State Library Board Names McVey as New Director

It’s official. Susan C. McVey became the fourth Director of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries following action of the ODL Board on April 20, 2001. McVey assumes the position immediately. She has served as Interim Director for the agency since the retirement of Robert L. Clark in September, 2000.

McVey will fill a variety of roles established in the Oklahoma Statutes for the ODL Director, including the title of State Librarian. The Department provides library and information services to state government, and serves the library community and the public through specialized collections and information technology projects.

As State Archivist McVey oversees the permanent historical documents of state government, and as State Records Administrator she is in charge of the program that assists state agencies with the management of their temporary records. In addition to working with the ODL Board of Directors, McVey serves on the Oklahoma Historical Records Advisory Board and the Archives and Records Commission.

Wearing all of these hats sounds like a challenge, but all of the roles are variations on one theme according to McVey. “Everything we do at ODL is ultimately about connecting people to information and library services,” she said. “We do this by serving citizens directly, assisting libraries and literacy programs, and assuring that government information is available to the public.”

A native of Duncan, Oklahoma, McVey received her Masters in Library Science from the University of Texas in 1975. She also holds a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Oklahoma.

Prior to her appointment as director, McVey served as ODL’s Deputy Director for six years, supervising several major units of the department, including library technology. She has also served as administrator of ODL’s law library branch, and as director of the Oklahoma City University Library.

As ODL Deputy Director, McVey worked with the state’s library community to select online reference resources for all Oklahoma libraries. Today, more than 1300 public, school, academic, and special libraries have access to millions of full-text magazine articles and a variety of reference databases thanks to the project. These resources are funded with state and federal dollars, and are available at no additional charge to individual libraries.

McVey has been a member of the Oklahoma Library Association since 1976, and served as the organization’s president from 1987-1988. In 1998, McVey received the OLA Distinguished Service Award, honoring imaginative and innovative approaches to librarianship. It is the highest honor given by the association.

Innovation is again on McVey’s mind, since the agency has started a new strategic planning process. “We went through this process a few years ago, and it’s time to look at our customers and services again,” she said. “State government has limited resources, so we’re reviewing our services to see how best to use taxpayer dollars to serve the citizens of this state.”

The Oklahoma Department of Libraries traces its beginnings back to the Library of the Territory of Oklahoma, established in 1891. The mission of this library was to provide legal and legislative reference services to a Territorial legislature drafting a constitution for the future state. The library evolved into the Oklahoma State Library, and in 1953 merged with the Oklahoma Library Commission, an agency originally established in 1919 to support public libraries in the state. Passage of a new state library code in 1967 created the Oklahoma Department of Libraries. State Librarian Ralph Hudson served as ODL’s director during the new agency’s first year. Ralph Funk was director from 1968 to 1976. Robert Clark was the agency’s third director, serving from 1976 to 2000.

Bill Young-ODL
President’s Column

OLA Activities

The OLA regional meetings in Ardmore and Goodwill this spring have been wonderful. I’m still on a natural high, meeting the librarians around the state, seeing them network with each other, and sharing information about OLA activities. Representatives of the Navigating the Information Future Ad Hoc, Membership, Interlibrary Cooperation, Legislative Committees and the Oklahoma Association of Library Media Specialists and Library Education Division have all been actively involved in planning and conducting the meetings.

The workshops this year have been great learning experiences for attendees. These quality workshops, planned by our peers, open up new worlds of information in an accessible location. These are two of our strengths and functions—networking and continuing education.

We will continue to build on these successes to fulfill our mission: “The purpose of the Oklahoma Library Association is to strengthen libraries, library services, and librarianship in Oklahoma.”

Get Involved

Your involvement in OLA divisions, committees, roundtables, and board permits the organization to respond to your needs and interests...a membership organization extraordi-

naire. Be actively involved in your OLA. Complete a committee preference form (from the mailing or from our web site). Let Vice-President/President-Elect Wayne Hanaway know how you would like to be involved this next year to make a difference.

The Next Step

We get caught up in our day-to-day activities and forget to take an additional step to let people know about our libraries and the vast array materials, services, and programs. As the American Library Association begins a five-year program to raise the general public’s awareness of libraries, we need to market ourselves to our target groups, whomever they are—seniors, students, businesspeople, toddlers, teens. We are already providing the services and materials. We just need to take that extra step to get the information out of the library and into the library customers and potential library customers’ view screen. The @ your library™ campaign is a flexible program that may be easily adapted to your situation. The Oklahoma Department of Libraries also has some plans to capitalize on this effort.

The key messages for @ your library™ campaign are—

- Libraries are changing and dynamic places. Librarians are technosavvy, on the forefront of the information age. In a world that’s information rich, they are information smart, and help ensure a society where everyone is information literate. You’ll find the right answer @ your library™.
- Libraries are places of opportunity. Libraries are part of the American dream. They are a place for education and self-help. And because they offer free access to all, they bring opportunity to all.
- Libraries bring you the world. Libraries are unique. In person. Online. Where else can you have access to nearly anything on the Web or in print as well as personal service and assistance in finding it?
- People will not know about libraries unless we tell them. We need to be on the street, in community centers, in the media, at the State Capitol and in Congress telling our library stories.
- What’s new @ your library™? Tell everyone.

Sharon Saulmon

@ Your Library

As you know, today’s libraries — while places of learning, innovation and opportunity — also face challenges. While libraries are popular, they are often taken for granted. While libraries are ubiquitous, they are rarely visible. And, while libraries are unique, they are facing new challenges.

Out of these challenges was born The Campaign for America’s libraries, a five-year commitment, sponsored by the American Library Association, to speak loudly and clearly about the value of libraries and librarians to our communities, schools, academic institutions, and businesses, as well as to our society, democracy, and the new digital age. Based on research and crafted to target key audiences, The Campaign for America’s Libraries will educate consumers that libraries are dynamic, modern community centers for learning, information and entertainment. The campaign is designed to increase awareness about the vibrancy, vitality and real value of today’s libraries, to galvanize public support and influence public policy.

While the campaign is national in scope, the “riches” that will bring the campaign to life and make it even more relevant to target audiences — the “real life” stories and programs illustrating how libraries and librarians positively impact each and every individuals’ personal lives — will come from the grassroots. And that’s where you come in.

The campaign includes a recommended plan for local programming to coincide with an April 2001 campaign launch and a rollout of four complementary "mini" campaigns: public, school, academic and special.

The national campaign will provide the foundation from which each of the "mini" campaigns will build. The "mini" campaigns will provide the flexibility and the personal tailoring necessary to ensure the campaign is engaging all members of the library community and is proactively reaching — in a focused and hands-on manner — each target audience.

ALA Release

See related article on page 17
NPS + PLS = Automation
Norman Public Schools, Pioneer Library System Library Automation Project

In the beginning there was the card catalog. Then came automated circulation. Then a computer catalog. And as wonderful as that was, it was not without its own special challenges: servers at each site...installations....back-ups....long hours on the phone waiting for tech support. When the time came to look at a substantial investment in an upgrade to a new Windows product we thought, “Is there something else? Have we considered all of our alternatives?” The original excitement of maintaining site servers had waned and we dreamed of a server and database that someone else would manage, support provided by real people face to face, a library automation system that we could access over the Internet, something we could access as easily as we access the Pioneer Library System’s online catalog. ...

THE PIONEER LIBRARY SYSTEM’S

ONLINE CATALOG!
In the fall of 1998, the idea of outsourcing the Norman Public School District’s library automation became a possibility with a phone call to Andy Peters, Associate Director for Technology for the Pioneer Library System. Meetings between the Norman Public Schools and the Pioneer System followed soon after. Anne Masters, Director of Media Services and Instructional Technology for Norman Public Schools; Mary Sherman, Director of the Pioneer Library System; Debra Engel, former Assistant Director of the Pioneer Library System; Andy Peters, Associate Director for Technology of the Pioneer Library System; and Kathryn Lewis, Library Information Specialist for Norman Public Schools brainstormed possibilities of sharing services and talked about how the process might work. Advantages to the community, staff, and most importantly the students were discussed. Students and staff would have access to a catalog of all the resources in all the libraries in the Norman Public School system, as well as all materials in the Pioneer Library System catalog. Students and teachers would be able to borrow and loan materials more easily throughout the entire school district. Bibliographic records would be enhanced and improved after going through the conversion process. This project would broaden both the depth and quality of library collections for all students, teachers, parents, and administrators in the Norman Public Schools.

The next step was the development of a contract and projected costs by Pioneer. When something tangible was on the table the Norman Public Schools’ administration and Board of Education representatives discussed funding. Dr. Nancy O’Brian, NPS Superintendent, and Board members, Dr. Gary Copeland and Linda Sexton, supported the idea and worked to include funding for the project into plans for two bond elections. The contract traveled back and forth between staff and attorneys until finally it was signed and the work began.

Now the idea had become a reality. The first order of business was the creation of a timeline for the project. The two high schools and the district professional collection at the Instructional Services Center were selected to the Phase 1 sites. Other schools would follow over a two-year period. A completion date of June 2002 is projected. Equipment needs and the condition of current bibliographic records was assessed. New computers were placed in every library in the district. 108 computers, 13 printers and 24 barcode scanners were purchased for twenty-four sites.

The Media Services office has worked closely with the library media specialists at every school to assist them with the exhaustive process of database clean-up, so that the records to be sent to the conversion company were as accurate, standardized and complete as possible. This process took hours, but certainly helped in the evaluation and weeding of the library collections. At the district office extensive cataloging was done as each phase of records was prepared and submitted to the conversion company. The format for downloading patrons (students, teachers) into the new system was created and the process of building the patron records was begun.

MARC records were sent to the conversion company, patrons were loaded into the new system and finally, the one hundred MARC records returned from the conversion company and were loaded into the automation system. The timing was perfect to begin the training for the library media specialists and the library assistants from Norman High School, Norman High School North, and the Instructional Services Center.

The training sessions held at the Gates Lab at the Norman Public Library were led by Brooke Smith, Janice Lloyd, and Andy Peters form the Norman Public Library. Thorough training was provided for each facet of the Epixtech Horizon automation program. Support is provided through training manuals produced specifically for the schools and a website and a communication link that allows all participating

Cont. on page 12
staff to share questions and information.

On April 4, 2001 the first barcodes and spine labels were ready. Library media specialists, library assistants, and staff from the district Media Services office eagerly began the extensive process of installing barcodes and spine labels for every book in the high school libraries. With camaraderie and a little pizza and Chinese to fuel them, this task was completed in a relatively short amount of time.

The next steps will involve the data downloads of all the MARC records, bibliographic instruction for students, staff and parents at the schools. The future is exciting. By the spring of 2002, all Norman Public School sites, the Media Services professional collection and the Norman Professional Development Center collection will be up and running and a complete union catalog will provide shared collections to all Norman Public Schools' students and staff.

Kathryn Lewis and Anne Masters

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**The Making of a CyberSenior**

Connie Van Fleet and Marie Landry of the School of Library Information Studies at the University of Oklahoma were our presenters for this one-day workshop held at Moore Public Library on 30 March, 2001 titled Creating CyberSeniors: Making Internet Services and Resources Available to Older Adults. Attendance was great!

During the morning section of the workshop, Ms. Van Fleet provided statistics and descriptions of what may constitute "older" adults and how different people are at certain ages than they were several years ago. Among the facts she provided are the following: There is a greater number of older people who are still active and healthy than in the past. Those over 65 are still earning a living. Seniors are becoming more creative, partly because they now have the time. And of seniors, 30% own computers of which 23% of those are over age 75. Now that they own their computers, they want to learn all the ways they can use them.

Ms. Landry took us through a typical training session for older adults. Some of her primary hints were to go at a slower pace, teach how to use the mouse, recognize the need for practice, provide a workbook which they can use at home for reinforcement, and have relevant and interesting websites bookmarked ahead of time for the training sessions.

Thank you to our presenters for an interesting day, and many hints which can be used not only for older adults, but with other groups as well.

B.J. Vinson

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**NEW FACULTY JOIN OU-SLIS**

The School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Oklahoma is pleased to announce the appointment to the faculty of Dr. Cecelia Brown and Dr. Guillermo Oyarce, effective fall 2001.

Dr. Brown holds a Ph.D. in nutritional sciences from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a Master of Library and Information Studies from the University of Oklahoma. Prior to joining the faculty of the School she was Assistant Professor of Bibliography and Chemistry-Mathematics Librarian at the University of Oklahoma. Dr. Brown's research program focuses on the information-seeking behavior of scientists in the electronic environment and information literacy of science students.

Dr. Oyarce holds a Ph.D. in information sciences and a master's degree in technology and cognition, both from the University of North Texas. He comes to the School from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where he was a member of the faculty of the School of Library and Information Science. Dr. Oyarce's research interests emphasize human-computer interface design and information retrieval.

"These well-qualified and experienced faculty members are an important addition to the faculty," according to Dr. Danny P. Wallace, Director of the School. "As we move into new programmatic areas, including introduction of a bachelor's degree in information studies and development of a master's degree in knowledge management, the abilities and skills brought to the School by Dr. Brown and Dr. Oyarce are an invaluable addition to the School's faculty expertise."

Danny P. Wallace
OU-SLIS
Flipping the Switch

The dimensions of the electric deregulation issue are widespread. Whether in 2002 or at some later date, deregulation is almost certain to occur. It will dramatically change the structure of the electric business, including generating, distributing, and purchasing. Electric rates will go up at least some and possibly quite steeply. The supply of electricity may also be less reliable.

The likely impact on the various types of Oklahoma libraries will be mostly on public libraries. Public library systems are very heavily dependent on ad valorem tax revenue and are at risk of losing from 4 to 11 percent of their revenue. All public libraries may be affected by the potential loss of bonding capacity by cities and counties. School libraries also may be affected because school districts get close to half of their funding from ad valorem taxes and also risk the loss of some of their bonding capacity. Higher electric rates and a less reliable electric supply will affect all Oklahoma libraries.

Deregulation has created serious problems in California since 2000 and has been a disappointment so far in a number of eastern states. Half a dozen bills to delay Oklahoma’s deregulation were introduced in the Legislature this year, with SB 440 being the present survivor. As of April 24th, it would create a task force and delay deregulation indefinitely until enabling legislation is passed, but the bill has gone to conference and the final product could be substantially different.

Since last year’s bill, SB220, was modeled on California’s law, it attracted substantial opposition, and had some serious flaws in it. It is likely that when a deregulation bill is next introduced, it will feature at least some changes from what was proposed by SB220. However, SB220 was strongly supported by the major electric utilities and the school boards association. Powerful competing interests will be involved in shaping new legislation, and it will take a determined effort to ensure that Oklahoma libraries are treated fairly in this process.

The OLA Electric Deregulation Task Force met and has recommended the following:

* OLA needs to clearly and concisely define its interests and concerns. These include replacement of any lost library ad valorem revenues, and provision for increased replacement revenues if new library systems are created or the library mileage of counties in the current systems is increased. We are concerned about electricity rate hikes and the reliability of the electric supply. We are concerned about the implications for library building construction if cities and counties bonding capacity is reduced without adjustment. We recommend delaying deregulation legislation in order to better learn from problems elsewhere and put together an equitable and workable plan for Oklahoma.

* OLA’s legislative liaison, Oliver Delaney, should contact other state associations in search of allies, with assistance as appropriate from OLA leaders, ODL and others. When indications are favorable, move to form definite alliances.

* Make key legislators, both Democrats and Republicans, aware of our need to be at the table this time around.

* Monitor developments closely during the legislative session, keeping in close touch with our allies.

* Move quickly to participate when deregulation is considered at any point in the legislative process.

Wayne Hanway
Go Figure! At Alva

Goldilocks, Arthur, Frog and Toad are just a few of the favorite fictional storybook characters that awaited children at the Alva Public Library. Huge reproductions of the favorite children's classics and their accompanying science and math activities were part of the free "Go Figure!" display, which targeted children aged 2 to 7.

The Go Figure! Exhibit is a 700 square foot exhibition based on a larger, 1200 square foot exhibition of the same name that opened at Minnesota Children's Museum in St. Paul Minn., in January 2000 and is traveling to children's museums across the country.

Alva was one of only 75 libraries in the nation and the only Oklahoma library to be selected for this exciting exhibit. Thanks to Cargill Salt and the 3M Corporation, Alva area children had a chance to see their favorite books, participate in hands-on mathematics and science activities, or listen to books on audiotape.

The exhibit was at the Alva Public Library January 11 through February 22. Classes from local elementary schools, pre-schools and daycares scheduled visits. Librarians Brook Jones and Sandra Hamilton traveled to Minnesota for a two-day training session on the exhibit. The grant money received from Cargill and 3M also allowed the library to purchase extra copies of the favorite children's books. Activities at each station were geared to different age levels. The "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" section had a place to measure a child's height by "pencils" and "spoons." "The Quilt" display included a computer where children created quilt squares on the screen. A free brochure for parents and caregivers contained helpful information on fun-filled and age-appropriate ways of helping children recognize and use math concepts such as patterns, shapes, counting and estimating in their everyday lives.

Helen Barrett  
Alva Review-Courier

American Indian Collection now at TCCL

More American Indians live in Oklahoma than in any other state in the nation, except California. Seven percent of Oklahoma's population is of American Indian descent with the majority residing in Tulsa County. Though tribal differences are vast, American Indians share a rich heritage. To highlight the culture and history of American Indians and to provide a support system for this often-overlooked segment of the community, the Tulsa City-County Library System (TCCL) has established the American Indian Collection (AIC). Currently, TCCL has more than 6,300 books and media by and about American Indians.

"Behind the written words and recordings in the collection are talented American Indian people who have the power to inspire our children, challenge stereotypes and educate our community," said Jennifer Young, AIC coordinator. "Through the American Indian Collection's resources and programs, we recognize the diversity and strength of American Indians today, and provide a common ground for all tribal affiliations."

This winter, the AIC hosted a series of educational, cultural events celebrating American Indians, and the Tulsa Library Trust inaugurated an author award recognizing an American Indian author who has made a significant contribution to contemporary literature. The award is the first and only award given by a public library to American Indian authors. Joy Harjo, a nationally renowned Creek poet and musician, is the winner of the inaugural American Indian Author Award. The award consists of a $5,000 cash prize and a bronze medallion.

A 17-member AIC advisory committee, consisting of community volunteers from several tribal affiliations and others active in American Indian affairs, provides TCCL with advice and guidance on collection development and programming. Committee members assist library staff in arranging speakers and performers, community partnerships, publicity, advertising, fund-raising and selecting the American Indian Author Award winner. Members include Lotsee Patterson, an internationally known professor of library science at the University of Oklahoma; Ross Swimmer, former principal chief of the Cherokee Nation; and Will Hill, a nationally known Indian actor.

The AIC web site features resources to assist customers with research about American Indians, highlights book and authors, and promotes American Indian events in the Tulsa area. It includes links to all the tribal web sites compiled by the American Indian Library Association, plus genealogy information for people interested in locating ancestors of American Indian descent.

For more information on the AIC, visit its web site at www.tulsalibrary.org/aic or call Young at 918-596-7996.

Jackie Hill-TCCL
Library Media Specialists Wanted! Nominations Sought for State Library

Each year the Oklahoma Association of School Library Media Specialists offers three awards to recognize those who have been instrumental in serving children through school libraries. School library media specialists in Oklahoma are encouraged to initiate nominations. Nomination forms may be obtained from the State Department of Education Library Media Section, 2500 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73105-4599 or by calling (405) 521-2956. Applications are also available on the OASLMS web page at http://pioneer.lib.ok.us/ola. The deadline for returning applications is July 1, 2001.

The Polly Clarke Award honors an outstanding library media specialist who exhibits professional involvement, curriculum support, integrated library information skills instruction, and cooperative planning of instructional units incorporated into an exemplary library media program. Administrators and teachers are encouraged to honor their school library media specialist by nominating her for this special award.

The Barbara Spriestersbach Award for Excellence in Teaching honors a teacher who demonstrates resource-based teaching by cooperatively planning and teaching with a library media specialist colleague. Teachers are nominated by their library media specialist. Together they submit a sample unit with the nomination form.

Jayme Seat

People & Places

The Highsmith Library innovation Award was given to the Bartlesville Public Library. A plaque and a $2,000 honorarium are provided by Highsmith, Inc. to recognize a public library's innovative or creative service program to their community.

Paula Walker, former Director of Library Media at the State Department of Education is now Director of Media Services for Weatherford Public Schools.

Sharon Saulmon has been named the recipient of the MPLA Board Choice Award. She was nominated by MPLA Board member Basha Hartley.

OLA has received the LAMA Cultural Grant Award. The award will be presented at ALA in San Francisco in June during the LAMA President's program. Keith Jemison of the Navigating the Information Future Ad Hoc Committee worked diligently to apply to ALA for this $1,000 grant. The grant will supply scholarships for people of color to attend OLA conference. This grant will be deferred to next fiscal year so conference grants could be given for the 2002 OLA annual conference.

Marlow Public Library was selected as a recipient of the Millennium Project for Public Libraries award.

Well deserved honors go to Buffy Edwards. She was selected recipient of the Oklahoma Education Association’s Instructional Excellence in Education Award-Teachers Teaching Teachers. The purpose of the award is to recognize individual OEA members for outstanding contributions in instructional excellence, both with students and colleagues. The award will be presented during the annual OEA Awards Banquet held in conjunction with OEA Delegate Assembly on April 27. She was also selected the American Association of School Librarians’ 2001 information Technology Pathfinder Award, sponsored by the Follett Software Company. The purpose of this award is to recognize and honor a school library media specialist demonstrating vision and leadership through the use of information technology to build lifelong learners. The award will be presented at the OLA Annual conference in San Francisco during the AASL Awards Brunch. CONGRATULATIONS, BUFFY!

Did you know that...

♦ Reference librarians in the nation’s public and academic libraries answer more than 7 million questions weekly. Standing single file, the line of questioners would stretch from Boston to San Francisco.
♦ Americans check out an average of six books a year. They spend about $21 a year in taxes for the public library—less than the cost of one bestseller.
♦ School library media centers spend an average of $8.50 per child for books—about half the average cost of a hardcover book.
♦ College libraries receive less than 3 cents of every dollar spent on higher education.

OLA Office for Research & Statistics

OLA Board Actions

February 16, 2001

Approved the Audit Committee report for fiscal year July 1999-June 2000.

The May workshop “Are You Being Served? Distance Learners and Their Local Public Library” was approved.

The Resolution in Support of Oklahoma Libraries supporting ALA’s legal challenge to the Children’s Internet Protection Act was approved with changes. (The resolution is printed in full in this issue of the Oklahoma Librarian).
The Mountain Plains Library Association Board met on January 6, 2001 in Denver.

President Linda Rea, from Hastings Public Library in Hastings, South Dakota led the meeting. The following are notes from the meeting.

*Financial Statement: MPLA has $64,000 in Gross Financial Assets.

*Membership Statement: MPLA has 783 members as of December 31, 2000.

*There was discussion about a possible MPLA/PNLA (Pacific Northwest Library Association) joint conference. PNLA has had decreasing membership and financial difficulties in the past few years. In addition, the timing for the proposed conference was too close to a PLA Conference. For these reasons, it was determined not to pursue a joint conference at the present time.

*Heidi Nickisch Duggan, MPLA Newsletter Editor, will be retiring from her post in early summer. The search has begun for a new editor.

*The MCLA Conference drew 1004 attendees. The evaluations of the conference were very positive. Final financial figures are not available.

*Next MCLA Conference will be MCLA/IAZLA in Phoenix, Arizona, December 4-7, 2001. The 2002 Conference will be in Fargo, North Dakota in October.

*The MPLA Board worked on another Vision Statement for the organization. Their current statement is not concise enough. Unfortunately, the board could not come to an agreement in the time allotted.

State reports were distributed. The following are notes from these documents.

Colorado—The Colorado Legislature has appropriated $1.9 million for materials for public and college libraries in the state.

Kansas—The Institute for Public Policy and Business Research at the University of Kansas has completed a study, "The Role of Public Libraries in Economic Development." The report is available at http://skylays.lib.ks.us/KSU/IPPPBR_IPPPBR_report.pdf. The report includes recommendations to improve the use and importance of public libraries to the business community and economic development in the state.

Montana—MSU-Bozeman has received a grant to train librarians over the Internet starting in 2001. The BATE Project or Borderless Access to Training and Education will certify teachers in 5 states who want to become school librarians. Participating institutions are MSU, USD, Northern State University in South Dakota, and the University of Nevada. Teachers in Alaska and Wyoming can also participate in this program.

Nebraska—The Nebraska Library Commission is offering a challenge to libraries to sign a pledge to support Nebraska’s youth by providing some aspect of the five resources most crucial to child development: Mentoring, Safety, Nurturing, Teaching and Service. This effort: 1) permits a showcase for libraries already offering elements of these resources; 2) encourages other libraries to focus on the needs of young people; 3) links the library community to other community and state-side activities on behalf of Nebraska’s youth. Thus far, 35 libraries have pledged their support of this program.

Nevada—Nevada’s 2001 Conference is scheduled for the Stardust Hotel in Las Vegas for October 4-6. The theme will be Rediscover Nevada: Celebrate the Past, Embrace the Future.

New Mexico—According to the National Center for Educational Statistics in their latest report (1997), New Mexico public libraries average 5.4 visits per capita, making the state fifth in the nation for visits to public libraries.

North Dakota—NDLA has raised its dues to $35.00 for individual memberships, $20.00 for trustees, and $20.00 for Associate Membership (students, friends, vendors, exhibitors).

South Dakota—Public Library Task Force of SDA has created a voluntary trustee education package that is available on the SDLA home page http://www.usd.edu/slda. This document offers practical tips and advice for leading productive discussions with trustees about library issues.

Utah—Salt Lake City is building a new community library downtown. The 240,000 square foot library will cost $80 million. The library will hold almost a half-million books and 155 public access computers.

Wyoming—The Bums Branch Library officially opened the doors of its new building in November sporting a café, an expanded poetry section and a much larger collection. The new library now shares a home with the Wyoming Bank and Trust, moving into the bank’s old, unused offices. Nearly 100 volunteers helped with the branch construction.

OLA Board Members are encouraged to send me items for inclusion in our state MPLA report. In addition, items for the MPLA newsletter are also encouraged. Please send them to me at basha@pls.lib.ok.us and I will forward to the newsletter.

Basha Hartley

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The International Foundation for Cultural Property Protection (IFCPP), a non-profit organization dealing with the protection of museums, libraries, zoos, aquariums, parks, educational institutions, historic sites, and other public institutions, will hold its 2001 Annual Conference, Seminar & Exhibits in Denver, November 7-11.

IFCPP welcomes administrators, facilities managers, human resources personnel and security staff from cultural institutions of any size or scope to attend 2 full days of general conference sessions, plus 2 days of course work (and exam) for the Certified Institutional Protection Manager (CIPM) designation. Instructors and presenters are the nation’s leading authorities in the cultural property protection community. Session topics include: emergency preparedness, collections protection, workplace violence prevention, fire protection, special event security, legal considerations, personnel selection and screening, investigations, physical security, litigation avoidance, employee awareness, visitor services and more...

This one-of-a-kind event will be held at the Keystone Lodge & Ski Resort in Keystone, Colorado. Our casual atmosphere will allow professionals to network and learn in a comfortable environment. Registration fees will include all conference sessions, certification courses, educational materials, an opening reception, 2 meals per day and several exciting resort activities and Rocky Mountain-style excursions. Early bird 4-day registration is only $445, but attendees may also choose to participate for just one, two, or three days. Don’t miss this unique opportunity to acquire the latest information on the protection of your institution!

Register online at www.ifcpp.com. Early bird registration has been extended to June 1, so submit your applications now to reserve your spot at the discounted rate. For more information, contact Rob Layne, Executive Director at (800) 257-6717 or rob@ifcpp.com.
Log on @ your library™: Campaign for America's Libraries Posts New @ your library PSAs

The Campaign for America's Libraries has made ten print public service announcements (PSAs) available on the current Campaign for America's Libraries Web site, located at: www.alal.org/@yourlibrary. The PSAs are posted in a variety of downloadable formats for use by libraries nationwide.

The following PSAs are now available:
- Sound advice @ your library™
- Bone up on osteoporosis @ your library™
- Czech out Prague @ your library™
- Garbo meets Rambo @ your library™
- Life Lessons @ your library™
- Nothing but Net @ your library™
- Open a book and shut out the world @ your library™
- Everything from Shaq to Shakespeare @ your library™
- The Ultimate Search Engine is @ your library™
- Untangle the Web @ your library™

The PSAs are part of an online toolkit designed to help local libraries implement the Campaign in their communities. The Campaign for America's Libraries is a five-year public education effort, sponsored by the ALA, to promote the value of all types of libraries and librarians nationwide.

The PSAs feature the trademarked @ your library™ brand, which will unite the national public education campaign with local outreach efforts from all types of libraries throughout the country.

The public service announcements can be utilized in a number of ways. Ideas include:
- Submit a PSA to your community, school, or campus newspaper or other publications. Encourage the paper to donate the space or offer it as filler. If your organization has the budget, consider buying space to guarantee placement.
- Place a PSA in your company newsletter (if you represent a special library), in the alumni magazine (if you're a university or college library) or in your library's newsletter to promote new programs and services.
- Use a PSA to create flyers and brochures to promote special programs and services at your library/organization. Examples include:
  - Untangle the Web @ your library (to promote Internet classes or use)
  - Sound advice @ your library (to promote a special collection of music)
- Post a PSA on your library/organization's Web site as a banner or banner.
- Use a PSA as your library's homepage or to introduce the librarians to the public.
- The ultimate search engine is @ your library (with a photo of a staff member)
- Use a PSA to create a display for your computer workstations with slogans such as:
  - Get wired @ your library
  - Try surfing @ your library

The Campaign, which was made a priority by the ALA Executive Board, was unveiled in July at the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago and will officially launch to the public during National Library Week April 1-7, 2001. For more information, visit the Campaign's temporary Web site at www.alal.org/@yourlibrary.

Sara Groves, ALA

OSU's Patsy Stafford Retires: love of books leads to 23-year career

Patsy Stafford said, "My love of books led me to the library. When I got there, I was fascinated." Stafford's library career began early. In junior high, she spent her study hall hour assisting the school librarian. "She amazed me. She knew how to find everything. That's when it struck me how important libraries and librarians are."

Stafford's first real job, back when she was "just a child," was at the OSU Curriculum Materials Library. "That was before the move. The CML was in the main building on the fifth floor." She left when her husband was called to active duty for the Air Force. "We were a military family and moved around a lot. Because of family roots, we always considered Stillwater home."

Originally from Weatherford, Okla., Stafford ended up back in Stillwater almost by accident. "I wasn't even looking for a job. One of my professors at OU told me about an opening for a special librarian. My sons, Chris and Britt, loved the idea of living in Stillwater, so I went for it."

Stafford started as information specialist with the National Clearinghouse of Rehabilitation Training Materials. When she began there were no lists or classification for materials. Items were shelved by succession numbers. "If we wanted to find something, we had to figure out if it came in three years ago, seven years ago or last week."

Stafford created a thesaurus of classification terms. "The set of Library of Congress search terms was too big and not specific enough for our needs." This system is still in place. The Clearinghouse has its own website now and uses the search terms and database created by Stafford twenty years ago.

In 1982, Stafford accepted the department head position for Library Circulation. Seven years later, she moved to her current position as a science and engineering librarian. Stafford said, "It been a joy. I've really loved working closely with the students and faculty in the College of Engineering and the Computer Science Department."

Travel is at the top of Stafford's retirement plans. "My first trip will be to the National Square Dancing Convention in Anaheim, Calif." Stafford has been square dancing since 1983. She is currently a member of the Stillwater Wagon Wheel, a local square dancing club. "If you like people and you like dance, you'll like square dancing. It's good exercise and you meet so many nice people." It's Stafford's goal to square dance in all fifty states and maybe even a few foreign countries. "Most square dancing clubs are part of an international organization, so I can get on the Internet and find a place to dance just about anywhere."

Stafford is a member of Special Libraries Association, Oklahoma Libraries Association and Mountain Plains Library Association. She commemorated her retirement at a reception, Friday, April 27.
OLA Initiates Good Will Ambassador Regional Meetings

The Oklahoma Library Association has introduced a new level of communication for librarians, support staff, trustees, and FOLIO members throughout the State by means of sponsoring regional meetings. The meetings are organized by Ginny Dietrich, Chair of the Regional Meeting Subcommittee of the Navigating the Information Future Ad Hoc Committee and Continuing Education Consultant with the Oklahoma Department of Libraries; by Kathryn Lewis, the Interlibrary Cooperation Committee chairperson and Library Information Specialist at the Norman Public Schools; by Anne Prestamo, the Library Education Division chairperson and Coordinator of Digital Library Services at Oklahoma State University; by Sandra Austin, Oklahoma Association of School Library Media Specialists and Library Media Specialist at Del Crest Elementary School; by Karen Marriott, Co-Chair of the Legislative Committee and Director of Materials Services at the Metropolitan Library System; and by Cheryl Sut
tles, Chair of the Membership Committee and Library Di
rector at Integris Health System in Oklahoma City. The concept of regional meetings has been strongly endorsed and supported by the OLA Executive Board.

The purpose of the meetings is to provide information about OLA membership benefits and services and to provide information about how attendees can influence those with whom they come in contact about librarianship as a career. The meetings also serve as a platform on which OLA can present to existing and potential new members the services, philosophy, benefits, and activities of the Association. Last but not least, these meetings also serve as a venue for meeting new colleagues in the information services field, renewing existing friendships, exchanging ideas and concerns, and just having fun.

The 1st OLA Regional Meeting was held on Tuesday, February 20th in Ardmore, Oklahoma. Ginny Dietrich introduced the first OLA Regional meeting. It was co-hosted by Susan Wright, Librarian at the Oak Hall Episcopal School in Ardmore and Patrick Brennen, Head Librarian at the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation also in Ardmore. The meeting was held at from 4:00 – 6:30 PM in the Pavilion on the Noble Foundation campus. About 21 librarians and FOLIO members attended the meeting from south-central Oklahoma. OLA President Sharon Saulmon, Kathryn Lewis, Ginny Dietrich, Karen Marriott, Anne Prestamo, Sandra Austin and Cheryl Sut
tles made presentations on various aspects of OLA. Basha Hartley spoke about the OLA Store held at the annual conference. The meeting included a very nice reception hosted by the Noble Foundation. Following the meeting there was considerable enthusiastic discussion among members regarding the establishment of a special interest group of librarians from south-central Okla
homa. Susan Wright will chair this special interest group of primarily school librarians. Patrick Brennen will assist her. Following the meeting, the Noble Foundation Library hosted dinner at Pecos Red Roadhouse Restaurant in Ardmore. The general tone of the Regional meeting can best be described as positive and upbeat with shared enthusiasm for the work of OLA. The Presenters at the meeting were housed overnight at the Noble Foundation Conference Center Hotel.

The 2nd OLA Regional Meeting was held on Tuesday, March 27th in Goodwell, Oklahoma. It was again organized by Ginny Dietrich and hosted by Evlyn Schmidt, Library Director at Oklahoma Panhandle State University in Goodwell.

The mode of transportation for the OLA presenters at the meeting was a new experience for some. Six of the presenters flew on a Noble Foundation corporate jet from Ardmore and Norman to Guymon and then returned later in the evening. Flying on the Noble Foundation corporate jet were Sharon Saulmon, Kay Boies, Cheryl Sut
tles, Karen Marriott, Anne Prestamo, and Patrick Brennen. A representative from Oklahoma Panhandle State University from Goodwell met the group at the Guymon airport and provided ground transportation to the OPSU Library in Goodwell. The meeting was well attended with approximately 25 librarians present from the Panhandle area and OPSU students. This meeting was quite outstanding because given the low population of the area; the attendance at the meeting was high. The hospitality of Evlyn Schmidt and her staff at the OPSU Library was simply outstanding. Speakers at the meeting included Sharon Saulmon – OLA President, Cheryl Sut
tles – Chairperson of the Membership Committee, Karen Mar
riott – Chairperson of the Legislative Committee, Ann Prestamo – Chairperson of the Library Education Divi
sion, Lily Kendall – Vice Chairperson of OASLMS, and

Patrick Brennen – Member of the Interlibrary Cooperation Committee. Kay Boies was a gracious greeter and served as a goodwill ambassador for the Association before and after the meeting when there was a great deal of friendly informal discussion among the attendees. The meeting began at 4 pm and ended at 6:15 pm.

As a result of the feedback from the first two regional meetings there is a consensus that the meetings are achieving the purposes originally conceived. These purposes include generating interest in membership in OLA, providing a forum for members and nonmembers to meet and learn about the current activities and professional benefits of OLA, bringing to everyone’s awareness the need for librarians in the future and our impact on part-time workers’ decisions, and finally, providing a venue for librarians, media specialists, school librarians, potential librarians and FOLIO members to meet and mingle with their peers in a small informal setting, so that attendees may share job experiences, successes, and discuss problem solving solutions to concerns. Along with this comes some relaxation and enjoyment!

Patrick W. Brennen, MLS, AHIP, Head Librarian
Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation Library
Regional Meeting at Noble Foundation in Ardmore

Kathleen Hallin, Ardmore Higher Education Center; Mary Ann Phillips, Ardmore Public Library, Dixie Harper, Friends of Ardmore Public Library, and Carolyn Franks, Ardmore Public Library, enjoy a light moment during the regional meeting.

Cyd Allen, Friends of Ardmore Public Library and Carolyn Franks, Ardmore Public Library Director, participated in the regional meeting at the Noble Foundation.

Tough Assignment: Fly in luxurious jet to Goodwell

Karen Marriott, Sharon Saulmon and Patrick Brennen enjoy the flight to Goodwell and are smiling because they didn't have to make the long drive by automobile.

Regional Meeting at Oklahoma Panhandle State University

School, public and academic librarians in the panhandle welcomed OLA representatives.

OLA President Sharon Saulmon outlines her agenda to retain librarians and recruit people to the field of librarianship.

Photographers: Susan Wright and Anne Prestamo
CRLS's New Pride and Joy

The Johnston County Library, a Branch of the Chickasaw Regional Library System (CRLS), celebrated the Grand Opening and Dedication of their new 4,000 square foot building March 9, 2001. The headline in the Sunday Ardmoreite read “Library System has Knack for Success.” Indeed, with the move from the old 600 square foot building to the new spacious facility at a prime Main Street corner in Tishomingo, circulation has more than doubled and the number of users has more than tripled.

Senator Billy Mickel, Representative Paul Roan, and ODL’s Susan McVey, spoke to over 140 people who joined the celebration. The new building is located on the old Opera House site that burned in the 1920s. Until construction for the new library began, the lot was a huge hole in the ground and a real eyesore for the city, reports Lynn McIntosh, CRLS Director.

The new building was initially made possible by one of the last LSTA grants through the Oklahoma Department of Libraries. Then the fundraising and hard work began. City and County workers cooperated to fill and pack the lot at the corner of Main and Neshoха. According to McIntosh, “We ran out of money several times and went back to fundraising when bids came in $100,000++ higher than projected. This wonderful new state of the art building is a tribute to hundreds of volunteers and donors in Johnston County and to the generosity of our regional foundations who had faith in our ability to get the job done!”

The new library building is a real win for a county and city whose poverty level is one of the highest in Oklahoma. And according to Fred Poe, CRLS Board Chair, “It is the most handsome building in the City of Tishomingo.”

Lynn McIntosh-CRLS