

Centennial State Libraries

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AskColorado Launches Collaborative Virtual Reference

Last week, AskColorado collaborative virtual reference service launched for all Colorado residents and students to use. Library staff have been working for more than a year to make the vision of 24/7 online library reference service a reality. So far, 43 public, academic, school and special libraries are involved in this project, with a goal of answering over 10,000 questions in the first year. Please ask library staff to promote this service to all communities and students. To access AskColorado and public information about the project, visit the web site [HTTP://WWW.ASKCOLORADO.ORG](http://www.askcolorado.org).

You also can access through the Colorado Virtual Library homepage: [HTTP://WWW.ACLIN.ORG](http://www.aclin.org) and the AskColorado logo/link at the bottom and through links on numerous library homepages. From CVL, you can tap instructions for adding the AskColorado logo and link to your library homepage, as well as press releases and marketing material. The AskColorado collaborative virtual

reference project is funded through the Colorado State Library under a Library Services Technology Act (LSTA) grant. Colorado's participating libraries also provide funds and staffing to make this virtual reference service available to Colorado citizens and students anytime they need us. For information, contact Sharon Morris, Coordinator, 303-866-6727, morris_s@cde.state.co.us.

State Librarian's Report: The Summer of 2003

My intent to write a weekly report to the Library Community fell apart this summer. Too much too fast. Here's a catch-up report.

Budget

The good news is that there have been no additional budget cuts. We've spent the summer explaining the budget to various groups. In June, I made a power point presentation to the State Board of Education about the budget cuts to libraries ([HTTP://WWW.CDE.STATE.CO.US/CDELIB/SLPUBS.HTM](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/slpubs.htm)). They were very responsive and agreed to send four (4) library requests to the Governor's office of state Planning and Budgeting. They are:

- Colorado Virtual Library increase of \$35,979 to \$395,776
- System Funding increase of \$400,000 to \$1,000,000
- Star Lending (revision of Payment for Lending) \$180,000
- Institution Library materials \$50,000

Impact of Budget Cuts

Gene Hainer did an informal survey about the impact of the cuts. At the request of a new CAL committee, Keith Lance is doing a formal survey. Look for notice of the survey and how you can participate in it. Preliminary results will be presented at the CAL Conference.

Systems

We've met several times with Regional System representatives. The System funding dropped from \$2.3 million to \$600,000 this year. Much discussion ensued as how to allocate this \$600,000. A news release on System funding was released and you can see it at [HTTP://WWW.CDE.STATE.CO.US/CDELIB/SLRLSS.HTM](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/slrlss.htm).

Infrastructure Study

One activity of the Systems is an Infrastructure Study. This study has the charge to:

Study and recommend efficient and effective ways to deliver services which have traditionally been provided by Regional Systems and the State Library, focusing on resource sharing, library and staff development, consulting/technical assistance, and advocacy.

Judith Griffiths, Director of Southwest Library Services, is leading the study. She is putting up a web site that will include all the handouts and agendas, and meeting notes. We'll let you know as soon as the web site address is available.

CoLAB

The Colorado Library Advisory Board replaces the Colorado Council for Library Development and the Resource Sharing Board. It is appointed by the State Board of Education. Chaired this year by Nancy Edmonds, Director of Aims Community College Libraries, CoLAB had its first meeting on July 1. A new web site has been established so you can check out CoLAB for yourself at [HTTP://WWW.CDE.STATE.CO.US/CDELIB/COLAB/INDEX.HTM](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/colab/index.htm).

Berlin

I was privileged to attend the World Information Conference (International Federation of Library Associations-IFLA) in Berlin, Germany. I went on vacation time and at my own expense. I'm a member of the IFLA Government Libraries Standing Committee. All of the papers are on the IFLA website, [HTTP://WWW.IFLA.ORG](http://www.ifla.org). One interesting project I will be working on is Standards for Government Libraries. I also visited two government libraries and helped sponsor a program on how government libraries change when major government structures change, such as in Germany and Bulgaria. You can see the report of my trip at [HTTP://WWW.CDE.STATE.CO.US/CDELIB/SLLINKS.HTM](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/sllinks.htm).

Colorado Civic Canopy

Senator Sue Windels has formed the Colorado Civic Canopy to look at the issue of civic engagement. Bill Knott from Jefferson County Public Library is on the committee with me. On August 29, we heard from Drew Durham, Director of the Colorado office to implement the federal Help America Vote Act. I learned that the Colorado Voter Registration Application Form is advertised as available in all public libraries. We will be sending these out to all public libraries with information on how you can get quantities of these forms.

- Nancy M. Bolt

CDP Receives Grant to Create Colorado's Historical Newspaper Collection

The Colorado Digitization Program (CDP), Colorado State Library and Colorado Historical Society received a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant for \$120,000 to begin the process of digitizing Colorado's historic newspapers from 1859-1880. Initially forty-four newspapers representing more than 50,000 pages will be included in Colorado's Historical Newspaper Collection. Through this project researchers, genealogists, students, teachers and those interested in Colorado history will be able to search for a wide range of topics, people and events as well as view full page images of these historic newspapers.

The project will provide students and educators-and anyone who loves Colorado history-with an unparalleled view of Colorado's past, and will scan across all newspapers at one time, which is now not possible. Additional newspapers will be added as funds are available. The Colorado Historical Newspaper Collection will be available on the Internet through CDP's web site ([HTTP://WWW.CDPHERITAGE.ORG](http://www.cdpheritage.org)) and the Colorado Virtual Library ([HTTP://WWW.ACLIN.ORG](http://www.aclin.org)). More information is available online or by e-mailing colodig@coalliance.org.

In other digitization news, to mark the completion of the Western Trails Project, the CDP hosted the Western Trails Project Roundup last week. Western Trails is a collaborative digitization project that includes participating institutions from Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska and Wyoming with collections related to westward migration, settlement, and development. The Roundup featured demonstrations and presentations, including Daniel Greenstein, Executive Director of the California Digital Library, on "There's No End to the Trail: How to Sustain the Digital Library." View additional information about the Roundup at [HTTP://WWW.CDPHERITAGE.ORG/WESTERNTRAILS/ROUNDUP/](http://www.cdpheritage.org/WesternTrails/Roundup/)

More News on Schools and School Libraries

The latest ASCD ResearchBrief - <http://www.ascd.org/cms/objectlib/ascdframeset/index.cfm?publication=http://www.ascd.org/publications/researchbrief/index.html> -- is "School Libraries and their Impact on Student Performance." It describes the Texas research study and cites the Colorado study. It again confirms a direct correlation between quality of school library media program and student achievement.

Colorado Has New Library Law

The Colorado Library Law Bill (SB03-326) took effect on August 15. It was introduced by Sen. Bruce Cairns and Rep. Nancy Spence. Library staff, governing boards, and agency attorneys who need to keep current on library law should be aware of the new law and familiar with the changes. Among the changes: any combination of two or more governmental units (cities, counties, library districts) may establish a separate governmental entity known as a "Regional Library Authority." See information about the law at [HTTP://WWW.CDE.STATE.CO.US/CDELIB/LIBRARYLAW/INDEX.HTM](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/librarylaw/index.htm).

Library Builds Community Partnership, Receives Art

An unveiling of a new installation at the Auraria Library, "The Journey," will take place on Wednesday, September 10, from 10 to 11 a.m. The Journey is a mural commissioned by Assets for Colorado Youth, a nonprofit organization, to bring a message of hope and healing to communities following the Columbine High School tragedy in 1999. Five young artists, working under the direction of renowned muralist Leo Tanguma, created the 12-foot-high, two-sided mural with images invoking the message of rising from violence and despair to enlightenment and hope. The Journey will become a permanent installment in the Auraria Library on the Auraria Campus. This is a good example of a new community partnership, with an academic library working with a service organization to benefit both. For information on the event, call 303-556-6381 or 303-832-1587.

Guadalajara International Book Fair Provides Support for ALA Members

ALA and the Guadalajara International Book Fair are partnering for the seventh year to provide support for ALA members to attend the 17th Guadalajara International Book Fair (FIL) from November 29 - December 3, 2003. The ALA-FIL FREE PASS Program provides 3 days lodging, continental breakfast, and registration (six nights if you share a room with a colleague who is also part of the program) and \$100 toward the cost of airfare. FREE PASSES will be awarded to librarians who work in the area of Spanish language acquisitions and/or are working to build their Spanish language collection to better serve their community and users. Applicants must be ALA Personal Members. Visit WWW.ALA.ORG/WORK/INTERNATIONAL/GUADALAJARA.HTML to download the application.

Library Journal Requests Information and Nominations

- LJ Architectural Questionnaire for Public Libraries, whose work was completed between JULY 1, 2002 and JUNE 30, 2003, is online at [HTTP://LIBRARYJOURNAL.REVIEWSNEWS.COM/CONTENTS/PDF/LJARCHITECTURALSURVEY2003.PDF](http://LIBRARYJOURNAL.REVIEWSNEWS.COM/CONTENTS/PDF/LJARCHITECTURALSURVEY2003.PDF). Deadline for the questionnaire is October 6.
- The editors also are seeking nominations for LJ Librarian of the Year 2004. See information at [HTTP://LIBRARYJOURNAL.REVIEWSNEWS.COM/INDEX.ASP?LAYOUT=ARTICLE&ARTICLEID=CA315730&](http://LIBRARYJOURNAL.REVIEWSNEWS.COM/INDEX.ASP?LAYOUT=ARTICLE&ARTICLEID=CA315730&). The deadline for nominations is Thursday, November 17, 2003.

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

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