Report from President Pat Weaver-Meyers for the Year 2006-2007, OLA’s Centennial Year

Our centennial year so far has been filled with memorable moments and remembrances of past accomplishments. For the first time in many seasons, we have had a chance to welcome back retirees to the Centennial Conference and banquet. Attendance by retirees is due, in part, to several years of hard work by the Centennial ad hoc Committee. Honoring of Library Legends, library collage projects, and oral histories to be recorded at conference, are some of the projects this committee has designed. It has taken considerable time and creativity to help us all look back at our legacy of Oklahoma librarianship with an eye toward our future.

There are a countless number of people to thank this year. In particular, Sarah Robbins, Chair of Local Arrangements made it all look so easy, yet pulled together a remarkable program. Ila Grice Coffman and Pauline Rodriguez-Atkins, Local Arrangements Co-chairs created a very special conference in honor of our centennial, despite some personal life-changing events. All the members of the program committee worked hard and produced a conference worthy of our 100th anniversary.

This has been a year of great events for the Marketing Committee. The Read Y’all campaign gave the Association national prominence when word of a poster of Carrie Underwood hit the Internet. Requests for the poster came in from all over the country. A public school in Pennsylvania is using the Read Y’all theme in their school for a western theme reading program. Marketing also designed the 100th anniversary pins for conference attendees and provided the copy for an advertising campaign in support of Oklahoma Department of Libraries funding request for state aid to public libraries. Although the results are not yet in, this campaign is the first time OLA has coordinated with FOLIO and local library friends to write letters and advertise in local newspapers in support of the ODL funding request. In part, that campaign began after a workshop held by Legislative Committee.

Even though the legislature is still in session, the Legislative Committee has already done plenty. They organized a mini-legislative day early in the session to familiarize new legislators with our interests in state aid for libraries. Regular legislative day will hit the capital later in the session to solidify support of ODL’s budget request and curb any pending legislation that threatens freedom of access to information. Susan McVey and Oliver Delaney continue to monitor proposed legislation and the committee has been quick to formulate responses to any issues that relate to libraries. Goals for the Legislative Committee this year focus on funding for ODL, school libraries and tax legislation, such as TABOR, that might negatively affect funding and access. We are also watching bills related to Internet access in libraries.

For the first time ever, OLA had a Vendor Appreciation Ad Hoc Committee to help us honor our conference vendors for the 100th anniversary. The committee has organized a special thank you reception at the conference with the intent of bringing members and vendor reps together to look back at our years of collaboration.

Sequoyah undertook a long-needed revision of the award calendar and procedures. Due to the closeness of the selections and conference, the Association has had difficulty scheduling award winning authors. Now, with the new schedule in place, we will be able to notify award winners sooner and continue our long-tradition of programming to have young readers meet the authors they select each year. In addition, Sequoyah prepared several special programs regarding historic award winning books along with their regular and numerous conference programs.

The Centennial Endowment ad hoc Committee will complete the final year of the Centennial campaign, begun in April 2002. Fundraising for the Endowment has exceeded $100,000 and the Association has established a permanent Endowment Committee to continue building funds that will keep future membership costs down and provide a stable funding base for long-term programs. We have truly given a legacy to Oklahoma librarians for the next century.

The Association completed its first full year in our headquarters office and is negotiating a lease for an additional year. Permanent office space is being investigated, while our building fund grows. Future Executive Boards will reexamine this issue as better rental and/or properties for purchase become available. The office has made it possible to catch up on membership processing and other office work by giving us the space to employ an additional part-time person. OLA is much more than a full-time job and we are lucky to have a dedicated and enthusiastic Executive Director, Kay Boies. The better you know her, the more you appreciate her. I hope to finish a goal of providing additional computer backup, to ensure our records are protected before my term ends.
Thanks to Sharon Saulmon and the Career Recruitment and Retention Committee, this summer Rose State will host the first-ever grant-funded Information Matrix summer camp for middle school students interested in careers in libraries. Applications deadline is April 1st and the camp will be held in July. We are insuring a bright future of vital new librarians with this program.

The newly formed Archives Committee was able to move the last of our stored archives out of rented storage facilities into the OSU collections, thereby saving rental fees. The committee is working on organizing and cataloging those materials.

OLA Gold is already setting the agenda for the upcoming Leadership Institute in November 2007. This year workshops held by the various divisions and committees have been well attended and positively received. We offer some of the best value in continuing education opportunities in the region. Chairs of the various DROCs deserve a thank you for their hard work as do all the committee members. It takes a village.

Serving as your President has been a life-affirming pleasure. Thank you for the opportunity. It is a privilege to honor those librarians who have gone before us preserving and organizing the sum of human knowledge, contributing to the cultural development of their communities and protecting access for all. Librarians have and will always make a positive difference. Onward into the next 100!

—Pat Weaver-Meyers
President

In 2001 Wayne Hanway appointed an ad hoc Centennial Committee to help librarians across the state prepare for and participate in the 2007 Oklahoma centennial and to plan ways to celebrate OLA’s centennial the same year. At the time, it seemed a long way off, but here we are!

We set up a website on OLA’s home page to focus attention on libraries of all kinds and it now contains about 100 libraries, with photos and short articles. Look for “Focus on Libraries”—and send in your library’s information so it can be added. Tanya Finchum at OSU is the facilitator (tanya.finchum@okstate.edu).

Several bibliographies about Oklahoma and Oklahomans have been prepared and are in the process of being added to that site also. In addition, we elicited input from many sources to put together a list of “46 Highly Recommended Resources.” This list contains several types of materials our Committee believes should be owned by every library in the state. (It’s 46 because Oklahoma was the 46th state to enter the union.) It’s on the next two pages.

A group has worked on an electronic toolkit to assist with programming of all types during this year, and in the years to come. It is still “under construction” but should be extremely valuable for all kinds of libraries, with program ideas, how to plan and present programs, funding tips, and hundreds of resources—people who can be presenters, entertainers, storytellers, re-enactors, musicians, etc. Watch for the addition of “Oklahoma on Stage.”

In addition, the Committee wanted to celebrate library pioneers and those who have made significant contributions to library development in the state over the last 100 years. We chose to call them “Library Legends.” Names were pulled from library histories, OLA archives, Sarah Haney’s dissertation, and obtained from librarians across the state. A panel of long-time Oklahoma librarians narrowed the list to 100 using the Delphi method, remaining anonymous to each other. Each of those selected as a Legend was asked to submit a short article outlining his/her contributions to libraries over the years, along with a photo. Others were asked to write for those legends from the past who are deceased and for organizations included in the list. You can find them all on the OLA web site by clicking in the large box at the top called “Legends.” There will also be a printed version available to all who attend OLA and to each public and academic library. We know that undoubtedly some special people were missed and not on the list, so the Committee is recommending that we continue to add Legends in the future. The Legends will be honored at the banquet at Conference on April 2. Many plan to attend, and it should be lots of fun.

We hope that you enjoy the efforts of our Committee and find them useful to you in your plans for this year. Come to Conference and help us celebrate with our Legends!

—Jan Keene
## 46 Highly Recommended Resources for Libraries for Oklahoma’s Centennial

### Adult Fiction
- Bound for Glory, Woody Guthrie
- Grapes of Wrath, John Steinbeck
- Prairie City, Angie Debo
- Walking the Choctaw Road, Tim Tingle
- Where the Heart Is, Billie Letts
- Invisible Man, Ralph Ellison
- Cimarron, Edna Ferber
- Green Grow the Lilacs: a Play, Lynn Riggs
- Honk & Holler Open Soon, Billie Letts
- Letters of a Self-Made Diplomat to His President, Will Rogers
- Fire in Beulah, Rilla Askew

### Adult Non-Fiction
- And Still the Waters Run, Angie Debo
- Chronicles of Oklahoma (journal), Oklahoma Historical Society
- Five Civilized Tribes, Grant Foreman
- Ghost Towns of Oklahoma, John W. Morris
- 101 Ranch, Ellsworth Collings
- Oklahoma Almanac, Oklahoma Department of Libraries
- Route 66, The Mother Road, Michael Wallis
- Guide to the Indian Tribes of Oklahoma, Muriel H. Wright
- Death in a Promised Land; the Tulsa Race Riot of 1921, Scott Ellsworth
- Fifty Common Birds of Oklahoma and the Southern Great Plains, George M. Sutton
- Woody Guthrie Songbook, Harold Leventhal and Marjorie Guthrie
- Bill Pickett, Bulldogger: the Biography of a Black Cowboy, Bailey C. Hanes
- Indian Removal, Grant Foreman
- Oklahoma Places and Names, George H. Shirk
- Trail of Tears: the Rise and Fall of the Cherokee Nation, John Ehle
- Will Rogers, Ben Yagoda

### Children/Young Adult Fiction
- Where the Red Fern Grows, Wilson Rawls
- Outsiders, S. E. Hinton
- Out of the Dust, Karen Hesse
- Red-Dirt Jessie, Anna Myers
- How Turtle’s Back was Cracked: a Traditional Cherokee Tale, Gayle Ross and Murv Jacob
- Dog Called Kitty, Bill Wallace
- Green Snake Ceremony, Kim Doner

### Children/Young Adult Non-Fiction
- Children of the Dust Bowl, Jerry Stanley
- Maria Tallchief: America’s Prima Ballerina, Ma Tallchief
- This Land is Your Land, Woody Guthrie
- Bill Pickett: Rodeo Ridin’ Cowboy, Andrea Davis Pinkney
- Sequoyah: Leader of the Cherokees, Alice Marriott
- Trail of Tears, Joseph Bruchac

### Audio-Visual
- Indians, Outlaws and Angie Debo, produced by Barbara Abrash and Martha Sandlin (videorecording)
- Story of Will Rogers, videorecording
- Oklahoma! With Gordon McRae and Shirley Jones (DVD)
- Cruisin’ Oklahoma U.S. 66, videorecording hosted by Amy Rollins

### Digital Collections
- Sooner Stories, http://www.odl.state.ok.us/oar/resources/index.htm
- Oklahoma Images, webinfo2.mls.lib.ok.us/okimages/okimages.asp
WESTERN COUNCIL OF STATE LIBRARIES ANNOUNCES LIBRARY PRACTITIONER CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Seattle WA – February 23, 2007. The Western Council of State Libraries, a professional association of 22 state libraries, announced the start of its Library Practitioner Certification program. The certificate provides recognition for library directors and managers located anywhere in the U.S. without a master’s degree in library science. Developed with support from an Institute of Museum and Library (IMLS) grant in response to calls for improved training opportunities, the Western Council identified a set of competencies that define the skills and knowledge needed for success as a library practitioner. The Certification program is based on these competencies. Library practitioners completing 240 contact hours of training in competency areas and with 2000 hours of library experiences will be awarded Western Council certification.

“Developing a certification program for this level of library worker represents an important step in Western Council’s efforts to advance the improvement of library services in communities not yet able to support a professional librarian,” said Jan Walsh, President of Western Council and Washington State Librarian. “By offering standardized certification to library practitioners, Western Council provides employers with a benchmark for selecting highly qualified individuals, while offering individuals a recognized, portable credential that enables them to demonstrate their skills and knowledge. Western Council hopes that applicants look at this certificate as the first step in library science education.”

To insure the quality of courses for applicants, Western Council will require that applicants select from courses offered by Western Council Approved Providers. Institutions and individuals can become Approved Providers by completing an application and submitting a fee based on the type of institution. Upon certification, Approved Providers will be entitled to use an official certification logo as an indication of their status and will be listed in the directory maintained by Western Council.

For complete information about the program, including how to be certified and how to become an Approved Provider, go to http://certificate.westernco.org/.
As you drive around our state some of the most striking human-made additions to the countryside are the massive wind turbines that generate electricity for us. The Oklahoma Wind Power Initiative (OWPI) is a collaborative project between the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University to do research in and promote wind energy for Oklahoma. The OWPI web site is currently being revised from its old web address of www.ocgi.okstate.edu/owpi_old/default.asp (which still works). This is a review of the new web site.

- **SEARCH tool**
  OWPI uses the standard Google search tool, so it has all the strengths and limitations of a standard Google search.

- **Interactive Maps** – in the middle of the homepage.
  This features their Wind Resource Map, which is an online interactive GIS map that shows wind power potential by specific geographic locations in every county in our state, and also shows the locations of major transmission lines; and a Wind and Wildlife Map, which is also an online interactive GIS map that shows the location of wind farms and such potentially-impacted wildlife features as Western Oklahoma Bat Caves, Whooping Crane migration watching sites, and such.

- **Latest OWPI News** - on the right side of the homepage.
  Current news articles.

The following buttons are on the left side of the homepage—

- **About OWPI**
  Their history, objectives, and personnel.

- **Oklahoma Wind Information**
  Links to the full text of such publications as Oklahoma Wind Farms, Economic Analysis of Oklahoma’s Wind Resources, and Wind Turbine Fact Sheet.

- **OWPI Tall Tower Data**
  Currently features U.S. and Oklahoma Wind Estimates, but will soon include Tall Tower Data Summary.

- **Education Outreach**
  Includes a Wind Energy Tutorial written at OU, a link to a Tutorial for Kids at www.KidWind.org, and a link to a Tutorial for Teachers written for teachers in Texas but applicable for Oklahoma’s teachers.
• **OWPI Newsletter**  
Links to the online version of their “Oklahoma WinCharger” newsletter. Both the current issue and past issues are available, along with information about how to subscribe to this free newsletter, and how you can submit your own story about wind energy to the newsletter!

• **National Wind Information**  
Extensive links to public and private data resources about wind energy.

• **Events**  
Events, exhibits, and meetings.

• **Related Links**  
An exhaustive list of links to wind energy information resources from governments, states, organizations, and research labs. Includes educational materials for teachers, information for landowners, and links to wind turbine manufacturers, developers, and consultants.

• **Solar Information**  
• **Biofuel Information**  
These links are under construction.

Reviewed on February 23, 2007

—Steve Beleu

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**“Closed Doors, Open Democracies?”**

Access to government information, including the effect of government suppression and manipulation of scientific information on public health and safety, will be the focus of a panel discussion webcast free for the public at the downtown Oklahoma City library on March 13.

“Closed Doors; Open Democracies?” is scheduled for 7-8:30 p.m. in the 46th Star Auditorium on the fourth floor of the Ronald J. Norick Downtown Library, 300 Park Ave. This national event will begin with a discussion of the issues at the federal and local levels and end with ideas for action by the public.

Speakers include Francesca Grifo, senior scientist and director of the Scientific Integrity Program at the Union of Concerned Scientists, and Rick Piltz, former senior associate, U.S. Climate Change Science Program, who blew the whistle on the Bush administration’s manipulation of scientific reporting related to global warming.

Originating from the National Press Club, the program is organized by OpenTheGovernment.org and is part of national Sunshine Week activities spotlighting the public’s right to know what its government is doing. Freedom of Information Oklahoma Inc. and the Metropolitan Library System are sponsoring the local webcast of the program.

“Oklahomans can hear from national experts how the suppression of scientific information for political purposes is endangering our health, safety and environment,” said Dr. Joey Senat, FOI Oklahoma Inc. president and an Oklahoma State University associate journalism professor. FOI Oklahoma Inc. is a statewide nonprofit organization educating the public and elected officials about openness in government and the rights guaranteed by the First Amendment.

For more information, contact:  
Joey Senat, Ph.D.  
405-744-8277
THE RESEARCH DIVISION OF THE OKLAHOMA HISTORY CENTER WORKS WITH CAMERON UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES NEWSPAPER PROJECT

In preparation for the Cameron University Centennial, 1908-1909, the Cameron University Archives, Lawton, Oklahoma, is pleased to announce a joint newspaper project between the University Archives and the Research Division of the Oklahoma Historical Society.

Mr. William D Welge, Director of the Research Division, has made microfilm copies of Lawton-area newspapers available on loan to the University Archives for scanning purposes. There are a total of 951 reels of newspapers which date from 1901, when the city of Lawton was established, through 2001. Jeanne Gaunce, University Archivist, retrieves 15-20 reels of microfilm each week from the Research Division in Oklahoma City and returns them the following week. Anticipated project end date is December 2007. Mr. Welge, concerned with the summer genealogist researchers who might need access to the microfilm, stipulated that the project be discontinued through heaviest traffic months at the Research Center. Therefore, the project will be suspended between the middle of May through the first of September 2007.

The University Archives plans to use the digitized images and converted PDF files on its web site, in exhibits, and to make print copies available to researchers. Articles of particular interest include the establishment of Cameron as an Agricultural High School in 1908 through its various name and status changes. These articles document Cameron’s growth from its first graduating high school class of four members, to a Junior College, a four-year College, to its current status as a State University. Cameron University offers six Master's Degrees and has a fall 2006 enrollment of over 4000 full-time students.

Other types of articles scanned will document student life, campus changes, sporting events and championships, faculty and staff, leadership changes, and other items of community and Cameron interest. During the early stages of this project, new information about a devastating 1929 fire was discovered. The fire “... consumed all the farm equipment of the school and half a dozen automobiles...” and a frame tool shed.

The cooperation between the Research Division of the Oklahoma Historical Society and the Cameron University Archives on this project is an example of the support promoted between the Historical Society and its fellow institutions.

—Jeanne Gaunce, Cameron University Archivist

Mark Your Calendar!

OLA Legislative Day 2007 is Tuesday, April 24

Watch for registration information in your mail!

What would you buy with $2.50?

$2.50 per person per year

A cafe latte at the local coffee shop... OR... Better library service for all of Oklahoma

It's Time to Increase State Aid for Public Libraries. State Aid to public libraries has averaged 50¢ per person for two decades. While the cost of materials and services has skyrocketed, Oklahoma citizens deserve better state funding for libraries.

State Aid is Flexible. It can be used to meet the particular needs of your library and community. Some libraries will use the funds to purchase materials, while others will upgrade computers, begin wireless service, or provide more educational programs for children.

Every Oklahoman Benefits. State Aid payments go to libraries in all 77 counties. Few families could afford the materials and services they receive from their library if they had to pay for the individual books, magazines, Internet access and programs libraries provide on a voluntary basis.

No new taxes are required to increase State Aid to $2.50 per capita. Funding can come from existing state revenues that have increased this year.

WE NEED YOUR HELP • CALL YOUR LEGISLATOR

If you use your local library, PLEASE take five minutes and call or email your legislator. Ask them to fully allocate funding for the Oklahoma Department of Libraries - State Aid to Libraries at $2.58 per capita.

Oklahoma Legislature - 405-521-2211 or 1-800-522-4856
www.leg.state.ok.us
The fry promoted by Oklahoma library supporters.

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