the MPLA Webpage, where a direct link is prominently placed, or from the URL in the headline above.

It is essential that we have current information, especially e-mail addresses for everyone! You may go to MemberClicks and change or update your information yourself, and we ask that everyone in MPLA take a look at the site to be sure your record is accurate – this tool is only as good as its content, and we rely on you to make sure it is current. Keep in mind that only other MPLA members can see your record, as MemberClicks is a secure site. You may also choose to hide anything in your record that you don't want other members to see; the system administrator will still have access to this information, however, so we can reach you as we have in the past.

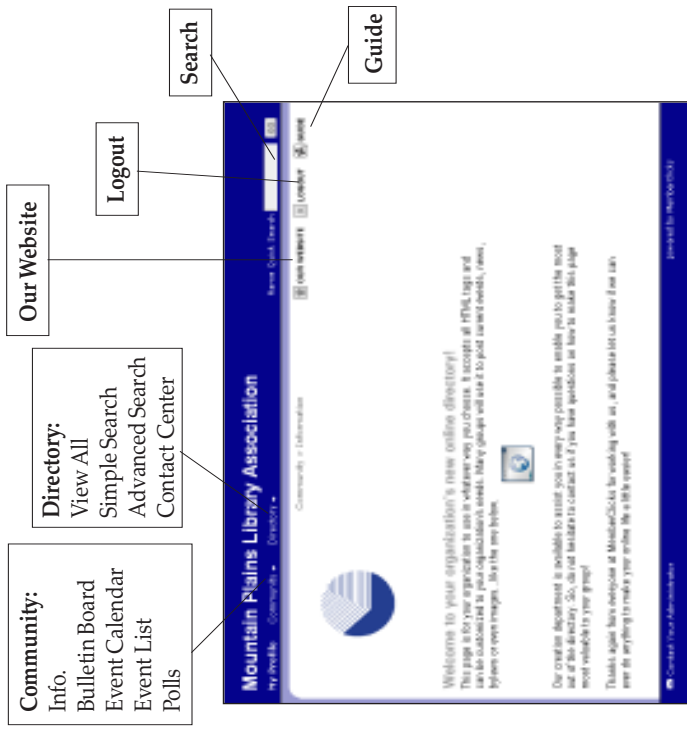
We'll be providing more information on using this system as the year goes on. If you have any questions or need help using MemberClicks you can contact Joe Edelen (MPLA Executive Secretary), Carol Hammond (MPLA President) or Eric Hansen (Chair, Electronic Communication Committee).

Two Important Tips:

- 1.** If you have trouble with the "Forgot Your Password" feature on MemberClicks, please contact Joe Edelen at jedelen@usd.edu.
- 2.** If you don't like having a 5-6 number username and password, log into MemberClicks, then go to "My Profile" where you can change your username and password and save them.

my.memberclicks.com/mpla

- Community** ▼
From the Community link you can access Info., the Bulletin Board, the Event Calendar or List and Polls.
Info: takes you to the site's home page to get the latest news from my.memberclicks.com/mpla
- Bulletin Board:** post your opinions or comments and share information on this easy-to-navigate message board
- Event Calendar:** takes you to the current month to find out what's going on; just click on an event to find out specific details for each day
- Event List:** just like the calendar, only in a handy list format
- Polls:** check out the latest opinions with this link
- Directory** ▼
The Directory link provides you access to View All, Simple Search, Advanced Search and Contact Center.
View All: lets you see every MPLA member's contact information, in alphabetical order
- Our Website** ▼
Our Website: links to the MPLA website, which has a wealth of links to MPLA information and resources
- Logout** ▼
Logout: lets you logout from this site and continue browsing the Internet
- Guide** ▼
Guide: a table of links with brief descriptions of the available links on this site
- Search** ▼
Search: type in the name of whomever you are looking for to do a search right from the home page
- Simple Search:** search the database of MPLA members by keyword
- Advanced Search:** the advanced search criteria you enter helps you narrow your search
- Contact Center:** email or even send a fax through this link



The Mountain Plains Library Association introduces my.memberclicks.com/mpla.

This dynamic new database provides you with quick, easy access to MPLA members' information and is a great forum for posting and sharing ideas and news.

Around the MPLA Region

COLORADO

Ask Colorado is a bit -- "It was really cool, being on line with a live librarian, better than searching the internet alone."

"Awesome service! First time I used it, but certainly worth it. Is this gov't sponsored? If it is, it's certainly something I like to see my tax \$\$ going to."

"This is almost too good to be true. Each time I have obtained information, learned about searching as I watched the search on the left hand side of the screen, and gone away in a short time with good results. I hope this will continue for searchers!"



These are typical comments we get from AskColorado users. Thanks for promoting and participating in our statewide virtual reference project! Since beginning in September, AskColorado has received well over 10,000 questions. Our service is extremely popular and it is thanks to the Colorado library community and excellent service provided by the AskColorado virtual reference team.

(From a post to Libnet@bcr.org by Sharon Morris, Colorado State Library, 2/17/04).

Lamar Public Library wins award -- Congratulations to the Lamar Public Library on winning the "Building Digital Opportunities through Community Engagement" award through the WebJunction online library community portal. The library won this award because of the exemplary services that they provide to their Spanish speaking immigrant population. They have partnered with the local elementary school and community college to enhance these services.

WebJunction provides quarterly awards in four categories: Sustainability, Technology Planning, Innovative Content and Uses of Technology, and Building Digital Opportunities through Community Engagement. Any library located in one of the 50 states, the six jurisdictional territories of the United States, or Canada that provide more than 20 hours

per week of public access to the Internet are eligible for consideration.

(From post to Libnet@bcr.org by Rose Nelson, Colorado State Library, 2/17/04).

CAL Intellectual Freedom Committee wins award -- The Colorado Association of Libraries Intellectual Freedom Committee (CAL IFC) is the 2004 recipient of the SIRS-ProQuest State and Regional Achievement Award presented by the American Library Association (ALA) Intellectual Freedom Round Table (IFRT).

The award, funded by SIRS-ProQuest, consists of a citation and \$1,000, and recognizes successful and effective intellectual freedom committees or coalitions that have made a contribution to the freedom to read in libraries, or to the intellectual freedom environment in which libraries function.

CAL IFC is honored for its development and implementation of a statewide initiative to educate the public about the USA Patriot Act. Its work included informational presentations to 25 diverse groups throughout the state of Colorado, and the development of informational Webpages that are available to librarians as well as the general public. Its informational resources are crafted for diverse audience use and are easily accessible. CAL IFC also offers customizable brochures to library or citizen's groups throughout the country who may need informational materials for their communities.

The award will be presented to CAL IFC on June 26 during the IFRT program at the American Library Association Annual Conference in Orlando, FL.

Five more libraries added to Prospector catalog -- The Prospector Library System, a consortial library project begun by the Colorado Alliance of Research Libraries, has just been expanded by the addition of records from five more libraries from the PLUS Network. These include: Arapahoe Public Library District, Aurora Public Library, Boulder Public Library, Louisville Public Library, and Broomfield Public Library. Plans are also underway to add bibliographic records from the Colorado School of Mines.

Prospector's catalog is based on software from Innovative Interfaces, Inc., but incorporates records from libraries using other integrated library systems. The database of over six million bibliographic records is used for reference, cooperative collection development, and interlibrary loan among its membership.

Appointed by Bush -- Jose Aponte, Director of the Pikes Peak Library District, was appointed by President Bush to serve on the Board of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS).

KANSAS

A celebration of reading -- Mark your calendars now! On Nov. 5, 2004 the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library (Topeka, KS) will be hosting "Celebrate the Book: A Regional Reader's Advisory Conference." The conference will be from 9-5 and Joyce Saricks and Kaite Mediatore will be the featured speakers. Keep your eyes open for more details; you won't want to miss this exciting celebration of reading!

New Director of SLIM-Kansas MLA program -- The School of Library and Information Management at Emporia State University is pleased to announce the appointment of Ms. Candace "Candy" Boardman as the new Director of the SLIM-Kansas Master of Library Science program. Ms. Boardman began her new duties on March 1 as the student advisor for MLS students attending the Emporia and Kansas City campuses.

Candy earned a B.A. in English Literature from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and an M. A. in English from Emporia State University. She also completed KPLACE One, sponsored by the Kansas Library System and SLIM this past May.

While at the University of Illinois, Ms. Boardman worked in the Library Computer Systems Office on a statewide networking project of library systems and academic libraries. Most recently, she has taught English Composition and Literature for Butler County Community College, El Dorado, KS, and a

course on "Becoming a Master Student" for non-traditional students. Candy has also worked as the Children's Librarian at the Council Grove (KS) Public Library.

Candy is a freelance writer, editor, and co-founder of Connecting Pieces Enterprises, a freelance writing, editing, and indexing firm. As the administrative assistant for the National Council of Teacher Education, she served as assistant editor to *Primary Voices K-6*, a quarterly journal for elementary schools; developed stories for the *Council Chronicle*, the NCTE newspaper, and provided guidance to school administrators, librarians, and teachers regarding intellectual freedom cases throughout the U.S. Her honors include Butler County Community College's Excellence in Teaching Award, 2002, and Outstanding Faculty Member, 2003. Candy has lived in Europe and the Middle East and speaks German, French, and Farsi.

A showcase in Hays, KS -- The Hays Public Library, located in Hays, KS has a new look, or rather an old look. After the library received the overwhelming support of the community to build an addition onto its 1968 building, a plan to make the building look like the 1911 Carnegie library was born. While a half-cent sales tax paid for the addition, private donations paid for the replication of the 1911 building. Ground was broken for the addition on April 27, 2002. The entire project, replication and renovation



The
new
Hays
Public
Library.



of the original building included, was completed Jan. 7, 2004. The project was completed on time and on budget. A glorious grand opening weekend took place on Feb. 13-15, 2004. The Hays Public Library is truly a showcase for downtown Hays and for libraries everywhere.

MONTANA

Foreign films and popcorn -- The Great Falls Public Library has started a series of recent, award-winning foreign and independent films. The first film of the series, the Dutch film, *Hop* (winner of the Grand Prix Cine), drew an enthusiastic, over-capacity crowd of 150. A second showing of each film has been added to address demand. Each showing includes an award-winning short (Sofia Coppola's *Lick the Star* was included with the first program) and free popcorn.



More information on the source of these films can be obtained from Director Jim Heckel (jheckel@mtlib.org).

Lewis & Clark Activity Books -- The Lewis & Clark Task Force is taking orders for Lewis & Clark Activity books at \$2 each. To order, e-mail jbedina@manhattan.k12.mt.us. All orders come with an invoice. Some libraries have asked what the books are for. The answer is anything you want! They can tie in with school activities, summer reading programs, special library promotions, etc. Some libraries are even selling the books. They purchase from us, then raise the price and sell to patrons. These are not coloring books. They contain word searches, puzzles, crossword puzzles and lots of links to more information. Spread the word and order your books now!

IMLS grant received -- The Montana State Library has been awarded a \$206,167 "Recruiting and Educating Librarians for the 21st Century" grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The Montana project is entitled "Professional Education and Employment for Librarians" (PEEL). This three-year grant will fund a statewide promotion/

recruitment campaign designed to attract Montanans to the library profession, with an emphasis on recruiting more Native American librarians. Six Montana residents will receive scholarships to attend graduate library school and will be required to work in a Montana public, school, or tribal library for a minimum of two years following graduation. Stipends will also be awarded to help libraries bring these new graduates into their communities to fill professional level positions.

Gates Foundation grant -- The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has just notified the Montana State Library that the state will receive \$198,720 from the Foundation's Staying Connected Grant Program. The money will be used to help public libraries purchase new public access computer equipment and fund Internet connectivity upgrades. The grant will also fund training for public library staff on ways to improve and increase public access computing in their communities. All public libraries and branches will be eligible to apply for Staying Connected funds to upgrade equipment and/or connectivity.

NEBRASKA

NebraskaAccess launched -- On Jan. 31, 2004, the Nebraska Library Commission unveiled NebraskaAccess, a new Website designed to provide streamlined access to the Nebraska Statewide Database Program. Nebraska librarians and citizens began using NebraskaAccess immediately to access the online resources paid for on their behalf by the Nebraska Library Commission. These resources provide Nebraskans with free online access to thousands of current full-text magazine, journal, and newspaper articles; up-to-date business forecasts; biographical information; and much more. Unlike much of the information available for free on the Internet, the information available through the NebraskaAccess resources is reliable, timely, and commercial-free. In many cases, it is the online equivalent of information traditionally found in libraries in print format.

The Nebraska Library Commission began funding statewide access to online information resources in 1998. Since that time over 800 public, K-12 school,

ARIZONA

Linda Barnett
Artesia Zia Intermediate School

Andrew Chanse
Arizona State University

Norma Fowler
Sedona Public Library

Fay Freed
Phoenix Public Library

Mary Macleish
Glendale Community College

Jean Mills
Thew School/Tempe Elementary

Carla Smith
Maricopa Integrated Health Sys.

CALIFORNIA

Mitch Ison
El Dorado County Library

Kathy Ray
University of the Pacific

COLORADO

Nancy Almand
Weld Library District

Robb Heckel
Student

Bette Rathe
University of Northern Colorado

Clara Sitter
University of Denver

Peggy Strick
Crown Pointe Academy

Nancy Tanner
Corwin Middle School

Gene Trant
Wellington Public Library

Linda Tuttle-Shaw
Manitou Springs Public Library

Welcome to MPLA

New Members



KANSAS

Laura Bean
National American Univ.

Helen Hokanson
Johnson County Library

Kimberly Martin
Bonner Springs City Library

James Nyce
SLIM/Emporia State University

Angela O'Kane
Monticello Trails Middle School

MONTANA

Bill Kehler
Rocky Mountain College

Kathy Mora
Great Falls Public Library

NEBRASKA

Lori Brezina
Swanson Library

Karen Drevo
Norfolk Public Library

Nancy Escamilla
Scottsbluff Public Library

Cathy Hatterman
Nebraska Library Commission

Paul Oertell
Retired

Jennifer Powell
Scottsbluff Public Library

Laureen Riedesel
Beatrice Public Library

Valetta Schneider
Western Nebraska Community College

Galen Schroeder
Freelance indexer

NEVADA

Anna Vaillancourt
Las Vegas Clark County Library District

Sidney Watson
University of Nevada

Andrea Wirth
University of Nevada-Las Vegas

NEW MEXICO

Kristen Clark
New Mexico State University

Dana John
New Mexico State Library

Cindy Pierard
New Mexico State University

Rosemary Shafer
Carrizozo Municipal Schools

NORTH DAKOTA

Mary Bintz
Ward County Library

Agnes R. Jensen
Stutsman County Library

Christine Kujawa
Bismarck Public Library

Andrea Lindorff
Warwick Public School

Todd O'Connor
North Dakota State Library

(Continued on next page)

New Members...

Patricia Riddle
Dickinson Public Schools

Toni Vonasek
Grand Forks Public Library

OKLAHOMA

Jaymie Lang
University of Oklahoma

Janet Lee
Ada Public Library

Bethia Owens
Muldrow Public Library

Marla Roberson
University of Central Oklahoma

Jeri Smalley
University of Oklahoma

Aiden Street
Moore Public Library

SOUTH DAKOTA

Eric Abrahamson
South Dakota State Library

Heather Rae Bakeberg
Alexander Mitchell Public Library

Vicki Carlson
Wegner Health Science Information Ctr.

Linda Daugaard
South Dakota State Library

Michele Howard
South Dakota State Library

Jennifer Irwin
Rapid City Public Library

Carl Kitchin
Tiospa Zina Tribal School

Pamela Kringel
South Dakota State Library

Roberta Sago
Black Hills State University

Ruth Westling
Alcester-Hudson Schools

Elizabeth Wild
Holbrook Library

UTAH

Sue Hill
Brigham City Library

Scott Lanning
Southern Utah University

Britton Lund
Salt Lake County Library System

Susie Woodward
Salt Lake City Public Library

WYOMING

Cindy Angell
East Junior High School

Dale Collum
Uinta County Library

Jenny Garcia
University of Wyoming

Tamsen Hert
University of Wyoming

Ruth Hitchcock
Albany County Public Library

Janie Leath
University of Wyoming

Angel Mann
Sheridan Fulmer Public Library

Cheryl Wright
Park County Library

**MemberClicks:
it's online,
it's MPLA,
it's available
now!**

post-secondary academic, and non-profit special libraries have signed up to offer these resources to their patrons. Many of these libraries would have been unable to afford subscriptions to these resources on their own. New features of NebraskAccess are: customized access and documentation based on the user's location-in their library, at home or work, or at school; remote login using a Nebraska driver's license or state ID number for the Wilson, FirstSearch, and Kiplinger resources; short online tutorials to help users learn how to search within the NebraskAccess resources; user-friendly Website design; a Librarian's Toolbox full of information library staff need about the program, including marketing materials, training documents, etc.; and frequently asked questions

NebraskAccess is available at: www.nlc.state.ne.us/nebraskaccess. NebraskAccess is also linked from Nebrask@Online: the Official Website for the State of Nebraska at www.nebraska.gov. Please contact a member of the Nebraska Library Commission, Network Services Department with any questions you may have: 800-307-2665 or e-mail nebraskaccess@nlc.state.ne.us.

Copyright issues -- *NLAQ* (Nebraska Library Association Quarterly) Volume 34, Number 4, Winter 2003 dealt with copyright issues and is now available online at <http://www.nol.org/home/>

[NLA/nlaquarterly/2003-4.htm](http://nlaquarterly/2003-4.htm). Here is the partial table of contents: Keeping up with Copyright, Dorothy B. Willis; How the Digital Millennium Copyright Act Jeopardizes Online Privacy, Teresa L. Conaway; The Technology, Education, and Copyright Harmonization (TEACH) Act, Agnes Adams; Plagiarism, Melissa Cast; Copyright and Fair Use in Education, Phyllis Brunken; and Fair Use Checklist Indiana University Copyright Management Center Metropolitan Community College Copyright Checklist, Kay Hershey.

Commission appoints to council on libraries -- In January, the Nebraska Library Commission made the following appointments to three-year terms on the State Advisory Council on Libraries: Nancy Cantin, Director, Medical and Patient Library, Hastings Regional Center, Hastings; Pat Gross, Librarian, Gering High School, Gering; Margaret Harding, Executive Director, Nebraska Library Association, Crete; Gretchen Healy, Library Director, Little Priest Tribal College, Winnebago; John Seyfarth, Information Systems Manager, Sump Memorial Library, Papillion; Mary Ann (MeMe) Smith, Director, Schuyler Public Library, Schuyler; and Jeff Yost, President, Nebraska Community Foundation, Lincoln.

NEVADA

The Knowledge Center one of first in nation -- The single greatest intellectual force and competitive advantage in the 21st century is the rapid assimilation of new knowledge to fuel innovation. New knowledge, applied to existing tasks, results in increased productivity; new knowledge applied to new challenges and tasks is fundamental to innovation. Recognizing this critical interplay between knowledge and innovation, the University of Nevada, Reno is poised to establish one of the first



An artist's rendition of the proposed Knowledge Center at the University of Nevada, Reno.

centers in the nation built specifically to embrace these dynamics of the 21st century.

The Knowledge Center will encompass all facets of the digital age in a single, synergistic complex. Computing and information technologies will be combined with the latest in graphical design technologies and the resources of the university library in a physical environment designed to maximize learning, nurture the production and distribution of new knowledge, and stimulate and sustain innovation.

Some of the key elements include:

- embedded information technology to explore and utilize multimedia formats;
- access to books and all forms of digital resources through wired and wireless networks;
- availability of information specialists to provide assistance in placing the resources in appropriate context;
- ample group workspace with extended hours of use;
- social spaces designed for comfort and convenience. The scenario also places students within a highly synergistic environment. In many fields of endeavor, today's work place depends upon the practiced interaction among colleagues to conceive ideas that can be transformed into new market products, uncover new cost efficiencies, or capture and retain consumer attention. Students steeped for years in a collaborative dynamic curriculum fortified with the latest technological applications will yield highly skilled workers who can support communication and high technology industries for our communities.
- addressing academic/administrative computing needs;
- upgrading the central computing network;
- designing newer smart classrooms and retrofitting older classrooms with the newest teaching technologies;
- providing PowerPoint and WebCT instruction and assistance to faculty members.
- Incorporating the library and KUNR within this mix, it becomes clear why UNR would be in a better position than most universi-

ties to provide a centralized seamless bridge to a wide variety of digital media such as graphics, audio, video, and print.

The Knowledge Center will also serve as a significant community asset. A gracious entry and warm inviting areas for public gatherings are woven into the design of this signature building. With two parking garages nearby, the center's 200-seat auditorium will be easily accessible for academic lectures, cultural presentations, and film festivals. During Science Day, high school students can access center resources and learn about knowledge creation.

The Knowledge Center is UNR's number one institutional priority. The high expectations combined with the cost — \$66 million — make the Knowledge Center the most ambitious project in the university's history. The Nevada State Legislature recognizes this facility's importance to the state: They earmarked \$22 million. The student body realized the importance of this investment to the intellectual life of the university and set aside \$22 million in student fees. Both of these are record allocations.

It remains for the university and its friends, benefactors, and alumni, indeed, all who believe in the vitality of higher education, to take up the gauntlet: Raise the remaining \$22 million by June 2005 to release the state's allocation in what will be the largest single-building fundraising in the university's history. With the support of private partners, the Knowledge Center will be completed by 2008.

NEW MEXICO

\$16,112 million bond for libraries --

The legislature passed, and the governor has now signed, a bill for another library bond. In November, voters will be asked to approve a \$16.1 million dollar bond package which will fund the purchase of books and other materials, such as periodicals and electronic databases.

This 2004 Bond breaks down as follows:

1. \$5.832 million for New Mexico public libraries;
2. \$6.156 million for publicly funded school libraries/juvenile detention libraries;



3. \$3.8 million for academic libraries;
4. \$324,000 for two state libraries.

Once again, as in 2002, this bond has the potential to make a huge difference to all New Mexico libraries, big and small. The last statewide library initiative was the 2002 Library Capital Improvement Bond which passed with 409,317 votes, the highest vote of all state bonds in 2002. This 2004 bond proposal is endorsed by the New Mexico Library Association and the State Library Commission.

School libraries -- The Governor also signed a bill for a School Library Fund with \$1,000,000 in it (a great start). This allows school libraries to have a designated amount for materials. Also public school librarians are now considered the same as certified teachers so that the pay raises will be equivalent to teachers.

NORTH DAKOTA

A jewel in the crown of Lake Region -- 'Twas four days before Christmas and at the Carnegie Public Library in Devils Lake, students were packing and moving a collection of books for the library's sake.

After more than ten years of planning, the new Lake Region Public Library opened its doors on Dec. 22. The new building is double the size of the old library with 9,000 sq. ft. to call home. Library Director Jim Chattin says thanks in large part to private donations, along with some sales tax money, the new building became a reality. "It's a jewel in the crown of Lake Region, it's beautiful inside and out!"

The library held its grand opening on Jan. 12, 2004, featuring First Lady Mikey Hoeven as the keynote speaker. Since the new library opened, Chattin estimates that library visitation is up by one third and children's circulation has doubled.

Librarians attend Gates workshops -- Three North Dakota librarians were invited to a workshop in Seattle by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation this past February. The workshop, "Sustaining Public Access Computing in Rural Libraries," provided practical assistance to small, rural librarians who were looking

for examples and best practices for sustaining public access technologies for their patrons.

Librarians Stacey Goldade, North Dakota State Library; Marlene Ripplinger, Harvey Public Library; and Bonnie Krenz, Griggs County Library attended the conference with many other librarians from rural communities throughout the country. They had the opportunity to discuss the challenges they face providing public access for their patrons. Participants walked away with their own plan to increase public access computing for libraries. The Gates Foundation provided airfare, lodging, and transportation for the workshop.

OKLAHOMA

Award winners -- Three Oklahoma libraries won important awards recently.

The Tecumseh branch of the Pioneer Library System (Tecumseh, population 6,098, is about 35 miles southeast of Oklahoma City) is the 2004 winner of the Public Library Association's Excellence in Small and/or Rural Public Library Service Award for innovative services in a community of 10,000 or less.

The Pioneer Library System won a John Cotton Dana Award for their publicity for last October's first Red Dirt Book Festival. The award cited the "intriguing and visually appealing campaign that promoted libraries as prominent cultural agents."

Oklahoma State University's Edmon Low Library won a John Cotton Dana Award "for a stellar commemorative celebration entitled 'That was then ... This is now,' focusing on the successes and challenges marking 50 years of building pride." The celebration observed the 50th anniversary of the university's main library building, a landmark at the center of the campus.

Former MPLA Secretary dies -- Oklahoma librarians were saddened to learn of the recent death of Kathleen Todd Hallin, Assistant Director of the Ardmore Higher Education Center. Kathleen was the MPLA Recording Secretary in 1999 and served

on MPLA's Intellectual Freedom and Membership Committees.

Children's choice winners announced -- Winners of Oklahoma's Sequoyah children's choice awards for 2004 were announced in February. *Skeleton Man*, by Joseph Bruchac is the winning children's book, and *Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*, by Ann Brashares is the YA winner.

Librarian wins grant to attend ALA -- Sarah Robbins has been selected as one of the 2004 recipients of the 3M/NMRT Professional Development Grant. This grant, sponsored by 3M Library Systems, covers round-trip airfare, lodging, and conference registration fees for attendance at the American Library Association Annual Conference.

Sarah is currently employed as Electronic Services Coordinator with the University of Oklahoma Libraries. As a new librarian, Robbins plans to use this opportunity to develop her skills for providing quality library service. Part of her job involves communicating between public service librarians and library technology staff and she hopes to study established practices in this area. She will then tailor what she learns to meet the specific needs of her library's constituency in order to improve library services.

SOUTH DAKOTA

MPLA rep. has new job -- The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) recently named Suzanne Miller, South Dakota's MPLA representative, as its Director of Library Development Services and School Technology. In this position, Miller will serve as head of Minnesota's state library agency as well as supervising MDE employees and experts in library, library technology, and school technology matters.

Miller has been South Dakota's State Librarian since 1999. Previously, she taught law and worked in law libraries at the McGeorge School of Law at the University of the Pacific in Sacramento, CA and the University of LaVerne, CA. She is an active member of several library-related professional associations

and has published extensively on library, technology, and legal issues, co-authoring *U.S. Government Documents: A Practical Guide for Non-Professionals in Academic and Public Libraries*.

UTAH

Money for seismic upgrades to library -- The University of Utah recently received a Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant totaling nearly \$3 million from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for seismic upgrades to the Marriott Library, one of the most heavily used state buildings. The award is significant in that the library, which opened in 1967, is especially susceptible to collapse should an earthquake-5.0 magnitude or greater-occur. (Engineers predict that a sway of as little as one inch could cause the building's five floors to "pancake" in a matter of seconds). The FEMA funding will go toward braces, concrete, steel, miscellaneous materials, and services that are needed for upgrades.

Library Director Sarah Michalak stated, "The University of Utah submitted to FEMA a detailed request which included a benefit-cost analysis carried out according to government requirements, an assessment of potential for loss of life, detailed technical information about the problem presented by accomplished structural engineers and a solution to the problem produced by experienced experts. I am very grateful for the receipt of the FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation funding."

FEMA selected the library project because of the high benefit-to-cost ratio provided by the project. The Marriott Library project competed with 459 applications from organizations across the United States and was one of 58 organizations to be awarded funding.

WYOMING

Award-winning Website gets updated design -- The University of Wyoming's American Heritage Center has released an updated design for its award-winning Web-site at <http://www.uwyo.edu/ahc>. Through this site, users will have access to the AHC's educa-

tional and outreach activities, online collections, collections catalog, and news and events. This is the fourth generation of the AHC's Website, the first of which went online in March 1995.

The site received more than 132,000 visitors (972,000 page views) in 2003. The AHC's Website has won two national awards-the section on filmmaker Fritz Lang was named one of "Ten Cool Sites" for December 2002/January 2003 by the San Francisco-based museum The Exploratorium, which honors exceptional educational sites. The *Chronicle of Higher Education* named the site an Internet resource in April 1998 for the section on blacklisted screenwriter Adrian Scott.

A Web task force convened in 2003 with the purpose of analyzing the structure and content of the current site and to make recommendations to improve the public's ability to navigate the site. The task force members reviewed other archives, museums, and historical societies' Websites in the U.S. and Canada made available on the Repositories of Primary Sources Website. Task force members reviewed the sites for content, complexity of the site, visual appeal, and features not found on the AHC Website, and developed a list of desirable features. The task force also reviewed the structure of the site and prioritized and reorganized the presentation of content.

The AHC is the University's repository of manuscript and special collections, rare books, and the university archives. Its collections focus on Wyoming and the Rocky Mountain West (including but not limited to politics, settlement, and western trails), environment and conservation, the mining and petroleum industries, air and rail transportation, the performing arts (particularly radio, television, film, and popular music), journalism, and U.S. military history.

Students and scholars from around the globe use these collections for research—last year researchers traveled from 45 states and 12 nations. The AHC also sponsors a wide range of scholarly and popular programs including lectures, concerts, symposia, and

exhibits. Housed in a landmark building shared with the University Art Museum, access to the AHC is free and open to all. For further information go to the AHC Website at <http://www.uwyo.edu/ahc/>.

Special delivery: envelope art -- The beauty of a letter is not always confined to the emotional prose or intimate sentiments contained inside. "The Graceful Envelope: 1995-1999," a charming exhibition from the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) and the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum, presents stamped and canceled envelopes that serve as artists' canvasses.

This unique exhibition paid a two-month visit to the Teton County Library, Jackson Hole, during its national tour. An opening reception on March 10 welcomed the exhibit to the library's exhibit gallery. The Friends of the Teton County Library served hors d'oeuvres and blank postcards inspired creative communication on the spot.

The library also presented three workshops by local artists to encourage illuminated correspondence in conjunction with the exhibition. On Saturday, March 13 an all-day workshop "Elegant Envelopes-Lovely Letters" was presented by professional calligrapher and illustrator Priscilla Marden. The following week on Friday, March 19 from 9 am to noon, local artist Juli Smith introduced "Extraordinary Cards from Ordinary Objects" for those just beginning to explore creative letters. Kids were invited to participate in a children's craft with Allie Gillen called "Look a Book of My Very Own" from 1 to 2 pm on Tuesday, March 30. All workshops were free and open to the public.

"The Graceful Envelope" celebrates the marriage of calligraphy and philately. The contest began in 1995 because the Postal Museum wished to mount an informal display of expert calligraphy for museum workshop participants to see. Artists and calligraphers were asked to send their artistic envelopes through the mail, and artfully address them to "The Graceful Envelope," in care of the museum. But what followed was altogether unexpected. The museum received more than 200 stunningly crafted envelopes from around the world. It was immedi-

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 14-16	Oklahoma Library Association Conference, Tulsa
April 21-23	New Mexico Library Association Conference, Las Cruces
April 24-27	Montana Library Association Conference, Bozeman
May 5-7	Utah Library Association Conference, Ogden
Aug. 11-14	Nevada Library Association Conference, Henderson
Oct. 6-8	Nebraska Library Association Conference, Grand Island
Oct. 6-8	South Dakota Library Association Conference, Spearfish
Oct. 13-16	Wyoming Library Association Conference, Rock Springs
Nov. 30- Dec. 5	MPLA Leadership Institute Ghost Ranch, NV

UPCOMING MPLA CONFERENCES

- 2004:** (Oct. 21-24) Denver, CO
(joint with Colorado Association of Libraries)
- 2005:** (Oct. 12-15) Jackson Hole, WY
(joint with Wyoming Library Association)
- 2006:** No conference
(transition year to spring conference)
- 2007:** Albuquerque, NM
(joint with New Mexico Library Association)
- 2008:** Salt Lake City, UT
(joint with Utah Library Association)
- 2009:** Overland Park, KS
(joint with Kansas Library Association)
- 2010:** Oklahoma
(joint with Oklahoma Library Association)

ately apparent that the design and visual appeal of the envelopes was as important and engaging as the calligraphy. The remarkable assortment of artful covers inspired the museum to offer the program annually and, from each year's best, produce an art exhibition. Samples of past entries can be found on the National Postal Museum's Website at www.si.edu/postal.

MPLA Newsletter

I.D. Weeks Library
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