The upcoming conference is packed with rich experiences whether you are a perennial OLA Conference participant or this is your first time to attend the conference.

The excitement begins Monday with pre-conference sessions and tours of the Oklahoma History Center, Ronald J. Norick Downtown Library, and Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism Information Center (Murrah Bombing Site). The local arrangements committee sponsors the tours.

The excitement continues Monday evening as former Governor George Nigh speaks to our group at the banquet. We will renew “old” acquaintances and make new ones as we honor Oklahoma Library Legends. We can also enjoy Oklahoma’s own Flyin’ Fiddler, Wayne Cantwell, as he performs Old Time and Bluegrass music.

Tuesday April 3rd promises:
- Breakfast Meetings
- Vendor Breakfast
- Luncheons
- A Variety of Sessions (of interest to all)
- Librarian Certification Reception
- OU SLIS Alumni Reception
- Vendor Appreciation Reception
- Vendor Exhibits

AND

The All Conference Event: Centennial Masquerade Ball!

(continued on page 3)
The Program Committee continues to amaze me with a stellar group of conference offerings that are sure to stimulate discussion and entertain. Local Arrangements is planning menus, tours and lots of centennial specials. Although the conference is going to be spectacular, I want to focus this column on the future.

As the Public Library Directors email has been indicating, there are lots of needs for additional state aid funds. Oklahoma Department of Libraries has submitted a request that would provide 7.5M dollars in additional state aid for public libraries. This is strictly pass-through funding that will directly benefit libraries throughout the State.

I recently attended the Legislative Committee’s workshop on library advocacy, where Sally Reed, Executive Director of FOLUSA, talked about a very successful fundraising campaign that included testimonials about the importance of libraries in people’s lives and an ad campaign. I think a similar campaign might help gain support in the legislature for the ODL funding request. As a State agency, ODL cannot lobby for itself, but, the Oklahoma Library Association, in its mission to promote libraries in Oklahoma, can campaign.

The Public Library Directors have agreed to work on this effort, but such a campaign needs the support of all librarians. The Marketing Committee is going to design an ad campaign that will point out that the increase in state aid requested amounts to only $2.50 per person—about the cost of a large Starbucks coffee. If this campaign is coupled with letters to the editor about the benefits of library service from FOLIO and other friends groups, includes testimonials about the difference library services have made in the lives of citizens, and is targeted at the communities where key legislators live, I think it can happen.

You may feel like I did initially—that ODL might get some increase, maybe a million or two, but it isn’t likely to get 7.5 M additional monies. But I think we will be successful if we can work together. And, as they say, if you think you can . . . well, it can happen! If you want to help, please email me at plweavermeyers@noble.org.

This will not be hard; in fact, it seems surprisingly simple. If you can, please send in a story and talk with your friends; we will share this information on the OLA listserv. The Legislative Committee will be going to the capitol, and many of you will be attending. If we can couple this campaign with our more established efforts to get support, I’m confident it will have impact.

Let’s do this in recognition of the librarians that have served Oklahoma over the last one hundred years. Those founders established OLA in an effort to create a state department of libraries, with the intent of garnering federal support. They achieved that goal. Getting full funding for ODL this year would be a worthy salute to their original dream.

Pat Weaver-Meyers
President
YOU’RE INVITED TO A
ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME CONFERENCE

Wednesday April 4th promises:
More sessions, luncheons, demonstrations, table talks, vendor exhibits, Oklahoma authors, booktalks, and more.

Special guests, in addition to the Oklahoma Library Legends, include these speakers and workshop leaders:

- Stephen Abram, Vice President of Innovation for SirsiDynix and Chief Strategist for the SirsiDynix Institute. Mr. Abram is immediate past president of the Canadian Library Association.
- Oklahoma’s own Jan Sanders, now Director of Information Services at the Pasadena Public Library in California, and President-Elect of the Public Library Association (PLA)
- Barbara Bailey, Peter Chase, and George Christian, the librarians behind John Doe vs. the USA PATRIOT Act.
- Sue Hale, Executive Editor of The Oklahoman
- Rebecca Williams, Employee Assistance Coordinator, Integris Health
- Kerry Pettingill, Director of the Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security
- Stephanie Gerding, Continuing Education Coordinator for the Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records Division
- Michael Sullivan, New Hampshire Youth Librarian

Patsy Gaberino Carey will speak at the “Planning for Retirement and Charitable Giving” session, sponsored by the Endowment Ad Hoc Committee and FOLIO. Patsy was recently ranked by Barron’s as one of the top 100 women financial advisers in the country.

And, librarians not to be outdone, we finish the conference with a membership meeting to remember—an OLA Birthday Party complete with cake!

Never fear that you’ll become weary during this conference because you can always stop by for a relaxing chair massage.

Check the OLA Conference Preview, which you’ll receive in early February, for more details.

Rumor has it that we will get a “peek” at OLA’s “own talent” at the Centennial Ball while we peruse the OASLMS auction. At this celebratory event, we may “dawn the Ball” in elegant regalia, or dress in costume from any decade during OLA’s 100 years.

I can’t wait! I’m on my way to find my costume. See you at Conference!!!

Carol Fox
A Celebration of the Life of Ruth W. Brown

The Bartlesville Public Library is hosting a series of events during the week of March 6—11th, 2007, honoring the contributions of Ruth W. Brown during her thirty years of service to the citizens of Bartlesville and to the advancement of Civil Rights. The calendar includes:

- **March 6** – The Johnstone Avenue Irregulars Book Discussion Group will discuss Louise Robbins’ *The Dismissal of Miss Ruth Brown*. 7 p.m.
- **March 8** – Local Storyteller, Fran Stallings, has created a presentation portraying some of the events from that season. Research resources included oral interviews from supporters of Miss Brown and the book by Ms. Robbins. 7 p.m.
- **March 9** – Associate District Judge Jan Dreiling, retired, will review *The Dismissal of Miss Ruth Brown* and from a legal perspective, share insights into the times. 7 p.m.
- **March 10** – Louise Robbins will present “What I Learned Since the Book Came Out.” A reception and book signing will follow. Copies of the book will be available for purchase. 7 p.m.
- **March 11** – The Unveiling! The artist’s work portraying Miss Brown will be presented to the Library. A short program and reception will follow. This event is hosted by Women’s Network and the Bartlesville Public Library. 2 p.m.

The impetus for this project came from Gene Winn, who followed Miss Ruth Brown as Bartlesville’s librarian in 1953, and who also served for over thirty years. Mr. Winn has long had a dream that a permanent memorial be placed in the Bartlesville Public Library to honor Miss Ruth Brown. Women’s Network, formed in 1981 to “educate, empower, and support women,” has made Mr. Winn’s dream a reality.

Noted local Native American artist Janice Albro was engaged as sculptor and the bust was cast at the Bronze Horse Foundry in Pawhuska. Over $24,000 was raised to fund this project, and funds above those needed for the bust and pedestal were used to establish a scholarship for Bartlesville Public Library employees to use towards earning a master’s degree in Library and Information Studies.

The Bartlesville Public Library invites each of you to join us for the festivities. For further information, call 918-338-4161 or email jsinglet@bartlesville.lib.ok.us.
On July 25, 1950, a series of events involving forward-thinking city librarian Miss Ruth Brown culminated in her termination from the position, which she had held since 1919. Brown was fired ostensibly for “circulating communist and subversive materials—The Nation, the New Republic, and Soviet Russia Today,” according to The Dismissal of Miss Ruth Brown: Civil Rights, Censorship, and The American Library, Louise S. Robbins’s biography of Brown (University of Oklahoma Press, 2000). However, it was obvious to many community members that Brown’s termination was due to her increasing work for racial integration, both in the library and in the community. Brown’s is a complicated story which deals with censorship, McCarthyism, segregation, and the freedom to access information.

Brown was a bespectacled woman whose personality had stern aspects, but they stemmed mostly from shyness. She is remembered fondly by many of her patrons, especially children, even though she strictly enforced a policy that no word should be spoken above a whisper in the library. A voracious reader, Brown “exposed her[self] to liberal ideas” which led her to act for integration by allowing African Americans to use the library and conducting racially mixed story hours for children. She and two African American friends staged a sit-in at Hull’s Drug Store, a whites-only business in downtown Bartlesville. On another occasion, Brown took an African American woman who was new in town to a church service at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church. The parishioners balked at worshiping with her, suggesting she sit alone and even writing the woman’s home church in Rochester, New York, to confirm she was actually an Episcopalian. Perhaps the most notable achievement of Brown’s work in activism, however, is the fact that she was instrumental in starting the integrated Committee on the Practice of Democracy, which became the only affiliate of the Committee on Racial Equality south of the Mason Dixon Line. None of these actions served to endear Brown to Bartlesville’s conservative majority, and she was branded a sort of troublemaker by the American Legion and Daughters of the American Revolution groups who spearheaded the movement for her termination. These groups orchestrated Brown’s firing for her continued efforts to achieve integration, but they thinly veiled it with trumped up charges of disseminating Communist literature.

Although Brown’s is a case studied in library schools around the country and the Oklahoma Library Association annually bestows an award in her honor to Oklahoma organizations and individuals making strides toward more equal information access, few in contemporary Bartlesville are aware of the steps courageously taken by Brown to initiate some of the beginnings of the Civil Rights Movement in their own community. However, this is about to change because a committee headed by Bartlesville Women’s Network member Joan Dreisker recently completed a fundraising campaign which raised over $24,000 to place a bust of Ruth Brown in the Bartlesville Public Library. In a recent interview, Dreisker said, “The cost of the bust is $10,000 and the remainder of the money raised will be used to endow a scholarship for a Bartlesville Public Library employee to pursue a Masters in Library and Information Studies.” Gene Winn, who served as Bartlesville’s librarian for over thirty years starting in 1953, will unveil the bust by local artist Janice Albro on March 11, 2007, at 2:00 p.m. at the Bartlesville Public Library. The gala event, which is a large part of the library’s Oklahoma Centennial festivities, will feature remarks on the legal aspects of Brown’s case by District Judge Jan Dreiling, and scholarly research will be presented by Louise S. Robbins, Associate Professor at the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Wisconsin, Madison and author of The Dismissal of Miss Ruth Brown. Library director Joan Singleton will create an exhibit commemorating Brown’s notable tenure as librarian which will travel with her to the April 2007 Oklahoma Library Association’s Annual Conference following its display in the library.

Dreisker says “The bust is a remarkable likeness. Odie McReynolds, Miss Brown’s personal friend, commented that it is ‘as if Ruth could just speak to you.’” Its permanent home will be across from the circulation desk “so that Ruth may watch over her library.” This tribute to Bartlesville’s own champion of intellectual freedom is a poignant way for the city and its library to celebrate the Oklahoma Centennial.
Longtime OLA members Pauline Boyer Rodriguez, Metropolitan Library System, and Parker T. Atkins, Dulaney-Browne Library, Oklahoma City University, were married on November 11, 2006.

Pauline and Parker first met at a Technical Services Roundtable workshop, and have both been active participants in OLA and TSRT. In fact, Parker proposed while the two were in Tulsa for the 2006 conference, and their engagement was announced during two conference sessions.

The couple requested that, in lieu of gifts, friends and family members make donations to the Endowment Fund.

Because TSRT has been an important part of their life together, Pauline and Parker chose to have a photograph taken with their TSRT friends at their wedding. The newlyweds say that they are proof anything can happen when TSRT gets together, and that catalogers are romantic!

Pictured are: MaryGrace Berkowitz, Ursula Ward, Aaron Killough, Jay Shorten, Sarah Simpson, George Alsbach, Pauline, Parker, Ila Grice Coffman, Michele Seikel, Linda West, Linda Pye, Elissa Patadal, Co-Ming Chan, Cathy Blackman, and Harriett Hobbs. In front are Zoe and Jenny Berkowitz.
Oklahoma Crossroads (www.crossroads.odl.state.ok.us/) is the Oklahoma Department of Library’s digitization program. This program began with the digitization efforts of Tally Fugate in our Oklahoma State Archives division and Kitty Pittman in our Oklahoma Collection several years ago. Recently our Oklahoma Publications Collection has also begun to digitize State of Oklahoma government publications; Gary Phillips is saving these materials in digital form. Since I’m involved in this program, this column is not so much a review as an introduction with comments.

Find & browse by division
This currently lists only the Oklahoma Collection and Oklahoma State Archives, so it isn’t accurate. It should also list the Oklahoma Publications Clearinghouse and U.S. Government Information Division.

Find & browse by collection
This is the most useful button on the webpage. Here are its current collections from all the participating divisions of ODL—

46 Federal Publications About Oklahoma
This is a collection of the forty-six most important federal government publications about our state that will eventually include topics ranging from the first geological survey of Oklahoma in 1905 to the failure of Penn Square Bank in 1982, the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Building in 1995, and the killer tornadoes of 1999. It currently contains the annual reports of the Governors of Oklahoma Territory, the 1907 pre-statehood Census of Oklahoma, and a 1905 gazetteer of Indian Territory. It also contains biographies of the Territorial Governors that are not included in the next collection.

100 Years of Oklahoma Governors
This contains biographies and photographs of the governors of the State of Oklahoma. It also contains 100 Years of Oklahoma First Ladies, which is a list of our First Ladies with links where available to their biographies.

Ada Lois Sipuel Case
This contains 251 documents about the first African-American woman admitted to the University of Oklahoma law school in 1948. This consists primarily of legal documents, but is very important for the history of civil rights in Oklahoma.

African-American Crossroads
This collects primary and secondary source materials about Oklahoma’s African-Americans. It currently includes a 1905 publication about the proposed formation of an all-black town named “Red Bird” in what was then the Creek Nation and is now Wagoner County, and The Blacks in Oklahoma, one of a series of books that the Oklahoma Department of Libraries commissioned and published in 1980.

(continued on next page)
Oklahoma Webpages: Oklahoma Crossroads

(continued from previous page)

Oklahoma Authors
This is an A-Z list of authors with biographies. There are currently only twenty authors included, but the list will be expanded in the future. The current list only consists of authors who are still alive.

Oklahoma Carnegie Libraries
This is an almost-6 minute streaming video about Oklahoma’s historical public libraries that were financed by Andrew Carnegie. It actually belongs more in the “Virtual Exhibits” category than in the “Collections” category. Our state’s Carnegie libraries are architectural treasures.

Oklahoma State Government Publications
How do you make every library in Oklahoma a depository library for publications from the state agencies of Oklahoma? This is how. Currently the program focuses on publications that are “born-digital” (publications that were never published in paper but published directly to an agency’s website), and titles that the Clearinghouse didn’t receive enough paper copies of to distribute. But other current and historic publications will be added in the future. The publications of our state colleges and universities are exempt under Oklahoma’s depository law from sending their publications to the Clearinghouse, but some of their publications are being selectively preserved here.

Oklahoma Resources
This is the miscellaneous category of this website. It currently contains a 1905 Gazetteer of Indian Territory and a 1912 Oklahoma Red Book, which is the forerunner of the Directory of Oklahoma/Oklahoma Almanac that ODL publishes.

Tulsa Race Riot Documents
This is one of the premier collections in Oklahoma Crossroads. It contains 1,327 documents about the 1921 incident.

Virtual Exhibits
These are all from our Oklahoma State Archives Division. They consist of online slide shows that you click through.

- Bonnie and Clyde in Oklahoma
- FSA, Photographs
- Oklahoma State Capitol: In the Beginning
- Construction of Oklahoma Governor’s Mansion

Additional features
- Advanced Search – you can search by words and phrases, and by specific collections.
- Preferences – you can customize how results display to your computer screen, including thumbnails.
- My Favorites – you can save your search results.
- About – short history of this project, which began in June 2004.
- Help – extensive information on how to get the most out of Crossroads.
- Copyrights & Permissions – since some materials may be copyrighted, this lists staff information at ODL that you may need to contact to check on the copyright status of these digitized publications.
RSU’s Stratton Taylor Library Announces Resource Sharing Agreement with Will Rogers Public Library

Patrons of Rogers State University’s Stratton Taylor Library and the Will Rogers Public Library in Claremore will be able to easily check out materials from each library starting Jan. 2, 2007.

The two libraries are piloting a resource sharing program to better serve their users, said Alan Lawless, director of the RSU Stratton Taylor Library.

“We are working together to do something for the good of all of Claremore,” Lawless said. “This new cooperative program will make the learning resources of both libraries more accessible to the public.”

The Stratton Taylor Library opened on the Claremore campus in 2004 and has more than 70,000 books, 6,000 audiovisual materials and more than 400 periodical subscriptions. The Will Rogers Library, located at 1515 N. Florence Ave. in Claremore, has more than 60,000 books and 100 periodical subscriptions.

Although the two libraries are both part of a statewide interlibrary loan program, sometimes it takes weeks to receive material through the loan program, Lawless said. The resource sharing agreement will often allow library patrons to pick up materials within 24 to 48 hours, he added.

Patrons can go to their primary library, request materials and then go to the lending library to pick up the materials. Each customer can check out two books and one audiovisual item at a time through the resource sharing agreement.

“I feel like we are doubling our resources,” said Fernando Este, director of the Will Rogers Public Library. “The libraries’ collections complement each other well.”

In addition to sharing resources, the Stratton Taylor Library recently accepted a donation of more than 80 items from the Will Rogers Library which will be added to RSU’s collection.

More information about the resource sharing program is available by calling Janice Ferris, public services librarian for RSU, at 343-7720, or Mary Taber, interlibrary loan coordinator for the Will Rogers Public Library, at 341-1564.
The First Amendment - It's Not Just for Adults!

The Intellectual Freedom Committee and CATS are co-sponsoring a workshop on First Amendment rights to information access for youth, to be held from 9:30 to 4:00 on Tuesday, March 6 at the Midwest City Library. The speaker will be Carrie Gardner, Ph.D., assistant professor in the School of Library and Information Science at Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. She has written and presented extensively on issues surrounding intellectual freedom and the First Amendment, especially as they apply to minors. After Dr. Gardner’s presentation, break-out groups will discuss topics such as:

- Information Needs of Youth
- Youth Privacy in Libraries
- Court cases that set 1st Amendment rights
- In Loco Parentis
- Policies for Youth Access
- Unattended Minors

Bring your questions and learn from your colleagues! For more information on this workshop, please contact Mary Moroney, co-chair of the Intellectual Freedom Committee, at mmoroney@eodls.lib.ok.us or 918-683-2846 x239.

Oklahoma Library Legends Calendar Now Available

You will be amazed at the legacy of librarians we have in Oklahoma since 1907! You can purchase a calendar for your library highlighting some of these Oklahoma Library Legends for just $15.

Do you know—

- who began the Sequoyah Book Award?
- how people got books from traveling libraries before bookmobiles?
- who began the statewide Summer Reading Program?
- who was the first OLA Executive Secretary?

Find out about these wonderful men and women who have given Oklahoma librarians a proud legacy. More information about the 100 Library Legends, selected by the Oklahoma Library Association Centennial Committee, is available at www.oklibs.org. An order form for the calendar is available at http://www.rose.edu/lrc/careers/calendar.htm. Or mail $15 to
Criteria and an application form for the FOLIO Lillian Born Norberg/Mary Lu Atkinson Staff Support Scholarship Program are available through the FOLIO webpage: http://www.okfriends.net/scholarships.htm.

- Applicants must be currently employed at a library in the state of Oklahoma. It may be any type of library: public, academic, special or other. Full or part-time employees are eligible for consideration. Priority is given to education for a master’s degree.
- Applicants must enroll in an educational institution: a community college, a four-year college, technical school or graduate school.
- Applicants may enroll in credit coursework, seminars or workshops that accomplish educational goals. Applicants should strive to complete credit hours in the humanities, computer science, library and information science and/or instructional media at any level.
- Applicants must submit a one to two page answer to the essay question: What are your continuing education goals and how will further education help you in your library career?
- Deadline for submission of application is March 1, 2007. A committee will meet to select the recipients of the scholarships. Four $250 scholarships are available in 2007. The awards will be presented at the FOLIO Annual Meeting luncheon in the Spring of 2007.
- Once enrollment has been completed, each recipient shall mail proof of enrollment to the address listed at the bottom of this form. After completion of the course, each recipient shall send a one-page evaluation of the course to the same address.

**2006 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS:** Angela Armstrong, Ardmore Public Library; Vernard Dale Evans, Harris Library in Weatherford; Candace Montgomery, Rose State College.