

Centennial State Libraries Online

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<http://www.cde.state.co.us/libnewsletter/libnews.htm>

Colorado's Annual Schools and Libraries Poster Contest Promotes National Library Week

Each year the Colorado State Library sponsors a schools and libraries poster contest to promote books and reading and National Library Week. This year's theme is *@ the library*, which is also the Abrand® for a new, five-year public awareness campaign sponsored by the American Library Association to promote libraries and librarians nationwide. For the first time in the history of the contest, students are also welcome to create their own theme.

There are four age categories, with 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in each category, and one overall grand prize winner. The grand prize is a \$250 gift certificate for books to the school library media center, public library, or art program sponsoring the artist, and \$100 gift certificate for the student artist. Home schools are eligible, and last year's grand prize winner was a home school in Paonia.

The grand prize poster is printed and distributed to Colorado schools and libraries to publicize National Library Week. Winners receive gift certificates for books, and the grand prize winning student receives a gift certificate for books for the sponsoring school or library. Last year's winning poster and the rules and deadlines for this year's contest are available online at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/slnlwposter.htm>

First, second, and third prize winners in each of four categories receive bookstore gift certificates in the amounts of \$75, \$50, and \$25, respectively. The categories are: Kindergarten through 2nd grade; grades 3 through 5; grades 6 through 8; and grades 9 through 12. All entrants are acknowledged with an honorable mention ribbon and letter from Assistant Commissioner Nancy Bolt.

There were nearly 1,500 entries received last year.

From the State Library To Form an Opinion of Their Own

by Nancy Bolt, Assistant Commissioner, <nbolt@csn.net>

The more I travel in Bulgaria the more I am impressed by three things:

- * the incredible beauty of the country and friendliness of the people;
- * the peoples= commitment and passion about maintaining their democratic society;
- * the librarians= desire to improve library service for the people they serve.

Our trip to Bulgaria this year had a very different purpose than in past years. This year we came focused to do only one conference on one very important theme: Public Access to Government Information through Libraries. We also wanted to honor the six Bulgarian libraries who had asked to form partnerships with Colorado libraries to increase cultural understanding and to help all the libraries build collections.

As always with Bulgaria, we got much more than we bargained for.

Access to Government Information

Last year we met Governor Radimir Enev from the Stara Zagora Region of Bulgaria. He was struggling with a directive from the national government to make government information available to the public and didn't have clue how to proceed. We offered to do a conference in Stara Zagora this year that would focus on libraries as the avenue to distribute government information. We spent most of the year planning this conference. We had presentations by me on the main topic; by Mary Redmond from the New York State Library on why a government entity would want to give public information to a library, how a library can convince a government agency to provide the information, and how a library would organize the information for public access. Bonnie McCune from the State Library blew them away with a presentation on marketing your library to the public (frankly, a new idea for them). Roumi Radenski, a Bulgarian now living in the U.S. and working at the Library of Congress, spoke on automating government document access and delivery.

The conference was attended by the Governor, who gave opening remarks, and by his staff. His PR person, Daniela Miteva, attended. Mrs. Miteva is also an elected member of the local parliament. Of course, local librarians were there from the public libraries and the university libraries. There was actually some tension in the room (surprise!). After our formal presentation and during discussion, Mrs. Duncheva of the public library basically said she had been asking for government documents and they government had been reluctant to give them. Buzz, buzz, buzz. Break. After the break, Mrs. Miteva said that the Governor had now committed that the Regional Government would provide information to the libraries and that she would see that the local parliament would as well.

Now we see if the governmental entities follow through with deposits and if the libraries do in fact organize them for easy public access. A lot of hesitation on both sides.

Partner Libraries

Our second purpose was to visit our partner libraries. There are six partnerships in place (Bulgarian libraries are all named after historical or literacy figures so I'm just going to give you the town):

Jefferson County Public Library	Sofia Public Library
Boulder Public Library	Varna Public Library
Bemis Public Library in Littleton	Stara Zagora Public Library
Douglas Public Library District	Dobritz Public Library
Eagle Valley Library District	Veliko Turnovo Public Library
Aurora Public Library	Bourgas Public Library

As a Partner Library in the Colorado Library Association/Bulgarian Library Association project, all

of these libraries automatically became Sister Libraries in the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS). NCLIS provides a very nice plaque, signed by Hillary Clinton, the honorary chair. While I was presenting these plaques to the librarians and mayors in Bulgaria, the International Sister Cities convention was being held right here in downtown Denver and plaques were being presented to our libraries as well.

Our partnerships are just beginning. Veliko Turnovo and Eagle Valley have the most interactive program going. They have already sent one box of books (test case) and there are four more ready to be mailed. The VT librarians also suggested a pen-pal program among the young kids and that is underway. They have been exchanging e-mail and snail-mail letters for several months.

Other partnerships are just getting started. E-mail in Bulgaria isn't always reliable and seems to float in and out of existence. Georgie Beltchev of the Sofia Public Library, however, was able to come to the American Library Association Conference in Chicago where he met Bill Knott. They are looking at a way for Mr. Beltchev to visit Jefferson County after next year's ALA meeting.

We made presentations to all six library directors and either the mayor or a representative from his/her office. The Sister Libraries program recognizes that most local libraries get their support because the local town government provides the funding so they are eager to recognize the mayors as well.

In Sofia, the presentation to Mr. Beltchev and Mayor Sofinanski was made at the American Information Center with Sofia librarians looking on. In Stara Zagora we made the presentation at the reception following the conference. As it turns out, both Mr. Miteva from the local parliament and Mrs. Krusteva from the Mayor's office BOTH wanted the plaque so I had to present it twice and ask them to share it. Mrs. Duncheva accepted for the library.

In Bourgas, we met in the government administrative offices with local librarians watching as Kostadina Hrousanova, the library director and Marusja Ljubcheva, the Deputy Mayor accepted plaques. In Varna we met in the mayor's office. Bulgarians are often very formal and this was the epitome of formality. Mayor Kiril Yordanov had his own translator and I had mine. He had newspaper and TV press on hand to film it all. He sat on one side of the table and I sat on the other, making the presentation a little awkward. He didn't smile except when he pointed out that Hilary Clinton had signed the plaque (which for the first and only time I forgot to mention.) (Clinton is a big favorite in Bulgaria because he visited Sofia last year.) Library Director Emiliya Steneva-Milkova accepted for the library with a big smile.

Dobritch is north of Varna on the Black Sea and far enough away we could not visit it this year. But Library Director Elena Koeva Urtchenko came to Varna and we repositioned all the chairs in the mayor's conference room and filmed the presentation to her as well.

Finally, in Veliko Turnovo, we met in the library director's office and talked for a long while before the presentation. Director Sasha Georgieva told us about the library and we talked about American library programs. Presentations were made to Mrs. Gerogieva and to the head of Cultural Programs, Veliko Ivanova. Later that afternoon we met the mayor, Dr. Rumen Rashev, a former neurologist,

now mayor. He is as different from the Varna mayor as possible. We met on the patio of the beautiful Arbanassi Palace, summer home of the Russian communists with a vista of mountains that rivals anything we have in Colorado. The mayor shared his dreams for the economic development of Veliko Turnovo and told us that the library director was retiring and he would make sure the new librarian supported this partner program.

Next month I'll tell you about the Association Tolerance, a new association of mayors committed to demonstrating to the world that ethnic groups in a Balkan country can live in peace.

Gateway to State Government Information: Using the State Publications Library Web Site

by Maureen Crocker, State Publications Consultant, <crocker_m@cde.state.co.us>

The State Publications Library (SPL), a part of the Colorado State Library, was created in 1980 to maintain a collection of documents of long-term value, published by every state agency. Today the library totals almost 18,000 titles in print format. But times are changing in state government publishing as elsewhere. Electronic publishing on the Internet led to the development of the official Colorado State Homepage a few years ago. This has resulted in access to more and more information electronically for the citizens of the state.

In response to electronic access, the SPL has done several things. One is to "capture" the electronic document for our collection through cataloging of the Web site for increased subject access. Another is the creation of a Web page with two purposes in mind:

- to provide an alternative point of entry to state information since Internet users have many doors to choose from during a search;
- secondly, the SPL has the opportunity to expand the breadth and depth of searching by integrating related information on a subject from different state agencies.

This is done through the cataloging of Web sites, as well as creating subject bibliographies and providing links to state information by subject categories.

The following is an explanation of the components and features of the SPL Web page located at <<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/slstpubs.htm>>.

Searching the Catalog

The collection is searchable by author, title, or keyword on our CARL database. The catalog includes print publications as well as state agency Web sites. Publications include annual reports, statistics, budget information, special reports, state plans, etc., in areas such as health, transportation, education, environment, business, regulation, and welfare.

Links to State Information by Subject

Links begin with quick useful facts and statistics for many topics plus the state symbols. Then there are links to the main State Homepage, Kids' Page, Seniors' Page, and the state telephone directory. Direct links to state Web sites for the areas of business, history/genealogy, higher education, K-12

education, legal, libraries, and tourism/recreation are included. This page offers useful and easy access to popular state Web information, and will continue to be updated with additional subjects.

Featured Subject Bibliographies

Lists of current titles on a popular subject in both print and electronic formats are created in order to highlight state information and allow for quicker access. Some of the lists now available are youth violence, business, developmental disabilities, seniors, and student achievement.

New Titles Lists

Every month the library publishes an alphabetical listing of state documents acquired that month. They are new to the library collection. However, these titles may not always have recent publication dates because the library periodically adds older gift titles that are included in the list.

Digital Documents

The library has begun to digitize selected Colorado State documents in an effort to enhance access to unique state documents for K-12 students, adult researchers, and the public. Initially, items will be chosen either because they provide online examples of valuable but underutilized print holdings or because they can be used to support K-12 education standards and are not widely distributed in print. Currently, the following documents are partially digitized:

First Biennial Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction of the Territory of Colorado, 1872
History of Colorado, 1927 (Education Chapter only)

Information About Our Library

This section answers such questions as:

What is the State Publications Library?

What are state publications?

Where can I find a list of publications?

How can I borrow publications?

Included is a link to a list of statewide Depository Libraries with direct links to search their catalogs.

Ask Us A Question

This page links to an email address for asking a question, as well as including a form to ask a detailed reference question to then fax or mail to the library. In the future, patrons will be able to submit the form electronically.

Tell Us How We're Doing

This is an email link for feedback regarding any comments about the library and/or the Web site.

What kinds of answers can be found through this gateway web site by clicking on "Links to State Information by Subject"?

- * Picture of the state bird
- * List of threatened/endangered animal and plant species with some photographs
- * Where and how much lottery money goes to each county
- * Colorado laws searchable by keyword
- * Graduation and drop out rates for each school district

* Current issue of all the local newspapers

State government agencies deal with most areas of our lives with laws, guidelines, reports, current statistics, or consumer information. When a reference questions comes across the desk, consider if the state would be involved, then check the State Publications Library Web Site for quick and easy access.

Colorado Library Marketing Council Online Course Available

by Bonnie McCune, Library Community Programs Consultant, <mccune_b@cde.state.co.us>

Now you can sign up to take the Colorado Library Marketing Council (CLMC) "Creating Change in Challenging Times: Marketing Tools for Librarians and Information Professionals" online course. This successful course has been taught five times to live audiences and is now an interactive Web-based learning experience. Beginning with the Fall 2000 course, two graduate credit hours will be available through Adams State College.

If you're not sure online learning is for you, check out these resources on the CLMC Web site <http://www.clmc.org/online_course.htm>:

Are Distance Learning Courses for Me?

Self Evaluation for Potential Online Students

What Every Student Should Know About Online Learning

What Makes a Successful Online Student?

Fall 2000: Registration deadline 9/5/00; course begins 9/11/00, \$55.00*

You may be eligible for a scholarship through the Colorado State Library for this course. See <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/slcescholarships_intro.htm>.

For information about content and instructors, to preview the online course syllabus, find out about technical requirements, or to register for the course, see <http://www.clmc.org/online_course.htm>.

*This course would normally be offered for \$190.00, but has been subsidized this session by a federal grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services with Library Services and Technology Act funds administered by the Colorado Department of Education, Colorado State Library. An additional \$60.00 tuition payment is required to receive graduate credit (2 hours) from Adams State College.

1999 Colorado School Library Media Center Data Now Available Online

The latest Colorado school library media center data (1999) is now available on the Library Research Service Web site at <<http://www.lrs.org>>.

The "Statistics and Input-Output Measures for School Library Media Centers in Colorado 1999" report includes complete data on hours of operation, schedule, staffing levels, staff activities, technology, collection holdings, services, and expenditures. Results were collected from 300+ schools responding to the Survey of School Library Media Centers in Colorado 1999.

GUI Grants Fund High Speed Internet Access in Colorado Libraries Congratulations, GUI Recipients!

by Rose Nelson, Technology Consultant, nelson_r@cde.state.co.us

Over a two-year period, 57 Colorado libraries were awarded Graphical User Interface (GUI) grants, a statewide LSTA initiative to bring libraries up to minimum technology standards of high speed Internet access and computers sufficient for accessing Web content. Cumulatively, libraries received over \$245,000 in GUI funds.

For some libraries, securing high speed Internet access was quite a feat. Services we take advantage of in urban areas such as digital subscriber line (DSL), cable modems, or even frame relay were unavailable or cost prohibitive for some rural areas. The one time installation charge coupled with no monthly access fees, made wireless an attractive option for several grant recipients. Conejos, Costilla, Center, Saguache, Fairplay, La Veta, Florence, Buena Vista, Aguilar, and Creede were second year recipients receiving wireless access.

The GUI grants also gave libraries an opportunity to form partnerships with their local schools. Florence Public Library and Penrose Library district formed wireless connections to their local schools to maintain high speed Internet connectivity.

Of the 55 libraries receiving GUI awards, 50 were funded for installation and one year of Internet access. Thirty-six libraries received computers, while 21 received printers. To maximize funds to the greatest number of libraries, during the second round of grants, applicants were required to apply for e-rate discounts and received GUI funds based on this.

With the assistance of GUI grant funding, all but 25 public libraries in Colorado will have high speed Internet access and computing power for information delivery. This increased bandwidth plays an essential role in delivering Web rich content such as digital images, multimedia files, and online catalog search results to patrons and library staff. The GUI grants help make libraries a vital player in the information age.

A list of GUI grant recipients is available online at <http://www.aclin.org/technology/gui.htm>.

Letters About Literature Writing Contest 2001

The Letters About Literature 18th annual writing contest invites students to write a letter to an author, living or dead, explaining how the author's book gave them wings and changed their way of

viewing the world and themselves.

The contest has two competition levels: Level I for students in grades 4-7; Level II for students in grades 8-12. Judges for the Center for the Book and Weekly Reader Corporation will select a national winner on both levels, with each winner receiving a \$500 cash award. Participating state Center for the Book affiliates will also present cash awards on both competition levels to the top essayists in their states.

For information, guidelines, and deadlines of this contest, visit the Library of Congress Web site at: <<http://lcweb.loc.gov/loc/cfbook/letters.html>>.

To view essays from Colorado's 2000 winners, visit <<http://www.cde.state.co.us/libnewsletter/sl0500a9.htm>> on the Colorado State Library Web site.

Notes to Note

Internet-based question-and-answer site AskAnything.com **seeks qualified library professionals with both general and specialized knowledge to answer questions** posted to our Web site. This isn't a full- or part-time position you need to apply for; simply register on the site and select categories of questions to answer as they come in. Earn supplemental income by answering questions in your spare time, with no commitment on your part. Visit <http://www.askanything.com> to register, or send e-mail to info@askanything.com for more information.

U.S. libraries of all types are invited to apply for a \$4,000 National Library Week Grant for the best library promotion/public awareness campaign tied to the goals and theme of National Library Week (April 1-7, 2001). The grant is sponsored by the Grolier Publishing Co. and administered by the National Library Week Committee of the American Library Association (ALA). This year's application deadline is November 15, 2000.

An application form and guidelines are available from the ALA Public Information Office. Telephone: 800-545-2433, ext. 5041/5044. E-mail: pio@ala.org. Or see the ALA Web site at www.ala.org/pio/nlw/grolierapp.html. The winner will be notified at the end of December and announced at the 2001 ALA Midwinter Meeting in Washington, D.C. For more information about the Campaign for America's Libraries, see the ALA Web site at www.ala.org/@yourlibrary.
