

ST-11

Utah State Report

July 11, 2006

Submitted by Susan Spicer, Utah State Representative

The Utah Library Association's Conference, entitled: When the Boundaries Blur... Creating Synergy in a Time of Transformation was held in St. George, Utah on May 17th-19th. Conference speakers included John N. Berry, Editor in Chief of Library Journal, and Robert Kirby, columnist from the Salt Lake Tribune. Post Conference Events included a half day workshop presented by University of Utah's Randy Silverman, on disaster preparedness. This program was underwritten by a grant from MPLA.

The Salt Lake City Public Library was named 2006 Library of the Year by Library Journal. Criteria for selection included service to the community, creativity and innovation in developing programs or a dramatic increase in library usage, and leadership in creating programs that can be emulated by other libraries. Library Journal noted "Salt Lake City Public Library is a model for the library of the future".

In May, Dorothy Horan, Utah Library Association President-Elect, and Donna Jones Morris, Utah State Librarian, attended the National Legislative Day in Washington D.C. to discuss library legislative issues with members of the Utah Delegation and their staff.

On June 9th ULA board members adopted a strategic plan for 2006-2009. The plan, with its focus on the following six areas: Advocacy, Intellectual Freedom, Continuing Education, Membership, Building the Profession, and Organizational Excellence will provide direction for the association in upcoming years.

Jordan School District was awarded a LSTA Grant to teach information Literacy Skills. The School Library project entitled: Creating Life-long Learners: Teaching Students to Use the Media Center, will provide equipment and laptops for 55 elementary schools in Utah's largest school district.

Utah Kids Ready to Read, a state-wide task force, has completed the first phase of its initiative to inform library professionals about the philosophy and techniques of emergent literacy. From October 2005 to May 2006, the trainer taskforce held 19 workshops in 15 counties. The trainings demonstrated simple ways to incorporate emergent literacy into existing programming, in addition providing information about parent workshops. Phase two is already in the works!

On June 3 a new Grand County Public Library opened in Moab. The library is three times larger than the old facility and includes a large children's room, a meeting room, an outdoor courtyard, and a Teen area.