As a part of the Oklahoma Library Associations theme for 2007-2008, Keys to the Future, OLA has established an Ad Hoc Committee for Tribal Libraries or Archives and American Indian Collections. This committee will seek to involve the people working in the Tribal Libraries or Archives as well as those working with America Indian collections in non-tribal libraries or those interested in American Indian services and programs.

The purpose for this committee is three-fold.

- First, it is to provide a place for active participation in OLA on the part of those people working in these special collections. Those working in the Tribal Libraries and those interested in their issues have had a discussion group but they were not a part of the Program Committee so were limited in their participation in planning process for OLA. Forming a committee allows the committee co-chairs to be a part of the OLA leadership and members of the Program Committee. This will allow for more input into future workshops and conference programs and give them a stronger voice in OLA.

- The second purpose of the committee is to involve those working in these special libraries. To date there have been very few members from these special libraries. Many of the Tribal Nations have established or are establishing libraries, archive collections, and college libraries, so it is important to include them in the library organization.

- The third purpose is to promote relationships. Many of us who work in public, school, and college or university libraries have not built a relationship with our colleagues who work in the Tribal Libraries or Archives. This must be done. We have much to offer each other which will make all of our libraries stronger and better.

The mission of OLA is to support libraries, librarians and library services and this includes all libraries. Therefore the Committee for Tribal Libraries, Archives, and American Indian Collections is an essential Key to the Future, enabling the Oklahoma Library Association to fulfill its mission.

Anyone interested in being a member of this new committee, please contact Jan Bryant at ljanbryant@eok.lib.ok.us or Kay Boies at kboies@sbcglobal.net.
President's Column...

Keys to Our Future

The 2008 Oklahoma Library Association Conference is about here and it is going to be great. I want to issue each member of OLA a personal invitation to come to this year’s conference as we unlock the future of libraries in Oklahoma. I know some of you have said or will say, “I don’t see anything for me — why should I attend?” Well, I am so glad you asked that question because I have some reasons why each and every member of OLA should attend the conference.

First you should attend just because you are an Oklahoma librarian and OLA is your organization. A part of being a librarian working in Oklahoma is to participate in your library association. You are important to the association and your association is important to you. Your association continually works to increase the resources for your libraries. Your association works to increase revenues for your libraries. Your association supports the need to keep master’s level library media specialists in the schools. Your library association battles for Intellectual Freedom. Your library association stands to protect free access to information. Your library association works for you.

You should attend because it is your conference. All of the DROCs have worked very hard to plan and present programs that will be relevant to people working in all types of libraries or collection as well as for the various types of work and the various positions. There are programs for people working with children and for college and university librarians; there are programs relevant to directors and programs relevant to clerks. The DROCs have brought in speakers from outside Oklahoma to share their experiences in specific aspects of library work and they have brought you those within our own organization who are experts in their areas. They have provided programs on traditional subjects such as weeding and cutting edge programs such as the one on Second Life. It is your conference, planned just for you and providing help and/or information that is relevant to what you do every day.

You should attend because it is a time to build relationships. The conference is a time to renew acquaintance with colleagues and friends that you seldom see. It is a time to catch up on what is happening in other libraries across the state. It is a time to meet new colleagues and to make new friends. One of the greatest things about the OLA is that it includes all types of libraries, so at conference you are able to build relationships not just with other librarians who work in the same type of library, but also those who work in libraries totally different than yours. In your daily routines you often get so focused that you forget that other librarians are dealing with other issues that are just as intense. Then again you find that sometimes it doesn’t matter where you are, you are dealing with the same issues.

The time spent at conference allows you to learn not only from the programs but also from other attendees. Sometimes it is an idea sparked in conversation that opens whole new vistas of library service.

You should attend the OLA Conference because it is a great time. It is fun. It is invigorating. It will revitalize you and you will be a better librarian for having taken the time to refresh. I once heard “vacation” defined as doing something different than you normally do—the OLA conference fits that definition so think of it as a mini vacation. It has fun, food, and fellowship, wow!

Finally you need to come to conference because the organization needs you. The strength of OLA is dependent on the support of the members. OLA is a member driven organization so it can not exist without its members. Your presence provides both financial support and personal support. The conference is one of the three sources of revenue for OLA so your attendance is vital to keeping the organization operating. It also relies on members providing the person power to carry out its work. You are important. OLA needs you.

As you can see there are numerous reasons to come to the 2008 OLA Conference, so I expect to see you there! You are the Keys to the Future of OLA.

—Jan Bryant
The 19th Oklahoma Book Awards is March 8, 2008 at 6:30 pm at the Edward L. Gaylord – T. Boone Pickens Oklahoma Heritage Museum, 1400 Classen Drive, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. “As always, it will be a fabulous dinner and a gala evening to meet new author finalists and visit with old friends,” states Lynn McIntosh, President of the Friends. Along with the annual Book Awards, the Center honors an Oklahoman who has contributed to the state’s literary heritage by giving the Arrell Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award. The award is named for Norman historian Arrell Gibson, the Center’s first president. The 2008 Arrell Gibson Award for Lifetime Achievement will be awarded to David Dary, award-winning historian and author. The 2008 recipient of the Ralph Ellison Award is Danney Goble, noted author, scholar and the University of Oklahoma professor of Classics and Letters until his death in March 2007. Other awards will be given for fiction, poetry, design/illustration, children/young adult and nonfiction.

The Oklahoma Center for the Book (OCB) is a state affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, and is organized to focus attention on the vital role of books and reading in our lives. The Center promotes the past, current, and future works of Oklahoma authors; promotes the literary heritage of the state; and encourages reading for pleasure by Oklahomans of all ages. When the Library of Congress announced the granting of permission to States to become part of their program, the Oklahoma Department of Libraries assembled an advisory group and wrote a proposal. The Oklahoma Center for the Book became the fourth state center on February 28, 1986.

The Center is governed by a 30-member, volunteer board of directors from across the state, and for the past ten years has sponsored the Oklahoma Book Award program. Oklahoma Book Awards are given each year in fiction, non-fiction, children/young adult, poetry, and design/illustration categories for work written by an Oklahoman or about Oklahoma.

In addition to these activities, the Center brings readers and writers of all ages together at libraries and bookstores across the state for special events. The Center often supports other literary activities through grants and staff assistance. Within the scope of the mission, the Center has developed the Oklahoma Author Database. The Friends of the Center sponsors “Kids Caught Reading,” “Letters about Literature,” and with an Inasmuch Foundation grant supports “Authors in Libraries” for small rural communities. The Friends co-sponsor and support numerous other statewide literary events and programs, such as “Oklahoma Literary Landmarks,” and “Oklahoma Reads Oklahoma.”

For more information or to join the Center for the Book, go to www.odl.state.ok.us/ocb or call 405.522.3575.
The National Severe Storms Laboratory (NSSL) in Norman is one of the premier weather research labs of our nation. The focus of research at the lab is on weather radar, hydrometeorology, and improving weather forecasting and storm warnings, all of which of course includes tornadoes.

**About NSSL** – includes information about the NSSL, information for people wanting to visit the NSSL, and a staff directory.

**Weather research** – includes links to their three main research programs—weather radar, forecasts and warnings, and hydrometeorology. Also includes links to current projects and information about them and a database of their publications, which features both a “Basic Search” tool that lists all NSSL publications by year and also features a “Recent Books” link, and an “Advanced Search” tool that searches by year published, author, author affiliation, keyword, conference name, and journal name.

**Field observations** – includes links to the types of field observation programs and technologies that NSSL operates or is involved with—**Fixed Systems**, such as the Oklahoma Lightning Mapping Array and the Oklahoma Mesonet network; **Mobile Systems**, which includes mobile radar units and mobile labs; and **Field Reports**, which are other current in-the-field programs.

**News & media** – includes their online **Briefings** newsletter, their **Background** series of papers about current NSSL technology projects, **Hot Items** which are articles about NSSL projects and activities that have drawn public attention, and **News Headlines**, which are articles about NSSL originally printed in the Norman Transcript newspaper.

**Education** – includes educational items about the weather designed for children from K through grade 12, but also for adults. Examples—“Basic Introduction to [Weather] Map Analysis and Interpretation,” their “Billy and Maria” coloring books about various weather topics, and a page of links designed for teachers who want to teach weather in their classrooms which features “Resource Listings for Weather and Climate Instruction.”

**Quick links** is a drilldown feature that includes these links “Current Weather,” “FAQs,” “Seminars,” “Severe Weather Safety,” and others.

The homepage also highlights new features, although they’re not labeled as such, and links to podcasts and online videos.

—Steve Beleu
OLA 2008 Legislative Goals

• Increase State Aid for Public Libraries to $2.50 per capita
• Provide additional resources such as genealogy databases and downloadable audiobooks
• Support equal access to information for all Oklahomans
• Keep library governance local for public and school libraries
• Ensure quality school library programs for students staffed by certified master's level library media specialists
• Oppose TABOR or any similar legislation

Congratulations to Mandy Godfrey, library media specialist at Deer Creek Elementary School for being selected Deer Creek School DISTRICT Teacher of the Year. Debbie Straughn, the school's principal, had high praise for Mandy. "Students always find something interesting in the library whether it be books or the banana splits she made to illustrate the different parts of the library. She's just so creative, but she is also known for her ability to learn and help other teachers. There is not one person in the building who doesn't like and respect her." Godfrey said, "It is great to be recognized as a librarian and as a teacher. Everything I do is just an extension of the classroom."

Happy 35th Birthday to the OLA Social Responsibility Roundtable!

In 1972 Paul Little of Oklahoma County Libraries, chair of the Social Responsibilities Committee, began the process of getting the committee accepted as a Roundtable of OLA. OLA-SRRT was officially approved in April 1973.

Safety on the Internet Highway

Learn to

• Manage the Challenges of Social Networking Sites, Blogs, IM and other places online
• Educate Customers & Legislators about the Benefits vs. Dangers of Online Networking

Monday, May 12, 2008
At Oklahoma Department of Libraries
South Conference Room
9:30-3:15
CEUs: .53
Of interest to all
Sponsored by the Public Library Division

Program Agenda
9:00 – 9:30 a.m. Registration & Coffee, ODL South Conf. Room
9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Internet Safety Issues: Joel Gabel, Google Executive
10:30 – 10:45 a.m. Morning Break
10:45 – 11:45 a.m. Internet Crimes: OSBI Representative
11:45-12:10 p.m. Q & A for OSBI and Google
12:10- 12:45 p.m. Lunch on-site
12:45-1:45 p.m. "Beyond the Fear Factor": Wesley Fryer, AT&T Executive
1:45-2:00 p.m. Afternoon Break
2:00-3:00 p.m. Educating Customers & Legislators about the benefits vs. dangers of online networking with Wesley Fryer
3:00-3:15 p.m. Wrap-up and completion of evaluation

For more information, contact Lynda Reynolds, Stillwater Public Library, 405.372.3633 ext. 101

Let’s face it, statistics can be intimidating to use! But the federal government now has many web sites to help you out. Let’s begin with the two general statistics sources. The U.S. Statistical Abstract, http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/, the basic statistical index for federal sources since 1878, is now available online back to 1878. This resource is excellent for very basic statistical data, particularly if you are familiar with the paper version of the product, and/or are familiar with exactly what statistical data you want. For example, you can quickly access the Gross National Product or the number of cattle processed in Oklahoma last year. If you don’t know that cattle production is under Agriculture and GDP is under Income and Expenditures, there is a tiny keyword search box at the bottom of the page. Discussions of major statistical resources for each broad topic are available, but oddly you must link to a section called “Tables” to find this information. You can also look at the bottom of each table to find the data source for further information, but there are no links to these sources for additional data.

A better source for those unfamiliar with statistics is the FedStats website http://www.fedstats.gov/. This site is a major search engine providing access to statistics on all topics with links to various federal agency sites. The web page is divided into a search by topic A to Z, or a search of federal agencies A to Z, with information on what statistics each agency offers and links to their pages. The topics A to Z site also provides direct links to statistical profiles for the states, counties and cities in the U.S., as well as for congressional districts (important in this election year) and judicial districts. There are also links to statistical data by geography from various U.S. agencies, and direct links to well-known statistical sources such as the Statistical Abstract and Health United States. This web site is very user friendly and makes every effort to guide those non familiar with federal sites through the maze of statistical data. One note: you cannot go to “C” on the A to Z list and find the Census material. You must go to Population, for example, and then access the web site for population data from the Census.

Most librarians know that the Federal Census in all its forms is a primary source for statistical information. The Census web site, American Factfinder, http://factfinder.census.gov/, is not for the faint of heart and you might need to consult your local depository library for help in navigation or interpretation here. Try it out, then call us for help.

Many executive agencies have excellent statistical websites available, and you can link from FedStats.gov or go directly to these websites. These include National Center for Education Statistics, http://nces.ed.gov/, National Center for Health Statistics, http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/, Bureau of Labor Statistics, http://www.bls.gov/, and National Center for Agricultural Statistics http://www.nass.usda.gov/. These sites provide excellent data down to minute detail, but vary as to how far back they go in time. If you need older data, your depository library will often have hard copies of earlier statistics. And for information on more statistical resources online, check out the Oklahoma State University Documents Department web site for many more links to federal, state, and international statistics at http://www.library.okstate.edu/Govdocs/stats.htm

Happy hunting!

- Barbara Miller, Oklahoma State University
A Letter to America
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In *A Letter to America*, David Boren explains with unspiring clarity why the country is at a crossroads and why decisive action is urgently needed. It is an ambitious plan and a hopeful one that Boren puts forward. It is also a challenge for Americans to look into the future, resolve what we want to be and where we want to go, and then implement the policies and actions we need to take us there.
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