Oklahoma LIBRARIAN

Volume 57, No. 6
November/December 2007

OLA SETS 2008 CONFERENCE IN TULSA


Featured speaker is George Needham, vice president of member services for Online Computer Library Services (OCLC), the international service providing union catalogue services to 112 countries. He is co-host with library consultant Joan Frye Williams of the podcast series, “George and Joan, Thinking Out Loud,” which discusses trends in society and technology and how they affect libraries and librarians.

The conference, attended by public, academic, school and special librarians from across the state, will include exhibits, author visits, and educational sessions on library issues, technology and advocacy.

Brooks, University of Tulsa librarian, and Aldrich, Jenks High School library media specialist, chair the Local Arrangements Committee, including Tiffany Turner, and Andy Lupardus, TU; Dan Manley and Phyllis Nethercot, Jenks Public Schools; Kathy Huber, Cindy Hulsey, and Anna Turner, Tulsa City-County Library; R.D. Bell, Robin Leech and Lynn Wallace, Oklahoma State University; Carol Fox, Oklahoma Department of Libraries (retired); Angel Kymes, Northeastern State University; Danny Wallace, University of Oklahoma; Joan Bennett, Locust Grove High School; Gerry Henderson, Friends of Libraries In Oklahoma; Sandi Lofton, NSU student.

Kate DiCamillo Delights Tulsa Library Customers

TULSA --- Newbery Medal-winning author Kate DiCamillo packed in the crowds two days in a row as she visited the Tulsa City-County Library on Aug. 24 and 25 to receive the Tulsa Library Trust’s 2007 Anne V. Zarrow Award for Young Readers’ Literature.

More than 450 fans turned out to honor DiCamillo at the Zarrow award presentation on Aug. 24. The following day, she presented awards to winners of Tulsa City-County Library’s 2007 Young People’s Creative Writing Contest and gave tips on how to write creatively to the crowd of more than 500 children and adults.

“Somehow through sheer audacity, through dumb luck, through willpower, through instinct, through defiance, through faith, through something unknowable, inexplicable, magical, I had conjured something from nothing; and that’s what writing is,” said DiCamillo at the Zarrow award presentation, “There is always somebody who will tell you that you cannot; there is always somebody who will insist the thing that moves you is not really special at all; but when it works, none of that matters.”

The Zarrow award consists of a $7,500 cash prize and an engraved crystal book. The Tulsa Library Trust gives the award annually to a nationally acclaimed author who has made a significant contribution to the field of literature for children and young adults.

“Just like a good writer brings an extra dose of imagination to a story, the Tulsa Library Trust allows us to add a generous helping of imagination to the library—they add the shine to our star, the fuel to our laughter, and the smile to the faces of countless area children and adults,” said Linda Saferite, CEO, Tulsa City-County Library, at the Zarrow award presentation.

In conjunction with the award, the library offered Mr. Henry’s Books Teacher Workshop in January to help teachers prepare their students for DiCamillo’s visit to Tulsa. Each teacher who attended the workshop received 35 free copies of “Because of Winn-Dixie” to give to his or her students. A total of 3,000 copies of “Because of Winn-Dixie” were given. One lucky teacher who attended won a classroom visit by DiCamillo while she was in Tulsa. The Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation funds Mr. Henry’s Books.

For more information about the Anne V. Zarrow Award for Young Readers’ Literature or the Tulsa Library Trust, call Larry Bartley, Tulsa Library Trust manager, 918-996-7905.
Unbelievably, a little over one fourth of the year has gone. I remember back in July thinking that even though I had been very busy time seemed to be moving very slowly and now suddenly it seems it has developed wings. It really is true “time flies when you are having fun.” I want to tell you about the fun I am having as President of OLA.

First, I want to say that being President is fun because of the wonderful people. Each member that I meet adds a new dimension to my life. Your dedication to libraries and library service in Oklahoma is very inspiring. Working with Kay is a pleasure. She is almost a walking encyclopedia on OLA. Before I was president I knew Kay cared about the organization but did not realize the depth of her passion. We are fortunate to have her as our Executive Director. Leslie Langley, this year’s, program chair, is a delight. I think she represents what makes this organization so great. Her library in Wister is a very small one room library down in the southeast corner of the state and her office is the circulation counter. Yet, Leslie not only runs a library her community is proud of but, as program chair she travels all across the state and has the humongous task of putting the 2008 Conference programs together. I do not have time to mention all of the other individuals who are contributing time and money to make this organization great but the officers, and DROC chairs are the people who really make OLA work. Last year someone told me that picking Committee Chairs was the hardest job for the President because good Committee, Division and Roundtable chairs are the keys to the organization and this is true. I want all of the leadership to know I appreciate you and thank you for your dedication. All of you are the keys to the future of OLA.

Second, I am having great fun traveling. I get to go to many places and attend events as an ambassador for OLA. It is great to visit many different libraries for various committee meetings, workshops, or other events. I love libraries and nearly always get an idea of something that I might use in my library when I visit another library no matter what size. I am constantly in awe of the quality of library service provided to the citizens of Oklahoma. Also, it is great fun to attend so many events that I would not normally attend. It was rather overwhelming to attend ALA this past summer in Washington D.C. It had been more years than I want to mention since I had attended an ALA Annual Conference. I am looking forward to Midwinter in Philadelphia. I went to Encyclo-Media this year for the first time and I was impressed. This is an excellent event and I recommend it for all school, children’s and YA librarians. I represented OLA at two library school student events, one at NSU and one at OU. There are two regional meetings this fall where several of the leadership will share OLA with members and prospective members. I will represent OLA at the Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums Conference and at FOLIO’s Literary Landmark in Claremore this month. I am honored to be invited to attend OLA Gold next month. I am trying my best to spread the OLA story to as many as possible. I know that OLA is the key to the future of Oklahoma Libraries and libraries are the keys to the future of our communities.

—Jan Bryant
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Start your Search Engines!

A Quick Guide to Finding Government Information on the Web

Navigating federal government information on the web can be a challenging task. Fortunately, there are excellent search engines available to enable all types of users to find the information they need. Let's look at three of them.

GPO Access (www.gpoaccess.gov) is the search engine of the Government Printing Office. This site is easier to use if you are already familiar with government structure and government publications. For example, there is an A to Z list of publications, but this may not be helpful to the general or first-time user who wants information "on economics." However, if a patron asks for Economic Indicators or the Economic Report of the President, this is the search engine to use. You can also search GPO Access by branch of government (legislative, executive or judicial), or link to a partner site to find a particular government agency's web site, if you know the agency you want. Don't know executive from judicial? If not, you can search the Catalog of Government Publications by keywords and link directly to electronic documents on your topic. If all else fails, you can also find a depository library near you from this site, to get help with navigation. Does this search engine fit you or not?

If not, try USA.gov (www.usa.gov), a more novice-friendly search engine. Here you can search for information in a dozen broad topics, such as health, agriculture, education, etc., or you can simply put in a keyword search, such as "bird flu." This search engine also connects you to various government consumer services on the web, such as stamps online, grants available, government forms, Medicare card replacement, or "check immigration status." And, for more advanced users who know their way around government agencies, there is a list of agency links from A to Z. USA.gov also links you to more specialized search engines such as science.gov or consumer.gov and to information on tribal or state governments.

Still feel more comfortable with Google? Then go to the advanced search page on Google and try Google U.S. Government (it's near the bottom of the page) (www.google.com/ig/usgov). Here you can search in a Google format, and your results are all from government web pages (look for the.gov on each piece.) The homepage of this search engine has links to news headlines from the Washington Post and other newspapers, and to headlines from the White House and from Congress. So this is the search engine to use to find more information on that morning new bulletin about a key vote in congress.

So there you are, a trio of search engines to satisfy every government information need and skill level. And as always, if you get stuck, call your nearest depository library for help!

Barbara Miller
Oklahoma State University Documents Librarian
**Centennial Accolades at OLA 2007**

"It's abundantly clear from a number of studies that people who live generous lives also live happier lives," says Stephen Post, head of the Institute for Research on Unlimited Love (IRUL), at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. Dr. Post has sponsored a number of studies by scientists at major universities in disciplines from sociology to public health. The results show that doing good for others helps people to live healthier, happier, and longer. Maybe that is why there was lots of excitement and energy surrounding the OLA Endowment table at this year’s annual conference as many of you stopped by to honor friends, mentors, and colleagues with a Centennial Accolade. The board displaying the names of honorees was completely covered by the end of conference! Given the recent research findings on the benefits of giving, those of you who gave may actually live a little longer and smile a little more while you are doing it!

Buying an accolade for a friend or mentor is an opportunity to both give and say thank you to someone who has given to you. And remember that the benefits of giving to OLA are not limited to conference. A donation any time during the year in honor of or in memory of a special person is a wonderful way to recognize someone you care about, while supporting something you care about.

The total of the Endowment to date, through all fundraising efforts, is $136,285.00. Contributions raised through the 2007 Centennial Accolade program totaled $5,631.00. Thank you for your generosity and for recognizing those who are important to you and Oklahoma’s libraries.

Shari Clifton

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**LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE**

A National Reading and Writing Promotional Program for children and young adults

The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, in partnership with Target Stores and in cooperation with affiliate state centers for the book, invites readers in grades 4 through 12 to enter *Letters About Literature*, a national reading-writing contest. To enter, readers write a personal letter to an author, living or dead, from any genre—fiction or nonfiction, contemporary or classic—explaining how that author's work changed the student's way of thinking about the world or themselves. There are three competition levels: Level I for children in grades 4 through 6; Level II for grades 7 and 8, and Level III, grades 9 - 12. Winners, announced in the spring of each year, receive cash awards at the national and state levels.

**This time, national winners will receive a $10,000 reading promotion grant for their school or community library!**

**Honorable mention winners will receive a $1,000 grant for their school or community library.**

We distributed the Letters About Literature information at Encyclo-Media in August, and we're also distributing at other events. We had a national winner from Oklahoma a couple of years ago (Amy Tai from Jenks Middle School) and we'd love to have another one!

Entries are due by December 14. Contest info and forms are available at: [www.loc.gov/letters](http://www.loc.gov/letters). Glenda Carlile in the Oklahoma Center for the Book also has extra forms if you need them. She can be reached at 405-522-3575 or via e-mail at gcarlile@oltn.odl.state.ok.us.
Norman Public Schools Honored as 2007 National School Library Media Program of the Year

The Norman Public Schools is the American Association of School Librarians 2007 National School Library Media Program of the Year District Award winner. The award recognizes exemplary school library media programs that are fully integrated into the school’s curriculum. The winning district receives national recognition, an engraved crystal obelisk, and $10,000. The award is sponsored by Follett Library Resources. An awards luncheon was held at the National American Library Association Conference in Washington, D.C. earlier this summer. Several Norman Public Schools library media specialists were in attendance. On September 17, 2007, Jack Belford, Larry Harper, and Wendall Fields, executives from Follett Library Resources, presented the crystal obelisk to the Norman Public Schools Board of Education. A reception was held prior to the Board of Education presentation. Dr. Joseph Siano, Norman Public Schools Superintendent, State Superintendent Sandy Garrett, Jack Belford from Follett Library Resources, Dr. Dan Snell, President of the Norman Public Schools Board of Education, and Kathryn Lewis, Director of Media Services and Instructional Technology made remarks during the reception. Several legislators including Representative Scott Martin and Senator Cal Hobson attended the ceremony. Norman Mayor Cindy Rosenthal presented a proclamation to Norman Public Schools honoring the library media program. Many state and community partners were in attendance including Kay Boies, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Library Association, Priscilla Allen, Chair of the Oklahoma Association of School Library Media Specialists, Dr. Kathy Latrobe, Dean of the University of Oklahoma School of Library and Information Studies, and Barb Pfoehm, Director of Library Media Oklahoma State Department of Education.

The application submitted by Norman Public Schools included examples of how the district implements its library mission and evidence of how it incorporates the national library standards. The Norman Public Schools Library Media Program fosters partnerships for learning and teaching through a student centered, fully integrated library program that supports student achievement. A five-member committee came to Norman last April to visit the district’s school library media centers. The committee met all of the district’s library media specialists as well as many of the district administrators, principals, teachers, and library assistants.

“Our media centers are a key component of the district’s instructional program. This is a well deserved recognition for the efforts of our quality staff,” commented Dr. Joseph Siano, Superintendent.

Kathryn Lewis, Director of Media Services and Instructional Technology for Norman Public Schools, says of the award, “It is a great honor for the Norman Public Schools to be recognized as the American Association of School Librarians 2007 National School Library Media Program of the Year District Award winner, and we gratefully acknowledge the sponsorship of Follett Library Resources. It is our belief that school library media centers play a vital role in the lives and academic success of our students. As the hubs of our schools, library media centers are central to learning and teaching in our district. Our mission is to create lifelong readers who are effective and efficient consumers of information and knowledge. To accomplish this mission, our library media specialists are master teachers dedicated to providing the highest quality and level of library service to students, parents, and staff. The library media program’s past accomplishments and present success are reflective of the powerful collaborative partnership between librarians, administrators, and teachers.”


—Kathryn Lewis
September 27th, 2007—Last week brought the First Book team to Oklahoma City for the conclusion of “What Book Got You Hooked?” — our summer-long campaign celebrating our 15th anniversary and the distribution of our 50 millionth book to kids in need. Visitors to the First Book Web site were invited to share the books that made them readers, then vote for the state to receive 50,000 brand new children's books through First Book.

That state was OKLAHOMA!

First Book was delighted to meet the wonderful supporters from the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, the Oklahoma City Community Foundation and the dozens of other local programs whose consistent voting made their win possible. On September 19, these local heroes came together to attend a celebratory event held at Omniplex, Science Museum Oklahoma.

They were joined by several members of the media, as well as: Oklahoma’s First Lady Kim Henry; Janet Stevens of Idearc Media, a sponsor of the national competition; Makenna Smith, Miss Oklahoma 2007; Mike Wimmer, award-winning children’s book illustrator; Brooke Good, Mrs. Oklahoma International 2007; and Susan McVey, Director of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries.

“We are thankful to all those who voted for Oklahoma to win these 50,000 new books. It proves once again that Oklahomans care deeply about children and education,” First Lady Henry said at the event. “I know that these books will be a blessing to the families that receive them.”

Thanks to the work of fantastic volunteers, by the end of the day 50,000 brand new books generously donated by DK Publishing were distributed to nearly 80 local programs — the perfect ending to a great trip.

You can view more photos from the event on Flickr.
Oklahoma Webpages: OSU/GPO Browse Topics
http://www.browsetopics.gov/

Browse Topics (BT) is a partnership between the Documents Division of Oklahoma State University and the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO). BT began in 1996 by GPO staff, then moved to the University of Central Oklahoma in 1999, and then to OSU in 2002. It is our nation’s primary source of online bibliographies for federal publications and websites. In effect it is “The National Subject Bibliographies of Federal Government Information”. Most of its online bibliography web pages are written by Federal Government Information Librarians in the Federal Depository Library Program. Although you’ll find it on the GPO website, it is maintained by the Documents Department staff of OSU.

BT currently has over 55 contributors writing for it, and almost 100 topics. Since these bibliographies are written by subject specialists in federal government information, they’re authoritative, exhaustive, and current. If you’ve ever seen the former website, don’t judge Browse Topics by it! The newly revised website as noted above is a 100% improvement. Here are its subject categories—

- Business and Economy
- Computers & Internet
- Defense & Military
- Education
- Environment
- Health & Safety
- History
- International
- People & Cultures
- Politics & Law
- Recreation & Travel
- Reference
- Science & Technology
- United States

Within each of these categories you’ll find numerous online bibliographies. For example, within “Computers & Internet” you’ll find “Computer Security, “ID Theft,” “Online Privacy,” and “Web Accessibility”.

Other features that you’ll find useful are “Newest Additions,” “Featured Sites,” and “Most Popular Sites”. As a librarian you can also suggest new topics by contacting the staff at the OSU Documents Department.

Reviewed on October 9, 2007
Steve Beleu

Encyclo-Media 27

Encyclo-Media 27 had almost 2600 participants this year, and was an official centennial event. Shown signing her books is Wendelin Van Draanen, our author/speaker. She is the author of the Sammy Keyes series and Shredderman series, and has had several titles on the Sequoyah Children’s and YA masterlists.

The Copyright Advisory Network (http://www.librarycopyright.net/), a project of the ALA Washington Office’s Office for Information Technology Policy, is a website where librarians can get advice about sticky copyright questions. In early October a new group of Copyright Scholars from around the country, including Janet Brennan Croft of the University of Oklahoma, met in Washington for training. The Copyright Advisory Network site will be undergoing a complete reorganization and is set to add a library copyright issues wiki to the current blog and forums.
OLA AWARDS

THE OKLAHOMA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
RECOGNIZES MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT IN THE FIELD OF
LIBRARY SERVICE BY PRESENTING AWARDS, CITATIONS, AND
HONORS AT THE OLA ANNUAL CONFERENCE TO BE HELD
APRIL 21-23, 2008 IN TULSA, OKLAHOMA

AWARD CATEGORIES INCLUDE:

ROBERT MOTTER VENDOR APPRECIATION AWARD
CITIZEN'S RECOGNITION AWARD
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE
LIBRARY EXCELLENCE AWARD
OKLAHOMA LIBRARY SERVICE AWARD
OUTSTANDING NEW LIBRARIAN AWARD
SPECIAL MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD
SPECIAL PROJECT AWARD
SUPPORT STAFF PERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OLA AWARDS,
VISIT WWW.OKLIBS.ORG AND CLICK ON AWARDS.
DEADLINE FOR RECEIVING AWARD NOMINATIONS IS FEBRUARY 1, 2008