

# Centennial State Libraries

May 21, 2004

## Everything's Coming Up Roses @your library™

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### Free Database Helps Public Libraries Identify Demographics

A new free database called the Public Library Geographic Database (PLGDB) is being developed through funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. This map-based database allows you to select a public library and search for census information about the area around the library. It also includes annual library use data collected by the National Center for Educational Statistics.

For example, you can get ethnicity, income, education, race, age of people living within a certain radius of the target library. This will be very helpful for needs assessment information! According to library insiders, the database appears to be a work in progress. You can try it out and send suggestions. Start with the tutorial at <http://www.geolib.org/PLGDB.cfm>. (Thanks to Karen Vargas, Houston TX)

### Libraries Awarded Mini-Grants for Children's Literacy

Eleven libraries have received mini-grants from the Rocky Mountain Antiquarian Booksellers Association through the Colorado Parent & Child Foundation:

- Arriba-Flagler School (Flagler) for elementary fiction books
- DeBeque School Library (DeBeque) for bean bag chairs for the buddy reading program
- Holyoke Junior/Senior High School (Holyoke) for genre signage, a floor lamp, and cushions
- John Mall High School Library (Walsenburg) for non-fiction, biography, and reference books
- Merino Elementary School Library (Merino) for materials for the "Thirteen Colonies" unit
- Mountain View Elementary School Library (Longmont) for "Wish List" books in the biography, technology, lower level learners, and district curriculum areas
- North Park Middle School (Walden) for a student-driven middle school reading circle
- Park County Public Library (Bailey,) for supplies for high school volunteers to paint a mural in the children's section of the library
- Plateau Valley School (Collbran) for "Bookworm Bag Packs"
- Sheridan Branch, Arapahoe Library District (Sheridan) for buttons and stickers for the "See Me Read" initiative
- Wellington Public Library (Wellington) for PBS "Between the Lions" video set

More than 30 libraries applied for the grant in 2003, its first, year. The grants came from proceeds from the annual Rocky Mountain Antiquarian Book Fair. Also supporting the effort were the Colorado Association of Libraries and the Colorado State Library.

The purpose of the grants are to encourage kids to read, promote the visibility of libraries in their communities, and spotlight the role of libraries in learning and education. For information on this year's grants, contact B. F. McCune, Colorado State Library, 303.866.6891, [mccune\\_b@cde.state.co.us](mailto:mccune_b@cde.state.co.us).

## **Statistics on School Computers in U.S. Don't Compute**

The United States is among the leaders in the world in providing access to school computers, but it lags behind other countries in frequency of school computer use and Internet availability at school, according to Education Week's seventh annual report on school technology. However, some technology-oriented countries have more than twice the percentage of school computers connected to the Internet than the United States does. "These numbers show that our schools need to move beyond the goal of simply putting computers in classrooms," said Virginia B. Edwards, the editor and publisher of Education Week. This year's report presents an overview of technology in schools around the world, examining developments in Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America, and South America. The special report also includes its annual review of national trends in the use of educational technology and state-by-state snapshots of the steps states have taken to use educational technology more effectively. <http://www.edweek.org/sreports/tc04/>

(Previous item from the PEN Weekly NewsBlast, a free e-mail newsletter featuring school reform and school fundraising resources, property of the Public Education Network. To view past issues of the PEN Weekly NewsBlast, visit:

<http://www.publiceducation.org/newsblast-past.asp>)

## **Two Colorado Schools Selected for Laura Bush Foundation Library Funds**

Two Colorado schools have been selected for support from the Laura Bush Foundation Library Funds: Munroe Elementary School, Denver; and Billie Martinez Elementary, Greeley. Grants from The Laura Bush Foundation are made to school libraries across the country to purchase books. They are two of 136 recipients nationally. Awardees will receive grants of up to \$5,000. The full list and additional info is at [http://www.laurabushfoundation.org/052004\\_awardees.html](http://www.laurabushfoundation.org/052004_awardees.html).

## **No Question is Beyond Our Answers**

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

- The status of SB03-036 which requires that the history and civil government of Colorado be taught in all public schools
- A dozen questions about Colorado for a 5th grade student
- A 1987 Executive Order on equal opportunity and affirmative action
- History of the Colorado State Patrol
- Confirmation that CDE is the owner of the largest collection of Lawrence Williams portraits in the country. These are the presidential portraits in the Capitol building.
- Results for any nonpartisan statewide elections in Colorado from 1892 to 2003
- Meanings of about 12 small town names in the state
- How often are EMTs one of the first on the scene of mountain accidents

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

## **Awards Note Library Staff Achievements**

The Library Research Service was an inaugural winner of the University of Denver College of Education's Community Partnership Award. The LRS is a unit of the Colorado State Library and the Colorado Department of Education that was founded

in 1987 and operated in partnership with the DU Library and Information Science Program since 1996. The LRS generates statistics and research for library and education professionals, public officials, and the media.

The award was accepted by its director, Keith Curry Lance, Ph.D., on behalf of the entire LRS staff. Staffers present were Nicolle Steffen, MLIS (DU, 2002), associate director; Stephanie Kean, administrative assistant; and Becky Russell, MLIS (DU, 2003), and Zeth Lietzau, MLIS student, both senior research analysts.

Several DU and LRS alumnae were also on hand, including Marti A. Cox, MLIS (DU, 2000), Information Resources Manager, Medical Group Management Association; Jean M. Heilig, MLIS (DU, 1999); Senior Director of Research and Information, e-global library, Jones International University; Rochelle Logan, MLIS (DU, 1999), Associate Director for Support Services, Douglas County Libraries; Tammi Moe, MLIS (DU, 2003), Library Director, Westwood College, Denver—South Campus; and Marcia J. Rodney, MLIS (DU, 2000), Senior Research Analyst, Library Services, Ball Aerospace and Technology, Boulder.

In another Colorado achievement, Eloise May, Library Director for the Arapahoe Library District, was awarded a Leadership in Learning Award from the University of Denver College of Education. Each year, the College recognizes two alumni for their outstanding contributions and leadership to support, enhance, and advocate education and lifelong learning opportunities for their communities.

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