

Centennial State Libraries

August 12, 2005

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Live Homework Help Closes Shop

Live Homework Help, providing free tutoring after school, is no longer available. This online live tutoring service was offered in conjunction with AskColorado from August 2004-July 2005 for all students in Colorado. AskColorado is currently seeking funding to make this service available again. Please help spread the word to schools and other agencies. To find out more about the pilot year of Live Homework Help, or for students to provide comments about Live Homework Help, see <http://www.askcolorado.org/tutor.html>.

AskColorado continues to offer 24/7 information and research help in both English and Spanish for every resident and student in the state. AskColorado is an online chat service provided by libraries (school, public, academic, special) throughout Colorado and is available at

<http://www.askcolorado.org>.

More Closings, the Trickle-Down Effect

WebJunction Colorado, a one-year pilot project to customize a national portal of training resources for Colorado libraries, has closed. There no longer is Colorado membership, but Colorado members have been moved to a general WebJunction membership at <http://webjunction.org>, where you still have access to a wealth of resources and connections with other library community members from around the network.

Some content and discussions created by WebJunction Colorado remain available through the WebJunction site. For example, you can still find the Teen Services section (<http://webjunction.org/do/Navigation?category=7572>), and the Intellectual Freedom forum (<http://webjunction.org/forums/forum.jspa?forumID=108>).

Resources that were on WebJunction Colorado, but not part of the WebJunction site, can be found at this page on the Colorado State Library site (http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/technology/wj_co.htm).

A number of courses paid for by WebJunction Colorado are still available to library staff members in Colorado as a part of the state library's initial subscription service. You can access a limited number of WebJunction courses at no cost. Please just go to the Learning Center (<http://webjunction.org/do/Navigation?category=372>) and follow the instructions.

WebJunction remains committed to providing a space for all library staff to meet, share ideas, solve problems, take courses, and have fun. Even though you will no longer have the customized Colorado site, we hope that you will continue to join us in making WebJunction a vibrant online community for everyone to use and share. If you have any questions about the recent changes, or would like further information, please just send us an email to info@webjunction.org

The Big Read Grant Requests Due August

Due on or before August 31, 2005, grant applications for the National Endowment for the Arts "The Big Read." The Big Read is a national initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts designed to revitalize the role of literature in American popular culture and bring the transformative power of literature into the lives of its citizens. The Big Read will provide citizens with the opportunity to read and discuss a

single book within their community. Six communities of varying sizes across the country will be selected in the first year of the program. See <http://www.artsmidwest.org/downloads/bigReadRFP.pdf>

Award for Public Librarians

The New York Times is accepting nominations for the fifth annual New York Times Librarian Awards. Deadline is Sept. 2. The Times will recognize 27 public librarians from across the United States who provide outstanding community service on a consistent basis. Each winner will receive \$2,500 and a commemorative plaque in recognition of his or her achievements. Nominations should come from the general public. Nomination forms will be available at participating library branches until Sept. 1. The form can also be obtained from the New York Times Community Affairs Department web site, www.nytc.com/community.html Colorado librarians have done well in past awards.

The September Project Encourages Public Discussions for 9/11

The September Project, a grassroots effort to encourage public events in libraries on or around September 11. Events focus on ideas that matter, such as freedom, democracy, and citizenship. (<http://www.theseptemberproject.org/>). September Project events are not necessarily about September 11; they are events of reflection, discussion, and dialogue about the meaning of democracy, the role of information in promoting active citizenship, and the importance of literacy in making sense of the world around us.

Libraries are organizing displays, talks, and art exhibitions; youth and teen readings and writings; voter information and voter registration, and so much more. Events take place on September 11, on the weekend of September 11, or throughout the month of September, whichever date works best for libraries and communities. Sign up your library on the web site to appear on the map of participants. Visit <http://www.drizzle.com/~klockner/cgi-bin/tsp/2005/venue.cgi>

Denver Public Provides New Early Literacy Site

The Denver Public Library has launched Babble, Scribble, READ, <http://read.denverlibrary.org/>, a new website that provides parents and caregivers the tools to help their children along the road to reading. The website is based on the Public Library Association's Every Child Ready to Read program and guides parents through introducing and reinforcing the six early literacy skills which form the basis of what children use to learn to read and write. Babble, Scribble, READ is organized into three pre-literacy age groups: birth to 18 months, 18 months to 3 years and 3 to 5 years with activities and book lists appropriate for each age group. There is even a printable handout about reading aloud.

Lamar School District Scores

Lamar School District was awarded \$163,161 for the "Improving Literacy Through School Libraries" grant by the U. S. Department of Education. The Improving Literacy through School Libraries (LSL) program promotes comprehensive local strategies to improve student reading achievement by improving school library services and resources. School library media centers can contribute to improved student achievement by providing up-to-date instructional materials aligned to the curriculum and instructional practices, collaborating with and supporting teachers, administrators, and parents, and extending their hours of operation beyond the school day. The program has awarded 85 grants for 2005. Please view the 2005 LSL grant abstracts at <http://www.ed.gov/programs/lsl/awards.html>

The Lamar School District Re-2, situated in rural Colorado, serves 1,799 students (grades K-12) at 6 campuses. The District will address the literacy needs of its students through the Libraries Count program: enhancing the library collections and resources, improving technology resources available to students with new software tools, providing professional development and training to incorporate literacy into all aspects of learning, and increasing access through expanded hours.

Arapahoe Library District Receives National Budget Award

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada recently announced that the Arapahoe Library District has received the GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its budget. The award represents a significant achievement for the Library District, since it reflects the commitment of the government body and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting.

Arapahoe Celebrates Centennial's 5th Anniversary

Arapahoe Library District, the City of Centennial and the Arapahoe Library Friends Foundation are celebrating the city's fifth anniversary with Capture Centennial Photo and Poetry contests. Winning entries will be part of an exhibit that travels to various public locations in Centennial through June 2006. The deadline for both contests is Friday, September 2, at 5 p.m. Winners will be announced September 23, 7 p.m. For additional rules and judging criteria, stop by an Arapahoe Library District library for a flyer or visit www.arapahoelibraries.org.

Resolution on Threats to Library Materials

A resolution on threats to library materials related to sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation, adopted by ALA at the June conference, may be found at <http://www.ala.org/ala/oif/statementspols/ifresolutions/threats.htm> The statement serves to guide libraries as well as providing a model for local resolutions or activities.

Library Mainstay Passes Away

Oreada Mitchell, retired Colorado State Library correctional library consultant, passed away in late July. Oreada worked in the State Library's Institutional Library Service program for 22 years, initially as Shadow Mountain Correctional Facility's first librarian, then for Colorado Women's, Four Mile, and Skyline Correctional Centers. In 1995 she became a Regional Librarian, supervising library operations for multiple Department of Corrections libraries. She retired in October of 2003. She mentored many library staff in her career, helping them avoid the pitfalls that can result from being a librarian in a prison, and teaching them to reconcile the dual roles of providing security while being a library professional. The powerful impact she had in prison libraries is known by the many offenders whose lives she affected. Oreada was active in the library community, chaired the Colorado Library Association's Paralibrarian Division, and was the recipient of the Paralibrarian of the Year award.



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