

ST-2

Colorado Association of Libraries

Colorado Report

Kay Lowell, CAL Rep.

At its April Board meeting, CAL established a new Library Marketing Committee, which will work in advisory capacity with the SIER Committee, the Continuing Education Committee, and the @Your Library Committee. This action serves to take advantage of the expertise and resources of the now-dissolved Colorado Library Marketing Council, which had worked with the Central Colorado Library Systems since 1992. The ongoing dissolution of the state's regional library systems due to budget constraints prompted CLMC to approach CAL.

The newly-established CAL Development Committee has met and developed a preliminary mission statement. It will focus on developing non-dues sources of revenue that can be applied toward professional development for library workers in the state.

The CAL Board will be meeting for its annual retreat on August 6-7, to discuss the strategic plan, bylaws, goals & objectives, and the like.

The seven former state library systems are being reconfigured into one, which will be known as CLIC (Colorado Library Consortium). It will manage the vitally-important courier system, and will focus on continuing education, workshops, and technical assistance, but will no longer do consortial database purchasing. On the positive side, funding for the new system has been added as a line item to the state budget, which puts it on more solid footing than it would have been under alternate funding proposals.

Funding for the Colorado Virtual Library -- <http://www.aclin.org/> -- was maintained at last year's levels, which is something of a coup as our state's "unique" combination of constitutional amendments continues to wreak havoc on the budget.

The Ask Colorado 24/7 virtual reference project continues to be a huge success, with over 20,000 questions having been handled in the first ten months - more than twice the projected first-year volume! Statistics show that the program is reaching all areas of the state, including remote and rural areas. There will be a number of new libraries of all types joining the service next year. For more information, see <http://www.aclin.org/reference/stats.html>

Jean Anderson, of the MPLA Membership Committee, has been doing a fantastic job on the recruitment front. She has generated 350 personal letters to Colorado Directors; 170 letters to trustees; and has approximately 170 to non-director librarians "in the works." Jean delivers these letters to me at UNC for mailing.

Paul Paladino, CAL President, and I had a pleasingly difficult task in June as we evaluated 23 outstanding applications for the MPLA Leadership Institute.

As many of you probably already know, the Library and Information Science program at the University of Denver (DU) has received accreditation from the American Library Association! For more information, see: <http://www.du.edu/LIS/>

Finally, the Programs subcommittee of the Joint Conference Planning Committee met on July 10 for a day-long selection meeting at the conference hotel in Denver. It was an intensely difficult task to choose 54 programs from the over 250 outstanding submissions. Announcements of the selections will be coming out shortly.