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Colorado Department of Education

Centennial State Libraries

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Strut Your Stuff @ your library™

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This Valentine's Day, Renew Your Commitment. . .to Databases!

EBSCO K12 and Children's Databases subscriptions through the Colorado Statewide Agreement are up for renewal for July 2003 through June 2004. In order to keep low-cost rates, we need enough renewals to keep the statewide agreement going. WE NEED YOUR RESPONSE BY MARCH 1, 2003

New Pricing: The AIRS Committee, in response to comments and suggestions from subscribers, has instituted a new pricing schedule that reflects the different sizes of school and public libraries that use the EBSCO K12 and Children's Databases.

Schools:	Population	Cost Per Building
Elementary Schools	1-100	$250.00

	101+	$450.00
Middle Schools	1-200	$300.00
	201+	$550.00
High Schools	1-300	$350.00
	300+	$650.00
Publics:	1-30,000	$0.06
	30,000-70,000	$0.05
	70,001+	$0.032

- Current subscribers – you received an e-mail from BCR
  - Respond to the e-mail by March 1 to commit to renew
  - BCR will mail a paper invoice

- Didn't subscribe last year? Sign up for a free trial of the databases through March 31, 2003.
  - Contact Brenda Bailey-Hainer at: bailey_b@cde.state.co.us to sign up for the trial.

Selected databases are available at reduced rates to Colorado libraries.

Databases have more info than last year! The 8 database package includes:

- MAS Ultra; School Edition - full text of 528 periodicals, 150 reference books, 76,000 primary source documents, 96,600 biographies -- and more
- Middle Search Plus - for middle and junior high school students, with 155 full text titles, historical essays, and the Encyclopedia of Animals
- Primary Search - includes Searchasaurus interface plus full text of 60 periodicals, plus encyclopedias, a dictionary and other reference books
- TopicSearch - over 64,000 articles on topics like aging, crime, energy, and human rights, from over 3,000 sources
- ERIC - index and abstracting service of professional education materials
- Professional Development Collection - full text of over 500 professional education journals
- Health Source; Consumer Edition - full text of 300 full text health journals + 20 health reference books + a medical dictionary -- and more
- Newspaper Source - selected full text from 180 regional US newspapers

Quick Facts about the EBSCO Colorado Statewide Agreement

- The Statewide Agreement provides subscribers with unlimited use of these databases from school, library, or home -- 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- If a library subscribed to the print versions of all the resources included in these databases, the cost would be over $38,000 per year!!

More information on the EBSCO Colorado Statewide Agreement available: More information on and complete descriptions of all the databases are available at: The renewal form for 2003-2004 is available at: Questions? Contact Brenda Bailey-Hainer

at the Colorado State Library: bailey_b@cde.state.co.us or 303.866.6907

Training Opportunities Coming to a Library Near You!

The State Library has received a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to provide training to public library staff throughout the state. The goal of this training program is to provide library staff with effective technology training skills, so they are better able to teach computer literacy to their patrons, particularly families and those caught in the digital divide. We have hired two trainers who will be providing training strategies and marketing/outreach methods for effectively teaching patrons to search the Internet, and to evaluate and use information. We will also provide techniques for marketing library services to patrons and on how to teach Spanish speakers basic computer literacy.

Technology Training Strategies and Community Connections (Full day)

- Learn how to put together lesson plans and instructional guides for teaching technology
- Develop strategies to teach internet skills to patrons one on one or in large groups
- Create your own mini-lesson to present to other course participants
- Learn ways to market library computer services to non-users

Aprende lo Basico: Teaching Computer Skills to Spanish Speakers (6 hours)

- Develop ways to bridge cultural and language barriers when working with Spanish speakers
- Learn outreach techniques that will bring Spanish speakers to your classes
- Learn about computer resources available in Spanish

REGISTRATION MATERIALS AND COURSE SCHEDULE AT: Gates Grants

Both training courses are free, but there will be a minimal fee for lunch. We hope that you or someone on your staff will be able to take advantage of this training opportunity. If you have further questions, please contact Rose Nelson-CSL at (303)-866-6946, or nelson_r@cde.state.co.us.

Colorado Public Libraries Bridge Digital Divide for Patrons

Public libraries in Colorado are bridging the technology gap for those residents who lack Internet access because of income or lifestyle factors. In a study completed in October 2002 by the Library Research Service, public libraries provide the only access to the Internet for two-thirds of library patrons. The "digital divide," as it is frequently labeled, affects not just the poor and under-educated. Technology have-

nots from all walks of life rely on Internet access provided by public libraries.

"Colorado Public Libraries & the Digital Divide 2002" says the availability of technology in public libraries fulfills a highly demanded patron need spanning all demographic groups. According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, the rate of growth of Internet use in the U.S. is currently two million new users per month. Internet use is increasing for people regardless of income, education, age, race, ethnicity and gender.

Coloradans depend heavily on Internet access at public libraries to find jobs and for educational purposes. Among the findings:

- Public libraries provide the only access to the Internet for a substantial portion of every age group. Sixty-seven percent of respondents have no other access to the Internet except through library computers, including.48% of visitors under 18, 66% of those between 18-54, and 85% of those over 55.
- 82% indicated that the availability of computers was one of the reasons for visiting the library that day.
- 54% use library computers for Internet access more than once a week.
- 65% of Hispanic patrons rely on library computers because they have no Internet access from home or work.
- Black and Hispanic library patrons were more likely than others to use public Internet computers to look for jobs or to do school work.
- 36% of library patrons have used public computers to look for a job.
- 39% of respondents using public computers for distance education were below poverty level.

Findings are based on a sample survey of over 1900 patrons of public libraries throughout the state and are consistent with those of previous federal studies. "The Internet is becoming a primary—in some case, the only—access point to a wide variety of government services, educational materials, health resources, communications tools and commercial activities," says the report. "Public Internet access becomes ever more important to ensure equal access to information for all segments of society."

To see the complete report, visit Colorado Public Libraries & the "Digital Divide" 2002 online.

Colorado libraries continue to experience mushrooming use. Circulation mounts (see "Fast Facts" 4/15/02) and part of this appears to be related to Internet use (see "Fast Facts" 12/21/99).

Grants Available for Small and Rural Public Libraries Building Books for Children

The Libri Foundation is currently accepting applications for its 2003 BOOKS FOR CHILDREN grants. The Libri Foundation is a nationwide non-profit organization which donates new, quality, hardcover children's books to small, rural public libraries throughout the United States. In order to encourage and reward local support of

libraries, The Libri Foundation will match any amount of money raised by a library's local sponsor(s) from $50 to $350 on a 2-to-1 ratio. Thus, a library can receive up to $1,050 worth of new, quality, hardcover children's books. After a library receives a grant, local sponsors (such as formal or informal Friends groups, civic or social organizations, local businesses, etc.) have four months, or longer if necessary, to raise their matching funds.

Libraries are qualified individually. In general, libraries should serve a population under 10,000 (usually under 5,000), be in a rural area, have a limited operating budget, and an active children's department. Rural is usually considered to be at least 30 miles from a city with a population over 40,000. Town libraries with total operating budgets over $125,000 and county libraries with total operating budgets over $250,000 are rarely given grants. Applications are accepted from independent libraries as well as libraries which are part of a county, regional, or cooperative library system. A school library may apply only if it also serves as the public library (i.e. it is open to the general public and has summer hours).

Application (postmark) deadlines: March 15th, July 15th, and November 15th. Award dates are the end of April, August, and December. Libraries are encouraged to apply for the earliest deadline possible. To have an application form e-mailed, contact Barbara J. McKillip at librifdn@teleport.com, with the subject line: Grant Application. For more information about the Foundation, please check the The Libri Foundation website.

Black History Resources for Children's Literacy and Everyone, Free and Fascinating

- "Frontline, A Class Divided"

A classic in the history of this nation and education "Frontline, A Class Divided," a Frontline television production from 1968, is now available on the Internet. One day in 1968, a teacher in a small, all-white Iowa town divided her third-grade class into blue-eyed and brown-eyed groups and gave them a daring lesson in discrimination. The lesson was filmed and now, more than 30 years later, you can watch the lesson online. You'll also hear from the teacher, Jane Elliott, and now-grown students about the lesson's lasting impact. Mrs. Elliott cautions that "I would never suggest that everyone should use it" and instead recommends the lesson as a learning experience for teachers.

- Best Web Sites for Black History Month

"Reading Rockets" has spent quite a bit of time searching the web (so you don't have to) and came up with a list of great sites to visit during Black History Month or any time. There are annotated links to National Geographic's stunning Underground Railroad site, the Library of Congress' Meet Amazing Americans site, an interesting lesson involving eggs (you'll have to read about it), and much more.

- Black History Month: Our Favorite Books

Black History Month readings often focus on biographies of famous African Americans. "Reading Rockets" has a slightly different approach. The Reading Rockets book list for Black History Month features many fiction books for kids from 0-9. Some of them describe our different histories, but many more show the joys and challenges children of all colors share in growing up.

- New "The Keys to Literacy" Report Now Available

The big names in reading research are represented in the Council for Basic Education's (CBE) new report called "The Keys to Literacy." The report is available for free online as a PDF file. CBE commissioned four articles from the researchers to describe what constitutes good reading instruction.

(The four items above are courtesy of the "Reading Rockets" project, providing information on how young kids learn to read, why so many struggle, and how caring adults can help. "Reading Rockets," which also includes a PBS series and other activities, is a service of WETA, the flagship public television and radio station in the nation's capital, funded by a grant from the US Department of Education. To subscribe to the free online newsletter or to read past issues, visit the Reading Rockets Newsletter web site.

Library Automation Toolkit Moves to a New Site

Please make note of the new address for the Library Automation Toolkit: http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/technology/atauto.htm.

For additional information, E-Mail: Bonnie McCune, mccune_b@cde.state.co.us

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