

# Centennial State Libraries

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## Challenging Developments @your library™

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### Proposal Calls for Much of ERIC to Be Eliminated

According to the current plan of the US Dept of Education, all 16 ERIC Clearinghouses and their services (AskEric, Digests, Bibliographies, publications) will be eliminated and reduced to a single, automated clearinghouse. The public is invited to comment on these proposed changes until MAY 9. For more information, updates, letters and who to contact, see: [Save ERIC](#). The text of the draft US Dept Ed Statement of Work (SOW) for [ERIC](#) details items. The plan includes elimination of Clearinghouses, of e-lists, personalized service, reduces journal coverage, eliminates ERIC synthesis function, restricts access to approved lists of journals and document contributors, narrows scope to a narrow definition of "education- related" only material, and eliminates ERIC Clearinghouse sponsored web sites with their faqs, calendars, links, financial/scholarship information.

## **We're All in This Together: Book Stores Push Summer Reading, Too**

Book stores frequently can complement summer reading efforts by libraries and schools. For example, Barnes & Noble stores offer one free book this summer if kids read eight books. Youngsters, grades one to six, need to obtain journals from a store to register the books they read. The program runs May 27 to September 1.

## **TAP Dance for Tech Support to High Poverty Schools**

Title II D of NCLB, Enhancing Education Through Technology (E2T2), supports increasing student achievement and improving teacher practice through the strategic use of technology by promoting high-quality professional development, increased access to technology and the Internet, the incorporation of technology into standards-based curricula, information-based decision-making, and the use of technology for promoting parental involvement.

Colorado has instituted the Technology Access Program (TAP) to provide an opportunity for high poverty/high need (HP/HN) school districts that received insufficient grants (less than \$10,000) under the formula portion of E2T2 to implement significant technology-based initiatives designed to improve student learning. Applications from HP/HN districts will be given priority.

Colorado school districts may apply for school or district-wide initiatives. Charter schools must apply through their school districts. Consortia may work together to provide funding to eligible schools and districts. The application deadline is May 19, 2003. For complete information, visit the [TAP](#) web site. For questions, contact Deborah Bernau, [Bernau\\_D@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Bernau_D@cde.state.co.us), 303.866.6788.

## **Shake It Up! Coloradans Among Library Movers and Shakers**

The March issue of "Library Journal" spotlights two Coloradans as among "50 most innovative librarians working today." Phyllis Larison, Head of Adult and Young Adult Services for the Bemis Public Library in Littleton, was selected for providing classes and programs for immigrants in the community, creating web sites for Littleton history and a teen-vet oral history project, and obtaining grants for numerous library projects, including a computer lab. Jose Aponte, director, Pikes Peak Library District, was selected for building social capital, and developing community.

## **AASL Members Plan @ your library™ Campaign for School Libraries**

[@ your library™](#), The Campaign for America's Libraries, will launch the school library component of its national initiative in the early fall. In preparation, members of the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) recently gathered in Minnesota for a strategic planning retreat.

Approximately 30 school library media specialists were invited to participate in the strategic planning and marketing retreat hosted by 3M Library Systems. Participants discussed key issues concerning school library media center marketing and publicity efforts including how to identify key users or "customers," how to develop appropriate messages, what vehicles of communication should be used to promote school library media centers, and how to prepare long-term marketing plans. Attendees also had the opportunity to critique a marketing manual developed by 3M that will train school library media specialists around the country in how to develop an effective marketing plan for their school library media program. 3M is a founding partner of The Campaign for America's Libraries.

Developed in connection with AASL, the campaign will focus on the overall message that "Every Student Succeeds @ your library." Key external campaign goals will focus on increasing public awareness of the significant contributions that school library media programs make in K-12 education. The school library campaign will be launched at the AASL National Conference in Kansas City, Missouri in October.

## **Child Care Information Center Goes Online with Library**

The [National Child Care Information Center](#) recently launched its Online Library. Which contains summaries and availability information for publications of interest to policymakers, administrators, practitioners, parents, researchers and other members of the child care community. It includes records of publications from the NCCIC Child Care Library and selected records from the ERIC Clearinghouse system. Links are provided to publications available on the Internet. Subject areas include center- and family-based child care, child development, curricula, child care funding, health and safety in child care settings, child care workforce, child care for children with special needs, Head Start program, issues related to family and child well-being, families and work, and impacts of welfare reform on child care. Updated weekly, the Online Library contains records for documents dating from the 1970s to the present. Users can search by phrase, keyword, author and/or index terms or can select a pre-packaged Quick Search. (From Natural Resources, a weekly one-way listserv. Sorry, web site credit line misplaced.).

## **News: Libraries Turn to Taxpayers for Help**

Library districts in and around the city of Cleveland, Ohio, are asking local voters to pass new levies that would increase the amount of property taxes collected for library services. As citizens rely increasingly on libraries as community technology centers, the cost of maintaining these information technology services has placed an additional financial burden on these institutions. "We need [funding] very badly," said Phyllis Cettomai, director of Reed Memorial Library. "We've been busting at the seams for 10 years now." The Cleveland Public Library, for example, says it needs to public to pass a levy that would generate about \$31.5 million a year. [[SOURCE: Cleveland Plain Dealer](#); [AUTHOR: Tom Breckenridge](#)]

## **News: Local Officials Rise Up to Defy the Patriot Act**

Arcata, California (pop. 16,000) has become the first US locality to pass an ordinance outlawing voluntary compliance with the USA PATRIOT Act of 2001. Local librarians and bookstore owners around the country object to provisions in the Act requiring them to turn over information about patrons' reading or Web use habits upon request. Federal law supercedes state law and local ordinances in this case, but the people of Arcata are ready to fight -- and so are 89 other cities that have passed resolutions condemning the Act and may follow Arcata's lead in outlawing local compliance. Meanwhile, on Capitol Hill, members of Congress have requested that Attorney General John Ashcroft provide detailed reports of how the Justice Department has used its powers under the Act to date, as well as its plans for the future, including the yet-to-be-proposed "PATRIOT Act II." [[SOURCE: The Washington Post](#), [AUTHOR: Evelyn Nieves](#)]

## **News: America's Oldest Public Library May Close the Books**

In 1778, Benjamin Franklin decided to show his appreciation to the town of Franklin, Massachusetts, for naming their community after him by donating a collection of over 100 books. They would eventually form the core collection of the town's library. Today the nation's oldest public library, the Franklin Library is a shadow of its former self, having laid off a quarter of its staff and slashed its operating hours because of local budget cuts -- and now it may have to be closed altogether. "You hate to be closing the oldest library in the country," said Kenneth Wiedemann, chairman of the Franklin Library Board of Directors. "We are not happy about it. But what are you going to do?" Facing as much as a \$6 million budget shortfall, the town is facing the grim choice: slash the police force, close a fire station or shutter the library. "You think of the fact that we were the first town to be named for Ben, and he was good enough to get us started in our learning," said Barbara Smith, Franklin's historian. "These books weren't frivolous. They weren't the latest love story. These were for learning." [[SOURCE: Boston Globe](#); [AUTHOR Franco Ordonez](#)]

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## **Firstfind Site Helps Low Literacy Adults Access Practical Information**

A new web site that connects to lots of web resources dealing with practical living has just been launched. [www.firstfind.info](http://www.firstfind.info), (from the Westchester Library System in partnership with Brooklyn Public Library, NY Public Library, QBPL, and the Office for Literacy and Outreach Services of the American Library Association) covers skills for parents, workers and citizens. firstfind (and why, oh why, do web sites always use incorrect grammar and spelling?) is not a teaching tool, but an information tool. Although some of the items are specific to the NY area, many are useful to any adult. In my stroll through the site, I did find that some do not appear at a beginner's level, but the resources still should be valuable.

## **Students Cover 15th Annual YA Literature Conference**

Young adults, teachers, and other eager people alike found their way to the fifteenth annual Young Adult Literature Conference which was held at the Tivoli Student Center on April 5. This conference targeted the youth of Colorado who are interested in the amazing world of literature. Authors attend in hopes of showing young adults a world filled with imagination. The morning started off with a plethora of breakfast foods provided by Biscuits and Berry, Inc., and was followed by the morning keynote speaker, Lorri Hewett. Hewett took the crowd into a state of awe as she talked about the challenge and worth of being an author. Hewett began her writing career when she was seven years old when she wrote about a can of beer and about how that one beer could cause problems within a family. Like many great authors, Hewett also keeps a journal in order to express her feelings and help capture creativity.

Hewett, a transplanted Coloradan, was born in Washington D.C. When she was a senior at Chatfield Senior High School, she was in correspondence with an editor at Bantam, Doubleday, Dell who encouraged her to expand her writing skills. "Every time I sent a manuscript in, it just got sent back. Yeah, it was hard to get published, but I never let my dream go." As Hewett talked about how hard it was to get published and how many years it took, she made it clear that the entire process was worth it. She encouraged young writers to never give up their dreams, that, in the end, it would be worth the struggle.

Writing from experience comes naturally to many people, as Hewett makes clear in her books about young African-Americans growing up. "All of my books that are published are dealing with African-Americans because of my types of personal experiences. But race is the most, and the least, important thing about a person. 'Differenceness', everyone has it due to race and personality. Anyways, we all are living in the same world and are dealing with the same stuff." Hewett stressed the importance of writing what makes a difference to the young adults. She seemed to express that if the writing a young adult does is important to them, it will be important

to the reader as well. A piece of advice Hewett gave with great passion is to, "Read what you are interested in. Write what you want. Read what you love. It teaches you the most in the end."

After a book signing, that brought young adults close to the author that so many seemed to admire, it was time to head to break sessions sessions, which included, among others, Girl Power: Literature to Empower Girls, led by Kristen Ferguson; Brave Girls, Scared Boys, led by Karen Romano Young; a "For Teens Only" discussion, led by Todd Strasser; Dramatic Readings, led by Terry Davis; Blue Spruce Young Adult Book Award, led by Marilyn Bunker, Sam Marsh, and Kathy Preller; and a Writing Workshop for Teens led by Lorri Hewett. Each session dealt with different aspects of reading and writing, but the one reoccurring theme to seemed to be, read, write, and always follow your dreams no matter how far out of reach they may feel.

"Brave Girls and Scared Boys," led by Karen Romano Young, was a session in which the audience was able to have open dialogue with the author. Young reiterated the what Hewett had said about the difficulty in getting published, "It took forever to get published, or that's how it felt anyways. I'm glad I never gave up. Writing is my passion." If there was one person in the room that didn't feel Young's energy about the world of literature, they must not have been awake.

Young writes fiction and nonfiction books for children and young adults. Presently Young is working on a new fantasy project. "I enjoy writing different types of literature because it's always a challenge to see if I can adjust to the change." Young is also writing short stories for an anthology put together by Jennifer Armstrong.

Leslie Hauschildt from the Jefferson Public Library has attended the Young Adult Literature Conference for the past five years and has very strong opinions about the value of the conference , "This conference is great and really valuable. I like the conference because it's local and not expensive. I would have loved something like this when I was a kid." In today's world it's so refreshing to know young adults are not alone when it comes good literature.

A true honor for the young adults at the conference was the lunchtime keynote speaker, Todd Strasser. A glow came on his face when he took the stage to approach the interested and eager young adults. Born in New York City, Strasser went to college at New York University for a few years before he dropped out to be a musician on the streets in Europe. Later Strasser published his first book in 1978, Angel Dust Blues. Presently, Strasser has published over one hundred books including many movie novelizations including Home Alone, Ferris Bueller's Day Off, and Free Willy.

When Strasser gave his speech he mentioned that, "A story will not go without a message." That was point that he introduced and a point that was absorbed easily by young adult readers and writers. After he spoke he took a brief moment to converse with the young adults before moving onto the YA connection.

Ashley Hegel, a freshman at Northglenn High School who attended the conference, said, "The conference was interesting. The session "Girl Power" that concerns girls influenced me greatly." A session that many felt was truly empowering due to the high energy that was present.

The conference would not have been possible without the hard work of the Young Adult Literature Conference Committee who include: Marge Erickson Freeburn, Shelly Belleau, Carol Burdick, Dawn Latta Kirby, Jan Knauer, Mary McCarthy, Mary Clare

Wickins, and Judy Zelenski. Freeburn, professor adjunct at the University of Colorado at Denver said, "The committee works so hard, we try to meet once a month, but if we are unable to get together we e-mail each other." Sometimes in a world with such high-paced days it feels incredible to know there are people trying to make a place possible for young adults to express themselves in such a highly dignified manner.

The Young Adult Literature Conference was a grand success. For many, the experience would stay with them for a lifetime. Many people felt that the conference has become an outlet for young adults to express themselves freely. This conference has become a place of hope for the future of young readers, writers, and thinkers alike.

- Students Kate Miya and Sean Doty

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

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