



MPLA Newsletter

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

MPLA Listserv

To subscribe, contact
jedelen@usd.edu



President's Letter

By Beth Avery

Let Us Work Together

Each year it seems the conference will never get here. Then all of a sudden it's over. It was good to see those members who were able to attend this year's conference. I want to thank all the presenters and volunteers for helping to make to a conference a success. And a special thanks to all of you who attended the conference. There were many excellent programs from. "How My Parents Learned to Eat: Celebrating Multicultural Programming" to "Evaluating and Assessing Library Instruction" to "Intellectual Freedom Update." Thank you also to those who responded to the Call for Papers. There were many more papers submitted than could be presented in the time we had. For those of you who weren't able to attend, many of the presentations are available on the MPLA Website at <http://www.cal-webs.org/handouts04.html>.



No sooner do we finish one conference than planning is underway for the next one. For those of you who were not able to attend this year's conference due to money constraints, please take time to look at the professional development grants program (designed for attendance as a participant or a presenter at a library or scholarly workshop, seminar, or conference, including the MPLA annual conference) to see how you can receive some funding through this program. Start now to think about how you can participate in next year's conference at Jackson Hole, WY.

Plans

What are my plans for the presidential year? First, to build on some
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The MPLA Newsletter is published bi-monthly. Material of regional interest may be submitted to:

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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MPLA Membership or

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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

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

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

Academic Section

Melissa Heckard
Lucy Carson Library
University of MT-Western
Dillon, MT 59725
(406) 683-7494-P
(406) 683-7493-F
m_heckard@umwestern.edu

New Members Roundtable

Carol Leibinger
University of South Dakota
414 E. Clark
Vermillion, SD 57069
(605) 677-6089-P
(605) 677-5488-F
cleibige@usd.edu

State Agencies Section

Dorothy Liegl
South Dakota State Library
800 Governors Dr.
Pierre, SD 57501-2294
(605) 773-3131-P
(605) 773-6962-F
dorothy.liegl@state.sd.us

Vice-President/President-Elect

Sharon Osenga
Meridian Library System
3519 Second Ave., Suite B
Kearney, NE 68847
(308) 234-2087-P
(308) 234-4040-F
sosenga@frontiernet.net

Recording Secretary

Louis Howley
Phoenix Public Library
2131 W. Willow Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85029
(602) 534-3776-P
(602) 261-8641-F
louis.howley@phxlib.org

Children's/School Section

Julie Linneman
Wichita Public Library
223 S. Main
Wichita, KS 67202
(316) 261-8590-P
(316) 262-4540-F
jdlinneman@yahoo.com

Preservation, Archives, S.C.

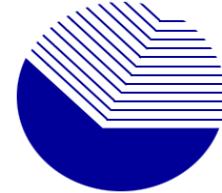
Kevin Anderson
Casper College Library
125 College Dr.
Casper, WY 82601
(307) 268-2680-P
(307) 268-2682-F
kevinand@caspercollege.edu

Technical Services Section

Dustin Larmore
Karl E. Mundt Library
820 N. Washington Ave.
Madison, SD 57042-1799
(605) 256-5204-P
(605) 256-5208-F
dustin.larmore@dsu.edu

Past President

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



Gov. Docs. Section

Ara Anderson
Campbell County Pub.Library
2010 S. 4-J Rd.
Gillette, WY 82718
(307) 687-0115-P
(307) 686-4009-F
aanderson@will.state.wy.us

Public Library Section

Pam Henley
Bozeman Public Library
220 E. Lamme
Bozeman, MT 59715
(406) 582-2422-P
(406) 582-2424-F
phenley@mtlib.org

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

Bridgett Johnson

Nebraska

Nina Little

Nevada

Linda Deacy

New Mexico

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Richard Landreth

(Continued from page 1)

of the good projects initiated by Carol Hammond last year - the new long range plan which will be on the Website soon and the task force on MPLA structure and organization chaired by Donna Jones Morris is up and running (see story on page 4). Second, I want to increase membership and be responsive to the needs of our members. I hope each and every member will feel free to contact me or any other member of the executive board at any time with your suggestions, questions, comments, or concerns.

No president works alone. I am lucky to have a wonderful executive board and committee members to work with this year. When they call on you for help with their tasks, I hope you will respond. It will take planning and commitment for all the MPLA members to make our organization grow and be responsive to the many varied needs of our members. Let us work together to strengthen MPLA.

Past President ... last words

By Carol Hammond

My term as president has come to a close, and I wanted to say thank you for a wonderful year, especially to all of you who served on the board, or a committee. We were able to get so much done because of your efforts. We have a new long range



As one of her official presidential duties, Carol Hammond, right, attended the North Dakota Library Association Conference in Minot, ND. Pictured with Carol is the former North Dakota representative to MPLA, Jeanne Narum.

plan in place to carry us another five years, a task force looking at reorganization, and Memberclicks is operating as our online membership directory – to name just some of our accomplishments. My trip to North Dakota was a highlight as were the board meetings, every new issue of the newsletter, and the time I got to spend with many MPLA members. I am so glad I had this opportunity, and I look forward to seeing you all at future conferences and through MPLA programs.

What's happening with the MPLA Leadership Institute @ Ghost Ranch 2005

By Patti Butcher
Institute Committee Chair

The MPLA Board voted for some changes to the 2005 criteria and pricing for the MPLA Leadership Institute. Criteria to attend: The change is to the post-MLS timeframe. The new criteria states “5-20 years post degree library experience.” The current requirement is 0-10 years. This change was made to better meet the needs of our mid-career members. Cost to attend in 2005: MPLA members— \$450; non members— \$550. (2004 costs were \$350/ \$450).

A big “thank you” to Ebsco for their continued support of the institute in 2005! Ebsco also graciously funded a reunion during the conference for mentors, past participants, and 2004 participants.

The leadership committee is also pleased to report that Mary Bushing will continue as our institute coordinator for 2005.

In other news: Mary Bushing and Patti Butcher presented a poster session during the joint conference in Denver; the committee met and brainstormed ideas for developing sponsorship of the institute for 2006 and beyond; Mary Bushing will conduct an evaluation project of the effectiveness of the institute, with a report to the committee and board scheduled in June. We have a great deal of “anecdotal” data, but documented outcomes will assist in our fundraising efforts.

New Goals and Reorganization Loom in MPLA's Future

By Carol Hammond
MPLA Past President

MPLA Goals Set for Five Years Out

The MPLA Board and committee chairs met in July for a special session on the long-range plan. Our first long range plan was created in 2000 and was intended to be revised every five years. Many of the goals had been achieved and it was time for a new look at the organization. The session was facilitated by former MPLA president Judy Zelenski. A new mission statement was crafted and six new goals were formulated. The new plan includes many specific activities to meet the objectives that were set under each of the goals. The outline of the new plan is below:

Mission: The Mission of MPLA is to further the professional and individual development of its members and to promote quality library and information service in the MPLA states.

Vision: MPLA members gain new knowledge, support, and expertise through involvement in a dynamic association that fosters networking, learning and leadership.

Goals: MPLA will -

1. Address the continuing education needs of members.
2. Actively seek new members, work to retain members, and increase the number of institutional members.
3. Take a leadership role in the region.
4. Be administered efficiently and effectively, with a structure that facilitates meeting its goals.
5. Increase its visibility to membership and potential members at the state, regional, and national levels.
6. Facilitate communication utilizing appropriate technology to bridge distances among members.

The plan and its many activities were approved by the board at its October meeting at the Colorado con-

ference in Denver. It is a tool intended to guide the work of MPLA for the next several years, to 2009. The complete plan is available on the MPLA Website, at www.usd.edu/mpla.

Task Force on MPLA Reorganization, August 2004

Charge: Review the existing structure of MPLA and its board (sections, officers, paid staff, representatives, committees) and recommend changes that better reflect the needs and interests of members and contribute to greater organizational effectiveness.

Issues: Current make-up of sections has not been reviewed in many years; do we have the right ones that truly reflect member interests? Too many, too few, or not the right ones? It has been suggested that members be surveyed to determine interests; this can be done electronically on Memberclicks. That database will also show the number of members in each section.

Continual difficulty in getting anyone to run for section officers; should these continue to be elected? They are now often de facto appointments since there is usually only one name is on the ballot. Should they continue to be voting members of the board? Should their role change to be solely the program planning group for MPLA?

Role of committee chairs: Committees do much of the work of the organization but often operate largely on their own. Should committee chairs also be on the board as voting members? Would the travel costs be prohibitive?

What size should the board be? What size can we afford?

Motion passed by the board in July 2004:

“To appoint a task force to study the organization of MPLA and make recommendations for changes in the current structure of sections and committees and the set up of the board of directors.”

Jammin' at Conference!

MPLA/CAL Jam Session Winners Announced

By Pat Wagner

Thanks very much to all who participated. The Jam Session collection will be published in the next few weeks online and the locations announced on the MPLA and libnet lists, as well as through the CAL and MPLA newsletters. Please contact pat@pattern.com if you have any questions or concerns.

Ten prizes will be awarded. Although the overall quality of the contributions was very high, several categories did not receive any awards because the number of submissions was so small that the judges did not feel there was sufficient competition to warrant a prize. Also, there were several categories that did not receive any contributions. As per our original announcements, all of the cash prizes that were not awarded will be donated to CAL and MPLA.

Some of the entries exceeded the 50-word limit and were edited. We take responsibility for all editing mistakes and typos.

The judging was conducted by stripping the entries of identifying information (library and contributor) and then submitting them to the judges. If there were more than one submission from a library, they were mixed in with the other entries. Because of the nature of the contest, judging was totally subjective—we just asked the judges to pick their favorite.

The out-of-state judges were chosen either because of their system-level experience with multi-type libraries and/or because of their national expertise. They were Rachel Singer Gordon, Webmaster, Lisjobs.com and author of *The Accidental Library Manager* (ITI, 2005); Tessa Killian, member services librarian, Southeastern New York Library Resources Council; and Amanda Barrera, former manager of services, North Texas Regional Library System, currently assistant director, Amarillo Public Library

South Dakota

I suspect there are public libraries already doing this, but one thing I have thought of doing for our library is a book blog where library patrons could write about books they have read recently.

David Alexander, MPLA member
Reference and Electronic Resources Librarian
Hilton M. Briggs Library, South Dakota State University

Nebraska

Our Friends of the Library purchased 100 shopping baskets (like the ones in retail stores) with our library's name imprinted on them. We check them out the same as books. Some times they are all checked out. Many families use them to keep track of their library books.

Linda M. Rea, MPLA member
Director, Hastings Public Library, Hastings, NE

Montana

All of our library's student workers attended customer service training. We had "door prizes," provided snacks, and showed movie clips illustrating customer service concepts. Sessions included pre-scripted skits performed by students, puzzle exercises, brainstorming rounds, and lively discussions.

Jan Fandrich – MPLA member
Technical and Access Services Librarian
Montana State University-Billings Library

Kansas

We hosted the "Library Olympics." Students competed in archery (exercise ball in the book drop), newspaper relay, and book toss, which consisted of an unabridged edition of Webster's—missing pages, poor condition—16 lbs, duct tape, and wired. It flew up to 22 feet in the air.

Donna M. Hobbs, MPLA member
Coordinator of Library Services
Manhattan Area Technical College

Wyoming

In the public seating areas, rearrange the furniture every few weeks. Move the couches, easy chairs, and coffee tables into spaces occupied by study tables, and vice versa. The students seem to like it. They sit in new places and see different collections and resources.

Sandra Barstow, MPLA member
Assistant Dean for Administration and Finance
University of Wyoming Libraries, Laramie, WY

Institutional libraries – state libraries, systems, associations (CAL and MPLA)

The easiest way for libraries to gain visibility, support, and networks is by getting involved with planning groups of all types. I contact the organizer and offer to join the committee as a "community connection." This has led to lots of visibility in early childhood matters.

(Continued on page 6)

Jammin'...

(Continued from page 5)

Bonnie McCune, CAL
Library Community Programs Consultant
Colorado State Library, Denver, CO

Colorado Academic

A bright yellow reference on-the-go cart with horn and side mirror makes library and reference staff appear more approachable. Equipped with laptop it goes to remote locations: student union, computer labs, dormitories. Bright blue helmets prepare us for any research challenge.

McKinley Sielaff, CAL member
Documents Librarian
Tutt Library, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO

Colorado Public

The Friends of the Library scheduled a "book night" at the Barnes and Noble. They received 15% of up to \$2,000 in sales, 20% between \$2,000 and \$10,000, and 25% after that.) We handed out vouchers to be turned in when making a purchase beforehand and at the store that night.

Larry Grieco, CAL member
Director, Gilpin County Public Library, Golden, CO

Colorado Schools

Each spring, next year's kindergartners and their parents attend a library-based "Get to Know Your New School" party. Fourth graders give school tours, followed by a story and art project. The principal, PTA president and I speak. A public librarian talks about the summer reading program.

Kim Meyer, CAL member
Library Information Specialist
Marshdale Elementary, Evergreen, CO

Most Entries by a CAL or MPLA member

We could have measured this by two criteria—most entries by a single person or most entries by a library. In both scenarios, there was the same winner: Tania personally submitted 15 entries and her library as a whole submitted 25.

Tania Hajjar, CAL member
Reference Librarian
Montrose Regional Library District, Montrose, CO



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 JAnderson@fcgov.com).

Inventors & Inventions

Got an innovative idea up your sleeve? What to do next? A basic understanding of the new product development process is essential before jumping in and writing checks for patenting or marketing services. Check out these sites devoted to helping inventors fulfill their dreams.

Inventors' Digest Online

www.inventorsdigest.com

This site features numerous free articles from Inventors' Digest Magazine and some reprints are for sale. A broad range of subjects can be found here including information for beginners, links to inventor's organizations, legislation, and trade shows. Check out the links to scam alerts, FAQs, and the ABC's of inventing. Need inspiration? Click on the "Inventors' Success Stories" link.

United Inventors Association

www.uiausa.com

The United Inventors Association is a tax exempt, non-profit corporation formed in 1990 solely for educational purposes. The mission of the UIA is to provide leadership, support, and services to inventor support groups and independent inventors. Membership is extended to these as well as to others who provide reputable service and support to the inventor community. This site provides brochures, bulletin boards, featured articles, and advice for the novice inventors.

Inventors Assistance Center

www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/dapp/pacmain.html

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Remember to use MemberClicks
my.memberclicks.com/mpla

South Dakota Librarian Wins National Service Award

Jim Oliver, children's librarian at Siouxland Libraries in Sioux Falls, SD, has received a national award for excellence in library service from the *New York Times*. One of 27 winners from 14 states, Oliver is being recognized for his outstanding public service for the children, families, and caregivers of Sioux Falls and Minnehaha Counties. Sioux Falls resident Greg Boris nominated Oliver for this award, one of 1,500 nominations submitted from 47 states. "Mr. Oliver has improved the quality of my children's lives by encouraging them to read and introducing them to the fun books and plays that are aimed at children" wrote Boris in his nomination. "This does not just affect my family, but families across the system as evidenced by the capacity audiences at the story times and puppet shows. Children from across the community of all demographic classifications partake of the services he provides. In addition to working with children, Mr. Oliver has served as a mentor to adults in the library business."

A native of Virginia, Oliver has worked for the City of Sioux Falls for 19 years. "The city of Sioux Falls is proud and honored to have an employee the caliber of Jim Oliver," said Sioux Falls Mayor Dave Munson. "He has dedicated himself to helping the children and families of our city for the last 19 years. I am delighted that he is being recognized with this prestigious national award."

Plan a program for MPLA/WLA 2005 in Jackson Hole!

The program proposal form for the 2005 MPLA/WLA Conference in Jackson Hole, WY is available at http://wyla.org/progcouncil/program_form.shtml. The deadline for submission is Feb. 1, 2005. MPLA Vice-President Sharon Osenga is encouraging MPLA section chairs to work with their WLA counterparts in proposing programs for the conference. Please e-mail Sharon at sosenga@frontiernet.net if you need contact information or have any questions.



Jim Oliver, left, winner of a national award for excellence in library service and his nominator, Greg Boris, right.

The *New York Times* will hold a reception later this month in honor of the award winners. "We are very happy to have the opportunity to celebrate public librarians from across the country, whose enormous contributions sometimes go unrecognized," said Alyse Myers, vice president of marketing services at the *Times*. "This program demonstrates, year after year, how crucial libraries and librarians are to people in every part of the nation. From big cities to small towns, people look to their local libraries for information, education, entertainment, culture and community, and the librarians are there to help them find it all. The *Times* is proud to honor the work of these librarians who bring people together over books around the common belief that access to information is part of the bedrock of our society."

Several other librarians from the MPLA region were also selected by *The New York Times* for their excellence in library service. They are:

- ◆ Virginia Carlson, children's services supervisor, Pikes Peak Library District, Colorado Springs, CO.
- ◆ Judy Hart, library director, Page Public Library, AZ.

Business Sense ...

(Continued from page 6)

The Inventors Assistance Center (IAC) is a division of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and provides patent services to the public. From this site, inventors can find contact information for answers to general questions regarding patent examining policy. In addition, USPTO can assist you with filling out forms and provide you with general information concerning rules, procedures, and fees.

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

www.uspto.gov/main/patents.htm

This is the official federal government Website for patents. This site includes basic information about patents, current fees, application forms, online filing options, and guides. Patent laws and rules are available as well as international patent information. This site is home to the Patent Electronic Business Center that provides links to the systems that will enable you to do business with the USPTO electronically.

The National Inventor Fraud Center

www.inventorfraud.com

The goal of this commercial site, run by a law firm, is to educate and help inventors make the right decisions. This site is full of tips, how-tos, databases, and news items about inventor fraud.

European Patent Office (EPO)

www.european-patent-office.org/online

Not just for European information, this site is a master list of links for all national and international patent sites. Some of the links include patent offices, patent software providers, directories of patent attorneys, patent licensing exchanges, legal information, mailing lists, and news groups.

Patent and Trademark Depository Libraries

www.uspto.gov/go/ptdl/

This site provides information about the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Program. A Patent and Trademark Depository Library (PTDL) is a library designated by the U.S. Patent and Trademark

Office to receive and house copies of U.S. patents and patent and trademark materials, to make them freely available to the public, and to actively disseminate patent and trademark information. In Colorado, the Denver Public Library is the designated Patent and Trademark Depository Library. Visit the central branch at 10 W. Fourteenth Ave. Pkwy, downtown Denver or call at (720) 865-1711.

Delphion Patent Searching

www.delphion.com

This site lets you search and view patent documents from the U.S. and Europe as well as patent applications by the World Intellectual Property Office (WIPO). It contains both patent text and images. Registration required. Premium features are available for a fee.

Thomas Register of Manufacturers

www.thomasregister.com

Thomas Register is a comprehensive (173,000 entries) online resource for finding companies and products manufactured in North America. Registration required.

Rocky Mountain Inventors and Entrepreneur Congress

www.rminventor.org

The Rocky Mountain Inventors and Entrepreneurs Congress (RMIC), formed in 1978, is a non-profit corporation dedicated to helping people with new ideas. Members include novice and successful inventors and entrepreneurs as well as prototypers, manufacturers, marketers, patent attorneys, and others. This site offers help to novice inventors

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

Check out the 2004 award winners from the MPLA/CAL conference--
<http://www.cal-webs.org/2004awardsphotos/>

No Need to Leave Home--Take Library Science Courses Online

Have you been wondering where you or your staff can take credit courses in library science conveniently, and at a reasonable price?

The Library Science Program at Doña Ana Branch Community College in Las Cruces (a branch of New Mexico State University) will be offering several eight-week courses starting in January and March. All courses are offered **ONLINE!**

Courses being offered in the spring semester include:
L SC 100 Introduction to Library and Information Services (Jan. 13 – Mar. 9)

L SC 100 Introduction to Library and Information Services (Mar. 14 – May 6)

L SC 110 Reference and Information Resources I (Jan. 13 – Mar. 9)

L SC 140 Multimedia Materials and Presentations (Mar. 14 – May 6)

L SC 175 Civic Involvement

L SC 203 School Library Media Specialist (Mar. 14 – May 6)

L SC 221 Cooperative Experience

L SC 240 Internet Resources and Research Strategies (Jan. 13 – Mar. 9)

L SC 270 Library Technology Capstone (Mar. 14 – May 6)

Non-degree seeking students who desire single classes for professional development are always welcome, however students may also choose to complete coursework leading to an associates degree in library and information technology or a certificate of completion in library and information technology. Additionally the program offers courses that fulfill the state requirement for the library media specialist endorsement.

For further information, please contact Susan Pinkerton, Assistant Professor, Library and Information Technology Program, Doña Ana Branch Community College, P.O. Box 30001, MSC 3DA, Las Cruces, NM 88003-8001, (505) 527-7567, spinkert@nmsu.edu, <http://dabcc-www.nmsu.edu/bis/libtec/>.

Thanks extended **Trustees were Active at MPLA/CAL Conference**

Jim Connor, Regional Vice President for Region Ten of the Association for Library Trustees and Advocates (ALTA) would like to thank the MPLA Officers and Section Chairs for their exceptional courtesy and support in helping develop a strong trustee registration and participation at MPLA/CAL in Denver, with particular thanks to Joe Edelen. There were trustees from all twelve states of MPLA attending the conference, with an average of 25 at each of the 15 trustee sessions conducted and some great networking roundtables in the trustee suite. This could be good momentum for MPLA in Jackson Hole next year!

**2004-2005
Library
Yearbook**



Anybody know who this is? HINT: We'll be seeing a lot of her next year.

The Bookends Library Band Plays at NLA



The 2004 NLA (Nebraska Library Association)/NEMA (Nebraska Educational Media Association) Conference, *Virtual Places, Physical Spaces-Nebraska Libraries Now*, was

held October 6-8 in Grand Island, NE. One of the highlights was a good, old-fashioned 50's style sock hop after the annual awards banquet. The library band, The Bookends, played familiar 50's hits such as "Good Golly, Miss Molly," "Don't Be Cruel," and "Dream Along with Me." The Bookends include MPLA members Brenda Ealey, Southeast System Administrator and president elect of NLA, playing trombone, above; Maggie Harding, executive director of NLA and former director of the Crete, NE public library, at the keyboard and Ted Smith, director of the Norfolk Public Library, on drums. Ken Winston, NLA lobbyist playing guitar, went almost unrecognized by attendees.

Around the MPLA Region



KANSAS

Governor Sebelius names Christie Brandau to State Librarian post -- Governor Kathlee Sebelius has announced the appointment of Christie Brandau as state librarian of Kansas.

"Kansas has gotten a real jewel in Christie Brandau," said Governor Sebelius. "She has done an incredible job in Michigan and understands that access to libraries and information brings strength to rural and urban communities. We are very fortunate that Christie has followed her heart to Kansas, where her children and grandchildren live."

Since 2000, Brandau has served as the state librarian of Michigan. During her tenure, she initiated a statewide one-book project called "One Book, One

EBSCO

State,” in which everyone was encouraged to visit the library and read the same book during the month of April. This program focused on reading to preschoolers and highlighted the importance of libraries and reading to young children. She also launched the Michigan eLibrary (MeL). MeL was the first statewide online library catalog of holdings in libraries around the state of Michigan and included e-books, online genealogy information and online employment tests. Brandau also worked with library professionals on statewide resource sharing, enhanced funding for libraries, continuing education, and youth services.

Brandau received her bachelor’s degree from Iowa State University in 1975 and her masters of arts in library science from the University of Iowa in 1988.

What was it like? -- Students from a local high school history class attending *The Sixties* Project Film Discussion Series, held at the Johnson County Library’s Central Resource Library, reported that they were so impacted by the civil rights film that they and their classmates “had talked about it all week.” The six-week series concluded in October. A total 372 young people and adults attended the six film discussion sessions alone, aside from ancillary programming in the branches.

The Johnson County Library is one of 25 libraries nationwide to pilot *The Sixties: A Film History of America’s Decade of Crisis and Change*, funded by a grant from National Video Resources in partnership with the American Library Association with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Dr. Mary Ann Wynkoop, University of Missouri-Kansas City, facilitated the film discussions.

Through “memory cards” available online or in libraries, community members contributed their recollections of the Sixties. The library created bibliographies for participants’ use, all of which are mounted on the library Website

www.jocolibrary.org under “Recently Featured Pages.” Library book discussion groups read 1960s titles in September and October, and the library offered Sixties-related programs in the branches, focusing on music and clothing of the period.

Library staff held an internal Sixties photo contest, contributed their own Sixties memorabilia for displays, and contributed memory cards and recollections of the Sixties. The library created bibliographies and resource lists.

MONTANA

K-12 Library Media Courses Online for Spring Semester 2005 -- Interested in acquiring your K-12 Library Media certification or do you need recertification credits in the LM field? Interested in a professional development class in finding the best educational resources on the Web and integrating them into your classes? Check out the spring 2005 courses online at Montana State University beginning January, 2005. Come join us online!

Registration is open for spring 2005 (Jan. 26-April 28) online library media certification courses through the Burns Telecom Center at MSU. See <http://btc.montana.edu/courses/credit/#EDCI> for course details and registration. Courses are EdCi 522 and EdCi 549 and are offered through a BTC partner-

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Sharon Osenga, Linda Rea, Deb Robertson, and Cecilia Lawrence (L-R) presented the MPLA session, “Making MPLA Part of Your Professional Life,” at the NLA/NEMA Conference in Grand Island, NE in early October. In back is the Nebraska representative to MPLA, Nina Little.

The Oklahoma Library Scene



By Wayne Hanway

Oklahoma has 210 public libraries (not counting branches), 1,800 school library media centers, 53 academic libraries, and at least several dozen special libraries. That doesn't count volunteer-operated lending libraries and it undoubtedly misses some others.

These libraries provide their services in a state that is comparatively young (the 46th state, admitted to the Union Nov. 16, 1907), medium-sized (larger than any state east of it except Minnesota, but smaller than any state west of it except Hawaii and Washington), geographically diverse (southern pine forests, high plains cattle ranches, large man-made lakes, wheat farming plains, fertile river valleys, rolling prairies, and the Ouachita, Arbuckle, and Wichita Mountains are just some of the variety), and poor (although it has known boom times of prosperity when coal mining and then petroleum production made millionaires of many people).

Popular images of Oklahoma and Oklahomans have been drawn from the portrayal by John Steinbeck of 1930s dust bowl "Okie" migrants to California in *The Grapes of Wrath*, the football factory reputation of the University of Oklahoma, and the cowboys and farmers of the classic Rodgers and Hammerstein musical *Oklahoma!* Also well-known is "Tornado Alley" that stretches from Texas through Oklahoma into Kansas, the gritty folk songs of Woody Guthrie, the biting homespun humor of Will Rogers, the "Sooners" who sneaked in ahead of the starting times for the land runs of the late 19th century, and the Trail of Tears of the Indian tribes who were forcibly relocated to eastern Oklahoma. These and many other images have contributed to



Wayne Hanway is Oklahoma's representative on the MPLA Board.

Oklahoma Librarians Excel in MPLA

Marilyn Hinshaw's dedication and work ethic applied to school took her, a first generation college graduate, through school on scholarships, including a library school fellowship she received after standing up to the dean over gender discrimination in the awarding of the fellowships.

Hinshaw's first job out of school was at the state library of Kansas, and it also began her involvement in the Mountain Plains Library Association and the American Library Association. She became national JMRT president for ALA, then was elected to her first term on council. ALA positions of awards committee chairman, president of small and medium sized section and also the metropolitan library section of the Public Library Association

followed. In 2003, she was elected to ALA council again, and chosen as a member of the budget analysis and review committee, one of the association's premiere committee assignments.

Leadership posts in Texas, Missouri and Oklahoma include president of the Oklahoma Library Association, president of the Texas Library Association's Public Library Division and president of the Mountain Plains Library Association. She was extension director of the El Paso Public Library where she helped give birth to Texas's Library Systems Act, was assistant director of a the Daniel Boone Regional Library in Missouri, and became executive director of the Eastern Oklahoma District

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the rich mosaic that is Oklahoma today. No single image begins to do justice to the state, and many Oklahomans are understandably offended by some of the stereotypes.

Draw a band about 30 miles wide diagonally across the state from southwest to northeast and you have included 70 percent of the population, with the major cities of Lawton, Norman, Oklahoma City, Edmond, Stillwater, and Tulsa included. Not surprisingly, Oklahoma's largest and best-funded libraries are found in this area. Another ten% of the people live northwest of this corridor, and the remaining 20% live to the southeast.

Funding for Oklahoma's libraries has gone through boom and bust cycles, with many libraries having been hard hit during the past three or four years. For public libraries, the state's per capita funding average is about 25% lower than the national average. There are eight single- or multi-county public library districts in the state which have enjoyed more stable funding, but these "systems" are finding the constitutional property tax lid to be more and more of a problem. While there are state standards requiring school libraries, many of them are poorly funded, although some are admirably supported. The academic libraries have mostly weathered the recent economic turbulence pretty well, but comparison with nearby states puts their funding level in the middle to lower end of the scale.

The state is fortunate to have an ALA-accredited graduate library school: the University of Oklahoma provides its program in both Norman and Tulsa. School library media certification programs are available at several colleges in the eastern part of the state, but the lack of a school library program in western Oklahoma is threatening to undermine the continuation of the state requirement for

certified school librarians on at least a part-time basis.

Continuing education for Oklahoma librarians is a major concern of the Oklahoma Library Association (OLA), the Oklahoma Department of Libraries (ODL, the state library agency), and the State Department of Education (SDE). Besides conferences and workshops, OLA and ODL collaborate in operating the Institute for Public Librarianship, a program of instruction and continuing education that has been a tremendous benefit for non-degreed

librarians and library support staff. SDE provides an annual conference for school library media specialists, Encyclo-Media, that is

also recognized as an excellent CE opportunity for children's and young adult librarians.

Founded in 1907, the year of statehood, the Oklahoma Library Association is now approaching its centennial. A vigorous organization with nearly a 1,000 members, OLA has been blessed for over two decades in its executive director, Kay Boies, who is now the senior state library association executive in the nation. Besides the annual conference and a series of workshops, OLA is busily engaged in a campaign to build a centennial endowment fund and has just held its first leadership institute, OLA Gold.

The Oklahoma Department of Libraries is not only concerned with library development in the state and administering federal LSTA grants, it is also the state archives, the state law library, the center for literacy programs, home of the state Center for the Book, a major resource for both state and



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federal documents, and the publisher of the state almanac. The ODL staff was cut to the bone in the state budget reductions of the past few years, but all major programs were saved, and there were only minor cutbacks in state aid. Oklahoma librarians are very appreciative of the hard work and dedication of ODL Director Susan McVey and her staff.

The following profiles may help by giving a closer look at a few of the people, libraries, and buildings on the Oklahoma library scene.

Public Libraries

Tecumseh Public Library, a branch of the Pioneer Library System, won the PLA “Excellence in Small and/or Rural Public Library Service Award in America” at the 2004 American Library Association Conference. The award, which included a check for \$1,000, recognized Tecumseh Branch Manager Jan Anthony as instrumental in the development of several family literacy programs, countywide Reading Is Fundamental book giveaways, a mentoring program to improve reading skills for at risk elementary age students, reading and discussion programs for teens, and many other programs that provided a focus on reading and literacy for her community. Anthony puts in action the Pioneer Library System’s mission to “connect people to the joy of reading and information for lifelong learning” and she has developed programs and outreach services to the area’s rural schools that have introduced the library to whole new groups of customers. The Tecumseh is a town of 6,098 in rural central Oklahoma, with 6,300 registered library borrowers. Tecumseh branch has approximately 15,000 items and shares the 358,000 items of the nine branches that make up the three-county system.

One of six multi-county public library districts in the state, the Southeastern Public Library System of Oklahoma is geographically the largest. Its seven-county service area covers 7,244 sq. miles,

an area five-sixths the size of New Jersey, but with a total population of just 170,321--a far cry from New Jersey’s millions. With the Ouachita Mountains stretching through much of the area, plus attractive lakes and forests, the long distances between many of the library’s 15 branches are enhanced by lovely scenery, but geography is also one of the big challenges, along with poverty, high illiteracy, and a limited economic base and infrastructure (not a four-year college in the area, no book stores, large areas without high-speed Internet access, and few job opportunities for the educated).

Begun in 1967 as a four-county bookmobile demonstration grant project, SEPLSO grew to six counties in 1971 and added a seventh in 1980. Milestones in the past ten years include five new buildings, successful funding elections in all counties in 1997 - 1998, automation in 1999, and expanded outreach including two new volunteer-staffed reading centers, paperback deposit collections in a dozen communities, and children’s summer reading outreach programs in two counties. The library has 67 employees, a FY 2005 budget of \$2.9 million, and has 88 public Internet computers.

The Pryor Public Library, in northeast Oklahoma, is a good example of Oklahoma’s many municipal libraries. Founded in 1935 by the Busy Bee Home Demonstration Club, it became a city library in 1939 and was housed in city hall until 1958, when the library’s present building was built. The building almost doubled in size, to 10,200 sq. ft., in 1986. The library, which serves a population of 9,115, now has about 37,000 volumes and a staff of four full-time employees and four part-time, plus a janitor.

The library’s director since 1994, David Johansson, points proudly to his “wonderful library facilities, staff, and terrific community support for the library. Both the small town environment and a tradition of tremendous community support for the library provided a strong foundation to build the present library facilities upon. A tradition of

service-oriented library board and staff members, along with the generous ongoing support of the mayors and city councils make it possible to develop, maintain, and provide the community with excellent library services and facilities.”

Academic Libraries

The University of Tulsa is Oklahoma’s largest private university and is on the list of the nation’s best colleges. During the 2004-2005 academic year, TU’s McFarlin Library will celebrate its 75th Anniversary. The Tulsa area’s oil boom in the 1920s brought the donation by Robert M. and Ida McFarlin of a handsome new collegiate Gothic-style library building that became the center point of the campus. (Go to the library’s Website at <http://www.lib.utulsa.edu/mcfarlin75/Windows.htm> to see some of the library’s stained glass windows. A five-story addition on the east side in 1967 reflected the library’s growth, as did the 1979 addition on the west side, three floors of which were underground, including an underground courtyard.

The Edmon Low Library at Oklahoma State University, in Stillwater, celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2003, and the library won ALA’s John Cotton Dana Award for the well-planned year-long celebration. The Georgian-style building, named for the former director who planned it, is the central landmark on the OSU campus. While the library now has about 2.5 million volumes, it has kept up with the information age and become the virtual center of the university as well. The OSU library faculty, headed by new dean of libraries Sheila Johnson, are active in many professional arenas including OLA and MPLA. The immediate past president of OLA, Anne Prestamo, is interim assistant dean and head of digital library services. 2003 MPLA Recording Secretary and current chair of the MPLA Nominating Committee, David Oberhelman, is a humanities and social sciences librarian.

School Library Media Centers

Union PS: Union Public Schools is a rapidly growing suburban, K-12 district in Tulsa, OK. The 28 sq. mile area that comprises Union is unique in that it does not encompass a township, but rather incorporates within its boundaries much of southeast Tulsa and the northwest portion of nearby Broken Arrow. Thanks to a supportive community, the district has been able to fund computers, local- and wide-area networking, and other instructional technology to enhance the curriculum. Every school, with the exception of the alternative school, has a library media center centrally located within the school, staffed by full time library media specialists with masters degrees.

The district professional media staff meet monthly and are using *Guidelines for Oklahoma School Library Media Programs*, based on the national standards of *Information power*, as a guide to evaluate individual building programs. As the *Guidelines* are a work in progress under the auspices of OASLMS, the Oklahoma Association of School Library Media Specialists, a division of OLA, so each individual building program is an evaluation in progress, divided in three parts: 1) learning and teaching; 2) information access and delivery; and 3) program administration. The school district supports the importance of a certified library media specialist functioning in a flexible schedule with a collection selected in collaboration with faculty and staff to support the curriculum.

Norman Public Schools School Library Media Specialists serve approximately 12,600 children and staffs in 15 elementary schools, four middle schools, and two high schools in the Norman community. Each school facility, as well as the professional development center and instructional services center, has its own media center. Each elementary and middle school has one full-time certified library media specialist and each high school has two library media specialists. All of these sites have support staff. Library media

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specialists are a vital member of the instructional team and are leaders in the areas of technology, curriculum integration, and student centered learning and teaching.

One very unique feature of the NPS library media program is its automation system. NPS and the Pioneer Library System, our local public library system, have joined together to provide a union catalog for all the schools. All students in the Norman Public Schools have a SmartCard, a library card that works at school and at the public library. The Norman Public School online union catalog provides access to all school library collections from any computer within the district or from home computers that have Internet access. In addition to the library online catalogs, several other online resources are available.

In addition to the roles that Norman Public Schools LMS fill in their school district, they are active members of the Oklahoma Library Association, AASL, and ALA as well as frequent presenters at annual Oklahoma Library Association conferences and AASL conferences.

Leadership

Susan McVey became director of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries (ODL) on April 20, 2001, having risen through the ranks. She started with ODL in 1986 as a legislative reference librarian at the Jan Eric Cartwright Memorial Library, a branch of ODL located in the state capitol building, became administrator of the Cartwright Library, and then served as deputy director of the department for five years before her appointment as director.

Prior to joining ODL, McVey was a reference librarian and later director of the library at Oklahoma City University. She earned an MLS degree from the University of Texas at Austin in 1975 and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Oklahoma in 1983.

McVey served as president of the Oklahoma Library Association (OLA) in 1987-88. She is a former editor of OLA's publication, the *Oklahoma Librarian*. She is a recipient of OLA's Distinguished Service Award, the highest honor given by the association for exemplary service to the state's library community.

The current president of the Oklahoma Library Association, Lynn McIntosh, has been director of the Chickasaw Regional Library System, a five-county public library district in southern Oklahoma since 1996. A native of Oklahoma, she got her B.A. and MLS from the University of Oklahoma, and has worked in public, academic, and school libraries in Texas, Missouri, New Jersey and Oklahoma, and also as a manager for the FDIC.

McIntosh says, "Being president of a dynamic organization like OLA which represents all types of libraries is an honor. My theme, "A New Spin @ your Library" is illustrated by a pinwheel that includes the terms 'Connections, Destinations, Generations and Serendipity.' By 'Serendipity,' I mean that libraries are delightful destinations where treasures are discovered, connections are made, generations are brought together and surprise and excitement result."

The immediate past president of OLA, Anne Prestamo, is interim assistant dean and head of digital library services at the Edmon Low Library, Oklahoma State University. She has a bachelor's degree in music performance (cello and piano) from Kent State University in Ohio, an M.L.I.S. from the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee, and an Ed. D. from Oklahoma State University. She was named OLA's Outstanding New Librarian in 1999. One of the things OLA members learned about her while she was president and before that in 2001 - 2002 when she was chair of the annual conference program committee is that she is an avid collector of almost any representation of flamingos.

The president-elect of OLA, Jeanie Johnson, is the

director of library media for the Oklahoma State Department of Education, which makes her the state's head school librarian. She has provided leadership for the state of Oklahoma in the development of information literacy standards, has worked diligently to see that those standards are taught collaboratively in the curriculum, and has been a voice for school library media programs statewide. She works diligently to see that all schools in Oklahoma have quality library media programs staffed with certified library media specialists.

Johnson moved to Broken Bow, OK from rural Oregon as a child, earned her B.S.E. at Oklahoma State University and her M.L.I.S. at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, a four-and-a-half hour drive from her home in Broken Bow. She has taught and served as library media specialist in all levels of public schools, from very small K-8 rural schools, to one of Oklahoma's largest urban high schools, Norman High School North. She has just been accepted to the doctoral program at Oklahoma State University where she intends to focus on literacy and technology.

Buildings

The Ronald J. Norick downtown library in Oklahoma City opened on Aug. 17, 2004. The four-story library is approximately 112,000 sq. ft. The building cost of \$25 million mostly came from a special Oklahoma City projects tax, but \$4.1 million was paid by the Metropolitan Library System. Book capacity is around 200,000 volumes.

The library features a four-story atrium, 200 feet high, and showcases an abundance of natural light and natural wood. A café will open in the atrium area within the next few months. Special features of the library include: a whimsical children's area (which was inspired by local Oklahoma city children who wanted trees, a winding yellow path, a castle and a rainbow in their area), the Holocaust Resource Collection, a Frank Lloyd Wright inspired Oklahoma Room, the 46th Star Auditorium

with 137 theatre-style seats with a state-of-the-art light and sound system, seven classrooms, a large event room for use by the public, as well as expanded public access computer stations, reference materials, fiction, non-fiction, AV, and children's collections.

The library is also the home for a partnership of five local colleges who provide credit and non-credit classes in the 4th floor classroom area. The library also features two pieces of public art: a "leaping waters" fountain funded by the Downtown Oklahoma City Rotary Club and glass art panels in each of the four elevator lobbies by artist Kenneth vonRoenn, Jr.

The busiest branch of the Tulsa City-County Library, sometimes busier than the downtown Central Library, is the Hardesty Regional Library. Rather than expand the library's former facility adjacent to Tulsa largest shopping mall, TCCL built a new building about two miles south, close to a major southeast Tulsa intersection. It opened in 2003. The new \$6.6 million Hardesty Library covers 48,669 sq. ft. on two floors. Greeting customers is a six-foot granite book sculpture, "La Storia de la Terra" which features six stacked books created from granite stones quarried from six continents. The building contains 96 computers for public use.

The first floor is a popular library. It has computers, rocking chairs, a periodical lounge with current magazines and newspapers, fiction, new book displays, media, a very popular café, an ongoing used book sale; Expresscheck machines and self-service customer pick-up of holds/reserves, a drive-through book return, an auditorium, two large meeting rooms, and two conference rooms for public use. The children's area has a children's book jungle theme and includes a special story-time room with a volcano/lava stairs, colorful jungle murals, a 12-ft.-tall coconut palm and two 12 ft. oak trees which are entrances to the story-time room.

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The newest library building in Oklahoma is in one of the state's poorest and most challenged counties. The Donald W. Reynolds Library and the adjoining literacy center were dedicated Nov. 9, in Hugo, county seat of Choctaw County, which borders the Red River in southeast Oklahoma. The library is a branch of the Southeastern Public Library System of Oklahoma. The new 13,500 sq. ft. library, which includes a colorful children's area reflecting Hugo's long history as the winter quarters for several small circuses, has drawn high praise from everyone who has seen it. Since the library is right on Hugo's main street in the middle of town, that's pretty much the whole county.

Choctaw County turns up at, or near, the top of various lists of economic and social problems in Oklahoma, including poverty, teen pregnancies, illiteracy, child abuse, and infant mortality. So how did they manage to build a \$2.5 million new library?

Need and determination had a lot to do with it, but the main reason the Reynolds Foundation provided the grant that paid most of the building's cost is that providing and maintaining the library facility in Hugo is the responsibility of a unique local board, Choctaw County Library, Inc. With its members appointed by various local organizations, CCLI is independent of the city and the county. This met one of the Reynolds Foundation's key criteria.

The Bizzell Memorial Library is one of the most recognizable and distinguished buildings on the University of Oklahoma's Norman campus and is located right at its heart. Originally built from 1928 to 1930, in red brick and white stone in the collegiate Gothic architectural style to harmonize with the administration building now known as Evans Hall, the library was later named for the university's president who had championed its construction.

The library's interior features extensive woodwork by master craftsmen, sculptors, and masons. The

main attraction is the Great Reading Room, which has east and west bay windows that stretch 30 feet high, carved wooden figures along the ceiling trusses, and elegant cathedral lighting. The library was expanded in 1958 on the north side, and in 1982 on the west side.

In 2001 Bizzell Memorial Library was designated as a National Historic Landmark, recognizing the role the library played in desegregation, through the 1950 Supreme Court case *McLaurin v. Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education*.

OK Librarians in MPLA ...

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Library in 1982.

In Hinshaw's life and work she has been a mentor for a whole generation of women leaders, some of whom made choices they would not otherwise have considered. Among employees turned peers, she is able to count MPLA and ALA leaders, including Carol Brey-Cassiano, current ALA President.

Theresa Dickson, associate director of planning and operations for the Pioneer Library System, says, "I have a masters in human relations as well as an MLS. I pursued the MHR because I found that good communications leads to a healthy job environment.

"I have had the honor of presenting trainings at several of the MPLA conferences — and hope to do so again at Wyoming. In addition, I do trainings throughout the state of Oklahoma and was recently invited to do trainings in Nebraska and Kansas as well.

I love to travel (I'm currently working on trips to Savannah and Berlin) and enjoy my kids, cats, and pool, though not necessarily in that order. I also recently made a memory quilt for my daughter, from her old camp and events t-shirts."

Cokie Anderson is an assistant professor and electronic publishing librarian at Oklahoma State

University, and is the director of the OSU Library's Electronic Publishing Center. She joined the OSU faculty in March 2000, and has worked since that time on developing the library's digital collections.

Since receiving her MLIS at the University of Oklahoma, Anderson has studied XML and the creation, organization, dissemination, and preservation of electronic texts at the University of Virginia, Oxford University, and Cornell University. She makes frequent presentations on issues related to digitization, and is the author, with David Maxwell, of *Starting a Digitization Center* (Chandos, 2004). She serves on the editorial board of *The Electronic Library*, a journal devoted to digital library issues. She is one of the founders of OKDIGITAL, a non-profit corporation devoted to supporting and encouraging digitization projects in Oklahoma.

Anderson is a member of MPLA and OLA. She is Oklahoma State University's representative to the Text Encoding Initiative Consortium. She serves as co-chair of the OLA Legislative Committee. She is the current president of the alumni association of the University of Oklahoma School of Library and Information Studies.

When Evlyn Schmidt, the Director at Oklahoma's most remote academic library, the Marvin E. McKee Library at Oklahoma Panhandle State University says that "'On the road again' is my theme," you can believe it. A member of ALA, MPLA, OK-ACRL, and OLA where she is current chair of the University and College Division, Schmidt says, "It is vital for me and my staff to share the professional development and networking available through the library associations. These opportunities have provided valuable friendships and support as we grow and improve our academic library. We may be isolated out here in 'No Man's Land' but with a lot of effort and assistance from technology we have made great strides during the past seven years."

Schmidt is a native of Ponca City, OK, with her MLS from the University of North Texas, but she traveled widely as a military spouse and worked in high school, corporate, academic, and public libraries during these moves. She enjoyed MPLA while working at Arapahoe Library District in Littleton, CO and she won a free MPLA membership at the OLA conference a few years ago. She has continued my membership "because I think it is a unique professional affiliation."

BJ Vinson: "I received my BA from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks and MA from the University of Denver. During my undergraduate time at Alaska/Fairbanks, I worked in the library which got me interested in becoming a librarian. I also worked as a library assistant at the University of Alaska, Southeast just before and after getting my MA. My husband and I moved to Oklahoma City in 1997, and I began working at Rose State in 1998 as a temporary cataloger/reference librarian. During that time I finished the cataloging of a few hundred CDs, and then started indexing the school's newspaper (*15th Street News*). I am still working on that project — hoping to finish in about three more years. About two years ago I became the coordinator of AV services/cataloger. I continue to put in about 15 hours a week at the reference desk."

Native Texan David Oberhelman got his B.A. in English from Rice University and his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of California, Irvine. He taught for two years at Texas Tech University, where "a friend who was the humanities reference librarian introduced me to the MLS degree. Yes, I was one of those who even had worked in a library but had no earthly idea how one became a librarian until I was told there actually are library schools!"

Oberhelman received his MLS at the University of Pittsburgh and then became a reference and instructional librarian at Oklahoma State University, which, he says "puts me back into a familiar part of the country (even if it is not Texas!). I was

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introduced to MPLA by a colleague and after a time agreed to run for office as chair of the new members roundtable. In that role I quickly became familiar with the workings of MPLA, and found it to be a welcoming, professionally stimulating organization. I have gone on to hold several offices and to serve on various committees. It is just the right size to network and to meet other librarians from institutions similar to your own. The people are MPLA's greatest asset, and the diverse and interesting locations of its conferences are a plus. I am glad that I found MPLA."

Lola Todd has been the Branch Librarian at the Hardesty Regional Library in Tulsa, OK for 14 years. She has seen the library grow from approximately 75,000 volumes to over 120,000, from 17,000 sq. ft. to 21,000 and then to almost 49,000, and from 15 employees to 31. Public library work and providing excellent customer service is her passion, although she hasn't always been a public librarian.

For many years she was a military wife and, as such, had a circuitous route to Tulsa. For two years after her B.A. she worked in a school library, Clay Center High School. Marriage, master's degree and moves led her to be library jobs at the Salina (KS) Public Library, Rancho Santa Fe (CA) Library, the Camp Pendleton Base Library, the Nathan Hale Branch Library in Tulsa, the Spencer Road Branch of the St. Charles County (MO) Library, and library jobs in Hawaii at the University of Hawaii, Chaminade University, a law firm, and the base library at Kaneohe Marine Air Corps Station. Her husband's retirement brought her back to Tulsa. She says, "I'm a librarian who has been blessed by a lifetime of doing what I love and loving what I do."

Wayne Hanway: "Aug. 1, 2004 marked my 30th anniversary as a public library director. After getting my MLS from the University of Iowa in 1974, I was library director in Fort Madison, IA for seven years, then returned to my home state of Nebraska as director of the Norfolk Public Library

for ten years. Since 1991, I have been executive director of the Southeastern Public Library System of Oklahoma. I was president of the Oklahoma Library Association (OLA) in 2001-2002 and am presently the OLA representative on the board of MPLA. Being a librarian has let me work with all the wonderful things that are in libraries and with many wonderful people, including the friends I have met through MPLA.

"Librarianship became my career choice while I was still in high school, putting me in a small minority in the profession. I finished high school by correspondence while living in the mountains of eastern Turkey, near the headwaters of the Euphrates River. My experiences in the Middle East have been one of the major influences on my life. During my senior year of college, because I came up with number six in the first Vietnam War draft lottery, I had to wait several years before I could go the library school. After a year in Saigon with a spook communications outfit, I completed my service at the Pentagon. A special interest of mine is classical music and one of the highlights of the year for my wife and me is attending the OK Mozart Festival in Bartlesville.

Around the MPLA Region ...

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ship with Borderless Access to Training and Education (BATE).

NEBRASKA

MPLA members recognized in Nebraska -- At its annual conference in October, the Nebraska Library Association recognized several MPLA members. The NLA Meritorious Service Award went to Kathleen Tooker, eastern library system administrator. The Meritorious Service Award is given annually to a person, corporation, or organization which has contributed to the improvement of library services in a local community; a county, region or state agency; or in library legislation. Kathy is a past president of NLA, has served on numerous NLA committees and, as chair of NLA's Legislative Committee, has been instrumental in organizing, advertising, and conducting Nebraska's Legislative Day.

Robin Brooks, assistant director and youth services librarian at Kilgore Memorial Library in York, and MPLA member, was named the Nebraska Library



Robin Brooks

Association's Paraprofessional of the Year. This award is given annually to a paraprofessional who is a member of the paraprofessional section of NLA and has demonstrated outstanding service in a library setting. Robin was recognized for

innovative programs which have resulted in new or improved library services, exceptional volunteer work in library service, exceptional use of library resources, local or otherwise, and significant involvement or leadership in the NLA Paraprofessional Section. Robin served as the chair of the NLA Paraprofessional Section in 2004.

Robin was also named the Houchen Bindery Beginning Professional of the Year by the Nebraska Library Association. The Houchen Bindery Beginning Professional Award is a cash prize sponsored by Houchen Bindery LTD in Utica. It is awarded to a beginning librarian or media specialist who has made significant contributions to library and/or media services in the early stages of his/her career. The award recognizes a new professional who has created innovative programs or services which improved library service in Nebraska; made exceptional use of local, state, or national library resources including special grants; made significant contributions toward the betterment of library and community relations; and been active in professional library organizations on a local, state, or national level. Robin serves as the vice chair of the Nebraska Library Association Public Library Section and the chair of the information technology and access roundtable.

NEVADA

2004 Nevada Young Readers' Awards Chosen --

Picture Book (K-2)

I Stink! By Kate McMullen and Jim McMullen, illustrator

Young Reader Grades (3-5)

The Edison Mystery: Qwerty Stevens Back In Time by Dan Gutman

Intermediate (Grades 6-8)

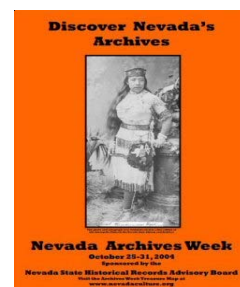
Flipped by Wendelin Van Draanen

Young Adult (Grades 9-12)

Daughter of Venice by Donna Jo Napoli

Archives are key to present -- Nevada's archives are a lasting record of what really happened in history and play an important role in the lives of Nevadans. In recognition of the importance of archives, Governor Kenny Guinn proclaimed Oct. 24-31 Archives Week in Nevada.

There are many archives in Nevada; each is unique in preserving a different history. Documents preserved by the Nevada State Archives date back to 1851 with over 10,000 cu. sq. ft. of territorial and state government records. Thousands



of images of Nevada people and places provide visual information to complement the documents. Many of these resources are available year round by visiting the Nevada State Library and Archives online via the Department of Cultural Affairs website, www.NevadaCulture.org.

NEW MEXICO

Libraries pass bonds -- On Nov. 2, New Mexico voters approved a \$16.315 million bond for school, academic, and public libraries. David Giltrow, vice-chair of the New Mexico Books Bond Committee reported that the bond passed with a 58% positive vote. Unofficial results show a 47% increase in total votes cast in the library bond election than were cast in 2002. Bernalillo County, the county supporting the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Library System, also passed a \$1.5 million library book GO bond. Voters in Mora County approved a \$2.65 million bond to construct a new library, community center, and county administrative offices.

WebJunction's Spanish Pilot -- New Mexico has been chosen as one of five pilot states for WebJunction's Outreach to Spanish-Speaking Patrons Project. WebJunction received a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to collaborate with state library agencies, librarians, and a multicultural consulting firm to put together workshops that will teach public library staff to more effectively reach Spanish-speaking library patrons, thereby improving the access of Spanish-speaking patrons to public access computing resources at their local libraries. Four representatives from New Mexico attended a Train the Trainer session in November in Seattle.

UNM Opens Rudolfo Anaya Collection -- The University of New Mexico Libraries announces the opening of the Rudolfo A. Anaya manuscript collection for scholarly research in the Center for Southwest Research. Anaya is often referred to as the father of Chicano literature. The collection contains Anaya's original and working manuscripts from both his published and unpublished works, including novels, plays, short stories, essays, poetry, translated, and edited works. Highlights of the collection include the original typescripts for *Eva Adams*, Anaya's unpublished first novel, and *Bless Me Ultima*, his first published novel (1972).



NORTH DAKOTA

Western exploration theme of museum exhibit -- The North Dakota Museum of Art in Grand Forks is hosting a major historical exhibit organized by the Library of Congress Nov. 14-Jan. 9, 2005. Rare maps, objects, and historical documents chronicle a century of western exploration. The exhibit is centered on the Lewis and Clark Expedition and also covers the explorations of Zebulon Pike, Stephen Long, Charles Wilkes, and John Fremont.

More databases available -- As of July 1, the state supported databases have been expanded to include EBSCO databases for academic and public libraries; Gale/Infotrac databases for schools; and ProQuest Newspaper and Electric Library for everyone.

Fargo citizens vote for library -- In November, Fargo citizens approved a Home Rule Charter Amendment for a half-cent library sales tax for 18 months starting in January 2005 to fund new library facilities for the city of Fargo. Sixty-two percent of voters approved the tax. It needed a super majority of 60% approval to pass.

Over the 18 month tax period this short-term sales tax is expected to generate at least \$12 million dollars. These funds will allow the city of Fargo to fund new library facilities and services to better meet the current and future needs of Fargo and surrounding communities. For this 18 month investment, the citizens of Fargo will get a new 45,000 sq. ft. main downtown library, a 15,000 sq. ft. Southpointe branch library, a 2,500 sq. ft. northside branch library, 110,000 new books for adults and youth, 64 new computer/Internet stations and 206 parking spaces.

Planning is currently underway to organize a capital campaign committee to raise additional private funds in order to augment the sales tax revenue and offset some of the operating costs of the library's expansion plans.

OKLAHOMA

Primer for new legislators -- The 2004 election ushered in a major turnover among Oklahoma state legislators because the state's term limits law puts a 12-year limit on terms. Looking at the need to quickly inform new legislators about Oklahoma's libraries and their needs, the OLA Legislative Committee has printed a small booklet called *Libraries A to Z: A Primer* for distribution by librarians, trustees, and friends to legislators. For more information, contact OLA Executive Director Kay Boies at kboies@coxinet.net.

McFarlin celebrates 75th anniversary -- During the 2004-2005 academic year, McFarlin Library at the University of Tulsa will celebrate its 75th anniversary. Throughout TU's history, the library has been important to the academic community. In 1901, the library contained 1,200 books. By 1928, TU had

16,000 books and was in desperate need of a dedicated facility to serve the student population.

McFarlin Library was the first of three new buildings to be erected. The library became the major axis of the campus and its location dictated the future growth of the campus. Robert M. and Ida McFarlin, known in the Southwest for their contributions toward memorial buildings, donated the structure, as well as the book stacks and the furnishings. At the groundbreaking for the new library on May 3, 1929, John Rogers, a university trustee, stated "this building will probably be the most important on the campus for it is in reading and in books that our finest wisdom is stored." After a year of tireless and painstaking labor, the library building at the head of the 'U' was complete.

The library continued to grow over the years and as TU's educational offerings expanded so did the need for a library that could support more undergraduate and graduate programs. The east five-story addition was funded by the Chapman-McFarlin interests in 1967 and doubled the usable space in the library. However the needs of the library continued to grow and in 1979 the library dedicated its second addition. Coinciding with the acquisition of the one millionth volume, this new addition extended McFarlin Library to the west. This innovative three-floor under-



ground addition provided new stacks areas as well as new study space for the student body. A new underground courtyard provided an attractive outdoor

space for the addition and provided natural lighting for central study areas.

For more information about the 75th anniversary of McFarlin Library, visit: <http://www.lib.utulsa.edu/mcfarlin75>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 30- April 1	New Mexico Library Association Annual Conference, Albuquerque
March 30- April 1	Kansas Library Association Annual Conference, Overland Park
March 30- April 1	Oklahoma Library Association Annual Conference, Norman
April 23- April 26	Montana Library Association Annual Conference, Billings
Oct. 5-7	South Dakota Library Association Annual Conference, Pierre
Oct. 6- Oct. 9	Colorado Association of Libraries Annual Conference

WYOMING

Library event opens the season -- "Open the Season, Open a Book" was the name of the 2004 season opener party to benefit the Teton County Library Foundation, Jackson, WY, and hosted by the Four Seasons Resort in Teton Village. The event took place in the Resort's Cottonwood Ballroom on Friday, Dec. 3 from 7 to 10 p.m. Tickets were \$50 and proceeds benefit the Teton County Library Foundation and support the Teton County Library and Alta Branch Library.

Fine food, beverages, and music played by Phil Round and the Snake River Band were on the slate for the festive evening. Guests enjoyed savory dishes created by Four Seasons Resort chefs and professional staff that include a selection of pastas, stone crab, shrimp, oysters and a variety of house-smoked seafood.

For those wishing to contribute a percentage of their purchase to the Library Foundation, Valley Bookstore was on hand with a selection of children's books recommended by the library's youth services staff. Members of the library's young adult board provided free gift wrapping. Also available were *The Grandma's Guide to Jackson Hole*, a comprehensive guide to family activities and children's services in the valley. Party goers contributed to the library by "purchasing" a variety of library necessities ranging from thin-screen computer monitors for the computer center to library art exhibitions and speakers.

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