Book Marks
South Dakota Library Association  Serving South Dakota since 1904
www.sdlibraryassociation.org

Change Your World @ your library
SDLA Legislative Day – January 18, 2006

Please make plans to join the S.D. Library Association for Legislative Day on January 18, 2006.

This is an important opportunity to meet with your legislators and share your library’s story. For this to be another successful Legislative Day, we need librarians and library supporters to join us in Pierre.

SDLA has two legislative action items: a request for funding for the State Library to purchase statewide access to a regional newspaper database and support for the Board of Regents budget request for an additional two full-time positions at the South Dakota Library Network which will be funded by member fees. More information is available at the SDLA web site under the Contact Your Legislators link. Take a moment to ask your legislators for support!

Talk to your friends and colleagues, arrange a carpool, and then let us know that you’ll be coming so that we may create a special nametag for you! Contact Deb Hagemeier at deb.hagemeier@augie.edu OR 605-274-4921.

See you in Pierre!

Legislative Day Schedule
7:45am - 9:45am - Committee meetings at the Capitol
10:00am - Noon - Committee meetings at the Capitol
10:30am - 1:30pm SDLA Board meets at State Library
1:30pm - 1:45pm - Registration at State Library
2:00pm - 2:50pm - Senate and House sessions - State Capitol - Introduction of librarians
3:00pm - 3:50pm - Inside the SD State Legislature - Cultural Heritage Center - Former state legislator John McIntyre will share his experiences and suggest strategies for promoting our legislative agenda.
4:00pm - 4:50pm - Online Regional Newspapers - Cultural Heritage Center - Lisa Brunick will demonstrate the electronic newspaper resources we are hoping to fund.
5:30pm - 7:30pm Legislative Reception - State Library

Sioux Falls Schools & Siouxland Libraries launch “Leaders Are Readers” program

The Sioux Falls School District, in collaboration with Mayor Dave Munson and Siouxland Libraries, has issued a reading challenge to students in grades K-8. Children are challenged to read 20 minutes a day for 50 days between November 14, 2005 and February 22, 2006.

The challenge was issued formally on November 14 with a School Board Resolution and a Proclamation from the Mayor. Sioux Falls Mayor Dave Munson was the catalyst for the Leaders are Readers reading challenge. In a meeting with Siouxland Libraries Director Sally Felix, Mayor Munson expressed his interest in working with students to promote the importance of reading. Felix assigned Children’s Librarian Jim Oliver to explore ways the Mayor might get involved with area schools.

Oliver turned to Dr. Kathy Coulter, Principal at Eugene Field Elementary School, who quickly pulled together a highly charged committee of educators that included Dr. Linda Haugan, Principal of Renberg Elementary School; Ann Smith, Curriculum Coordinator for Technology and Library/Media Services; and Linda Hallstrom, Community Relations Supervisor for the Sioux Falls School District. The committee received approval to proceed from both the Mayor and School Superintendent Pam Homan, who agreed to pose for our Leaders are Readers poster. Posters were printed and distributed to participating schools and public library branches.

Mayor Munson will support the challenge by visiting schools and reading to students. Completed logs are to be returned to school librarians. Students who complete the challenge will be recognized and rewarded by their schools. In addition, each participating school will receive a book for its library, autographed and inscribed by Mayor Munson and Superintendent Homan.

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Deadwood celebrates 100th anniversary of library building
Ahhh, the snow is flying, the lights are on the tree, but a few more presents still need to be purchased. (I realize that by the time this is published the Christmas Season will be over and we’ll all be back to some sort of routine.) Here at Dakota Wesleyan construction of the library continues. Today we have the second meeting of the week to discuss shelving. We’re in the middle of trying to fill an IT position. My situation is not unique. Librarians throughout the state have plates piled high with professional and personal activities. We’re all busy, busy, busy. That is why I chose “Librarians in Action” as the theme for this year’s conference.

It is easy enough to get caught up in our day-to-day activities. We have to get that next group of books catalogued and processed. Tomorrow an eleventh grade class is coming to the library to work on their term paper project. There’s that pile of ILL requests to fill. With everything that needs to get done, do we remember to take time to advocate for the library? Do we make sure that our various stakeholders, including our legislators, know about the great resources and services that we provide?

The annual SDLA Legislative Day is just around the corner. Legislative Day provides us an opportunity to let our legislators know about the vital role libraries play in our schools, communities, campuses, hospitals, and elsewhere. It also provides us a chance to promote SDLA’s legislative agenda. This year’s Legislative Day is scheduled for Wednesday, January 18th (details are available on page 1). The evening Legislative Reception provides a relaxed environment to meet representatives from around the state and discuss important library issues. Our lobbyist, Denny Duncan, tells us that legislators take note when people show up at these events. I encourage you to put this date on your calendar. Come to Pierre to promote your library, support the work of the association, and be noticed by your legislator.

On another note I want to give an update on the marketing project with Hot Pink Ink. We have asked HPI to design a brochure that promotes the association and libraries. They will have this piece ready in time for Legislative Day so that we can distribute a copy to every legislator. We also plan to send copies to libraries throughout the state so that you will be able to distribute it to your local stakeholders.

New SDLA Members

Maylou Stanforth, Platte Library  Michele Jensen, Hot Springs Public Library
Candy Knakmuhs, Scotland Community Library  Rhonda Wurtz, Sioux Falls
Raynette Schulte, Watertown Regional Library

SDLA Treasurer’s Report as of December 15, 2005

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Now that the project to migrate from PALS to ALEPH is over, I’d like to share my observations, make some commendations and suggestions.

This was a very difficult and long implementation. SDLN had never migrated to a totally new software product in our history, so we were unprepared for some of the difficulties and adjustments that we had to make as end users. At the same time, Ex Libris had never worked with such a large multi-type consortia in its history and were unprepared to assist us with the migration process. Also, fiscal constraints dictated that we could not migrate carefully, one module at a time. We had to migrate from PALS, quite literally, before our money ran out. The complexity of Aleph is much greater than PALS. The vendor was not prepared with qualified staff to provide appropriate project management and training. The SDLN implementation was the first for any consortium on this new version. SDLN staffing was not sufficient for the workload. However, the migration was ultimately successful, after many long and hard hours of work by dedicated staff at SDLN and our member libraries. My hat goes off to all of you. All of South Dakota owes those who worked on the implementation their support and gratitude.

We also need to recognize Ex Libris employees for acknowledging their shortcomings and resolving problems. Their staff spent significant time in South Dakota to assist us by resolving problems and answering questions. I have never been involved in an implementation where the vendor brought staff from overseas (United Kingdom and Israel) for months at a time. Top Ex Libris management came to South Dakota. Many SDLN and library staff had direct access to Ex Libris’ developmental staff in Israel. No other library or system has received that level of support from Ex Libris — not Harvard, MIT, nor the New York or Florida systems. South Dakota is the only implementation where Ex Libris has provided such personalized support.

You are aware of some of the good features available in Aleph, such as book jacket graphics, KidsCat, more seamless cataloging, easier navigation in Circulation, and more customized features in the OPAC. This is not to say that everything is perfect. There continue to be problems in ILL, and the OCLC and Marcive loaders are not fully operational. However, ILL is being used successfully, not only in South Dakota but elsewhere. Some states (Maryland, for example) have done their own programming to make Marcive work. We continue to work with Ex Libris and other Aleph users for fixes and alternatives to improve our service to you.

Talking to other Aleph users across the nation, I conclude that Ex Libris has changed their implementation processes because of what they learned from us. South Dakota has influenced Ex Libris’ product development, specifically ILL and KidsCat. Other sites tell me that they implemented the Aleph product without making modifications and are operating with far fewer problems. Some of our problems are likely of our own making. Also, it has been almost 20 years since South Dakota implemented a new library automation system. Implementations of this size and complexity are never easy or without problems.

We need to step back and thank the SDLN staff and Implementation Team for all of their work. They did a phenomenal job under extremely trying conditions. We have completed the Aleph implementation and are in production mode. Certainly there will be problems every now and then. Problems happen in all systems and create much tension. As we move forward, we need to recognize the knowledge and effort our co-workers are exerting to improve the product for the whole state. Each of us needs to keep the whole of SDLN in mind when discussing alternatives or proposing solutions. Each of you is committed to making this system work. This will mean giving a little for the good of the whole.

No system will ever be perfect. We all know this. It will help all of us if we learn to accept the system that we have. Please continue to submit problem reports and enhancement requests via the SDLN webpage. But more importantly, let’s collectively put on a positive attitude as we work with the other SDLN members. SDLN is a tribute to the vision of the state’s librarians. It is a role-model of cooperation and resource sharing.
State Library update

Mary Bushing, the consultant who is leading the State Library Staff and State Library Board through a seven month long planning and evaluation process, has announced that Phase 1 phone interviews will be completed by January 12th. The phone interviews will be conducted in small groups with a selected list of participants. Seven groups will be interviewed. These groups will broadly represent the various types and sizes of libraries across the state.

Phase 2 will be launched during the month of February with a series of eight focus groups. Mary will return to South Dakota to conduct these focus group discussions in eight locations statewide. Participants of the focus groups will include local civic leaders, representatives from libraries, citizens and others. You may be asked to suggest names of participants. If so, please help us out.

Librarians, trustees and library patrons will have numerous opportunities to offer their opinions and suggestions both in group settings and as individuals. What kind of library services do you think need to be delivered in South Dakota? At what level do those services need to be made available? What is most appropriate to be done at the local level? The state level? Other suggestions? You can share your ideas with Mary at marying@msn.com

The first preliminary report is scheduled for delivery in late February.

Yankton Community Library
“Name the Cat Coloring Contest”

When the incident of the mountain lion coming into Yankton resulted in its unfortunate shooting last year, Library Director, Jim Scholtz discussed the issue with, then City Manager Eric Swanson. It was decided that it would be a disservice to just dispose of the animal rather than to take advantage of the situation to create a positive educational experience for the community. Acting in concert with the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Dept., after the appropriate necrological information was gathered, the cat’s body was provided to the taxidermist at Dakota Archery and mounted. The mountain lion was given to the Yankton Community Library for permanent display in mid-July 2005 and placed as a wall-mount in the Donald H. Allan memorial research room. An informational 3-ring binder was started containing information specific to this mountain lion and the incident as well as general information concerning habitat, ecology and conservation and upcoming state events (such as the proposed hunting season).

A K-5th grade mountain lion naming/coloring contest was devised. Library staff member, Nicole Uhing used her artistic talent to make a basic outline of the cat for the coloring sheet, rules were drawn up, and the local schools agreed to cooperate in the distribution of coloring sheets. Children could enter the contest as many times as they wanted which resulted in over 400 entries! Some exceptional artwork using all sorts of medium combinations like crayon, watercolor, chalk, charcoal and pastels was submitted along with some creative and often humorous names like Boulder, Prowler, Pouncer, Bullet, Bob Dole, Steve, and Tracker. Winners received a copy of local artist, Lita Stuckey’s ‘Lewis and Clark’ coloring book, a book chosen for their grade level and a certificate. All entries will be placed in a 3-ring binder and displayed with the mountain lion. The ‘best in show’ winner entries will be placed in the mountain lion informational notebook and their certificates will be hung on the wall next to the mountain lion.

The two winning names were Boulder and Tracker. View the two ‘Best in Show’ winners on the Yankton Community Library’s website at ycllib.sdln.net

Book Review


The New Name is a charming story about an irresistible puppy and her quest for an owner. The nameless puppy begins life with a litter of brothers and sisters, and she watches as they all are chosen and taken home by happy families. The puppy pulls out all the stops to get noticed by a family, but is continually passed over. Displaying all the activity and dog tricks she can muster, the puppy is finally rewarded by being chosen by a young girl, and is taken to a new home and most importantly given a name.

The story touches on themes of belonging, and being included as part of a family. The optimistic puppy and her positive attitude provide lessons on hope and perseverance. The book’s illustrations bring the story and the puppy’s actions to life.

This book is a first for both author Margie Nelsen and illustrator Karen Annexstad. Nelsen received a B.A. in Social Work from the University of South Dakota. Both Nelsen and Annexstad currently live in Minnesota. The New Name is the first in a planned series of books about the puppy introduced in this first book. Animal, in particular dog lovers will enjoy the escapades of the puppy and its friends the cat, bumblebee, and beetle. I enjoyed this book and eagerly anticipate more adventures from this adorable puppy.

by Sarah Devereaux
Augustana College
How do you try to reach the over 2,000 students at Washington High School?
Promoting the library and its services are the biggest challenges. I work hard to create a personal relationship with each student and teacher. I currently work with the Anime and Manga club and the Creative Writing Club. The Anime and Manga club of approximately 20 students reaches out to those that might not normally use the library. The group has created a web forum for discussion and suggestions. Another popular endeavor is our student/staff book recommendations. Students and staff fill out a book recommendation form. The form and the book are then displayed and their name is entered into a drawing for a gift certificate to the school store. I am looking forward to a new book group promotion. Journalism teacher Alison Halgerson and I were awarded the first ever Sioux Falls School District Education Foundation grant. The grant will fund the purchase of 10 sets of 10 contemporary titles for book discussion groups. Washington High will add book talk clubs through the library and discussion groups in modern literature classes.

What has been your biggest surprise since beginning your job in January 2005?
I think the need to constantly promote library services and educate teachers and students about the library. I realized that it would be an important aspect, but until you are in the job you don’t really understand the necessity. Another challenge has been learning to collaborate with teachers. Each collaboration is unique and I learn something new every time.

What are the greatest joys?
Definitely the students. I love watching them as they discover their favorite books. It is so much fun to recommend new books to students and teachers. I have found that my book talks with classes have made a big difference in helping students to find books. I also enjoy working with the English language learners. The students from Washington represent over 70 countries and over 30 languages.

What are some of your hobbies?
I really enjoy watching anime! Of course, I love reading. And when I have time I like to quilt or bake.
The American Library Association recently announced that Layne Library at Dakota Wesleyan University is one of 50 libraries nationwide, and the only library in South Dakota, to be named as a pilot site for a documentary film viewing and discussion series on World War I.

“The World War I Years: America Becomes a World Power,” is a six-week program that features scholar-led lectures, documentary film screenings, and readings and discussions. The series will be offered during the spring 2006 semester at DWU with Sean Flynn, DWU assistant professor of history, leading the discussions.

Flynn plans to teach a three-credit night course on WWI that will run in conjunction with the series of videos. The course is open to the community as well as all students, but those who want to only watch the films do not have to enroll in the class. Screening dates for the films are January 19, February 2, February 23, March 16, March 30, and April 20. Each screening will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the 600-seat Sherman Center on campus.

“The documentary series will be of interest to anyone—college students, high school students, middle school students, community members—interested in America’s current position in the world,” Flynn said. “WWI thrust the United States into a position of international leadership that we weren’t prepared for but, since 1918, have never relinquished.”

Flynn said the central theme of the documentary series is to explore how the war made us into a world power and how our WWI experience continues to shape our foreign policy in the present day. The series highlights a variety of American experiences during the war, including the role of African Americans, women and immigrants.

Kevin Kenkel, director of learning resources for Layne Library, said being selected as a pilot site is a great opportunity to develop the library’s collection on WWI and to provide programming to the community. After the series is completed, Layne Library will keep the videos as part of its WWI collection.

“We are excited about being able to offer educational programming to adult learners who may not be interested in registering for a full semester course, but are nonetheless interested in learning more about the war,” Kenkel said.

An initiative of the ALA Public Programs Office and National Video Resources, “The World War I Years: America Becomes a World Power,” is funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

For more information on the series, contact Kenkel at (605) 995-2617 or kekenkel@dwu.edu

John Van Balen, Head of Public Services at the I.D. Weeks Library, retired in December after 30 years of service to the Library.

John served under five Library directors and was appointed interim director three times over his career.

Hired in 1975 as Circulation/Reference Librarian, John also provided bibliographic instruction and served as Maps Librarian. Recently he also supervised Government Documents for the Library. John developed and taught two library bibliographic research courses and published seven books and bibliographies dealing with South Dakota, Native American or Geography themes.

He was primarily responsible for developing the program document describing needs for the design of the I.D. Weeks Library expansion in 1995.

December 13, 2005 was declared Professor John Van Balen Day by the Governor of South Dakota during a reception honoring his service to USD.

John along with his wife and daughter will retire to a home in the Black Hills near Custer which he built himself. Dr. Carol Leibiger, Information Literacy Coordinator for the I.D. Weeks Library, will serve as Interim Head of Public Services until a permanent replacement is found.

South Dakota Library Association’s Annual Conference

Librarians in Action

Keynote Speakers include
Nancy Pearl
Sue Grafton
Joseph Bruchac

September 20-22, 2006
Rapid City, SD
Professional Development Grants available

Feeling a little bit of cabin fever from the South Dakota winter? Apply for a Professional Development Grant from SDLA and spring into a new season!

Grants of up to $400 are available to assist SDLA members with the costs of attending conferences, workshops, or other professional opportunities. Applications are available at the SDLA web site (www.sdlibraryassociation.org) with deadlines of March 15 and September 15.

Scholarships available

Every year SDLA has two scholarships of up to $500 to assist SDLA members with the costs of professional training in the field of librarianship. Applicants must be accepted by an American Library Association accredited graduate school of library/information science, OR accepted by a graduate library media program that meets the ALA/AASL curriculum guidelines within a unit accredited by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education.

Applications must be received by May 15. Application forms and other details are available at the SDLA web site: www.sdlibraryassociation.org

Rapid City Central raises money for Katrina Relief

Rapid City Central High School's library sponsored a festival of trees in support of libraries damaged by Hurricane Katrina. Classes, clubs and teams were asked to enter a decorated Christmas tree into the contest. Eleven trees were entered in our contest this year.

Staff and students voted with their spare change. The winning tree was the one that received the most donations. CHS Players, the drama club, won this year's contest with a unique "tree" that celebrated both Christmas and their organization.

The voting raised $70 for a good cause. Everyone is looking forward to making this a yearly event with even more participants next year.

The money was added to SDLA's $250 donation to the ALA Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund.

Deadwood Public Library celebrates 100th anniversary of library building

On Saturday December 17, 2005 the Deadwood Public Library held its Annual Christmas Open House. In conjunction with the event was a re-dedication ceremony for the 100th anniversary of the library building.

On Feb. 27, 1895 The Round Table Club decided to establish a circulating library in Deadwood for the benefit of the public in general. On March 8, 1895 the club incorporated the Round Table Club Library Association. This library was located in Room #5 of the Syndicate Block with Mrs. Marie Gaston serving as the first librarian, who held the position until 1902. Later, the library was turned over to the City of Deadwood to operate and in 1899 the library was moved to a room in the Smith Block, now commonly known as the Wagner Hotel Building and the name was changed to the Deadwood Public Library. About this time the Thursday Club and other women's clubs in Deadwood became interested in the Library project and through their cooperation, aided by influential citizens in Deadwood, and the efforts of Librarian Mrs. Marie Gaston a grant from the Carnegie Foundation was fulfilled.

Land was obtained, the ground broken, and construction of the present Deadwood Public Library was started and carried through to completion. The first meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Deadwood Public Library was held in the Library building on October 19, 1905. The Board consisted of six members appointed by the City Council. By-laws were presented and adopted and the Deadwood Public Library was formed. Plans were made for a formal public dedication of the Library on November 7, 1905.

During the years, many improvements have been made including the modernization of the lighting of the Library interior, the installation of asphalt tile and in 1998 an addition with public restrooms and an elevator was completed.

The 100th re-dedication ceremony was well attended. The guest of honor was oldest living Deadwood Public Library Librarian, Edna Ferguson. She held the position from 1957 to 1959. Mrs. Ferguson commented on how much things have changed. Also in attendance was the Executive Director of the South Dakota Library Network, Gary Johnson and his lovely wife, Wanda. Deadwood Mayor Francis Toscana spook about the services the library provides to the community, the cultural enrichment opportunities, and his hope that the library will continue to provide those for another 100 years. County Commissioner Terry Weisenberg commented on the important part libraries have played in his life and his unfailing support of libraries. Library Director Jeanette Lundquist finished the ceremony stating “I am proud today to re-dedicate the library for another 100 years of service to the community and our continuing commitment to intellectual freedom. As the staff of the Deadwood Public Library we are honored to be the caretakers of this institution and all that it stands for.”
Deadwood Public Library celebrates 100th anniversary of library building
see story on page 7

Dr. Pam Homan, Superintendent of Sioux Falls Public Schools and Sioux Falls Mayor Dave Munson are challenging students to read 20 minutes a day for 50 days.

Sioux Falls Schools & Siouxland Libraries launch “Leaders Are Readers” program
see story on page 1

Mary Peterson is the principal at Laura B. Anderson Elementary in Sioux Falls.