

Centennial State Libraries

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State Librarian's Report, April 21, 2003: Budget cuts

We continue to plan for the impact of budget cuts. On Tuesday, April 15, State Library staff, System Directors, and, at least one System Board representative met to discuss what will happen to System services next year. There is general agreement that System services cannot and will not be maintained at the same level as the past.

We discussed top priorities for services that must be maintained and how current System budgets, whatever state funds exist, and available federal funds could be used to support critical services.

By the end of the week there was an amendment for the state's budget bill to restore \$600,000 to the System budget.

In addition to the System Directors, I presented the [Resource Sharing Strategic Plan](#) and its crisis recommendations to the Resource Sharing Board and the Colorado Association of Libraries.

The response has been informative and fascinating. People are expressing opinions about their own needs AND what will be best for the state as a whole.

On Wednesday, April 16, we held the annual Poster Contest Award ceremony at the Governor's Mansion. It's always an inspiring event. The children, particularly the youngest ones, come dressed in their best ruffles and ties (it's hard to get teenagers to dress up these days). State Board of Education Chair, Randy DeHoff (6th Congressional District) spoke about the value of libraries and the impact of the budget cuts. Board members Rico Munn (1st Congressional District), and Christine Baca (7th Congressional District) also attended and greeted the award winners. We shared the ceremony with the Colorado Center for Book who awarded the winners of the River of Words, and Letters to Authors contests. Unfortunately with the extent of the budget cuts, it is unlikely we will be able to continue this contest in the future.

On Saturday, April 19, I was privileged to attend a public library trustee training at the Bemis Public Library led by the informative and entertaining Pat Wagner. Pat talked about management models and the interactive roles of library management and the library board.

- Nancy M. Bolt

State Librarian's Report, April 18, 2003: Resource Sharing Strategic Plan

Last week, I was privileged to attend the Pathfinder Regional Library System Retreat, and the week before, the Arkansas Valley Regional Library System Retreat. At both meetings, I presented the [spring State of the State](#) (Libraries), as well as a presentation on the new Resource Sharing Strategic Plan.

The State of the State summarizes the budget cuts taken by libraries in the past year. As I write this, system funding is still up in the air. On a positive note, we are pleased that the new [rules for school librarian endorsement](#) were presented to the State Board of Education on April 10th and received a favorable response. The Board will take final action in September.

The Resource Sharing Strategic Plan was developed this spring by a task force of 20 librarians and library supporters. As they met, the budget was still being discussed and cut. They began with a broad discussion of resource sharing and identified six key elements critical to resource sharing in Colorado. You can see these in the [full plan](#) online or on the [shorter power point](#). Then the Task Force made four recommendations:

- First, they prioritized among the six critical elements (On-line databases as the top priority.).
- Second, they recommended, if funds were available (which is doubtful now), the State Library request funding for next year from the State for Systems, Colorado Virtual Library, online databases, and subsidy for the largest net lenders.
- Third, they recommended we review LSTA competitive grants for next year,

- and consider putting LSTA funds toward the priorities instead.
- Finally, in what they thought was an inessential, but interesting exercise, what should be the priorities if the budget cuts got even worse? Unfortunately, we seem to be in that position.

The five top priorities were (not in priority order since all were considered critical):

- Preserve the regional networks, such as Colorado Nexus, Juniper and ASCC
- Preserve Colorado Virtual Library
- Preserve SWIFT (and expand)
- Preserve Courier
- Continue training to make the above work efficiently

At both the Pathfinder and Arkansas Valley retreats, those participating in the discussions confirmed their support of these top priorities. The second tier priorities (again, not in priority order) were online databases; continued system support and training; and subsidy for the largest net lenders.

We are continuing these discussions around the state. See a [full schedule](#) online.

-Nancy M. Bolt

Working Together -- Works! CAL Conference Issues Call for Programs

Program proposals are now being accepted for pre-conferences and workshops to be presented at the 2003 CAL Conference, to be held October 16-19 at Keystone Resort and Conference Center. Hurry -- proposals are being accepted only until June 1!

The conference is October 16 – 19. The program committee is looking for programs that inspire, excite, or provide helpful information. Even if you have just an idea for a session and no presenter to recommend, the program committee would like to hear from you! Find the form the form online at the [CAL](#) site. Program suggestions must be submitted by June 1, 2003. Submit electronically or complete by hand and send to Carol Burdick, Evergreen Library.

African-American Research Library Opens

Denver Public Library's new [Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library](#) opens Saturday, April 26, 10:00 a.m. The Library is located at 2401 Welton Street, at the entrance to the historic Five Points Neighborhood.

Guests at the opening event include Mayor Wellington E. and First Lady Wilma Webb, as well as Omar Blair and Elvin R. Caldwell, for whom the Library was named. Additional activities continue throughout the day.

Introduction to Digital Audio Workshop Hosted by CDP

A workshop to introduce participants to the range of issues associated with converting analog recordings (particularly oral history collections) into digital audio is scheduled for May 7. It will review the CDP Digital Audio standards and current audio metadata standards. Participants will discuss digital audio recording, file formats, storage, playback, and delivery. The workshop, sponsored by the Colorado Digitization Program, will be held at Philip S. Miller Library, Castle Rock. Cost is \$35 CDP member, \$75 non member. Registration deadline is April 30. [Information and registration](#) online, or contact [Richard Urban](#), CDP, (303) 871-4558.

Topic of Landmark Court Case Revealed

The mysterious book at the center of the Tattered Cover Book Store's landmark First Amendment victory last year was about Japanese calligraphy - it was not, as police had suspected, a "how-to" manual for making methamphetamine. Dan Recht, an attorney for the Tattered Cover, lauded bookstore owner Joyce Meskis for pursuing the case all the way to the Colorado Supreme Court. Read details in the [Denver Post](#) online.

Another Hugely Long Web Address from ALA for Kids' Surfing

The information formerly known as "700+ Great Web Sites," from the Association for Library Service to Children, ALA, has been renamed and remounted. It's now "[Great Web Sites for Kids](#)".

Mesa County Literacy Student Recipient of ALA National Award

Elisa Murillo, Mesa County Public Library District (MCPLD) patron, volunteer, and literacy program participant, has been named as recipient of the American Library Association 2003 Paul Howard Award for Courage. Every two years, from candidates nominated by all libraries throughout the United States, one person is chosen to receive this award honoring an individual who has exhibited unusual courage for the benefit of library programs or services.

An immigrant from Mexico, Elisa enrolled in the Adult Reading Program (ARP) of MCPLD to learn to read and write English. Elisa recognized the importance of learning to read so she could help her children prepare for future success in school. Her goals were to become a U.S. citizen and to get find employment. Elisa has now met her goals—she passed her citizenship test, found a job, and has been proudly sworn in as a United States citizen. Elisa continues to study in ARP and her whole family participates in the Children and Adults Together intergenerational literacy program, where the family learns and practices building reading foundations together.

Because of the impact these program have had on her family's lives, Elisa has found the courage to speak as an advocate for literacy and libraries on TV and in public. Elisa tells of the isolation that non-native English speakers can experience.

-Christi Williams, Literacy Director, Mesa County Public Library District

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