Centennial

S T A T E   L I B R A R I E S

Reading Readiness Project Prepares Children to Read

Reading Readiness is a project of the Colorado State Library to ensure that young children are ready to learn to read when they start school. Care givers read, tell stories, have puppet shows and finger plays every day to help the children prepare to be better readers.
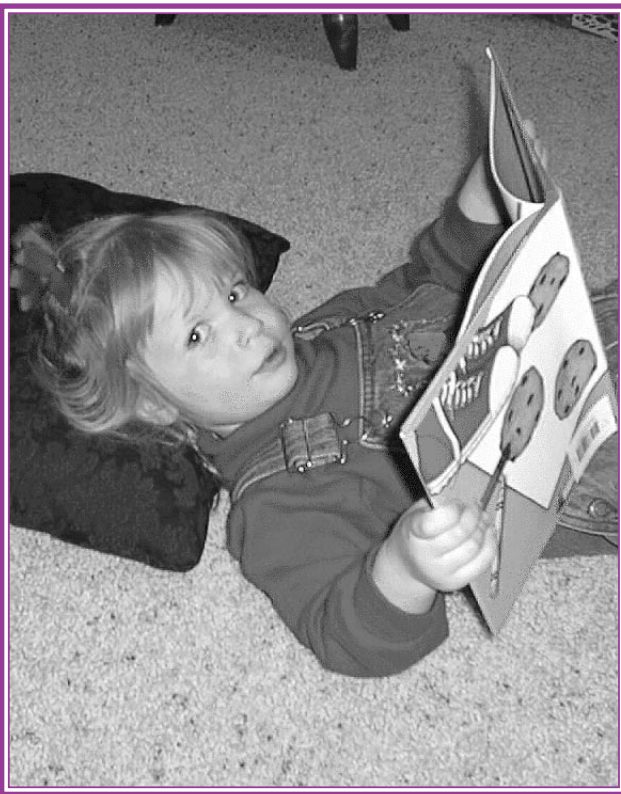
The Reading Readiness project trains librarians to work with day care staff to conduct a variety of activities designed to help children prepare to learn to read. Each participating library receives a $4,000 grant to improve their collections and buy materials

to support early childhood reading readiness activities. Each participating day care facility receives money to buy a book for each child to have to take home so their families can read to them.

Project Director Dan Petro of the Colorado State Library said, "We hope this encourages care givers and parents to read to their children at least 15 minutes each day. Studies have shown that those children who are exposed to reading, storytelling, puppets, finger plays, and other such activities become better readers."

Libraries that have received grants for this project include:

◆ Cañon City Public Library

◆ Conejos County Public Library (LaJara)

◆ Englewood Public Library

◆ Fleming Community Library

◆ Garfield County Public Library (Rifle)

◆ Lake County Public Library (Leadville)

◆ Las Animas-Bent County Library District (Las Animas)

◆ Lafayette Public Library

◆ San Miguel Public Library District Norwood Public Library

◆ Weld Library District (Greeley).

It s happening

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

More on the Gates Foundation Grants

by Nancy Bolt, <nbolt@csn.net>

Our big news is that Katherine Brown and I went to Seattle to learn more about the Gates Foundation Grants. We are really excited about what this can mean for Colorado. But in order to receive the grant of approximately $4,000,000, the State Library must submit an application by April 30. Gates doesn't grant extensions, so the clock is ticking.

What can you do to help? Every public library should fill out the Colorado public library annual report as soon as it is received.

We hope that by the time you read this, you've already filled it out and sent it in. The information the Gates Foundation wants from every library is on that survey. As luck would have it, the annual report schedule coincided with our need to get certain information from public libraries for our statewide application to the Gates Foundation.

It's more information than we usually ask for in the annual report and we promise we won't ask for this level of detail again. This is a one-time effort. But filling out the annual report automatically qualifies you to apply for a Gates Grant when they are due.

We feel so strongly about this that we will be calling those libraries that have not completed their reports by the first week in April. We want you to be able to take part in the Gates grants and this is the first step.

The rest of my article this month is devoted to frequently asked questions about the Gates grants. Please call or e-mail with any additional questions you have and we'll update.

Nancy Bolt
303/866 6733
<nbolt@csn.net>

Frequently Asked Questions About the Gates Library Initiative

What are the Gates Grants?

Bill Gates and his wife, Melinda, have created the Gates Learning Foundation and targeted public libraries around the country to receive grants of hardware, software, and training through the Gates Library Initiative. Colorado has been chosen to participate in the third round of these grants.

The Gates Foundation is committed to closing what they call the "digital divide," helping people who might otherwise not have access to obtain the use of computers.

Who is eligible to receive a Gates Grant?

Only public libraries are eligible. This includes school/public and public/community college combinations.

What does Colorado have to do to bring the Gates grants to our state?

The Gates Foundation is looking for three major elements within a state:

- ◆ technological readiness, meaning that public libraries are connected to the Internet;

- ◆ commitment to sustainability over time, meaning that libraries will continue their Internet subscriptions and have access to technical assistance;

- ◆ reach out to people in the "digital divide," meaning those who are least able to have access to computers in their daily lives.

The Colorado State Library must submit a grant application to the Gates Foundation by April 30. In that application we have to describe:

- ◆ Colorado's efforts to connect public libraries to the Internet;

- ◆ libraries' current capacity to sustain the Gates contributions over time;

- ◆ the technical capacity of each public library building to receive the grants;

It s happening

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◆ how libraries will reach across the digital divide to the information have-nots;

◆ what partnerships we have formed to assist all of these efforts;

◆ how we have involved the public library community in preparing the application.

What makes a public library eligible to receive a Gates grant?

Eligibility is determined for public library buildings. There are two ways that a public library building is eligible to receive assistance from the Gates Foundation.

Public library buildings serving a population that has a poverty rate of 10% or more can receive computers, routers, telecommunication equipment, software, and training.

Public libraries serving a population with a poverty rate less than 10% have the opportunity to purchase computers and receive the free software and free training.

How many computers will Colorado libraries get?

Assuming the library serves a population with a 10% or greater poverty rate:

Library buildings serving the following population sizes will receive:

◆ Less than 5,000   1 Gateway workstation with MS NT 4.0 operating System

◆ 5,000 - 10,000   2 Gateway workstations

◆ 10,000 - 35,000   4 Gateway workstations

◆ 35,000 plus   6 Gateway workstations

All libraries receive:
◆ At least one state-of-the art laser printer

◆ Hardware for one Internet connection

Libraries over 10,000 can also receive:
◆ 1 Webserver

◆ Network in a Box Kit

◆ Router

Libraries serving over 100,000 are eligible for a full training lab.

What software comes on the machine?

Gates provides software aimed at both children and adults. There is also a Spanish option available. Gates requires that all software be offered, unmediated, to the public. That means that a library cannot require that people use the software only through a librarian. This does not, however, preclude management policies such as limiting the amount of time on a computer when there is high demand.

Software includes:
◆ Microsoft Office 97 (Word, PowerPoint, Access, and Excel)

◆ Microsoft Publisher and Front Page

◆ Microsoft Encarta 99 and Encarta Africana

◆ Microsoft Virtual Globe and Microsoft bookshelf

◆ Magic School Bus Explores the Rainforest, the Age of Dinosaurs, and Inside the Earth

◆ Barney Goes to the Circus, Goes Under the Sea, and Has Fun on the Farm

◆ Creative Writer

◆ Internet Explorer

◆ Corbis Leonardo Da Vinci, FDR, and Critical Mass

How do library staff members learn how to use all of this equipment and software?

Gates has designed a sophisticated training program for every public library building that receives a grant. Staff will have the opportunity to attend several local workshops that will teach about the software and hardware that Gates is providing, including how to work with library users. The Gates staff will come to the local library to install the machine and are available to do a public presentation about the Gates grant and the equipment and software provided.

Frequently asked Questions About the Gates Library Initiative

What do libraries have to do to receive a grant?

- ◆ First, fill out the Public Library Annual Report. This will provide information that the State Library must send to the Gates Foundation about Colorado Libraries.

- ◆ Second, attend a grant writing workshop where the Gates people will explain how to complete the full application for a Gates grant.

- ◆ Third, provide unmediated access to the Internet.

- ◆ Fourth, install and maintain an Internet connection and other telecommunication costs. (Gates may pay for the initial installation, but will not pay any first or succeeding year Internet subscription costs.)

Does the Gates Foundation have a position on Internet filtering?

No, the Gates Foundation has not taken a position on this. They do require Internet access, but the decision to filter is a local library's decision.

Does the Gates Foundation require that a library has applied for an E-rate discount?

No, the Gates Foundation has not taken a position on the e-rate discounts. However, since the local library is asked to pay the first and succeeding years Internet and telecommunication costs, it makes sense to apply for the e-rate discount to lower those costs.

YA Interactive 'Zine Debuts

Young adult librarians in Colorado now have an online resource to help them serve their teen clients.

The ACLIN Collection Development Committee has given approval for ACLIN to host an interactive 'zine/newsletter for young adult librarians. The *YA Think Colorado* site will provide information about book selection, programs, program/performer directory, and serve as a tool for young adult librarians in the state to connect across geographical boundaries.

The *YA Think Colorado* site can be found by accessing ACLIN Information Resources, then by following the links to "Library Professional Services" and, finally, to "'YA Think." Access the 'zine directly at: <http://www.aclin.org/other/libraries/yathink>.

The site is edited by a former youth librarian, Mary McCarthy, and has an editorial advisory board of school and public librarians who work with young adults. The editorial team invites comments, suggestions, and participation in this new resource. Contact Mary McCarthy by email at <marymc@lynx.sni.net>.

CLC Update

New members:

- Aguilar Public Schools, Aguilar, Frank Coppa, 719/941-4640

- Carrie Martin Elementary School, Loveland, Keith Liddle, 970/663-0550

- Centennial High School Media Center, Pueblo, Warren Nolan, 719/549-7636

- Cherry Drive Elementary, Thornton, Mary Perine, 303/451-0212

- Colorado Supreme Court Library, Denver, Lois Calvert, 303/837-3720

- Cotton Creek Elementary School, Westminster, Karen Larsen, 303/469-5303

- East Grand SD, Jackie Ossian, 970/887 -2104:

  East Grand Middle School, Granby, Betsy Redder, 970/887-3382

  Fraser Valley Elementary School, Fraser, Judy Caramia, 970/726-8033

  Granby Elementary School, Granby, Grace Sulsberger, 970/887-3312

  Grand Lake Elementary School, Granby, Kathy Weydert, 970/627-3466

- Middle Park High School, Granby, Renee Collomb, 970/887-2104

- Ft. Lewis Mesa Elementary School, Hesperus, Susan Mooney, 970/588-3331

CLC Update

- Gunnison Watershed SD,
  Lyda Mary Hardy, 970/641-7700:

  Crested Butte Community School,
  Crested Butte, Cindy Valran, 970/641-7720

  Gunnison Elementary School, Gunnison,
  Doni Cadwel, 970/641-7710

  Gunnison Middle School, Gunnison,
  Fran Carricato, 970/641-7710

  Gunnison High School, Gunnison,
  Lyda Mary Hardy, 970/641-7700

- Hayden School District,
  Kevin Dellit, 970/276-3761:

  Hayden Valley Elementary School

  Hayden Middle School

  Hayden High School

- Whitman Elementary School, Littleton,
  Judith Jindrich, 303/347-4737

- Woodland Park Middle School, Woodland
  Park, Jeanie Tate, 719/686-2209

Corrections to directory:

Jefferson County Public Schools Professional
Library - phone number 303/982-5946

Library News

The Bemis Public Library (Littleton) held a two-hour singles night on a Friday night in February. Activities included a workshop with author Diana Ohlsson, guitar and harp performances, and refreshments. A librarian conducted Internet demos throughout the evening, and a number of people were interested in the Web sites for singles that were featured.

One of the singles offered to read from one of his favorite books — a book of true stories about terrible dates —, which brought some humor to the evening. People gathered around the Internet stations to talk and explore the Net. The drawing for free dinners at local restaurants was a big hit.

A number of attendees said that they had never visited the Bemis library or said they had not been to the library in a long time. Full library services were offered for the evening. There were many requests to repeat the event.

Phyllis Larison, Head of Adult Services and organizer of the event, said that the attendees were people who seemed intelligent, interested in books, and rather shy. There was not much conversation before the workshop, but after the workshop everyone seemed more relaxed. She said, "Next time I would let the event run from 7 to 10 p.m. to allow more time for people to mingle. It was fun to organize this program and I think it met a need in the community and served to promote the library to a special group of people."

Colorado Libraries Receive Telecommunications Funding Discounts

by John Noran, <noran_j@cde.state.co.us>

Seventy Colorado libraries and library consortia have received a total of $565,556 in funding commitments for discounts on telecommunications services, Internet access, and internal connections. These discounts are for services provided between January 1, 1998 and June 30, 1999, and are offered as part of the Federal Communication Commission's Universal Service Fund program under the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

This program provides discounts to libraries and schools nationwide for certain telecommunications and Internet services. For libraries, the discount calculation is based on the number of students eligible for the Free and Reduced School Lunch program in the school district where the library is located. The discount rate for rural libraries is higher than that for urban libraries, and can be as high as 90%. The program is administered by the Schools and Libraries Division (SLD) of the Universal Service Administrative Company, which was formerly known as the Schools and Libraries Corporation (SLC).

The discount application process consists of two parts. First, the library or consortium must file a Form 470. This form lists current telecommunications and Internet services and services the library is considering for the future funding year. The latter is important because it alerts the SLD and potential service providers that the library is interested in contracting for new telecommunications and/or Internet services.

After waiting at least 28 days, the library then files a Form 471, which provides information to the SLD about 1.) tariffed services for which a contract is not needed, such as regular telephone and long distance services; and 2.) contracts the library has signed with service providers identified during the 28-day period. The SLD then verifies the accuracy of the information provided on the Form 471, including the eligible discount level, and notifies the applicant of its decision.

Verified telecommunications services and Internet access are guaranteed funding at the eligible discount level for those applications received each year before the application window closes. During the first year of the program, discounts on internal connections were funded for libraries eligible for a discount level of 70% or above. The level of second-year funding for internal connections has not yet been determined.

Libraries applying for services other than Plain Old Tele-phone Service (POTS) must file a technology plan with the Colorado State Library. This plan should cover the following five areas:

- ◆ goals, objectives, strategies, and activities
- ◆ professional development strategy
- ◆ needs assessment of telecommunications services, hardware, software, and other services
- ◆ sufficient budget
- ◆ plan evaluation

Staff members at the Colorado State Library have been trained to review and approve technology plans. They can provide assistance to library applicants who are having difficulty completing their plans.

The final deadline for applications for the second year of the program (for discounts from July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000) has already passed. However, it is not too early to begin planning for the third year. Many of the difficulties that applicants have experienced during the first and second years of the program are being ironed out, and the process for the third year should be much clearer and more streamlined.

To keep abreast of the latest developments in this program, please visit the SLD Web site at <http://www.slcfund.org>. This site is constantly updated with new information, and application forms can be filed online.

For more information, contact John Noran at 303/866-6894 or e-mail <noran_ j@cde.state.co.us>.

Standards and Assessment Resource Bank Web Site Update

by Stephen Thergesen, <thergesen_s@cde.state.co.us>

The Standards and Assessment Resource Bank Web site was launched on January 20, 1999. Site traffic, as determined by WebTracker, has been averaging roughly 1,000 hits a week.

In addition to the content that was previously available only on the Resource Bank CD-ROM, the Web site includes newly developed classroom materials from Centennial BOCES, Denver Public Schools, and CDE's 1998 History, Geography, and Civics Summer Workshop. Several CDE publications have also been added, including the Schoolwide Programs Planning Handbook and the Implementing the Colorado Basic Literacy Act Handbook.

In addition to rich and diverse content, the Web site includes tools for user interaction and group participation:

Standards and Assessment Resource Bank
(Continued from page 6)

(1) eGroup, a free e-mail discussion group, including a shared calendar and file folders.

(2) HipBone Co-Navigator, a mechanism for collaborative web surfing.

The Web site has been well received at Goals 2000 Networking Day, the CEMA Annual Conference, and the Colorado Language Arts Society Conference.

Future presentations will include

◆ another Goals 2000 Networking Day

◆ The Standards and Assessment Annual Conference, and the Technology in Education (TIE) Annual Conference.

Future enhancements will include:

◆ LinkBank, a "Yahoo-like" directory of hyperlinks organized by Resource Bank categories.

◆ Shockwave, a multimedia, guided tour of the Web site, and step-by-step process for submitting classroom materials for inclusion in the Resource Bank.

Watch this column for late-breaking news regarding the Resource Bank Web site, and email your comments to <resource_bank@cde.state.co.us>.

Visit the Resource Bank on the Web at<http://www.cde.state.co.us/stand.htm>

State Board of Education Recognizes
High Performance School Libraries

The Colorado State Board of Education passed a resolution to recognize High Performance School Libraries at its March meeting. The resolution reads:

Whereas, School libraries make a significant contribution to students' achievement of standards, and,

Whereas, School libraries are vital to the delivery of a school curriculum, and,

Whereas, School libraries have been recognized as "High Performance" school libraries by virtue of their commitment to:

◆ collaborative instruction, where the librarian works in a co-teaching role with the school teaching staff;

◆ the full integration of information literacy into content standards;

◆ flexible scheduling, encouraging students and staff to use library resources when needed and not on a fixed, predetermined schedule;

◆ help students achieve the skills necessary to locate, analyze, evaluate, interpret and communicate information;

◆ help students meet identified standards;

◆ meet the Colorado Department of Education requirements for library media endorsement for librarians;

◆ help school libraries in other buildings and districts achieve the same high level of performance; and,

◆ provide the resources and facilities necessary to achieve the above,

Whereas, The school libraries listed below, their principals, and their staffs have made the commitment to a fully integrated library media program,

Be It Resolved, that the State Board of Education officially recognizes the following school libraries as "High Performance Libraries:"

Baker Middle School

Denver Public Schools, Denver
David Sanger, Library Media Specialist
Sue Koscove, Principal

Cherry Creek High School

Cherry Creek 5, Englewood
Betty Bankhead, Library Media Specialist
Kathleen Smith, Principal

Dakota Ridge High School

Jeffco R-1, Littleton
Pamela McDonnell, Library Media Specialist
Tim MacDonnell, Principal

State Board of Education Recognizes High Performance Libraries *(Continued from page 7)*

Eaglecrest High School

Cherry Creek School District, Aurora
Barbara Thorngren, Library Media Specialist
Dr. Judith Hilton, Principal

Escalante Middle School

Durango 9-R, Durango
Corky Stahn, Library Media Specialist
Gene Giddings, Principal

Federal Heights Elementary

Adams 12, Thornton
Kay Evatz, Library Media Specialist
Margaret Claspell, Principal

Gateway High School

Adams Arapahoe 28-J, Aurora
Sharon Willsea, Library Media Specialist
Kenneth Vedra, Principal

Gunnison High School

Gunnison Watershed RE-1J
Lyda Mary Hardy, Library Media Specialist
Steve Coleman, Principal

Gust Elementary

Denver Public Schools, Denver
Jane Baldwin, Library Media Specialist
Jim Kullhem, Principal

McClave Schools

McClave RE-2, McClave
Becky Roesch, Library Media Specialist
Terry Weber, Principal

Sierra High School

Harrison 2, Colorado Springs
Judy Barnett, Library Media Specialist
Dr. Dean Palmer, Principal

PERIODICALS
POSTAGE **PAID**
DENVER, CO