

Centennial State Libraries

August 3, 2001

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CVL Takes on Kids!

[KidsClick!](#), the “Web Search for Kids by Librarians” service, is now being developed and maintained by the Colorado State Library through the Colorado Virtual Library.

The KidsClick! web site database of cataloged sites, originally developed and managed by the Ramapo Catskill Library System (Middletown, NY) since 1997, handles nearly 10,000 visitors per hour during peak school hours. KidsClick! began as a positive response to both the polarizing filtering debate and a dearth of quality web search services for children. Seeded with a small LSTA grant in 1997, the project has operated without a budget since that time, relying on the efforts of its corps of volunteer maintainers and its hosting institutions. The Berkeley Digital Library *SunSITE* provides hosting services.

With hundreds of schools and public libraries linking to KidsClick!, it is one of the most successful web projects developed by a library institution. KidsClick! catalogs over 6500 hand-selected sites, offering comparatively lengthy (and indexed) site descriptions, a reading level indication, and a graphical content indication. It provides hierarchical subject browsing, keyword searching, alphabetical subject browsing, online-search skill tutorials, and links to spell checkers, image search sites, sound search sites, and other search sites. KidsClick!'s list of cataloged sites has long been made public, offered freely to interested non-profit or for-profit organizations.

Concurrent with the management change, KidsClick! is soliciting new volunteers to suggest and catalog sites. The Colorado State Library has already adapted use of the KidsClick! database in its [Colorado Virtual Library For Kids](#) web site. With this

experience and access to the Berkeley database and maintenance files, the Colorado State Library is positioned to test alternate methods of accessing the KidsClick! database.

For more information or to volunteer as a KidsClick! site selector (you must be a professional librarian or library school student), contact kclick@sunsite.berkeley.edu. If you are interested in working on the Colorado Virtual Library Best Web Sites Collection or CVL for Kids, please contact us as well at comments@aclin.org

Record Number of Readers Make Summer Reading a Smash at CTBL

For the very first time, Summer Readers at the Colorado Talking Book Library broke the 900 hour (967 as of July 23) mark for hours of reading Braille, large print, and talking books. A grand total of 54 young readers took part in the library's program, "2001: A Summer Reading Odyssey." On July 20, the last official day of the program, readers had tallied 948 hours spent reading during the six-week program.

Additionally, eight participants submitted tactile collages of outer space aliens. These are currently displayed in the Talking Book Library and will remain on display through the end of August. Also of special note is the Children's Corner on the CTBL web page. CTBL web master Alex Hernandez put thumbnails of all the kids' art projects, and parents are thrilled that they can show them to family around the country.. With even more services, the CTBL has added book recommendations for adults and young readers to the web site, courtesy of Lois Gross.

To see the Honor Roll of readers, winners of grand prizes, and thumbnail representations of the outer space collages, go to the [Colorado Talking Book Library - Children's Corner](#) web site.

CSL Staffer at Performance Measures Conference

Keith Curry Lance, director of CSL's Library Research Service, presents a paper on "Counting on Results," at the Fourth Northumbria International Conference of Performance Measurements in mid-August, in Pittsburg. The paper is based on LRS's current study about data collection at public libraries.

Public libraries collect different data, often in different ways. This study is the first of its kind to present a nationwide "snapshot" of public library use, gathering data for selected "Planning for Results" (PFR) service responses. Counting on Results (COR) proposes to close the gaps in the design of the PFR process so it can generate standardized outcome data that can be aggregated at state and national levels. The two gaps are 1) hardware and software tools required to collect detailed output data by service response and 2) standardized user survey questionnaires that enable libraries to collect comparable outcome data from users by service response. The Counting on Results project will be at the end of its data collection period this summer

and ready to report preliminary findings.

Parents' Choice Goes Online with Evaluations

Since 1978, the Parents' Choice Foundation, the country's oldest not-for-profit evaluator of children's media, has been providing librarians, principals, educators, parents and others concerned with the lives of children with independent reviews of quality children's books, audio tapes, software, toys, magazines, and television programming. Parents' Choice published a quarterly magazine for over 20 years with the majority of its subscribers being school librarians. In an effort to reach a broader audience of librarians, educators, parents and caregivers, Parents' Choice has moved its services online. Visit the [Parents' Choice](#) web site.

Grant to Recruit Latinos, Indians for Library Sciences

Fewer than 5 percent of Hispanics and 1 percent of American Indians work as academic or public librarians. The University of Arizona School of Information Resources and Library Science is hoping that a \$500,000 federal grant might help change that. The University of Arizona has received a two-year award from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Science to begin its "Knowledge River" project, aimed at increasing minority recruitment in library and information science degree programs. [\[SOURCE: Tucson Citizen\]](#)

The Web's True Digital Divide

Detailed data collected monthly by *comScore* is shedding light on the behavior of a broad sample of Internet users and is revealing that users' online activity is falling along lines of education levels. By sorting the 5000 most-visited sites along demographic divisions, *comScore* found that the top sites visited by the highly educated are relevant to their careers, while the top sites visited by people without a college education are for entertaining themselves and connecting with friends. The gap between the online content preferred by the highly educated and the less educated implies that the Internet alone will not be the bridge to close the economic divide, and may in fact exacerbate it. The data suggest that the Internet will economically benefit those who are already experienced in seeking, filtering and analyzing information before they get online. [\[SOURCE: Virtual New York, AUTHOR: Steve Sailer \(UPI National Correspondent\)\]](#)

(Prior two items provided by the [Benton Foundation](#). online communications service.)

Fellowship in Book Publishing Available

Fulcrum Publishing has established a semi-annual fellowship program in the spring and fall of each year. Candidates should have significant business, professional, educational or nonprofit experience. They may be retired or in the process of changing fields and enjoy the excitement of the world of books and ideas. Fellows are selected for a six-month period and receive a stipend of up to \$7500. Next deadline for applications is January 15. For information, contact 1.800.992.2908, 303.277.1623, fulcrum@fulcrum-books.com.

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

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