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Utah Report 2005

The 2005 Utah Legislature allocated an additional \$200,000 in one-time funding to Public Library Development Grants (PLDG). PLDG funds are used for library information technology, library collections, library equipment, and children/adult programming. PLDG benefit Utahans by helping Utah libraries provide services needed by library patrons. Representative Mike Noel, Knab, was instrumental helping libraries receive the \$200,000. Utah libraries will be seeking on-going funding in the 2006 Legislative Session.

Utah was well represented at the National Advocacy Honor Roll Banquet, June 24, at the American Library Association Conference in Chicago. Utah awardees included:

- Rosalind (Roz) McGee, "Rox McGee, board member of the Salt Lake City Library and trustee for Urban Libraries Council. She was elected to the Utah House of Representatives in 2002 and 2004..." Roz's library leadership continues.
- Any Owen was Director of the Utah State Library from 1987-2003. She has been and is a leader in Utah libraries. She was recently appointed to the National Museum and Library Services Board, where she continues to represent libraries across the country.

The Utah Library Advocacy Network (ULAN) <http://168.179.23.126/ulan/index.html> ULAN according to the website is: "Utah Library Advocacy Network is an organization committed to advocate for Utah libraries. We strive to form cooperative and collaborative networks of people interested in library related issues. ULAN is not a creation of either the Utah State Library Division or the Utah Library Association. Rather, it is an independent, open entry organization that supports the efforts of libraries and library related organizations." ULAN's objective is to promote, market, and increase the legislative clout of libraries in Utah without attempting to replace or supplant current organizations." Steve Decker, Director Cedar City Public Library and Lani Furr, Park City Public Library former trustee are the two who started ULAN and were recognized for their leadership. Lani and Steve were not able to attend, but will be sent their advocate pins soon.

University of Utah has selected Joyce Ogburn as its new Director of the J. Willard Marriott Library. Ogburn comes to Utah from the University of Washington where she was Associate Director of the Libraries, Resources and Collection Management Services.

The J. Willard Marriott Library at the University of Utah has revived funding for its building renovation project. After four years in front of the Utah State Legislature, the Marriott Library has received the critical state funding necessary to make the 1968 building seismically safe and to bring it up to current building code. The state has appropriated \$48 million for these improvements. Private fundraising for program enhancements such as an Information Commons is still under way.

The Utah Library Association hosted its annual conference this year in Ogden at the Ogden-Eccles Conference Center, May 11th – 13th. This year's theme is "The Times They Are A

Changin’.” “ The incredible speed at which libraries and their communities are changing can feel overwhelming,” says Utah Library Association President Gene Nelson. “The changes in the social fabric of our local and regional library communities are creating new challenges for each of us.” Conference workshops and speakers are on tap to explore issues such as funding and resource development, patron confidentiality, intellectual freedom, staff shortages, communication concerns, space planning, relevancy to your community, increasing employee morale, and yes, even burnout.

Speakers for the 2005 conference include:

Cheewa James, a sought-after keynote speaker and corporate trainer. Her keynote address is, “Climb Off Dead Horses: Mastering Change” . Cheewa has worked with associations and corporations across the United States and Canada, and is known for her presentations on leadership, dealing with change and finding a balanced lifestyle. As a participant once said, “When Cheewa is on, the electricity and energy kick in. We learn, we enjoy, we grow.”

Nancy Pearl was the keynote at the 2005 Utah Library Association Awards luncheon on Thursday, May 12. Nancy is the former director of the Washington Center for the Book at the Seattle Public Library. She now writes, reviews books for both local and national publications, and speaks to library and community groups across the country. She reviews books regularly on NPR’s Morning Edition and KUOW, the Seattle affiliate of National Public Radio. She is the author of *Book Lust: Recommended Reading for Every Mood, Moment, and Reason* (Sasquatch Books, 2003); *More Book Lust: Recommended Reading for Every Mood, Moment, and Reason* (Sasquatch Books, 5/05); *Now Read This: A Guide to Mainstream Fiction, 1978 - 1998* (Libraries Unlimited).

Utah Library Association Honors Awards Recipients

Six recipients received awards this year for their dedication to libraries at the annual Utah Library Association conference.

ULA DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

DOUGLAS ABRAMS – UTAH STATE LIBRARY

Douglas has worked tirelessly for the benefit of Utah libraries. He has been instrumental in the development and introduction of PIONEER – Utah’s Online Library and deeply involved in promoting and distributing Public Library Development Grants. He was active in decentralizing the State’s bookmobile program by localizing much of the authority for the various bookmobiles at the county level.

Douglas’s innate intellect combined with a quarter-century of experience at the Library Division coalesce to make him an invaluable asset to state government as well as local libraries. His kindly tutoring and masterful teaching skills have helped many librarians, politicians, and media representatives understand the complexities of library service. He is, indeed, an interactive library himself.

LIBRARIAN OF THE YEAR

HEATHER REYNOLDS – PARK CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Heather is an energetic, enthusiastic, passionate and creative librarian. As a Youth Services Librarian, Heather has created a series of programs aimed at child and youth literacy. They are a huge source of pride for the Park City Library and the community.

These programs include infant story time, youth reading sessions, community outreach at various locations around town, special holiday presentations and a teen poetry-reading program. Her diligence in programming has resulted in remarkable attendance.

Heather is also very involved in providing the best possible service to the growing Latino community in Park City. She is an active member of REFORMA and has traveled to Guadalajara Mexico to purchase Spanish language materials. Heather is an inspiration and a valued and respected member of the community.

SPECIAL SERVICES TO LIBRARIES AWARD

FRIENDS OF THE WEBER COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM –

This phenomenal organization has set the standard for Library Friends organizations throughout the state for many years. Their most recent efforts in successfully advocating for a substantial tax increase for the Weber County Public Library would be reason enough for ULA recognition. Equally impressive is their long-standing dedication and energy towards positive legislative action for all libraries throughout the state. During my many years as Chair of the Legislative Committee and through recent challenges at the State Legislature, the Friends of the Weber County Library have always responded as leaders in library advocacy. Their network is extensive, powerful and very effective.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

LORI STEVENS - UTAH VALLEY STATE COLLEGE LIBRARY

Lori Stevens, Media Librarian at Utah Valley State College Library, has worked tirelessly in moving the library profession, and more specifically, media librarianship, forward both locally and nationally. Her passion for librarianship and film is evident through her service to the profession. Lori currently serves as the American Library Association's Notable Films for Adults Chair, is a member of the ALA Video Roundtable, a member of the Music Library Association, Mountain Plains Chapter Executive Board, and currently serves as a member of the Utah Library Association Board. Lori is also a scholar and has published the articles "Bernadette Peters" and "Lotte Lehman" in *Women and Music in America Since 1900: An Encyclopedia* from Greenwood Press. She has been a contributing writer/reviewer for "Video Librarian" since 1999 and has written articles for the *Journal of Film Music and Music Reference Services Quarterly*.

GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR THE PROMOTION OF READING

JUDY RODRIGUEZ-KEMPTER – CEDAR CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Judy has reached out to segments of the Iron County community that are, at best, underserved and more realistically, ignored. Those segments include adults that cannot read or cannot read adequately to accommodate their needs and families whose literacy needs are not being adequately met. For six years Judy has served as the CedarRead coordinator. During that time she has expanded the program to include unincorporated areas of western Iron County (facilitated in Beryl), and Northern Iron County (facilitated in Parowan). Her programs, consisting of adult and family literacy curricula, currently have an enrollment of 70 students. This does not include the trimesterly MotherRead/FatherRead groups for which she is a licensed facilitator. Further, she has been a driving force behind the training of many other adults as facilitators and literacy partners.

ULA SECTION AWARD

LISA MYRON – SALT LAKE CITY MAIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Lisa is currently the manager of the Children's Department at the Salt Lake City Public Library's Main Library. She is a seasoned member of our profession and is constantly looking for new ways to reach out to the young people in the community. Lisa is an active and articulate advocate for children's librarianship and for all children in all libraries. She encourages, plans, and promotes communication, cooperative collaboration and camaraderie. Lisa always remains inquisitive and involved, bringing librarians together statewide for innovative and invigorating socialization and sharing sessions, informative hands-on workshops and timely professional trainings.