High Speed Internet and Videoconferencing Coming to 44 Oklahoma Public Libraries

Internet users at more than 40 public libraries across the state will see a dramatic increase in access speed as early as 2011 thanks to a national grant. High-speed broadband capabilities will increase library Internet connections from between 4.6 megabytes per second to 100 mbps. On top of that, most of the libraries will have high-speed videoconferencing capabilities by 2012, and library users at all 44 sites will have access to special learning and career software to help students with homework, and assist job seekers with résumé creation, interviewing skills and job testing.

Representatives from the 44 libraries and communities attended a project launch event in Oklahoma City on December 9 and 10 to learn more about Oklahoma’s public library broadband program, OkConnect.

Participants heard presentations from state officials and national partners, networked with other participating libraries, and brainstormed ideas on how OkConnect can make a difference in the lives of citizens.

The Oklahoma Department of Libraries (ODL) received the major grant from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration last July to upgrade broadband and computing capabilities at the public libraries.

NTIA awarded the state $2.3 million through the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP), part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act passed by Congress in 2009. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is providing matching funds and in kind services worth $1 million, bringing the total to $3.3 million to implement the improvements in Oklahoma.

“We were thrilled to receive the grant,” ODL Director Susan McVey said. “High speed access and new equipment will open up a host of educational and economic opportunities for these communities, and provide easier access to health and government information.”

OkConnect project director Vicki Mohr said the libraries and their communities are ready to embrace this technology.

“The libraries see it as a major advantage in terms of educational offerings and economic development,” Mohr said.

Photo [above] Jaime Hoard from Gates Foundation speaks at project launch—ODL photo
Photo [right] Librarian Jennifer Greenstreet with FOLIO president Carolyn Klepper at project launch—ODL photo
OK Connect! Continued...

said. McVey said Oklahoma’s successful grant application would not have been possible without the assistance of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. “Their partnership with ODL made all the difference,” she said. With this equipment, small businesses could communicate globally with their partners, conduct online interviews with potential employees, and attend training sessions without having to leave town. Local citizens could sign-up for online college courses. It can be a boon for distance education in these communities.”

Jill Nishi, deputy director of the Gates Foundation’s U.S. Libraries program, said federal investments in connecting libraries to high-quality Internet service and technology are critical to realizing the universal broadband access America needs. “When libraries provide broadband to communities, they can deliver valuable online opportunities that help people find jobs, further their education, and access important government information,” Nishi said. “We hope that this award will help public and private funders to understand the importance of investing in public technology access at Oklahoma’s libraries.” In addition to the 44 public library sites, other key partners in OkConnect include the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Hearts for Hearing, local city governments, and library friends groups.

ODL will also assist the libraries by facilitating training for staffs, and assisting with the annual federal E-Rate application to secure discounts on telecommunications services.

More about OkConnect…

The grant will provide 326 videoconferencing capable laptops and desktop computers, as well as 36 room-based videoconferencing systems around the state.

ODL is using additional federal funds to provide equipment that will allow up to 20 concurrent high definition videoconference sessions at the libraries, or up to 40 concurrent standard definition videoconferences. The equipment will also allow sessions to be captured for later viewing.

Eleven public library sites will receive broadband connections offering 100 mbps. These libraries are in Ardmore, Claremore, Clinton, Durant, Guthrie, Lawton, Muskogee, Sapulpa, Shawnee and Stillwater. (Two sites in Ardmore will receive the upgrade: the Ardmore Public Library, and the headquarters library of the Chickasaw Regional Library System.) Libraries in Ponca City and Pryor are already at 100 mbps broadband speed. These two sites will be the first in the state to receive the videoconferencing equipment.

Twenty-five public libraries will receive network connections with broadband speeds from 10 to 45 mbps. These libraries are in Altus, Anadarko, Atoka, Bartlesville, Cleveland, Duncan, El Reno, Enid, Eufaula, Fairview, Grove, Guymon, Hollis, Marietta, Miami, Okmulgee, Pawhuska, Purcell, Sallisaw, Sulphur, Tahlequah, Tishomingo, Wagoner, Westville and Woodward.

Six public libraries will see broadband speeds increase to 4.6 mbps. These libraries are in Cherokee, Grandfield, Prague, Walters, Watonga and Waurika.

Photo—Teresa Caraway with Hearts for Hearing speaks at the project launch—[OD: photo]

Bill Young, Oklahoma Dept. of Libraries
From the President

The passage of time is an amazing thing and I am quite surprised to find that we are in the middle of the Oklahoma Library Association year already. We’ve had an ambitious and fulfilling past few months. One of the most notable things that occurred was the OLA Gold Leadership Institute. The third Leadership Institute was held at the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation in Ardmore and was an incredible learning experience for the 21 participants. Led by Tom Massey, notable authority on leadership development, and guided by a group of experienced OLA mentors, the participants worked towards identifying their leadership styles, teambuilding, and discovering how to find their leadership niche in OLA.

The GODORT Workshop, Hit ‘Em With Your Best Shot: Learning how to navigate the government web to answer your patrons’ questions, was held in November and, according to one participant, was an excellent learning experience. The workshop was held at UCO and was co-sponsored by the Public Library division.

It’s time to mark your calendars for upcoming events in OLA too. The UCD workshop, Leveraging Literacy to Improve Learning with David Loertscher will be held January 17 at Southern Nazarene University. The Public Library Division will host a workshop, Reference Collections with Byte, January 28 at the Midwest City Public Library and SRRT will sponsor the workshop iBienvenidos! iWelcome! Library Services for Spanish-Speaking Customers, February 8th at Moore Public Library. February also brings us the Endowment Committee’s Valentine Fundraiser so be sure to look for that information in your mail and participate! CATS will present Cook Up a Program on February 11 at the Stillwater Public Library and the Ethics Committee will host the workshop Copyright Issues for Librarians on February 23 at the Stillwater Public Library.

The 2011 OLA Annual Conference Preview will be heading your way near the end of January. This year the conference will be held March 30 – April 1st at the Southern Hills Marriott in Tulsa. We’ll kick-off the conference with a slate of exciting pre-conference opportunities. The banquet is scheduled the evening of March 30 and Oklahoma author Billie Letts will be our guest speaker. (I’ve a feeling that tickets to this event will sell quickly). The keynote speaker at our Opening General Session on March 31 will be Hal Niedzviecki, editor, culture commentator and author of The Peep Diaries. Keith Michael Fiels, Executive Director of the American Library Association, will present at the conference and we are excited about hosting the current YALSA president, Kim Patton. Teen authors Gary Paulsen and Neal Shusterman will attend and I’m sure will be a big hit along with panel of authors from Oklahoma. The All Conference Event will be held the evening of March 31 and will be a night to remember as we are all invited to put on our dancing shoes and participate in Dewey Dance. Add all of the above to exciting sessions, exhibits and demonstrations, luncheons, panel discussions, networking and fellowship and we have the makings of a truly exciting conference – one that will be remembered.

This is an exciting time to be a member of the Oklahoma Library Association. Don’t forget that the Membership Committee is still seeking our stories about how OLA has helped us professionally and what the association means to us and the Each One Reach One incentive is still ongoing. There are always exciting opportunities in our association….from OLA, the heart of our community, to the heart of yours. Till next time,

Leslie H. Langley, President
State Library Service Marks 120 Years of Keeping You in the Know

From the Declaration of Independence to the Civil Rights Act, to Smokey Bear’s conservation efforts and consumer information, the United States Government produces a tremendous amount of information that influences our daily lives. And the Oklahoma Department of Libraries has played a major role in making that information available to Oklahomans for more than a century.

December 10, 2010, marked the 120th anniversary of a federal collection that has been growing since statehood. Although ODL—then the Oklahoma Territorial Library—didn’t officially join the Federal Depository Library Program until 1893, the U.S. Government Printing Office began mailing federal government publications to the library in December, 1890 as one of its services to territorial libraries. The library held a small reception for ODL staff and invited guests to commemorate the occasion.

“We’ll have a much larger celebration in 2013 when we mark our 120th anniversary as an official Federal Depository Library,” said Steve Beleu, administrator of ODL’s U.S. Government Information Division. “But we didn’t want this date to pass without acknowledging it.”

As a regional depository library, ODL receives an average of 100,000 federal publications per year in paper, CD-ROM, microfiche, and map formats. It also accesses federal agency information on the Internet and a variety of online sources.

“As a state depository library we have a commitment to share that government information and make it freely accessible, not only to everyone who visits the library, but also to everybody in the State of Oklahoma. We want everyone to know that we have free government information,” Beleu said.

ODL was named the Federal Depository Library of the Year in 2009.

About ODL Government Documents: You can visit the Oklahoma Department of Libraries’ U.S. Government Information Division at 200 NE 18th St, Oklahoma City OK 73105. To learn more about the Oklahoma Department of Libraries federal depository collections visit www.odl.state.ok.us/usinfo or call 405-522-3327. For a complete list of Oklahoma’s depository libraries please visit www.odl.state.ok.us/usinfo/usdepsys.htm

About FDLP: The Federal Depository Library Program was established by Congress to ensure that the American public has free access to its Government’s information. Since 1813, depository libraries have safeguarded the public’s right to know by providing local, no-fee access, to Government information in an impartial environment with professional assistance. For more information, please visit www.fdlp.gov/

Bill Young –Oklahoma Dept. of Libraries
Oral History in Libraries

The Many Uses of Oral History

Your library may have a great collection of oral history materials, but have you ever wondered what to do with them? Outside of making recordings or transcripts available for public use, there are several ways you can highlight the oral histories in your library. Here are a few examples:

Exhibits

You can combine the rich ‘voices’ of oral history with other archival material, like photographs, newspapers and books, in drawing attention to your oral history collection. Imagine taking quotes from your interviews and creating an exhibit, which can be as simple or complex as your budget allows. You can highlight past ways of life or a particular topic as illustrated by your collection. From the good old bulletin board setup to a more intricate online exhibit, this is a great visual way to draw attention to your oral histories.

Performances

Oral history lends itself nicely to public performance. Imagine taking an interview and teaming up with your teen group and creating a performance based on the interview. Oral history as performance is a trending topic right now in the discipline and you can find many books and instances of organizations creating and performing their interpretation online. Just enter ‘oral history as performance’ in your favorite search engine to explore this fascinating take on making oral history usable in a performance setting.

Podcasts

You can highlight oral histories in your collection by creating a podcast with clips from your interview collection. Try to select oral history segments that tie in to particular events, like Black History Month, Women’s History Month, National Poetry Month, for example. You can record an introduction for context and then lead into your chosen oral history segment. The recording and editing can be easily accomplished by using Audacity, a free audio editor/recorder you can download online at http://audacity.sourceforge.net/.

Lesson Plans

Teachers are always looking for new and exciting ideas in the classroom. You can team up with a teacher in creating lesson plans that bring to life the community or history students are learning about at that time. For examples, you can check out lesson plans created as part of the Women of the Oklahoma Legislature Oral History Project, online at http://www.library.okstate.edu/oralhistory/wotol/lessons.htm.

Finally...

While oral history may seem like something that is just recorded on audio or video and archived, remember there are many ways you can make this material usable, many ways you can highlight your collection and many ways to generate interest in its use by the public.

—Tanya Finchum & Juliana Nykolaiszyn
Oklahoma Oral History Research Program
OSU Library
Library dedicates sculpture of Angie Debo

After years of fund raising and planning, the Stillwater Public Library dedicated its bronze statue of noted Oklahoma historian Angie Debo on November 18. The project began in 2007 when the Friends of the Library received a $10,000 bequest from the estate of former library director Della Bennett. The group decided to apply the money toward a sculpture to be placed in front of the library but then had to decide who or what it should depict.

Committee Chair Bob Darcy suggested Debo even though many of the members were not familiar with her. Once they learned of her relationship to Stillwater and her accomplishments, the committee agreed Debo should be the subject and over the next three years, the project was completed.

Stillwater sculptor Phyllis Mantik was chosen because she chose to depict Debo in her younger years, looking to her future and setting out on a path that required courage because it wasn’t traditional. The base includes the Oklahoma state seal and the seals of all 38 federally recognized Native American tribes located in Oklahoma.

Oklahoma State University President Burns Hargis said Darcy was the point person, lead fundraiser and constant champion of the project. “If you want something to happen, get Bob Darcy to wake up every day thinking of nothing else but this,” he said at the dedication.

By Michelle Charles
Journal Staff Writer

The entire project has cost just over $45,000 so far. The Friends of the Library are still accepting donations which will be used for finishing touches like landscaping and lighting around the sculpture.

“There is nothing Stillwater could have done to honor her that would have pleased her more,” said committee member Tyson Branyon. “She loved libraries and now she gets to hang around in front of one.”
Submitted by Lynda Reynolds, Director of the Stillwater Public Library

Photo: Jim Showalter, Bob Burk and Dave Thomas of the Statue Committee unveil the statue of Angie Debo to over 100 attendees at the Stillwater Public Library—photo from Michelle Charles, Journal Staff Writer
LIBRARY GROUP TO DISCUSS SERVICES FOR SPANISH SPEAKERS

Spanish speakers are the fastest-growing cultural group in the United States, and Oklahoma librarians will gather in February to discuss how to provide services to this group effectively.

“Library Services for Spanish-Speaking Customers” will be presented 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2011, at the Moore Public Library, 225 S Howard Ave., Moore. The Social Responsibilities Round Table of the Oklahoma Library Association is sponsoring the workshop. Presentations will examine Spanish history in the United States, as well as today’s Hispanic community. Presenters will focus on resources and strategies to help library staff:

- welcome Spanish speakers to the library;
- provide customers with relevant services, programs, and materials that meet their needs and preferences;
- implement marketing techniques to attract Spanish-speaking patrons; and
- build Spanish-language collection.

The registration fee is $60 for OLA members and $120 for non-members. The fee includes a taco luncheon.

The Oklahoma Library Association works to strengthen the quality of libraries, library services and librarianship in Oklahoma. Members of OLA work in public, school, academic and special libraries of all sizes. Members include librarians, library support staff, library trustees, students, volunteers, vendors of library products and services, and many others.

The Social Responsibilities Round Table provides a forum for discussion of various issues of social concern as they impact libraries, library collections, and the communities served by these libraries. This includes presenting workshops, programs, and exhibits to increase awareness and understanding, promoting library responsiveness to those issues, and recognizing libraries and librarians who have responded creatively to social concerns within their communities. More information is available by contacting:

Tera McAmis Moore Public Library Outreach Specialist (405)-793-4603 tmcamis@pls.lib.ok.us
Award-winning authors Tamora Pierce, Laura Vaccaro Seeger and Stephen Krensky entertained and inspired 120 librarians, teachers and fans on Thursday, October 28, at the Mildred Laughlin Festival of Books for Young People at the Tom Steed Center, Rose State College. The Festival is sponsored by the Oklahoma Library Association with assistance from the Kerr Foundation, Inc., and in partnership with the University of Oklahoma School of Library and Information Studies. Special thanks goes to Sharon Saulmon who acquired the site and to Kathy Latrobe who was responsible for the partnership of the University of Oklahoma SLIS which sponsored the festival for many years. Presentation of the festival required many hours of work provided by a large committee with special recognition to Co-Chairs Jenny Stenis and Shari Clifton and to Caroline Dulworth and Valerie Kimble who handled book orders, book sales and many other details.

(Lower Left) - Stephen Krensky, author of over 100 books in every genre of children’s literature, won the Sydney Taylor Book Award and his How Santa Got His Job is an ALA Notable Children’s Book.

(Center) - Tamora Pierce, author of over 25 fantasy literature titles for young adults, won the 2009 West Australian Young Readers Book Award and has received multiple other honors including the ALA Best Books for Young Adults list.


The audience was attentive at each of the author presentations and the question and answer sessions were lively.
Valerie Kimble, Shari Clifton and Caroline Dulworth operated the busy Book Store. In the background, the OLA Store was also doing a brisk business.

Librarians were anxious to get their books purchased so they could get autographs from their favorite authors.

Southeastern Oklahoma State University students Whitney Hricko and Nikki Miller registered for the Festival after seeing it advertised on Tamora Pierce’s web page. They were very excited to meet Pierce. “This was life-changing,” Nikki said.
OLA’s Ethics Committee to host Copyright Workshop

Save the date February 23, 2011! Oklahoma Library Association’s Ethics Committee will host Janet Croft, veteran presenter on Copyright Issues, at the Stillwater Public Library on Wednesday, February 23, 2011, from 9:30 am until 4:00 pm. Registration fee for the event is $60.00.

Copyright Issues for Librarians will be covered during the morning session which begins at 10:00. Topics to be addressed include Copyright Basics, Where Copyright Impacts Libraries, Balancing Creator’s Rights and Consumer’s Needs, and the Laws, Guidelines, and Ethical Use of Copyrighted Material.

Copyright Issues for Specific Situations will be discussed during the afternoon session beginning at 1:00 pm. Licensing, workflows, and other practicalities will be the topics for discussion, including FAQ from the Copyright Advisory Network Boards.

OLA’s Ethics Committee hopes to make librarians across the state aware of copyright issues that they face on a daily basis. Attendees will gain an understanding of copyright licensing and copyright law, as well the publisher’s point of view. Attendees will leave the workshop with a clearer understanding of the balance of laws, guidelines, and ethical issues surrounding the public domain. Resources for answering specific copyright questions will be provided.

Please contact Christine Sauro, Southeastern Public Library System, for further information.
Students Consider the State of Incivility at First Amendment Congress

Almost 200 high school students gathered at the University of Central Oklahoma on November 10th to explore incivility in American political and civil discourse and its impact on the First Amendment. The 12th Annual First Amendment Congress featured a day of skits, discussions and exercises to help educate young people about the country’s most important freedoms.

For the past dozen years, the Oklahoma Library Association and the Oklahoma Department of Libraries have been major partners in the venture sponsored by Freedom of Information Oklahoma, Inc. For the past ten years, special days have been held specifically for students. FOI Oklahoma estimates that more than 2,000 high school and college-age Oklahomans have benefited during the course of the program.

Oklahoma State University Journalism Professor Joey Senat set the stage in his opening session, “How Dare You Say That!” As in past Congresses, Senat provided the basics on court rulings dealing with free speech, which lead to a lively discussion with students about their rights.

Three groups of students presented skits illustrating familiar cases of incivility in modern life. Edmond Memorial students showcased campaign ads of dueling politicians. Students and teachers with Heartland Home Educators from Tulsa staged a Westboro Baptist Church-style protest at a military funeral along with quotes from Supreme Court Justices Ginsberg and Sotomayor. Students from Del City High School presented a Jerry Springer-style talk show scene focusing on the BP Oil Spill.

A post-skits discussion gave students a chance to share their own feelings about what they witnessed, with Senat providing some history and facts to incorporate Free Speech court decisions and issues.

Former Social Studies teacher Rita Geiger ended the day with an exercise. Students were presented with real-life scenarios, provided with guidelines from former First Amendment cases, and asked if the scenarios illustrated protective speech or unprotected speech, and why.

OLA member Linda Jordan has been attending the First Amendment Congress for several years, and she’s particularly fond of High School Day. “I saw lots of good critical thinking on the part of students during the last exercise of the day,” Jordan said. “It’s encouraging to see these young people understand that the First Amendment is not just an abstract document, but that it guarantees fundamental freedoms that must be practiced and defended everyday.”

For the first time, FOI Oklahoma did not sponsor a Professional Day of the Congress. Instead, those resources are being diverted to support the organization’s annual Sunshine Day in the Spring. Sunshine Day focuses on the importance of openness in government. It will be held on March 12, 2011 in Oklahoma City.

Bill Young, Oklahoma Dept. of Libraries
Photo: OSU Journalism Professor works with teacher and student from Heartland Homeschoolers on a 1st Amendment skit at the Congress—ODL photo.
Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City – Oklahoma City Branch
http://www.kansascityfed.org/oklahomacity/

The Oklahoma City Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City measures the financial state of our state. These are the major components of their website.

**The Economy** – “The Economy” is the main reason for this website, so it’s structured into six tabs: Financial Stress, Manufacturing, Economic Outlook, Agriculture, LMI Conditions (economic conditions for the “low and moderate income” population), and Banking. Click on any of these tabs and you’ll find a current report, supplemental reports, and historical reports for that topic. These materials are the core of this website.

- **Financial Stress** – measures 11 monetary aspects of the financial health of this region of the nation (which includes the states of Oklahoma, Colorado, Kansas, and Wyoming, and parts of Missouri, Nebraska, and New Mexico). Also contains historical data in Excel format back to 1990.
- **Manufacturing** – measures the health of our manufacturers. Also contains historical data in Excel format back to 2001.
- **Economic Outlook** – features a monthly national economic outlook and weekly economic conditions.
- **Agriculture** – measures the current state of agriculture. Also contains a review of consumer credit data in Excel format back to 1980.
- **LMI Conditions** – The FED classifies “LMI” people—“low and moderate income” people—as those with incomes below 80% of the median income for this region; this data is available from second quarter of 2009 on.
- **Banking** – measures the health of banks in the entire Kansas City region. Extensive report with charts and graphs about earnings, problem loans, losses.

**Banking** – additional data about banks in the Kansas City region that includes Oklahoma.

**Research & Data** – data and articles about finances, including the *Economic Review*, a quarterly newsletter, and a link to “Research Working Papers” which opens up financial articles back to 2006 (you can also subscribe here to receive these via e-mail).
Oklahoma webpages, Con’t.

Community Development – names and contact information for staff, including those in the Oklahoma City branch bank, their “Community Research” link which examines the financial and economic health of the LMI community (low and moderate-income people), and the texts of speeches and presentations made by Kansas City regional staff.

Newsroom – current and historical news releases, calendar of public events.

Publications – includes these periodicals: Ten Magazine, Economic Review, The Main Street Economist, the Economic Research Working Papers series, and Fed Letter. Also includes a “Publications by Topic” section that contains links to online newsletters such as Community Connections and monographs such as A Borrowing Guide for Tribal Members (about loans on Indian tribal trust land).

Education – materials for educators (K through 12 lesson plans and activities, and consumers (including their “Credit Card Repayment Calculator”).

About Us – materials about the bank, including an online video.

Find Information – this is a “quick guide” to those features of this website that are most requested by consumers and people who work in banks.

Oklahoma City Events – this is for people who work in banks.

The Money Museum – information about visiting the Oklahoma City branch bank.

Federal Reserve Consumer Help – features consumer help guides about bank operations, consumer credit, electronic banking, credit reports, foreclosures, etc. Also contains a link to filing a complaint about a bank.

Federal Reserve Education.org – this is their federally-required Kid’s Page; includes a visit to “FedVille,” which is “a friendly town built just for kids ages 9 to 12” to learn about money.

TABS ON RIGHT SIDE OF HOMEPAGE

Careers – about getting a job with the Federal Reserve.

Contacts – contact information but only for the Kansas City bank.

Tours – this is the actual form people can fill in and submit to get a group tour of the Oklahoma City branch bank.

E-Alerts – sign up to get messages from the bank about events, research publications, data releases, etc.

TABS AT BOTTOM OF HOMEPAGE – these list the links noted above. Once you know which features of this website you use, this can be a shortcut to navigating the web page.

Steve Beleu, Federal Documents Coordinator
Oklahoma Dept. of Libraries
OLA GOLD—A Great Learning Experience!

The 3rd OLA GOLD Leadership Institute was held on Nov 3-5, 2010 at beautiful Noble Foundation in Ardmore. Twenty-one participants, six mentors, eight committee members plus Kay Boies and Leslie Langley attended with Tom Massey as facilitator. The Institute began at 1:00 p.m. and for the next three days Tom led us through an intense program that included topics on profiles of leadership & leadership styles; building rapport and leading others through influence; building team unity; and cross-functional leadership and teamwork. We began as 39 individuals and came together to form 6 tribes. Tribes developed their history and had a story to share with the group. Each tribe also composed a song, which we performed on Friday.

Another fun activity was the self-portraits we each did, telling who we were in artwork. It was a challenging, thought provoking but very rewarding, and an artistic activity that brought out creativity in each of us. It also told others a little more about ourselves that had not been revealed before.

The honored attendees were:

- Tom Anderson, Tulsa University
- Kathy Atchley, Clinton Public Library
- Pamela Bean, Chickasaw Regional Library
- Van Bielstein, Metro Library System
- Katie Blalack, OK State Univ
- Rhonda Donaldson, OK Panhandle State
- Scott Freeman, Stillwater Public Library
- Kristen Gettys, Tulsa City County Library
- Romona Goodwich, Buckley Public Library
- Nadine Hawke, Bartlesville Public Library
- Michael Hull, Western Plains Library
- Andrea Kane, Stillwater Public Library
- Jackie Kropp, Norman Public Library
- Tera McAmis, Moore Public Library
- Claire Miller, Chickasaw Regional Library
- Kathryn Plunkett, SOSU
- Sheila Reed, Wister Public Library
- Sarah Robbins, OU – Bizzell Library
- Angela Thornton, Metro Library System
- Lee Toliver, Talihina Public Library
- Terri Wisely, Ardmore Public Library

Those who graciously agreed to serve as mentors were:

- Donna Morris - Metro Library System
- David Oberhelman – OK State University
- Andy Peters – Pioneer Library System
- Barbara Pickthorn – Cameron University
- Joan Singleton - Bartlesville Public Library
- Pat Weaver-Myers, Noble Foundation

Overall, I felt this Institute came together and united to form friendships that will last our working lifetime. I feel we also accomplished the number one goal of creating leaders for OLA. Watch for some of them in the future, you’ll be seeing their names on the ballots or in the news.

Debbie Robertus—Assistant Library Manager
Belle Isle Library,
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Please contact Christine Sauro, Southeastern Public Library System, for further information.

Sue Ann Ghormley, Branch Manager
John F. Henderson Public Library

Last published in 1935, William Cunningham’s novel depicts Oklahoma farmers’ flirtation with a particularly American brand of socialism in the early twentieth century. Written in a vernacular reminiscent of Steinbeck, the story follows the woes of a group of farmers in southeastern Oklahoma who labor under a tenant system which does not allow them to make enough profit even to buy seeds for planting, but who have little political or economic means to change their plight. Cunningham tells the story from the point of view of a young tenant farmer with a wife and baby, giving a human face to men who possessed very little but the ambition to make a better life for themselves and their families. The novel describes their abortive attempt to form a union, stage a mass protest and avoid being drafted into the army during World War I. But the unionists were often opposed by members of their own communities, and violent conflicts ensued. Subsequently, most of these men were arrested and served prison terms, forced to enlist to avoid arrest, or fled the state. This reprinted edition brings to vivid life an almost century-old episode in Oklahoma history. The author was the first director of the Oklahoma Writers Project for the WPA during the Great Depression. This reprint features an excellent introduction by historian Nigel Anthony Sellars.

-Michele Seikel, Oklahoma State University

Art of the Oklahoma State Capitol: The Senate Collection accompanied a Gilcrease Museum exhibit in 2009. The Senate Collection follows the 2003 publication Art Treasures of the Oklahoma State Capitol which was an Oklahoma Centennial project. There are similarities and differences between the two books. Both were designed by award-winning artist Carol Haralson and celebrate the incredible art which depicts Oklahoma’s fascinating history. Although each book contains an almost identical number of artistic works, with many of them duplicated in both volumes, The Senate Collection offers artist information and includes 46 unique works. There is a particular emphasis on the paintings by artist Mike Wimmer in The Senate Collection with 21 unique works by him.

Accompanying each full-color work in The Senate Collection is a brief explanatory note of the scene or person depicted, sponsorship information for the artwork’s inclusion in the Senate collection, and the artistic medium. Both titles pay special tribute to Former Senator Charles Ford for his visionary legacy in the development of Oklahoma State Senate Historical Preservation Fund for the art collections at the capitol. Art of the Oklahoma State Capitol: The Senate Collection is a complementary title to Art Treasures of the Oklahoma State Capitol. Proceeds for both help support the Oklahoma State Senate Historical Preservation Fund. Both titles are visual feasts, will greatly enhance visits to the capitol by people of all ages, and help readers understand and appreciate Oklahoma history and art. Recommended for Oklahoma libraries.

—Karen Neurohr, Associate Professor, Assessment Librarian, Oklahoma State University
In 1971, Susan (Susie) Supernaw became the first member of an American Indian tribe to win the Miss Oklahoma pageant. In this autobiography, she describes her life from childhood through her competition in the 1972 Miss America pageant. Susan grew up impoverished and physically abused by her absentee father, and later, her stepfather. She sought escape in her love of horses, until a riding accident left her severely injured. While waiting for rescue, she experienced a vision of a beautiful Indian woman who presented her with her Indian name. While rehabilitating from her injuries, she immersed herself in education and American Indian religion. After a stint working in the office of Speaker of the House Carl Albert, Susan returned to Oklahoma to attend Phillips University. She won the Miss Phillips pageant and went on to become Miss Oklahoma. Although she did not win the Miss America pageant, she used the experience to earn the Indian name bestowed on her years previously.

Written shortly after the Miss America pageant, this is an engaging, readable autobiography. As an unpublished work, it won the 2003 First Book Award for Prose from the Native Writers’ Circle of the Americas, and was subsequently published in 2010. Although the work generally holds up well despite the delay between writing and publication, it frequently makes reference to concepts that may be foreign to younger readers, such as discrimination aimed at American Indians. Some terminology relating to Indian culture and religion is used without definition. Explication is provided in the foreword and end notes, but readers would be better served if it had been incorporated into the text. Photographs scattered throughout the text help to provide context and increase the reader’s interest. Overall, an excellent addition to the collection of any Oklahoma library, particularly those in the northeastern portion of the state.

—Pauline Rodriguez, Metropolitan Library System
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