

Centennial State Libraries

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register to vote @your library™

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The Very Best Idea to Surface in a While: National ALA Initiative Encourages Voter Registration at Libraries

Libraries have always been the foundation of our democracy, encompassing as they do access to all types of information. Now, with a new campaign, "Register to Vote @ your library," the American Library Association and Working Assets are making involvement in government even easier.

Through "Register to Vote @ your library," the two organizations are co-sponsoring a voter registration page, www.yourvotematters.org/ala, where individuals can register to vote or update their registration information. The Your Vote Matters site was created and customized by Working Assets for participating non-partisan, non-profit organizations. In addition, when citizens register to vote through this web site, they help raise funds for library advocacy thanks to a generous grant from Working Assets.

Voters in Colorado are eligible to complete registration via this web site. Remember, voter information must be completed and confirmed 30 days prior to a state election.

"National Library Week is the perfect time to remind the public about the valuable resources libraries provide to help citizens engage in civic activity," said ALA President Carla Hayden. "I hope that libraries nationwide will participate in this important voter registration initiative and showcase the wealth of programs, services and information that can help people make informed decisions this election season."

ALA is encouraging its members to promote voter registration through the www.yourvotematters.org/ala Web site in their local libraries. The participating library in the zip code with the largest number of registrants will be awarded a \$1000 grant. In addition, the first five participating libraries in zip codes with at least 500 registrants will each be awarded \$500. Libraries are invited to register for free materials to participate in this program at www.ala.org/requestmaterials.

To date, more than 200 libraries have signed up for the program. For more information about this initiative, visit www.ala.org/@yourlibrary and click on the Smart Voting icon. You'll find downloadable logos, bookmarks, ideas, and lots of other help. Contact Your Vote Matters at 877-205-VOTE(8683) with any technical or voter registration questions. For more information about Working Assets, visit www.workingassets.com.

This is an excellent way to spotlight your library's role in involving citizens in the voting process as well as strengthen community connections!

It's Not Academic: Spring Workshop from CoALA

The Colorado Academic Library Association (CoALA) will hold its spring workshop Friday, May 21, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Regis University. The theme of the day is Making the Connection in Academe: We All Make the Music!. Registration deadline is May 14. The morning program is "Connecting with the Academic Community -- Raising the Awareness of What WE Do" presented by Bonnie McCune. The morning is designed to provide a format for each person to think about a project or activity s/he wants to implement to achieve advocacy and marketing results. Then, in afternoon, we will have roundtables where you can share your ideas and learn from others what they are doing or want to do. The proposed roundtables are:

- Access Services
- Administration
- Distance Learning
- Technical Services
- Reference Services
- Virtual Reference Services
- Instruction and Government Documents

Cost is \$40 for CAL members, \$65 for nonmembers. For information, visit <http://www.formsites.com/claforms/coala/index.html>

Go MAD with CAL at Management Workshop

The Management and Administration Division of CAL (MADCAL) will hold its spring workshop Thursday, May 20, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Arapahoe Library District Administrative Support Services Building, Englewood. The theme for the day is "W(h)ither the Public Library: The Next Crucial Years. Registration deadline May 14. For more information and online registration, go to <http://cal-webs.org/mgmt.html>

New Name Draws Attention

The Adams County Library District has gone through a number of changes this year. Now a new name can be added to the list. The Library Board of Trustees has selected Rangeview Library District from more than 200 suggestions entered during a recent public contest. The name Rangeview Library District will be effective immediately. Signs, letterhead and other notations will be changed over the next few months.

Cristen Parrish of Brighton submitted the winning name. She said she liked the double meaning of mountain ranges and range land. Cheryl German of Adams County submitted the second place entry, and Mary Beth Lathrop of Bennett submitted the third place winner. The Library District Board of Trustees looks forward to continuing the transition to an independent status.

Libraries Wired and Reborn

What has the Internet done for libraries? Transformed them and help them do what they have always aimed to do: providing information free to the public. In 1996, 28% of all libraries had PC's for public access to the Internet. Now, 95% of libraries offer Internet access. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has helped by installing or paying for more than 47,000 PCs as well as providing leadership, training and a simplified recipe for using and maintaining PC's in public libraries. And Internet-connected computers are clearly bringing more people into libraries. A year after computers are put in libraries that do not have them, visits rise 30 percent on the average and attendance typically remains higher, according to a study led by Andrew C. Gordon, a professor of public policy at the University of Washington. There's much more at the URL below. Also see "Toward Equality of Access" at <http://www.gatesfoundation.org/nr/Downloads/libraries/uslibraries/reports/TowardEqualityofAccess.pdf> to see how libraries are helping to bridge the Digital Divide. [SOURCE: New York Times, AUTHOR: Steve Lohr, <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/04/22/technology/circuits/22gate.html>; site requires registration]

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Online Catalog Offers ED Resources in Spanish

Another resource in Spanish for library staff, educators, and parents has recently been unveiled by the U.S. Department of Education. The link on its home page (www.ed.gov) for Spanish speakers and others interested in Spanish-language resources goes to a web site that includes a range of education-related information—everything from resources for the student looking for college financial aid to the foreign teacher interested in teaching in the US.

Users can access the site through ED's home page by clicking "Recursos en español" or connect directly at www.ed.gov/espanol/bienvenidos/es. Some of the Spanish-language resources included are:

- Popular ED publications, including No Child Left Behind: A Parents Guide;
- The Department's Declaration of Rights for Parents of English Language Learners Under No Child Left Behind;
- Frequently asked questions on topics such as adult education, careers in education, federal student aid, applying to college and credentials evaluation of those with non-U.S. degrees;
- Contact information for ED offices, other federal agencies and non-profit organizations; and
- Information about resources available from the National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities.

The Web page will be updated frequently with additional resources, including information on options for parents under NCLB. For more information, contact 1-800-USA-LEARN (1-800-872-5327); Spanish-speaking information specialists are available from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. E.T.

Library and Technology Masters Degree Programs Provided

Two masters programs in Educational Media and Educational Technology are being offered by the University of Northern Colorado beginning this summer. Educational Media is the program required for those teachers interested in becoming a school librarian. Several courses will be offered online, with the remainder meeting at Mesa State. The Educational Technology program is scheduled to be provided entirely online. While the deadline is past, contact the following for future offerings or to see if you can still get in:

- Laura Summers, Program Coordinator, 303-772-4420 ext. 211; 720-641-2498 cell, lsommers@cbooces.org
- Mary Seager Adams, Program Specialist, Off-Campus Degree and Independent Study Programs, 800.232.1749, 303.637.4320, 970.351.1936,

mary.adams@unco.edu

No Question is Beyond Our Answers

Some of the very interesting questions received—and answered!—by the State Publications Library recently include:

- The party breakdown of House and Senate members from 1923 - 1935 and 1945 - 1949 for a Yale student
- Colorado facts, history, pictures, etc. for an elementary student in California
- The date of the Colorado Medical Assistance Act, needed by someone who had tried to find it on-line
- A 1988 Executive Order, "Integrity in Government", needed by a state agency
- Which states allow corporal punishment in schools
- History of public education in Colorado
- Colorado tenant rights and legislation

To get information like this, contact <http://www.cde.state.co.us/stateinfo/slstpask.asp>

BOOC BookNews for May Published Online

The May edition of BOOC BookNews is now online at www.coloradobook.org. The document may be downloaded or forwarded. It lists activities of interest to writers and readers over the next few months.

From Vandalism to Art at the SF Public Library

The San Francisco Public Library halted a vandal who was destroying books in the collection. But rather than simply tossing the damaged items, the staff encouraged artists the community to create pieces utilizing the materials and addressing the issue. The photo essay shows the response of the library and community to the vandalism. Be sure to click on the word "essay" to activate the show at <http://slate.msn.com/id/2098846/>.

For additional information, E-Mail: [B. McCune](mailto:B.McCune)

