



## LSTA Spotlight: Ouray School Media Center, Ouray Virtual Field Trips

Ouray is a small, rural town of 700 residents. As a result, life experience and opportunity for children are limited. The Virtual Field Trips project, an LSTA-funded Local Needs grant, utilizes the Internet and projection equipment to “see the world” in a cost-effective way, connecting the power of technology to the learning process through virtual field trips.

Students journey across the continents, under the sea, inside ancient structures — all without leaving school! Once a month, the school library media specialist invites students to the multi-purpose room to “travel” using a multi-media projector, computer, and large screen. Kids fill out permission slips, and parents are invited along as trip sponsors.

Six trips have already been taken:

- ◆ The Human Body (grades 3/4)
- ◆ Indian “PowWow” (grades pre/K)
- ◆ The Holocaust (grades 10 + misc.)
- ◆ Geology of Iceland (high school geology class)
- ◆ Paris, France (second year French students)
- ◆ Shakespeare (sophomore English)

Upcoming topics include Egypt, Iditarod, oceans, Civil War, and the Middle Ages.

Classroom teachers prepare the students for these trips with concepts and vocabulary. The trips are connected to the curricular studies of the age group. They supplement district curriculum, as well as provide up-to-date information teachers might not have access to otherwise.

Nancy Nixon, Media Specialist, says, “It’s time-intensive, but rewarding to connect to curriculum in such a dramatic way. The resources on the Internet improve daily, as does my skill at gathering and sorting. So far it’s a great success and fun for all!”



Project Director Nancy Nixon acts as tour guide for the series of virtual field trips.

# It's happening ...

FROM THE STATE LIBRARY AND ADULT EDUCATION OFFICE

## Thank You, Bill Gates (or How I Spent My Christmas Vacation)

by Nancy Bolt, <nbolt@csn.net>

Regardless of what you might think of Bill Gates' products (and, frankly, I think his programmers should have talked to real people before they designed MS-WORD), his generosity is a true windfall for America's public libraries. You may have heard that Bill and his wife, Melinda, have contributed \$200 million in cash and \$200 million in software and training to public libraries across the country.

Bill and Melinda have targeted their donations to the poorest in the country. States become eligible based on the number of people living in poverty, based on the 1990 census. Colorado's time has come. We are number 19, far better off than Mississippi, Louisiana, and New Mexico (numbers 1, 2, and 3), but not as well off as Delaware, New Hampshire, and Connecticut (numbers 48, 49, and 50).

Over the Christmas holidays, I traveled to Seattle to meet with Richard Akeroyd, Executive Director of the Gates Library Foundation. You may remember Richard from his days in Colorado. He spent several years as the state librarian in Connecticut, then moved on to the Gates Foundation a years ago.

The Gates Library Foundation has budgeted what it would take to provide computers, software, training, and necessary telecommunications connections for the libraries they target. This is what they have tentatively budgeted for Colorado (are you sitting down?): *\$2,000,000 in grants for hardware and telecommunication and \$2,000,000 in donated software and training.* Thank you, Bill and Melinda!



The whole process starts this spring. Sometime in February or March, we will receive an invitation to apply for the grants. The program is coordinated by the state library in every state. We will be expected to put together a statewide application involving input from Colorado public library stakeholders. Akeroyd emphasized two points again and again:

First, this program is not competitive, either between states or for local libraries eligible to receive a grant. The money is there for us to use.

Second, the program is not an entitlement. If we are not willing or able to meet the requirements of the grant program, neither the state nor individual libraries will receive the funds.

We will have about two months to put our application together. The Gates Foundation targets all of its grants to the local level so there are no funds to support its administration at the state level. Colorado's LSTA Stewardship Committee has funded a person at the state library to see us through the application and implementation process. We will be hiring that person as soon as possible.

Our statewide plan is expected to include:

- ◆ a description of Colorado's telecommunication infrastructure to support Internet connections in public libraries;
- ◆ an inventory of technology in every eligible public library in the state;
- ◆ our ability as a state to rapidly deploy public access computers to public libraries in the state;
- ◆ the state library's technology role;
- ◆ current partnerships we have in place.

That's a lot of work.

*Continued on page 3*

## It's happening ...

*Continued from page 2*

F R O M   T H E   S T A T E   L I B R A R Y   A N D   A D U L T   E D U C A T I O N   O F F I C E

Once our application is approved, sometime this fall, we will begin to work with eligible local libraries. To be eligible, a public library building must be located in a geographic area where 10% or more of the people are living below the poverty level. The Gates Foundation calculates this based on the 1990 census and a 1 mile radius for urban areas or a 2 mile radius for suburban and rural areas. The foundation will tell us which libraries they believe are eligible and we will work with them to verify the list. So, for any one public library there may be some branches that are eligible and some that are not.

Libraries that are eligible will be invited to attend workshops on applying for a Gates Grant. Successful applicants will receive computers, software, training, internal connections if necessary, one-time initial Internet connection costs if necessary. The computers are specially designed and loaded with a wealth of software, including Microsoft Office, Microsoft Publisher, Front Page, Encarta 98 Encyclopedia, Virtual Globe, Magic School Bus Explores the Rainforest, Age of Dinosaurs, Inside the Earth, Barney goes to the Circus and Under the Sea and to the Farm, Creative Writers, Eudora Lite, Internet Explorer, and Corbis Leonardo da Vinci, FDR, and Critical Mass. Whew!

Small libraries with a population of less than 5,000 will get one workstation and printer. Larger libraries get more. The maximum a library that serves over 35,000 people can receive is six workstations and a printer.

With the computers comes a fleet of implementation people who will move into Colorado for about 15 to 18 weeks. They will make sure the equipment arrives, unpack and install it, teach your technical people how to maintain it, and conduct

training sessions for library staff. They will even schedule a training session/public program in your library during the evening so you can introduce the new service to your public, community leaders, and funders. (Read: photo-op!)

And that's not all. For a year following installation, you can call the Gates Foundation Technical Support people for unlimited help in using the hardware or the software on a toll-free number. After a year, limited help is still available via a toll-free number.

One of the requirements is that you must make all of this software and WWW access available to your patrons in unmediated access. That means you can't always have the librarian doing the search or the work. The Foundation wants the public using the computers and the software on them.

You don't have to buy the computers the Gates Foundation are recommending, but there are consequences if you don't. For example, you don't get the software and you don't get the technical help. So think about that.

There are a lot more details I haven't covered. Over the next year you'll hear a lot about this project. I'm really excited! I have tried for years to get USWest to realize the role that public libraries play in helping people get access to and learn how to use computers. USWest has told me several times that they don't see public libraries as important in that chain. They would rather give the equipment and software to teachers in schools. I'm certainly not denying technology in schools is vital, but it is really neat to have a big foundation like Gates see the important role that public libraries play in this arena.

I've always known this. I'm just glad Bill and Melinda do, too. Thanks, guys!

## Colorado State Publications

### Business Information

by Maureen Crocker, <crocker\_m@cde.state.co.us>

General resources for businesses, as well as specific topics, are available in state publications. The following publications are available to borrow from the State Publications Library.

***The Colorado business resource guide: working together for business success.*** [Denver, Colo.: US Small Business Administration: Colorado Small Business Development Center, 1998?]. 1 v. (various pagings). GOV34/1.8/G94/1998

***Colorado business tax statutes and regulations as of January 1, 1998.*** Denver, Colo.: Tax Service Division, Colorado Dept. of Revenue, [1998]. 1 v. (various pagings). REV9.2/B96/1998

***Colorado facts: statistics and comparisons of key indicators to evaluate Colorado's economic climate and to provide information of special interest to the business community/prepared by Colorado Office of Business Development, Research and Special Projects Division.*** Denver, Colo.: [1998]. 84 p. GOV34/10.2/F11/1998

***Colorado Minority Business Office.*** Denver, Colo.: Office of Business Development, [1998]. 1 folded sheet. GOV34/3.2/M55/1998

***Colorado Minority Business Office procurement directory.*** [Denver, Colo.]: Minority Business Office, 1998. 49 p. GOV34/3.8/P97/1998

***Colorado small business assistance and ombudsman program: helping small businesses with air quality issues: free and confidential solutions to your air quality issues and questions.*** Denver, Colo.: Colorado Dept. of Regulatory Agencies, Office of Regulatory Reform: Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment, Air Pollution Division, [1997?]. 1 folded sheet ([6] p.). REG1/5.2/AI7/1997

***Colorado Women's Economic Summit: creating solutions: an economic blueprint for action: September 11, 1998.*** [Denver, Colo.]: Colorado Women's Economic Development Council, 1998] 24 p. GOV39/44.2/SU6/1998

***Corporate master file.*** [Denver, Colo.]: Colorado Department of State, Commercial Recordings Division, microfiches. S5.10

***Directory of Colorado manufacturers.*** [Boulder, Colo.]: Bureau of Business Research, University of Colorado, Boulder, in cooperation with Colorado Development Council. HED2/26.11/1997

***The economic impacts of Colorado airports/prepared for the Colorado Department of Transportation, Division of Aeronautics.*** Englewood, Colo.: 1998. 13 p. TRA10.2/EC7/1998/2

***Monthly affirmative action listing of underutilized DBE contractors & consultants/Colorado Dept. of Transportation, Business Programs Office.*** TRA5/20.12/current

***September 1998 small group health insurance premiums for Colorado/Dept. of Regulatory Agencies, Division of Insurance.*** Denver, Colo.: [1998]. [10] p. REG4.2/H34/1998

***Starting a business in Colorado [videorecording].*** [Denver, Colo.]: Colorado Dept. of Revenue, [1997]. 1 videocassette (14 min.). REV9.8/B96/1997

***Trade name registration in trade name sequence [microform].*** [Denver, Colo.]: Colorado Dept. of Revenue, microfiches. REV1.20/current

***Women's business services.*** Denver, Colo.: Colorado Women's Business Office, [1998]. 1 folded sheet. GOV34/4.2/W94/1998

## “Oh, How We Love ACLIN. . .”

by Mary McCarthy, ACLIN Support Librarian, <marymc@lynx.sni.net>

With a simple “Oh, how we love ACLIN. . .,” the *Denver Rocky Mountain News* named the Access Colorado Library and Information Network (ACLIN) one of the “100 Great Colorado Web Sites.”

The “100 Great” are sites the editors feel “look good and do something; sites that provide information not readily available elsewhere; sites that take advantage of the interactive capabilities of the Web; sites that blow our minds with their completeness or coolness.”

ACLIN is honored to have been selected into such good company, and is especially proud that its first cooperative Internet collection development project, Health & Medicine <<http://health.aclin.org>>, was highlighted. For more information or a complete listing of the “100 Great Colorado Web Sites,” check out: *Denver Rocky Mountain News*, 1/4/99, MileHighTech section, p8B <<http://www.insidedenver.com/business/0104net0.shtml>>

## CLC Update

As of December 31, 1998

### Corrections to directory:

Greeley-Evans School District - Brentwood Middle School, contact person Wendy Baker; delete Platte Valley Youth Services

#### CENTENNIAL STATE LIBRARIES

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# Library News

**Mesa County Public Library** District, Grand Junction, is one of forty libraries to have been selected nationwide to participate in the National Connections reading and discussion series for adult new readers offered in partnership by the Vermont Council on the Humanities and the American Library Association Public Programs Office. A coalition consisting of representatives from each library, the state humanities council, a local literacy organization and a scholar will attend a training workshop in February in Illinois. Participating libraries receive multiple copies of the texts for two National Connections series, discussion guides for scholars, and \$900 to reimburse scholars. National Connections uses children's literature to offer adult literacy students an opportunity to gather with their peers to discuss timeless themes and to make connections, sometimes for the first time, between books and their own lives.

### Listserv Available for CEMA Members

An e-list has been activated to help CEMA members keep in touch with each other. It is *cema\_net*, and is being provided through Colorado SuperNet. At the request of the CEMA Board, Eugene Hainer arranged for, and is now managing the list. He is also co-manager of the 800-member Libnet list.

CEMA Executive Secretary Heidi Baker helped get the list going by providing over 200 e-mail addresses currently in the membership database. If yours was one of them, you are probably already signed up with *cema\_net*. If you have a new e-mail address, or there is no record of your e-mail address in the CEMA database, you can sign yourself up by doing the following:

- address a message to: [majordomo@csn.net](mailto:majordomo@csn.net)
- in the text, type only: *subscribe cema\_net*
- no subject line is necessary. If you have an auto-generated signature, you should turn it off or remove it.

Once subscribed you will receive an auto-reply with more information about *cema\_net*. This is an excellent opportunity to communicate with other CEMA members about issues that are important to you, so sign up and use it today.

If not a member of the Libnet list, you can use the same procedure as above, but use *+libnet-* in place of *+cema\_net-*.

## Library Information Services Association DU Student Organization Update

by Rochelle Logan, <rlogan@du.edu>, LISA President

The University of Denver (DU) student organization, Library and Information Services Association (LISA), held its first general meeting of the school year in October. The decision to bring back the student newsletter was made. Some of the first students in the DU program will remember the print newsletter LISA produced in mid-1996. Three back issues and the Winter 1999 issue are available on the LISA Web site <<http://www.du.edu/lisa>>.

Before I tell you what else is going on with our student association, let me say that I am encouraged by the creativity and interest people are showing in LISA. The coming year will be a banner year for our program with the first graduates, probable accreditation, and other changes in the department. You can tell students are excited about the 1998-99 school year and many are willing to volunteer their time to make LISA a valuable resource to its members.

LISA's mission is to provide a gateway to the professional world of librarianship. The association, as a network of students and other information professionals dedicated to the success of all students in Library and Information Services (LISV), will complement classroom education by sponsoring professional development and leadership workshops, speakers, and programs. LISA will provide a conduit for open communication among the student body, library and information professionals, the LISV Department, and University College.

The Executive Board brought several ideas to the October meeting. The newsletter idea was presented by Stacey Nagle, our secretary. Beth Wrenn-Estes volunteered to be the editor of the newsletter. In addition to the newsletter, we discussed the need for a peer review board to act as a conduit between the students, faculty, and the university. Vice-president/president-elect Martin Garner's column in the newsletter provides more information about the new board. We plan to create a logo for LISA and

have fund raising to support events for students. Jean Heilig, our treasurer, is heading up these projects. Our program coordinator, Marcy Rodney, organized a holiday potluck in December that was a great success. She is also organizing a special librarians job fair to be held on February 13.

The LISA 1999 general meetings will be held: Thursday, March 25, 7:00 p.m.; and Saturday, June 12, 10:00 a.m.

Happy 1999!

### MPBA Book Awards Winners Announced

The Mountains & Plains Booksellers Association announced the winners of its 1999 Regional Book Awards. The annual awards honor outstanding books published in 1998 that are set in our region.

The winners are:

- ◆ Fiction: *One Thousand White Women: The Journals of May Dodd*, by Jim Fergus, St. Martin's Press;
- ◆ Non-fiction: *Lasso the Wind: Away to the New West*, by Timothy Egan, Knopf;
- ◆ Poetry: *In Gravity National Park*, by C.L. Rawlins, University of Nevada Press; and
- ◆ Children's: *Boss of the Plains: The Hat That Won the West*, by Laurie Carlson, illustrated by Holly Meade, DK Publishing.

The awards will be presented at a banquet in Salt Lake City on March 6. The banquet is open to the public, and tickets are \$25. Deadline for ticket orders is March 1. For more information about the awards or to purchase banquet tickets, phone 800/752-0249.

## Read! Learn! Connect! @ the Library!

### Celebrate National Library Week

**N**ational Library Week is a special time to celebrate the contributions of all types of libraries and librarians. The 1999 event will be observed April 11-17, with the theme **Read! Learn! Connect! @ the Library**. Many school libraries also observe April as School Library Media Month with the same theme.

Information and graphics to help your library celebrate National Library Week are available at the American Library Association (ALA) Web site <<http://www.ala.org/celebrating>>. Feel free to adapt the ideas there for your library. For maximum impact, use the theme and logo in publications and advertising throughout the year. Involve Friends and trustees as well as library staff in planning.

National Library Week adds an element of timeliness that is often attractive to reporters looking for something to “hang” a story on. Remember that National Library Week is an opportune time to recognize staff, Friends, trustees, legislators, faculty, and administration members for their support. This can be as simple as a board with photos and profiles about “The People Who Make Us What We Are.”

Sample press materials, information about a photo contest, graphics, a proclamation, and more information on National Library Week can be found on the ALA Web site <<http://www.ala.org/celebrating>>.



## Master Librarians Needed

by Ray Peterson, <[peterson\\_r@cde.state.co.us](mailto:peterson_r@cde.state.co.us)>

The CCLD (Colorado Council for Library Development) Minority Mentoring Program is again underway. The Colorado State Library, in cooperation with the CCLD Library Services to Minority Ethnic Populations Committee, is seeking experienced librarians to be mentors to minority persons who would like to be librarians or minority librarians who are new to the field and would like to be paired with an experienced librarian.

Mentoring gives seasoned librarians, non-minority or minority, the opportunity, as mentors, to share their knowledge, in-sight, and experience. Those new to the field of librarianship can benefit, as proteges, from the guidance and wisdom of veteran colleagues. Past mentors and proteges have indicated that this is a very positive experience.

The objective is to have proteges from four ethnic minority populations: African Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanics, and Native Americans. The concept is that mentors act as sort of a big sister/big brother to their proteges. They will encourage, counsel as they can, support their proteges where appropriate; invite her or him to professional meetings, conferences and workshops, when possible; and, in general, just be there to help smooth over the rough spots in the protege's pursuit of his or her dream of being a librarian.

Seriously consider involvement in this mutually beneficial program. It is a great opportunity for master librarians to add to the diversity of librarianship in our state, and it is a great source of support to those who have found a few bumps in the road to success.

Questions about the program or requests for an application may be directed to Ray Peterson, <[peterson\\_r@cde.state.co.us](mailto:peterson_r@cde.state.co.us)>, 303/866-6651 (voice), 303/866-6940 (fax). More information, including downloadable application forms, will be ready soon.

## Notes to Note

The American Library Association (ALA) encourages libraries and librarians across the country to celebrate **Freedom of Information Day** on March 16 by sponsoring activities that raise awareness about the importance of government information and the "public's right to know." A tipsheet is available online at <<http://www.ala.org/foiday>>, or to request one from the ALA Public Information Office, 50 East Huron, Chicago, IL 60611; phone 800/545-2433, ext. 5041/5044; fax 312/944-8520; email <[pio@ala.org](mailto:pio@ala.org)>.

In 1998, some 478 **challenges to library materials** in public libraries, schools and school libraries were reported to the American Library Association (ALA). A challenge is defined as a formal, written complaint filed with the library or school regarding the presence and/or appropriateness of specific material. The number of complaints about specific books is down from a high of 762 in 1995. The number reflects only incidents reported to the ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom. The "most challenged" fiction book in 1998 was *The Chocolate War* by Robert Cormier.

The book, written for teens, is a fictionalized account of a boy's trials and triumphs at boarding school. Published in 1974, it has often been challenged for being sexually explicit, offensive, and inappropriate for teenagers.

The fifth annual **National TV-Turnoff Week**, coordinated by TV-Free America, will take place April 22-28. The week is the only nationwide effort that focuses attention on the excessive quantity of television that most Americans watch. Since the first National TV-Turnoff Week in 1995, more than 12 million people around the country and abroad have taken part. National TV-Turnoff Week is the perfect opportunity for families to visit the library. An Organizer's Kit can be purchased for \$10. The kit includes a guidebook, posters, bumper stickers, pledge cards, substitute activities, articles, essays and much more. To learn how to organize a TV-Turnoff or to purchase a kit, contact: TV-Free America, 1611 Connecticut Avenue, NW Suite 3A, Washington, DC 20009; phone 202/887-0436; fax 202/887-5560; email <[tvfa@essential.org](mailto:tvfa@essential.org)>. Visit the Web site at <<http://www.tvfa.org>>.

## Centennial

### STATE LIBRARIES

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