The 75th Diamond Jubilee Celebration was held on Friday, September 17, 2004 at the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History (http://www.snomnh.ou.edu/). The event began at 6:30 p.m. with a wine and hors d'oeuvre reception around the mastodon statue in the museum's rotunda, with a harpist accompaniment. A full formal dinner was then held in the museum's Great Hall. A historical movie played on a screen during dinner, depicting the history of the SLIS school, 1929 to present, in still photos.

The program for the event began as dessert and coffee were served. Danny Wallace, Director of the School of the Library and Information Studies presided, greeting guests and inaugurating the program by awarding some of the evening's door prizes. The speaker's podium was ornamented by a four-foot tall "75" ice sculpture that was lit from within. The first celebratory event was the announcement of the recipient of the first ever 75th Anniversary Scholarship. Melody A. Kellogg accepted the scholarship and thanked the Library School for its support. The speakers for the evening followed: Dr. Paul Bell, University of Oklahoma Dean of Arts & Sciences; Cokie Anderson, President of the University of Oklahoma SLIS Alumni Association; Lynn McIntosh, Oklahoma Library Association President; and finally Dr. Robert Martin, the Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services. All made brief poignant speeches on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee Anniversary.

The program ended with the awarding of the last door prize, an extraordinary Tiffany's gift certificate, to complete the 'diamond' theme of the evening. The event then continued into the night as guests socialized, caught-up, saw old friends, made new friends, and toured the museum's Hall of Ancient Life. It was a charming historic evening that was thoroughly enjoyed by all. For more photos taken at the event see the 75th Diamond Jubilee Website at http://slis.ou.edu/75th/.
Lynn’s Spin

Last fall Anne Prestamo began her president’s article with “On the Road Again, I can’t wait to get on the road again”…I can hear the echo and find myself repeating the refrain! Even though I am logging lots of miles, it is truly a pleasure to travel to other libraries and service centers to attend DROC meetings and special events. It is exciting and encouraging to see the dedication, enthusiasm and high energy of the members in our division, roundtable and committee meetings as they brainstorm and plan workshops and conference programs. I have had the privilege of attending outstanding events. They have reminded me of the impact of good library services and how broad our sphere of influence has become. I have also been reminded of how important and beneficial some of our partnerships and liaisons have become in the greater literary/library/learning community. Some of the groups are mentioned below.

In August, along with some of our library leaders, I had the pleasure of speaking to students at the University of Oklahoma School of Library and Information Science (OUSLIS) in Norman and in Tulsa. I told them about OLA and encouraged them to join now at the modest student membership fee. It was wonderful to meet students from all types of backgrounds who plan to enter our great profession!

Speaking of OLA membership, have you renewed yours yet? One of the goals of our hard working Membership Committee and this president is to significantly increase personal and institutional membership this year. We need your help in encouraging your colleagues to become members and to be involved!

The 75th Diamond Jubilee Celebration honoring OUSLIS was an exceptionally lovely evening and was attended by over 200 people. We were honored to have Dr. Robert Martin, Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, as one of the guest speakers. He recognized the important work and reputation of OUSLIS. Dr. Paul Bell, Dean of the Arts and Science College, also praised the program and the value of libraries in Oklahoma. Congratulations to Jeffrey Wilhite, chairman of the organizing committee, and to Dr. Danny Wallace for a fabulous evening.

Have you seen our new Legislative Primer, “Libraries A to Z”? It is a wonderful piece written by Wayne Hanway and designed by Gary Kramer. We will use them for Legislative Day in the spring, but in the meantime, we need to get them to trustees, administrators, library advocates/ Friends and our legislators. Contact Kay Boies to get your copies. Great job Wayne and Gary!

Encyclo-Media XXIV held September 27-28 was a huge success with a record attendance of approximately 4,000. Both days were packed with dynamic programs that included nationally known speakers, regional experts and authors from near and far. The trade show was excellent with an enormous variety of exhibitors and author signings.

OASLMS’ luncheon was also a big success and featured Ann Rinaldi, historical fiction writer, as the guest speaker. OLA had three booths at Encyclo-Media where the Sequoyah Committees were represented, and the hard working Membership and Marketing Committees sold OLA and Read Y’All merchandise. We received many membership renewals and acquired quite a few new members.

Emily Sheketoff, Associate Executive Director of the American Library Association, gave three programs on advocacy and effective communication skills for lobbying our legislators, state and federal. It was a real privilege and pleasure to have her share her expertise and perspectives with us at Encyclo-Media. FYI, Emily thinks our “Libraries A-Z” primer is terrific!
Congratulations to Jeanie Johnson, Barb Pfrehm and their Program Committee for a stupendous two days. Congratulations to Margo Canaday and the OASLMS Committee for their many successes during the conference.

“Oklahoma Reads Oklahoma” and Billie Letts’ speaking tours around the state are a winning hit! So far, Billie has been in seven cities and 809 people of all ages have come to hear her. Check www.okreadsok.org for Billie’s scheduled visits. And as you do, take a look at the 2005 Literary Six Pack. Don’t forget to vote this month!

On October 1 we had the FOLIO Literary Landmark Dedication in honor of Angie Debo at the Edmon Low Library at Oklahoma State University. FOLIO and OSU Library personnel planned and hosted a powerful program dedicating the Library as a National and Oklahoma “Literary Landmark” in honor of Dr. Debo, Oklahoma’s First Lady of History. The first “half” (if you will) of this Literary Landmark dedication took place in mid-April in Marshall, Oklahoma, Angie’s home, to recognize her legacy to our state. Dr. Debo’s papers, memorabilia and photographs of her life and work are part of the Special Collections Library at the Edmon Low Library where she worked, researched and wrote about American Indian history. Congratulations Jennifer Paustenbaugh, Michael Wallis and Julia Ratliff for an outstanding program! Visit the Angie Debo Room at Edmon Low when you have an opportunity. It is fascinating.

On the heels of the Literary Landmark program and dedication was the Oklahoma Center for Poets and Writers (OSU Tulsa) Celebration of Books which began with Friday evening at the Brady Theater in Tulsa with authors Amy Tan and S.E. (Susie) Hinton. Listening to these two brilliant and creative authors share stories about their lives and work was a special treat. On Saturday the “celebration” continued with a day of workshops featuring well know authors, illustrators and artists. Congratulations to Teresa Miller for another fine celebration!

This fall many libraries around the state are hosting “Let’s Talk About It Oklahoma” reading and discussion programs. To learn about the one closest to you or to find out how to sponsor a series contact Jennifer Kidney at jen/kidney@hotmail.com.

The Career Recruitment and Retention Committee has planned five regional meetings around the state for this 2004/05 year. The first will be November 16, in Ada. More will be held after the first of the year in Mustang, Hugo, Tulsa and Claremore. These meetings give attendees from all types of libraries an opportunity to network and learn more about OLA and how to become involved. Please come and bring a friend.

On the horizon

October 29th - “E-lectrify your E-resources! Integrating Electronic Resources into Your Catalog”, sponsored by the Technical Services Roundtable at Stillwater Public Library

December 10th – “Spoken Arts for Teens @ Your Library” sponsored by the Children and Teen Services Roundtable at Ronald J. Norick Library in downtown Oklahoma City

November 3rd – 6th – OLA Gold Leadership Retreat at the Noble Foundation in Ardmore

November 11th – 12th – First Amendment Congress at Oklahoma City University

March 30th – April 1st – OLA Annual Conference in Norman

A noted educator, Monsignor William Kerr, once said that “institutions are built on chapters.” I believe the same can be said about organizations. I want to thank each of you for your part in building our “chapters” and helping make OLA a vibrant, serendipitous organization!

Lynn McIntosh, President
Encyclo-Media XXIV: “Stepping Ahead to Student Success”

Encyclo-Media XXIV was held on September 27 – 28, 2004 at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City. Featuring nationally known speakers, five luncheons, over 250 exhibitors, and over 100 exciting breakout sessions, this year’s conference was attended by over 3,000 educators including school library media specialists, counselors, administrators, and classroom teachers.

State Library Media Director Jeanie Johnson and State Library Media Coordinator Barb Phrem planned and coordinated this event in conjunction with other staff members from the Oklahoma State Department of Education.

State Superintendent for Public Instruction Sandy Garrett welcomed the group at the Opening Session and shared insights regarding her recent trip to China. Superintendent Garrett discussed progress made by Oklahoma schools in achieving the goals of “No Child Left Behind” and also detailed the rise in API scores at the elementary, middle, and secondary levels.

Alan November, nationally known leader and practitioner in educational technology, served as keynote speaker for the convention and shared his insights regarding the use of technology at a national and global level. Based on his observations and research, November told the audience to encourage students to become not only information literate but also more self-directed and independent in taking charge of their own learning, because a person who needs constant supervision will be more expensive to a corporation or business in the future.

At the OASLMS Luncheon, author Ann Rinaldi shared her background story as a journalist. A chance interview with a government figure (who also served as an historical re-enactor) sparked her interest in American history and started her writing career as an author of historical fiction for young people.

OASLMS Chair Margo Canady introduced the ten candidates for the Polly Clark Award for Excellence in School Library Media Programs at the luncheon and then announced this year’s winner – Stephanie McDaniel, School Library Media Specialist from Tulsa, OK.

A draft proposal of the new guidelines for Oklahoma School Library Media Program Standards was unveiled at a joint workshop presented by Barb Phrem, State Coordinator for Library Media Programs, and Margo Canady, Library Media Specialist for Bethany Public Schools. Based on similar standards from Michigan, these standards address staffing, programming, levels of collaboration, facilities, and funding. The new guidelines should be in place by January, 2005.

Deborah Maehs, Library Media Specialist
Kingfisher Middle School

Education • Inform • Empower • Invest

Oklahoma’s Sixth Annual 1st Amendment Congress will be held November 11 and 12, 2004 at Oklahoma City University

Students and teachers are invited to a unique educational opportunity. On November 11, 2004, Oklahoma’s First Amendment Congress will feature special sessions for high school and college age students. The purpose of this day is to educate, inform and empower tomorrow’s leaders. Each generation must explore the privileges and responsibilities that lie at the heart of the Bill of Rights. As future journalists, librarians, teachers, attorneys, entrepreneurs and citizens, young people need to understand the rights guaranteed by the United States Constitution. Friday, November 12 is Professional Day for librarians, journalists and educators interested in 1st Amendment issues.

For more information, contact Kay Bickham, Executive Director, FOI Oklahoma (kaybickham@sbcglobal.net) or visit http://www.odl.state.ok.us/fyi/foi/index.htm
“Back to School Brunch” @ CRLS

On Friday, August 6, 2004 school library media specialists, their support staff, principals, and superintendents assembled at the Ardmore Headquarters of the Chickasaw Regional Library System for the annual “Back to School Brunch.” Award-winning children’s author Bill Wallace spoke to the group; then he and his wife Carol, a frequent co-author of his, autographed books. In addition to school personnel, fans of all ages, including area legislators, swelled the audience to capacity. The Bookseller, a local retail book store, handled book sales for the event.

“This is a terrific way to renew friendships, create new working partnerships, and remind our best contacts in area schools how CRLS can help,” said Lynn McIntosh, Library Director. Branch Managers from all eight libraries of the public library system were on hand to visit with school personnel who came from Atoka, Carter, Johnston, Love, and Murray counties. “We’re here to support you,” said Youth Services Librarian Valerie Kimble to the group. “After all, our mission is education too.”

Valerie Kimble
Youth Services Librarian, CRLS

Above, Bill Wallace poses with his wife, Carol, and granddaughter, Bethany. Below, Mr. Wallace signs one of his books for Turner Public Schools Librarian Robin Mayes.

In Memoriam:

Frances Kennedy died on Tuesday, September 14, 2004 in Oklahoma City following a brief illness. Frances had lived in Oklahoma City most of her life. She was a librarian in the city for 46 years, ending her career in 1974 after 27 years as Director of the Oklahoma City University Library. She served as the first Executive Secretary of the Oklahoma Library Association for several years after retirement. For many years she was a volunteer of the St. Anthony Hospital Volunteer League. Survivors are niece, Lucy Davis Rey and her husband Sigmund Palasek, Las Vegas, NV; great niece Kristin Rey and her daughter Virginia, Los Angeles; great nephew David Rey and Heather, and children Ryan, Gordon, Nathan, Hannah and Jack, Chicago; beloved Godchild, Judi Loy Smith and her daughter, Sarah; and a very dear young friend, George M. Back, the youngest of the very special Back Family. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St Paul’s Episcopal Cathedral, or to a charity of choice.
Recruit Potential Librarians Among the Young

Is there an opportune time to recruit potential librarians? Should we wait until students graduate from college before we search or watch for true tome lovers and information connoisseurs? I am a living testimony that some of the best recruitment begins when the bibliophiles are young.

From the time I was in elementary school until I graduated from high school, I spent most of my time in the library. I spent my time in the school library, opting to go to the library instead of lunch. I loved reading, and I loved the library. On one occasion the school guard, a brawny looking woman, refused to let me in the school so I could go to the library after lunch. Desperate to go to the place I treasured, I told her the principal said that we could go to the library if we didn’t want to play. “Keith,” she firmly responded, “you are going to stay out here and play.” Unhappy about what she said, I decided to walk right by her. She responded by punching me in the stomach. Having the wind knocked out of me, I fell to the ground. Hurt and disappointed, I hung my head because I knew I wouldn’t get to go to the library that day.

As an elementary student, I was as excited about the bookmobile as I was about the library. The bookmobile opened new worlds to me. I attended an all-black elementary school. Although the building was new, the books, even those in the library, were old. That’s why the bookmobile fascinated me. I was mesmerized by the selection of new books with their contemporary illustrations. And the bookmobile was air-conditioned! That made everything even better.

My brother worked in the library, a place where I loved to spend my leisure time. Not only did the library offer cool air in the summer, but it was also filled with lots of books that had characters I enjoyed reading about. I read old books, new books, and books by authors from Carl Sandburg to Louisa May Alcott. I relished reading biographies, especially those about president’s wives. I even read encyclopedias. I was particularly drawn to books with African-American protagonists. I didn’t even know such books existed. Once I discovered them, I read just about every book in the Black Resource Study Collection. If it was a book, I read it.

It might come as no surprise to my colleagues that eventually I was recruited to work in the library by a play aunt (She and my father were like siblings.) who became my mentor. Her name is Freddie Martin Rudisill. Recognizing my love of both books and the library, my Aunt Freddie Martin Rudisill approached me about working as a page in the library. The chance to work in the library was an opportunity I couldn’t resist.

Recruitment happened because my aunt, noticing my love of the library, offered me a chance to work there. My love for the library has flourished. Many years later, I remain with that same library where I worked as a page. Though this is a good story, there are some recruitment opportunities that were not seized by my elementary, junior high, and high school librarians.

Carl Jung once said, “Your vision will become clear, only when you look into your heart. Who looks outside, dreams. Who looks inside, awakens.” As librarians, we need to look inside our elementary, middle and high school libraries for those who frequent our aisles and consume the printed page. Let’s offer them the chance to volunteer. Let’s find ways to hire them. Let’s use federal youth employment programs. Mrs. Rudisill hired several teens that way. There is fertile ground around our feet. Let’s make a partnership with the school librarians, for they can help us identify the “buds.” Let’s visit the school librarian and look for recruits. Let’s start a career mentoring program for the young. A one time volunteer opportunity or hiring experience can easily blossom into a librarian of tomorrow. I know. I’ve been with TCCL for thirty-three years because someone, my Aunt Freddie Martin Rudisill, took a chance on a kid who loved books and the library.

Keith Jemison
Tulsa City-County Library
Like an Olympic long-distance runner on the last leg of the last lap, Tulsa City-County Library came from behind to set a record for participation in the 2004 summer reading programs in the final week of the event. Nearly 46,000 children and teens participated in the Olympic-themed summer reading programs - 3,000 more than participated in 2003. This is the fourth consecutive year for TCCL to set a record participation in the programs.

TCCL credits the record-breaking year to the help of generous sponsors, devoted parents, and dedicated child-care workers and library staff.

Youths who completed the children's reading program, called "Summer of Champions: Join the USA Read Team," earned a medal of achievement and free entertainment and food coupons valued at nearly $25, which included free admission to the zoo and an air and space museum, a free game of bowling and skating pass, plus free food items from McDonald's and other restaurants. Finishers also received a free general admission ticket to a Tulsa Drillers minor league baseball game and pre-game clinic, plus earned a chance to win computers, bicycles, a fishing trip, a bowling party and other donated prizes.

To attract kids to the library, TCCL branches offered hundreds of free fun-filled, action-packed events including puppet and magic shows, interactive music performances, lively storytelling, performances by a world champion juggler and appearances by past Olympic athletes.

Nearly 41,000 kids joined the program and 19,171 completed it by reading eight books and visiting the library four times. More than 14,400 youths read 12 more books to earn a bonus award - an inflatable Soccer Kid.

TCCL rewarded young adults who finished the teen reading program, called "One Extreme Summer," with an indoor basketball hoop and ball; free entertainment and food coupons valued at nearly $25; and a chance to win a mountain/road bicycle, motorized scooter, PlayStation 2, Nintendo GameCube, Game Boy Advance, TV/DVD player and other exciting prizes. More than 5,100 teens joined the program and 2,539 read six books to complete it, which was a 192-percent increase in the number of completions from the previous year. In 2003, 4,954 teens joined but only 870 completed the program.

For more information about TCCL's summer reading programs, call children's services at (918) 596-7970.

Jackie Hill, TCCL
My career as a police officer began in February of 1982. I had graduated from college (Michigan State University) the previous December with my Bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice and Psychology (a double major) and had been offered employment by the City of Tulsa. I was ready to save the world.

Somewhere between the sixth and seventh year of my law enforcement career, the job began to seem less rewarding. I had worked every conceivable shift and had had steady and continuous exposure to the sordid/seamy side of life/people. Don’t get me wrong, I still enjoyed my work, but I was also feeling as though there was more to life – more options to explore. I signed up for and completed a “career exploration” class at the local junior college. This self-paced, computerized course led me through a variety of tests and assessments (skills, interests, personality, aptitude, etc.) and when all was said and done, printed out a list of possible careers suited to my responses. Lo and behold, “librarian” was at the top of my list!

My first reaction to this revelation was to chuckle. Sure, I had worked in the library as a student assistant during college (and had really enjoyed the experience). Yes, I loved to research, read, and expand my knowledge. But even more interestingly, were not both of my parents librarians as well? (My father was the library director at Northwestern Michigan College and my mother had been the children’s librarian at the local public library prior to meeting and marrying my father.) How could I have not considered this career choice sooner? And, now that I was considering the pursuit of this new occupation, what would it take to accomplish this feat?

I began researching the availability of degree programs and requirements. The University of Oklahoma just happened to have a Master’s in Library and Information Studies program in Tulsa. Taking one class at a time I was able to complete my degree in under five years. I was now a “degreed” librarian and was anxious to test the job market and pursue my new career.

My initial plan had been to obtain my degree just as I became vested in the State’s Police Pension plan. I could then retire from law enforcement (and receive a partial pension upon reaching age 50) and transition smoothly into the new career. Finding that police pay was better than library salaries, I revamped my goals a bit and decided that the salary issue would be less important at the end of my law enforcement career (after securing a more substantial pension) and that I would delay my entry into the world of librarianship. The problem then became: what can I do now to keep my degree and skills current so that I’m employable a few years down the road? The solution to this dilemma (at least in my mind) was to maintain my memberships in a couple of professional associations and to keep reading the professional literature. Networking with other library professionals (former students, professors, etc.) also helped me to keep my finger on the pulse of the profession.

Fifteen months following the completion of my library degree (while working the graveyard shift and desperately in need of a change), I was approached by the Sergeant over the Planning and Research Unit (part of our Training Division) about coming to work for him. Truth be known, the Major over the division was really wanting to take advantage of my M.L.I.S. degree by having me build a library for the police department. The only catch: there was not a “library” nor a “librarian” position. The vacant (newly created) position was going to be that of a policy writer. To justify the position though, the job description was going to include some grant writing, researching, and planning; I’d be the proverbial “Jack of all trades.” And, in my spare time, I’d be tasked with organizing/cataloging our materials and building a library collection. I agreed without a moment’s hesitation.

When I began this new assignment, my office was equipped with a desk, a chair, and a telephone; nothing else, not even a computer! (I did receive a “hand-me-down” computer within the first couple of weeks.) In an adjacent room were several boxes of materials (books, reports, videos, magazines, file folders, etc.) stacked against the wall. My work really was cut out for me, and I un-dauntedly forged ahead. A couple of the first tasks
that I tackled were a space planning analysis as well as a needs assessment for the three rooms that were to become the Resource Center. These were to become the foundation for my minimum budget request to get the Resource Center up and running. Unfortunately, I had missed the budget cycle, and there was no money in the current fiscal year’s budget for this project. I was told to re-submit my budget proposal during the next budget cycle, which I did.

While waiting for my budget request to be approved (how naïve), I inventoried every item from every box within my control and made “lists” galore. Our department was just getting started with personal computers and did not yet have networked terminals or advanced integrated systems. I basically had access to word processing software only. My original “lists” (author, title, and subject) were done in WordPerfect before having to be migrated into Microsoft Word (eventually). But at least I had these rudimentary lists (with minimal searching capabilities); it was a start, and I was making it work. With funding cut-backs, I began to wonder if I’d be spinning my wheels forever on this project with no hope of financial support.

The improvement turned out to be just around the corner. The Police Department had been awarded a sizeable sum in drug forfeiture funds, and the Chief was quoted in the newspaper as having said, “I don’t know how we’ll spend the money yet.” In no time at all I had drafted an inter-office memorandum to my Major providing a possible solution to the Chief’s dilemma. Voilà! Funding was approved and the Resource Center was officially born.

However, despite all of the problems and setbacks I encountered, they were faced head-on, and the project continued forward – measured often as only “creeping incrementalism.” The main keys to this success: planning/preparation, patience, persistence, productivity (especially as it relates to customer service), professionalism, and problem-solving (i.e., finding a way to “yes”).

For the full story told only as Rink can tell it, log on to http://www.rose.edu/lrc/careers/new.htm. There are stories of other librarians there, too. As with Mr. Rink, most librarians worked or volunteered in a library during high school or college. Oklahoma librarians are coming in contact everyday with the best possible recruits into the profession—young adults who are already coming to the library voluntarily. Encourage and mentor them!

Sharon Saulmon

OLA Board Actions

May, 2004

- Approved a letter to be sent to the Oklahoma State Boards of Education Association protesting its support of legislation to wave requirements for certified school library media specialists in schools of less than 1000 students. This legislation would also allow certified teachers to take the library media specialist test without having a Master’s degree in library and information science.
- Approved the placement of a thumbnail picture of the Toby Keith Read Y’all poster on the OLA website and on a flyer to encourage people to order the poster.
- Approved the creation of an encumbered fund for scholarship donations to the OLA Gold Leadership Institute.
- Approved the Centennial Endowment Committee’s request to seek an outside audit of OLA accounts for the purpose of applying for grants.
- Approved revisions to the Intellectual Freedom Handbook and permitted it to be posted on the OLA website.
- Approved the second annual “Support Your Support Staff” workshop to be held August 19, 2004.
- Approved hiring a new web hosting service for the OLA website, with the potential for e-commerce and password-protected membership information.
- Approved changing the minimum charge for an OLA workshop from $30 to $45.

July, 2004

- The Nominating Committee proposed an amendment to the OLA Constitution, Article 5. Executive Board, Section 1, which would allow the OLA treasurer to succeed her/himself in office for one additional term of two years. Proposal was sent to the Bylaws and Constitution Committee and will require approval from the OLA membership.
- Approved renewing Oliver Delaney’s contract as Legislative Liaison for 2004-05.
A British ambience of castles, knights in shining armor and magic filled the air as renowned fantasy author Susan Cooper received the Tulsa Library Trust’s 2004 Anne V. Zarrow Award for Young Readers’ Literature on Sept. 9 at Tulsa City-County Library’s Central Library.

Several hundred fans turned out to honor, meet and bestow gifts on their favorite author and to tell her how much her works have impacted their lives. Cooper was just as appreciative to receive the award as her fans were to meet her.

“Thank you to the Tulsa Library Trust and the truly remarkable Zarrow family for giving me this very special award,” said Cooper at the award ceremony. “I don’t know of any other children’s book award in this country, which reaches out to its community in the way that this one does. The links with the programs for summer reading and with young people’s writing are really astonishing. I’m honored to be part of it.”

The Zarrow award ceremony serves as a rallying point for Tulsa City-County Library’s summer reading programs. For the fourth consecutive year, the library had record-breaking programs as nearly 41,000 children and more than 5,100 teens participated. As a special treat, winners of the library’s annual Young People’s Creative Writing Contest received their awards from Cooper the following night. Plus, they got some tips from this Newbery Medal-winning author on how to write creatively and give life to words and voices to characters.

At the Zarrow award presentation, Cooper shared her passion for reading. “I feel passionately that reading is more important today than it’s ever been. That’s why I have such admiration for these programs that you’ve been running in Tulsa,” said Cooper. “We are facing today a general dumbing down of America, I think. Some weeks ago the National Endowment for the Arts did a survey, which showed that reading – just because you don’t have to, just because you want to read a book – had dropped to an all-time low in this country.

“It also showed that the people who did read books were far more likely than the nonreaders to go to art museums and concerts. What was more surprising was that the readers were twice as likely as the non-readers to do volunteer work or charity work. The readers, that is to say, are more active not only in mind but in body. The non-readers are passive. Some of them are simply poor, disadvantaged – the children and grown-ups who have been left behind. Too many of the rest are couch potatoes with a remote in their hand and not too much awareness of the community outside their front door. Reading takes more effort and imagination than watching television or playing a video game, but it can brighten your whole life in return.”

The Zarrow award consists of a $7,500 cash award and an engraved crystal book. Past award winners are Russell Freedman, Richard Peck, E.L. Konigsburg, Jerry Spinelli, Jane Yolen, Cynthia Voigt, Gary Paulsen, Walter Dean Myers, Lois Lowry, Katherine Paterson, Madeleine L’Engle and S.E. Hinton. For more information about the Anne V. Zarrow Award for Young Readers’ Literature, call Larry Bartley, Tulsa Library Trust manager, (918) 596-7985.

Susan Cooper Wins Tulsa Library Trust’s 2004 Anne V. Zarrow Award for Young Readers’ Literature

Jackie Hill, TCCL
Oklahoma Webpages: Oklahoma Census Data Center

Go to www.odoc.state.ok.us then click on “Data and Statistics” button

The Oklahoma Census Data Center, formerly known as the Oklahoma State Data Center, is a division within the Oklahoma Department of Commerce. Its director, Jeff Wallace, has created these charts and data on the main page: Market Proximity (which measures how close markets are to Oklahoma); Costs of Living, Housing, and Construction; Economy; and Population. But the bulk of the data is accessed on the left sidebar within the following data headings:

Demographic Data - Has “Population” by Oklahoma and Oklahoma’s counties and places, and the nation; “Income, Poverty and Wages” by Oklahoma and Oklahoma’s counties and places; and “Minority and Women-Owned Businesses” for the nation only. It also has a link to the “Kids Count” website for data about children.

Economic Data - Has “Economic Censuses” which features Oklahoma reports for sections of our state economy such as “Construction” and “Educational Services”; “Minority and Women-Owned Businesses” for the nation only; and “County Business Patterns” for Oklahoma, and links to the ORIGINS website.

Labor Surveys - Links to this information at the ORIGINS website.

Community & County Profiles - Features community economic profiles for cities, counties, and Metropolitan Statistical Areas and Micropolitan Statistical Areas. You search for profiles by clicking on a map of Oklahoma’s counties, entering the name of a community in a search box, or searching by features such as “Population,” “Working Age Population,” and “Distance to the Nearest Interstate Highway”.

Buildings and Sites - Search for available vacant office buildings.

Publications - Download and print publications in PDF format.

Contacts - Directory information for specialists within ODOC and their affiliate agencies throughout the state.

Related Websites - Links to websites that feature data.

In addition to these, the What’s New button is on the right side of the screen.

The great worth of this website is that Mr. Wallace uses it to primarily feature data about our state from the Census Bureau and other sources. So it is a “one-stop shop” for Census data about Oklahoma. Instead of using Census Bureau websites and selecting the data tables for Oklahoma, all the major data about Oklahoma is right here (note: you’ll still have to use Census’ “American Factfinder, “American Community Survey” and other databases for small area geographical searches). But the major state, county, and place data for Oklahoma is something that you can save time on by accessing it from this website. The “Community and County Profiles” is unique to this website; so is “Buildings and Sites.” This is a website that you’ll want to bookmark.

Steve Beleu, ODL
OLA University and College Division present

Call for Proposals for 2005 OLA Contributed Paper and Poster Sessions

All Types of Libraries and All Librarians, Staff Members, & Students are Invited to Participate

Submit Proposals (200 words maximum) for Poster / Paper Presentations at the 2005 OLA Annual Conference

March 31 - April 1, 2005
National Center for Employee Development | Norman

View the full guidelines and submit proposals online at:

http://www.oklibs.org/papers/

For more information contact: David Oberhelman, UCD Paper/Poster Committee Chair davido@okstate.edu, (405) 744-9773

DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 12, 2004