

COLORADO ASSOCIATION OF LIBRARIES

www.cal-webs.org

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CAL REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

July 13, 2002

Submitted by Suzanne Taylor

- **Budget cuts.** Early in June, Colorado Governor Bill Owens used his line-item veto to cut \$4.67 million in library-related funding from the state budget. The ramifications are, of course, tremendous and a meeting of the CAL Board in June addressed various strategies. The CAL lobbyists recommended that reaction to the cuts should be considered and made in consciousness of the political ramifications of any actions. Eleven full-time and three part-time Denver Public Library staff members were laid off to help offset the budget cuts. DPL will also reduce spending for books and materials and will trim statewide services. Another impact is the depletion of the Colorado Resource Center's funding that allows DPL to provide statewide services to Colorado residents. Last year, under the Colorado Resource Center contract, DPL loaned 70,000 books to other libraries and reference librarians answered 160,000 questions from non-Denver residents. These cuts took place on July 1. It is planned that the fall conference will address these cuts.
- **"Hats Off to Libraries"** The first conference of the Colorado Association of Libraries (CAL) will be held October 17-20, 2002 in Keystone, Colorado. Among the speakers will be Ann Seidl of Florida presenting *The Hollywood Librarian*, a dynamic presentation that examines the librarian image and includes film clips and humorous analysis; Marjorie Heins giving the Julie Boucher Memorial Lecture as the keynote address; and Reggie Rivers, radio host, newspaper columnist, author, and former Denver Broncos running-back. Registration materials will be posted to the CAL Website soon. For more information, contact Judy Zelenski: jzelenski@earthlink.net or Kim Meyer: kmeyer@jeffco.k12.co.us.
- **CAL Organization Continues.** The Colorado Association of Libraries Board continues to work on revising the bylaws, incorporating various associate groups under its umbrella, and perfecting the procedures. Much has been done (all those legal name changes, etc.) and there is still much to do. The new Website is up and running, although still in the construction stages (see the URL above).
- **Immroth Award Goes to the Tattered Cover Bookstore Owner.** Joyce Meskis and the Tattered Cover were recognized for their defense of Intellectual Freedom at the Annual ALA conference. The bookstore employees and management resisted pressure to disclose information about their patrons. They recently won the court case against them.
- **Colorado Virtual Library.** Check it out at www.aclin.org.

- **Board Choice Award** - Cynthia Hashert, Auraria Library in Denver, has been selected as the 2002 Colorado Board Choice Award recipient. Cynthia is Head of the Acquisitions Department at Auraria and she has been an active member of CLA/CAL.
- **MPLA Leadership Institute.** Colorado had 15 applicants to the Institute. Donna Jones Morris and I are reviewing the applications and will select the two recipients within the next couple of weeks. We had excellent applicants which has made the selection process difficult, but is a good indication of the timeliness of the Institute and, hopefully, a good predictor of an ongoing need to continue it. CAL will be supporting the candidates with \$250 each to cover registration costs.
- **OCLC to Design a Public Access Computing Portal with CSL.** OCLC is the recipient of a \$9 million, three-year grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to build a portal for public libraries and other institutions whose mission includes "open access to authoritative knowledge resources." The Colorado State Library, the Benton Foundation, Isoph, and TechSoup are partner organizations that will design, develop, and operate the portal. The portal will host various digital services such as online tutorials, training modules, web casting message boards, and expert assistance. Planned release of the portal is April 2003. The Colorado State Library will serve as the communicator with other state libraries and help evaluate the portal's programs.
- **Parapros Schedule a Summer Conference on Service** - Mountains and Plains Parapros is sponsoring a daylong conference on Friday, August 2 at Regis University. The theme is "Serving All Stages of Life: Libraries Interact with an Ever Demanding and Changing World." Featured speakers include Pat Wagner of Pattern Research, Denver City Councilman Dennis Gallagher, Kathe Fletcher, and others.