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## ACLIN Grant Expansion Project Winds Down

by Susan Fayad, ACLIN Supervisor, <sfayad@csn.net>

In 1994, ACLIN received \$2.5 million from the U. S. Department of Education and \$400,000 from the U. S. Department of Commerce to expand ACLIN. Most people associated with the ACLIN Grant Expansion Project would agree that it's been the library networking equivalent of a thrill ride: steep climbs, breath-taking drops, unexpected twists and turns — but never boring!

It seemed to take forever to ramp up. But once we got going, developments whizzed by in a blur. We managed to accomplish a great deal: expanding the telecommunications network, connecting libraries to the Internet, equipping libraries with microcomputers and modems, moving ACLIN menus to a Web site, setting up technical operations with a Web server and T1 connection, adding lots of useful new information resources, inventing information development "tools," training hundreds of librarians and others, distributing many new informational and promotional materials, testing those materials with Model Libraries, implementing Z39.50 on ACLIN participating library computer systems to set the stage for broadcast

search, acting as a gateway to FirstSearch for libraries without Internet accounts, investigating ILL on ACLIN, providing access to historical photographs at Boulder Public Library, representing library interests in discounts for telecommunication services.

It's hard to image that we're pulling to a stop now (the project formally ended on June 30), climbing off, and going our separate ways. Some faces — or voices — that have become familiar to you will no longer be there to help: Phyllis Albritton, Policy Consultant; Liz Davila, Administrative Assistant; Walter LaMendola, Project Evaluator; Linda Little, PR Consultant; Jerry McCarthy, Manager of Technical Operations; John Noran, Project Administrator; Ronnie Storey-Ewoldt, Training Director;

and Stephen Thergesen, Database Developer. Their contributions have been immeasurable, and they will be sorely missed. We thank them for all their hard work, dedication, and camaraderie.

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(L to R, back row:) Jerry McCarthy, Liz Davila, Ronnie Storey, Steve Thergesen, Nancy Bolt, John Noran; (front row) Ann Schwab, Dan Cutler, Susan Fayad.

## Welcome, Janet Carabell!

Janet Carabell began work as the networking and resource sharing librarian at the State Library in June.

Libraries and reading were a big part of Carabell's upbringing, and she says it was more a natural progression than conscious choice that she became a librarian. She has a BA in English from Pennsylvania State University and an MLS from Emporia State University of the Rockies. She worked in a variety of jobs in public and academic libraries for over 15 years, including circulation, reference, and collection development. Carabell most recently worked for Boulder Public Library as an Internet librarian, developing and maintaining BPL's home page and working on other Internet-related projects.

Janet says she remembers the ACLIN gopher when it debuted, and how wonderful it was to be able to access statewide library catalogs from one dial-in connection. She said, "Over the years, I have continued to use ACLIN. I have followed its evolution from an Internet gopher to a World Wide Web site. I am thrilled to be a part of the ACLIN team and look forward to exciting times ahead!"

Carabell lives near Estes Park with her husband, two cats, and a dog. They like to hike and camp, and says they also "foolishly try to garden at our altitude, without much success. I have yet to glean one home-grown vine-ripened tomato in eight years of mountain gardening!"

To contact Janet Carabell, email <Carabell\_J@cde.state.co.us>, or call 303/866-6900.

## It's happening ...

FROM THE STATE LIBRARY AND ADULT EDUCATION OFFICE

### Discounts for Schools and Libraries under the Federal Telecommunication Act of 1996

by Nancy M. Bolt, State Librarian,  
<nbolt@csn.net>



I know I said I would continue my article from last month on the future of libraries by addressing four major future library roles. I promise I will still do that soon. But there is another issue in the front of my mind.

As you may know by now, the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 provides for discounts for schools, libraries, and rural health care providers to cover their telecommunications costs. The bill was passed in February 1996, and set up a "Joint Board" of state public service commissioners and the Federal Communications Commission to make recommendations about how such a discount might be handled. In Colorado, we formed the Library, Education, and Health Telecommunications Coalition (LEHTC, pronounced "lettuce") to respond every time the Joint Board asked for input. LEHTC made recommendations to the FCC last November, and we've been waiting ever since for the FCC to make its final rulings.

Well, the wait is over. On May 7, the FCC formally set the program in motion. It will definitely benefit schools and libraries. It did not give us everything we wanted. And it's already controversial.

We have created a web site on ACLIN with details about the ruling <[www.aclin.org/webtele/webtele.htm](http://www.aclin.org/webtele/webtele.htm)>. The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) and the State Library will be hiring a staff person to help schools and libraries apply for the discounts. A questions and answers document has already been sent to all schools and libraries. But this issue is so important that we want to get the word out as often and in as many places as possible.

Thus, here is more on the opportunity, with some background you might not find elsewhere. The devil is in the details, so be sure to get the application packet and ask lots of questions.

#### Who's Eligible?

- ▶ All public schools, unless they have an endowment over \$50 million.
- ▶ All public libraries.
- ▶ Academic libraries if their budget is completely separate. The law says academic libraries are eligible, but the FCC was concerned that some college and universities (which are not eligible) might try to sneak in on their library's discount. To prevent this, the FCC came up with the "completely separate" interpretation of the law. Discounts range from 20% to 90% depending on several factors and, depending on the level of discount the academic library is eligible for, it may not be worth the effort to completely separate the library's budget from the rest of the higher education institution's.
- ▶ Consortia, with a twist. The Joint Board urged that consortia be formed to negotiate for good rates with telecom companies even without the discount. The FCC qualified this by saying that a consortia is eligible only if the members of the consortia are schools, libraries, higher ed institutions, and government agencies. They felt that should give a pretty good rate to the members of the consortia not eligible for the discount (higher ed and government agencies), then schools and libraries would get the discount as well. If a consortia has other members, such as businesses or chambers of commerce, then the consortia isn't eligible for the discount, although schools and libraries in such a consortia could apply separately for the discount.

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# It's happening ...

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## What are the discounts for?

- ▶ All telecommunications services as requested by the eligible institution. The FCC deliberately did not try to define these specifically. They wanted the eligible institution to be able to request whatever telecom service it needed.
- ▶ Internet services cost for the telecom link, electronic mail, and the subscription fee, but not for content. This means FirstSearch, Galenet, or AOL would not be eligible costs.
- ▶ Internal wiring of a school or library building. The FCC decided to cover these costs because the law says that the purpose is to bring advanced telecom services to every *classroom*, and the only way to do that is to allow internal wiring to be covered by the discounts.

Internet services and internal wiring are very controversial inclusions for the discount. The telecommunication companies who will pay into the universal service fund that covers the discounts are particularly upset since schools don't have to buy their Internet service or internal wiring from a telecom company. A school or library can get those services wherever they want, even if the company they buy the services from does not pay into the universal service fund. The telecom companies feel it is unfair that they are putting money in and some other non-telecom company is getting the benefit. If there is a lawsuit challenging the FCC rules, this is the most likely area in which it might occur.

## What does a school or library have to do to get the discount?

A lot.

- ▶ Prepare a certification form that includes:
  - a technology assessment that certifies that the library has the proper equipment in place to make use of the telecom services;
  - a description of the telecom services that will be requested;

- a statement that the school or library is eligible, will use the telecom services for education purposes, and won't resell the services;
- a state-approved technology plan (CDE will approve the school plans and the State Library will approve the library plans);
- a consortia must identify which member receives which discount;

- ▶ Post the description of the telecom services wanted with the FCC in Washington, with sufficient detail so a telecom vendor can respond. In Colorado we are asking that these be also posted on the PUC website.
- ▶ From the vendor responses (we hope for more than one), choose a telecom company and negotiate a contract for the telecom services.
- ▶ Pay the telecom company the discounted price. Then the telecom vendor applies to the FCC to "be made whole" or, in other words, get the other part of the price from the FCC.

## So what is the discount?

The discount is based on two factors: how many kids in an area are eligible for free or reduced lunch program and how much it costs the companies to provide telecom services to an area.

Discounts range from 20% (if a school or library in an urban area has less than 1% of its kids eligible for the federal government's free and reduced school lunch program) to 90% (if between 75% and 100% of the kids in the school are eligible). Now you might think that the number of kids in the free and reduced lunch program is great for schools, but it doesn't really apply to public and academic libraries. Well, we agree and tried, aggressively, to convince the FCC to use some other measure of poverty level in the general population around a library, but we were unsuccessful. The FCC wanted to keep it simple and they chose free and reduced lunches as a poverty surrogate for everybody. Public and academic

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## It's happening ... *continued from page 3*

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libraries will have to determine the number of free and reduced lunch kids in the closest school district (or multiple school districts if more than one is served) and that will establish the discount. This information will be posted on the ACLIN web site.

The cost to serve a geographic area is broken into categories of rural and urban. Urban is primarily the major metropolitan statistical area, with some provision for rural areas in urban counties. Again, our web site has details on how to tell if you are rural or urban.

### How much money is available and when do the discounts start?

The FCC set aside \$2.25 billion to fund the discounts each year. If the money isn't used in a given year it, half of it can be carried over to the next year. If it's all used up in one year, they will lower the discounts the next year. We were hoping that if they found it wasn't enough money they would raise the amount of money available, but they chose to lower the discounts instead. It's first come/first served for the discounts. The early bird definitely gets the worm. The discounts start on January 1, 1998, but the FCC has not announced, as of this writing, when they will begin accepting applications. The FCC believes the money will not be used up the first year. Some of the rest of us are not so sure.

### What can you do to get started?

The best thing you can do is begin to get your certification package ready. Do your technology assessment. Write your long-range plan and send it to the State Library or CDE to be approved. Form consortia with other eligible institutions in your community to get the best price. Determine what your telecom needs are and prepare your bid request.

Get ready. Get set. Go — when the FCC tells you to!

## CEMA Online

### The Colorado Educational Media Association is on the Web



The Colorado Educational Media Association (CEMA) is pleased to announce that their Web site, CEMA Online, is now available through ACLIN. The site is designed to bring news and information about the association to a wider audience of its members, and anyone else with an interest in school libraries, media centers, technology information, and related topics in Colorado schools. This is a work-in-progress, and will be updated to continue providing important information to CEMA members and libraries.

To reach the site, choose the method most convenient to you:

- ◆ <<http://www.aclin.org/code/cema>>
- ◆ From the ACLIN Homepage <<http://www.aclin.org>> or through ACLIN dial-up access, type *CEMA* as the code word
- ◆ Choose *Information Resources* from the ACLIN Homepage, then choose *Education* and *Literacy*.

Currently, the site contains:

- ◆ Preliminary information about the 1997 CEMA Climbing New Peaks Conference, including a workshop presentation application and list of program committee members;
- ◆ List of CEMA Board, Regional Representatives, and Regional Library System contact information;
- ◆ Membership form and calendar of upcoming events;
- ◆ Current information about library media endorsement rules, approved programs, and additional education opportunities for school library media.

More information will be added in coming months.

This website was made available through the efforts of Eugene Hainer, Colorado Educational Media Association (CEMA) liaison from the Colorado State Library, with assistance from the CEMA Board and the ACLIN staff.

# COLORADO NetDays

The President, Vice-President, Governor Romer, and others have set a long-term goal to give every student and teacher access to the Information Superhighway. Out of this commitment has grown the national NetDay96 program. Colorado NetDays is the state version, with the immediate goal of installing wiring needed to make a number of rooms in every Colorado school and library Internet ready.

Colorado NetDays is an opportunity for parents, teachers, administrators, business leaders, and community members to come together to prepare schools and libraries in their communities for the technology revolution sweeping the country. Colorado NetDays is a project using wiring kits purchased by businesses, PTA/PTO's, and other groups. Volunteers utilize the kits to complete internal wiring necessary for schools and libraries to obtain Internet and school network connections.

The national NetDay96 organization is making inexpensive wiring kits, averaging \$600 each, available. The kits contains the materials necessary to install two Internet connections in six different rooms, then connect them to a central point in the building. Agencies such as the Colorado Department of Education and the Governor's Office, and businesses such as MCI Telecommunications and IBM, are just a few of the organizations providing statewide support and sponsorship.

Some sites to have participated in the Colorado NetDays program include: Mary Blair and Monroe Elementary schools in Loveland; Lake County High School; and Maddox Elementary in Englewood. Other Colorado NetDays sites are in progress.

The next national NetDay is scheduled for October 25, 1997. Schools and districts are encouraged to schedule activities anytime that fits their local needs. Colorado NetDays plans several regional workshops over the next few months to assist local districts in this effort.

For further information, check the World Wide Web at <<http://www.colorado-netdays.mci.com/>>; or contact project directors Bob DeBlauw <[bdblauw@csn.net](mailto:bdblauw@csn.net)> or Dan Morris <[dmorris@csn.net](mailto:dmorris@csn.net)>. Phone 800/841-7705 for information on wiring, obtaining kits, or to volunteer for a wiring project in Colorado.

## ACLIN Grant Project

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On the up side, due to the increased funding from the state legislature (which many in the library community so actively supported), ACLIN will remain vital. Janet Carabell has recently come on board. (See sidebar.) Dan Cutler, the ACLIN programmer, will also remain with the project through a partnership with BCR and Jefferson County Public Library, each of which contribute to the funding of this position. ACLIN also recently hired a part-time system operator, Gary Plewes, to assist Dan and support routine ACLIN technical operations. And Susan Fayad, ACLIN Project Director, will (though it does lead one to question her sanity) keep her seat.

Though we won't be moving at our previous pace (we're actually looking forward to catching our collective breath), ACLIN development will continue. Content development, under the direction of the ACLIN Collection Development Committee, is expected to be an area of considerable growth. ACLIN broadcast searching and Web search engine, which have been delayed due to technical problems and other issues, will be implemented later in the year. ILL will remain a focus for further development as well. In addition, the ACLIN grant project final report and evaluation report will be delivered in late September. To assist us with these activities, some of those "old" faces may be doing contract work for the ACLIN project. John Noran and Liz Davila will actually continue at the State Library in other positions.

To all of you — and there are many — who contributed to the success of the ACLIN Grant Expansion Project, our sincere thanks, and the hope for the opportunity to do more good work together in the future.

### CENTENNIAL STATE LIBRARIES

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# Notes to note

What do Oprah, Lassie, Star Trek: Voyager, Hercules, Yoda and Xena have in common? They're all among the celebrities featured in the new *ALA Graphics Spring/Summer 1997 Catalog* promoting exclusive products from the American Library Association. The 32-page, full-color catalog features more than 300 library, reading and literacy-related products. The popular celebrity READ poster line includes a new portrait of Oprah reading *Beloved*, Jay Leno on the Tonight Show set reading *A Christmas Carol*, Fabio reading *Jaws*, Rob Schneider donning a cockroach costume and reading *The Metamorphosis* and many others. The 22" x 34" posters cost \$10. Lassie, spokesdog for ALA's National Library Card Sign-Up Month, is available on a 22" x 34" poster, an 11" x 17" poster (\$6) and on 2" x 6" bookmarks (100 for \$6). Lassie "Please knock. My friend is reading" door hangers are \$7 for a pack of 100. The catalog features unique gift items such as jewelry ranging in price from \$5 to \$85, and, for the first time, ties and boxer shorts with Dr. Seuss characters. Also available is material on innovative reading programs and literacy posters and bookmarks. To receive the *ALA Graphics Spring/Summer 1997 Catalog*, call 800/545-2433, ext. 5046; fax your name and mailing address to 312/280-2422; or send an e-mail message to <gcohen@ala.org>.

Library directors can receive a free information packet on a nationwide corporate gift program that provided over \$100 million worth of new, **donated supplies to nonprofits and schools** last year. Corporations donate their overstock of such products as office supplies, computer software and accessories, toys and games, arts and crafts, books, audio and video tapes, janitorial supplies, tools and hardware, and holiday decorations.

Recipient groups pay dues ranging from \$275 to \$575, plus shipping and handling, but the merchandise itself is free. Participants receive an average of \$2,000 worth of new supplies per catalog, according to the program administrator. For a free information packet, call the nonprofit National Association for the Exchange of Industrial Resources (NAEIR) at 800/562-0955 or visit the NAEIR web site at <<http://www.misslink.net/naeir/naeir.htm>>.

*The Guide to Background Investigations, 1997* was published to provide employers and others involved in background investigations with a tool to access information contained in public records on employees and job applicants. The guide contains four major sections: State Records, Locator, Federal Records, and Educational Records directories. The 1952p. book is \$129.50 and is available from TISI, 4110 S. 100th E. Ave., Tulsa, OK 74146; 800/247-8713; fax 918/664-9074.

The US National Library of Poetry has announced that \$48,000 in prizes will be awarded this year in the **North American Open Poetry Contest**. Poets, particularly beginners, are welcome to try to win their share of the 250 prizes. The deadline for the contest is July 15. The contest is open to everyone and entry is free. Every poem entered also has a chance to be published in a deluxe, hardbound anthology. To enter, send one original poem, any subject and any style, to: The National Library of Poetry, Suite 19812, 1 Poetry Plaza, Owings Mills, MD 21117-6282, or go to <<http://www.poetry.com>>. The poem should be no more than 20 lines, and the poet's name and address should appear on the top of the page. Entries must be postmarked or sent via the Internet by July 15. A new contest opens July 16.

## Centennial

### STATE LIBRARIES

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