

Centennial State Libraries

October 24, 2003

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From the State Librarian Week of September 15-26, 2003: Infrastructure, CoLAB, Systems

- **Infrastructure Committee**

On Monday, September 15, the first meeting of the Infrastructure Committee met. This committee is being led by Judith Griffith at Southwest System and is looking at how statewide services, such as continuing education, consulting, courier, and library development, might need to be restructures as a result of the current budget situation. The group is large, for the most part self-nominated, and very willing to discuss these important issues.

The group heard background information from Jim Zelinski from the Fiscal Policy Institute and me about the budget issues. It's not pretty. It looks as if

there will be enough money to pay for the budget passed by the Legislature for FY 03-04. However, it currently looks as if more cuts may have to be made for FY 04-05. Some of the scenarios included merging existing systems into fewer systems; organizing one large system with staff placed around the state; asking an existing organization (CAL, BCR, the State Library) to take over services offered by the Systems. All of these and more will be explored further.

At this first meeting the group also defined the range of services to be discussed and the norms that would be used to evaluate the suggestions for restructuring. Finally the group also began a discussion of possible scenarios from no funding from the state or federal government to slightly more funding than available now. This topic will be considered further at the next meeting on October 9 and 10th. All the documents of the committee are at <http://www.swlibraries.org/task.force>. So you are invited to see what the group is discussing.

- **CoLAB**

The new Colorado Library Advisory Board (CoLAB) also met this week as well. You may remember that this group is appointed by the State Board of Education and combines the previous Colorado Council for Library Development and Resource Sharing Board. At this second meeting CoLAB is still getting organized, passing bylaws, and establishing committees. Right now it looks as if the following committees will continue:

- AIRS – negotiates database contracts
- Special Populations – awards scholarships to librarians who work with ethnic groups and people with disabilities.
- Courier – study courier structure, pricing, and administration and make recommendations.
- Strategic Plan For Colorado Libraries – our previous plan, “The Future is Now”, expires in 2004. We need to begin work on the next one.

- **System 14ers**

The 14ers consist of two representatives from each System. It used to be the System Director and a member of the System Board, and it met once a year. Now, with three Systems without Directors, the 14ers now meets quarterly and Board members represent the Systems.

News from the Systems

- Plains and Peaks has reduced staff to two people, staying in the same office space, and planning continuing education.
- Pathfinder has closed its office, laid off all staff, dispersed equipment and contracted with Arkansas Valley System for continuing education.
- Three Rivers has closed its office, dispersed equipment, laid off all staff, with one part-time contract staff remaining. Three Rivers took over TriPath until December 1st and after that the TriPath libraries will have to find another Internet Service Provider. Three Rivers is also

- sending at least one person from each library to CAL
- Arkansas Valley is keeping its office and has one full-time and 5 part-time people. Arkansas Valley is offering continuing education and consulting to Arkansas Valley and Pathfinder.
- Southwest Systems has its office and 2 full-time staff and 2 part-time on contract. Southwest gave its computer lab to a local public library. They are planning continuing education.
- High Plains has its office and 2 staff. They have a new website and have created a wonderful t-shirt called the Samurai Librarian who is "strong, vocal, creative, educated, politically savvy, forward thinking, one of many."
- Central System is moving to a smaller office in a different location. CCLS has renegotiated the courier contract to build upon for next year. Power Libraries applications have been received and grants will be mailed. CCLS is now advertising for an administrator for the System.

The group also discussed public library trustee training, training for new untrained school media staff, and mentoring. The 14ers also discussed the progress on the Infrastructure Study and their hopes for a recommendation that allows equitable continuing education and consulting and resource sharing for all libraries throughout the state.

• Other Meetings

On September 23, we learned that OSPB has not approved any of CDE's budget increases for libraries. They also did not recommend any additional cuts. On the same day, I had the opportunity to speak to the Legislature's Interim Committee on Government Services. I presented information on the import of the budget cuts and answered questions about systems, courier, and federal funding.

On September 25, I was privileged to speak to the English Language Acquisition Director's Consultation Conference. I was thrilled to be able to emphasize the new CVL interface with the Spanish option and the new 24/7 AskColorado reference service, also available in Spanish.

On September 26, I was able to attend the annual meeting of the Colorado Academic Library Consortium (CALC). Their special guest was Gully Stanford, recently a member of the State Board of Education and now a member of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE). Gully was supposed to speak, but as is like him, he gave a very short introduction and then asked the academic librarians to share their successes and concerns. Big issues included the import of budget cuts at Colorado's colleges and Universities. The librarians made the point that libraries cooperate to serve Colorado's students, faculty, and residents better AND that this cooperation saves the taxpayers and the institutions dollars. The State needs to support these cooperative efforts. Gully got the point and said he would convey it to CCHE.

It's been a busy two weeks and won't settle down until almost Thanksgiving!!

Nancy M. Bolt, State Librarian

From the State Librarian September 29 – October 15: Superintendents meetings; Governor's office declines all library program increases; Homeland Security, AskColorado

On Tuesday, September 30th, I made two Power Point presentations. Everybody wants to meet before the snow flies.

Tuesday morning on the 30th, I spoke to 50 school administrators in the Pikes Peak Region. I emphasized the changes in CVL, the new CVL interface, the new school endorsement rules, and the ongoing educational technology/information literacy effort. They were pleased to hear about the new endorsement rules and asked about endorsement programs outside the metro area. (See http://www.cde.state.co.us/index_library.htm for the new rules. It's under the "What's New" section.)

We are also working with the CDE Educational Technology Center to design a Power District program that is based on the successful Power Libraries model. It will include merit school districts in educational technology/information literacy working with developing districts that have made a commitment to develop a high-quality educational technology/information literacy program.

In the afternoon I presented a State of the State to the Plains and Peaks Regional Library System. We met at the new (still under construction) Rampart Library District library in Woodland Park. What a wonderful facility this will be. Library Director Sharon Quay has done a fantastic job of designing (with the help of an architect to be sure!) an attractive, inviting, and functional building. The State of the State was basically the same as the Superintendents' presentation with a lot more on the budget cuts.

As usual, the depths of the cuts and the statewide impact in terms of the underlying infrastructure of library cooperation was surprising to people. One person asked if we realized how important it is to have regional staff? I said yes, but if there is no money, what do we do?

On Wednesday, I attended a Colorado Digitization Project Board meeting. This project is soooo exciting! Evaluations of the programs are coming in, and they are astounding. In the Education Project, which trained teachers in using primary (original) materials, results showed teachers were more ready to revise curriculum to include digitized materials, and that kids also used primary materials more after a teacher exposed the students to the resources. CDP also approved a new strategic plan that includes goals on online access to digitized resources; increasing the capacity of cultural participating institutions to encourage, enhance, and expand collaboration; to demonstrate the value of cultural heritage institutions and digitized resources; and enhance sustainability of CDP as an organization.

Thursday saw a repeat performance at the Legislative Interim Committee on Government services. Most of the questions had to do with school finance.

In talking to finance staff, I was also informed that the funding of \$600,000 for Regional Library Systems was intended for only one year. That would mean this is the last year of state funding for systems and further reduces the state's maintenance of effort for federal funds.

On October 3, I traveled to the Missouri Library Association to make a presentation on the new Web Junction Technology Portal. This portal is full of helpful information. We encourage you to seek answers to your technology questions from this source.

While I was in Missouri, I attended a fascinating program on Homeland Security. I confess, I have been reluctant to embrace Homeland Security because I confuse it in my mind with the Patriot Act. State Librarian, Sara Parker, opened my eyes with a presentation on her cooperation with the Missouri Homeland Security Education Program. She discussed a 3-step program called Ready in 3. The 3 being:

- Prepare a plan
- Prepare a kit
- Listen for information

Under Step 1, Prepare a Plan, she included an evacuation plan for the library itself, but also offering the library as a short or long term evacuation site because it has open space within the building for large crowds, it has computers, and people feel safe and secure in libraries. She pointed out that people visited libraries after 9/11 because they wanted not only information, but also a sense of community.

Under Step 2, Prepare a Kit, she included knowing and publicizing the assets of the library. She suggested assessing the skill base of library staff who speak another language? Children's librarians have skill in calming and dealing with children. Libraries have computers and usually a large bandwidth. Libraries have bookmobiles often with generators that can provide emergency electricity and delivery vans. Libraries have information resources such as Physicians Desk Reference and Polk Directories to find people.

Step 3, Listen for Information, emphasizes the role of the library in prioritizing accurate and comprehensive information. People use the Internet all the time, but they tend to trust libraries for accurate information. Librarians are also compatible with getting and giving information to the public.

I'm going to be exploring what Colorado's Homeland Security office is doing.

On Monday, October 6, I traveled to Grand Junction to speak to the Western Colorado Superintendents. Same State of the State presentation, same positive response to our new library programs of AskColorado, the new CVL, the new endorsement rules, and the education technology/information literacy effort.

On October 8, we had a great press conference to inaugurate AskColorado, the new online reference service. We had good press coverage and Randy DeHoff, Chair of the State Board of Education, and Jared polis, Vice-Chair, both spoke about the value of AskColorado. To prepare for his remarks, Board member DeHoff tried out AskColorado with a test question – looking for the source of a quote by John Adams. Our talented online reference librarians found the quote which DeHoff was able to read, and afterwards I heard him praising AskColorado to Tim Foster, Executive Director of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education, and Gully Stanford, who

just finished a term on the state Board and has been appointed to CCHE.

On Wednesday, October 15, I attended my first meeting of the Online Education Committee appointed by the Commissioner of Education. I was just recently appointed to this Committee and at this meeting they began discussing what constitutes a quality online educational program. I was asked to contribute some ideas about how information literacy skills can be included in the criteria.

Coming up next issue – CAL

Your exhausted State Librarian, Nancy Bolt

MPLA Selects Three Coloradans

At the recent Mountain Plains Library Association conference, awards were given to three Coloradans:

- 2003 News Media Support Award to KOAA Channel 5/30 Television, Colorado Springs in recognition of outstanding media support to promote libraries and librarians.
- 2003 Intellectual Freedom Award, Joyce Meskis, Tattered Cover Bookstore, Denver, In recognition of outstanding contributions to the enhancement of First Amendment rights.
- 2003 Carl Gaumer Exhibitors Award, Stan Terry, Vice President, Mountain Plains EBSCO Subscription Services, Denver, In recognition of exemplary support of the MPLA and the MPLA Leadership Institute.

School Libraries Continue to Make News

Two articles about the value of school libraries have recently appeared. The first was in Vancouver (BC), about the lack of school libraries contributing to lower reading skills. <http://tinyurl.com/qki0>. The second was in Orlando FL, where the "Sentinel" has made this issue a major concern: "Good libraries boost readers". <http://tinyurl.com/qrz4>.

Quick Guide to Colorado State Government Statistical Information

The State Publications Library has compiled this guide to selected web and print resources from state government agencies of value to the general public. Also, bookmark our library web site link <http://www.cde.state.co.us/stateinfo> and search our catalog for additional print/electronic publications. Please share this information

with other staff and the public.

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/stateinfo/QGGovtStatistics.htm>

by the State Publications Library
Denver, Colorado

Contact: Maureen K. Crocker, crocker_m@cde.state.co.us

September 2003

Various agencies of Colorado state government provide statistical data and related information on a large variety of topics. The web links included in this brief list will lead to additional resources. This is a quick information guide to selected print and electronic publications, as well as web sites, maintained by state agencies only. Many current and historical print publications on this topic are available to borrow from the State Publications Library.

GENERAL:

- CEDIS – Colorado Economic and Demographic System – data by state, region, county, municipality, and special district
<http://www.dola.state.co.us/is/cedishom.htm>
- Census Statistics – Population, demographic, & economic, etc.
<http://www.dola.state.co.us/demog/Index.htm>
- Colorado by the Numbers – an online statistical abstract by topic from age and cities to transportation and water
<http://www.colorado.edu/libraries/govpubs/online.htm>
- Colorado Data Book – Economic base data plus technology sector, tourism, tax, employment, etc.
http://www.state.co.us/oed/bus_fin/contents.html
- Colorado Index – Tracking trends in community, environment, social and political issues
<http://www.coloradocenter.org>
- Elections Center – Abstract of votes cast current and historic
<http://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/main.htm>
- Housing Division– Households, costs, vacancy surveys, etc.
<http://www.dola.state.co.us/Doh/Publications.htm>

AGRICULTURE:

- Colorado Agriculture Profile – Summary data and rankings
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/co/profile.htm>
- Colorado Agricultural Statistics Service – Link to Census of Agriculture
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/co/>

BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS:

- Colorado Economic Chronicle – Monthly briefing on economic activity published by the General Assembly
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcs/chronicle/chindex.html
- Consumer Price Index - From 1964 through 2002 with projections for 2003, 2004 and 2005.
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcs/Econ_Main.htm
- Economic Perspective – Revenue and economic quarterly forecasts published by the State Office of Planning and Budgeting
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/govnr_dir/ospb/econ.html#cep
- Focus Colorado – Outlook for state's revenues and economy more in-depth than the Chronicle also published by the General Assembly
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcs/focus/focus.html
- Labor Market Information – Statistics on labor, employment, wages, etc.
<http://www.coworkforce.com/LMI/>
- Travel and Tourism – Research on trends in the industry
<http://www.state.co.us/oed/cto/#Research>

CRIME, CORRECTIONS, AND COURTS:

- Corrections – Admissions & releases, inmate characteristics, etc.
<http://www.doc.state.co.us/Statistics/2GSRE.htm>
- Corrections – Projections for the size of inmate populations
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcs/Econ_Main.htm
- Courts – Annual reports for the Judicial Branch
<http://www.courts.state.co.us/panda/statrep/pandaannualsindex.htm>
- Crime in Colorado – From 1998 to 2002 plus missing children report
http://cbi.state.co.us/dr/docs_reports.asp
- Youth Corrections – Juvenile offenders and parole data
<http://www.cdhs.state.co.us/dyc/Home.htm>

EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES:

- Library Statistics – Current and historic data on academic, public, and school libraries in the state and nationwide
<http://www.lrs.org>
- School Accountability Reports – Individual school reports on academic performance, CSAP results, safety, student/teacher ratio, etc.
<http://reportcard.cde.state.co.us/reportcard/CommandHandler.jsp>

- School District Revenues and Expenditures - 1996/97 to current
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdefinance/RevExp.htm>
- School and District Statistics – Pupil membership, graduation, dropout, suspension/expulsion, staff, summary data, directory, etc.
http://www.cde.state.co.us/index_stats.htm
- Special Education Data Report – 1997/98, 1998/99 & 1999/2000
http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdespedfin/SPED_DataReports.htm
- Student Assessment – CSAP and ACT test results
http://www.cde.state.co.us/index_assess.htm

HEALTH:

- Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System – County-level survey results
<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/hs/brfss/>
- Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries
<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/hs/cfoi/>
- Health and Disease Statistics – Also birth, death, marriage, & divorce
<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/stats.asp>
- Health Information Dataset – Local data on birth, cancer, trauma, etc.
<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/cohid/>
- Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System – County-level data
<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/hs/prams/>
- Vital Statistics – Birth, death, and population
<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/hs/vs/>
- Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System – High school survey results
<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/hs/yrbs/>

NATURAL RESOURCES:

- Avalanche Information Center – Includes avalanche accident data
<http://geosurvey.state.co.us/avalanche/>
- Hunting – Recap summaries and harvest survey statistics
<http://wildlife.state.co.us/huntrecap/>
- Mining Data – Production and mining activity
<http://mining.state.co.us/Reports/dmgReports.htm>
- Oil and Gas Conservation Commission – Production and area reports
<http://www.oil-gas.state.co.us/>

- Water Resources – Annual statistics on ground and surface water activity
<http://water.state.co.us/pubs/cummulrpt.asp>

REVENUE AND TAXES:

- Gaming Industry Statistics
<http://www.gaming.state.co.us/publications.htm>
- Property Taxation Statistics
<http://www.dola.state.co.us/PropertyTax/Publications/Publislintro.htm>
- Retail Sales Statistics
http://www.revenue.state.co.us/stats_dir/taxstats.html
- Tax and Revenue Statistics
http://www.revenue.state.co.us/stats_dir/annualreports.html

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION:

- State Patrol – Traffic accident data related to alcohol, drugs, aggressive and teen drivers, motorcycles, seatbelt use and some information by counties.
<http://csp.state.co.us/Stats/Overview.htm>
- Transportation – Current and projected traffic volumes, state highway attributes, summary roadway statistics, demographics and geographic data, maps and database files
http://www.dot.state.co.us/App_DTD_DataAccess/index.cfm

PRINT STATISTICAL PUBLICATIONS

For records of print publications to borrow and/or links to electronic publications, search our library catalog with keywords: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/stateinfo>

The following is a list of selected current and historic print publication titles:

- “Colorado Business Economic Outlook” which continues the “Colorado Business Economic Outlook Forum” – State Publications has 1968 to current
- “Colorado Ski Industry: Highlights of the (year) Season” - library has incomplete holdings from 1982/83 to 1989/99 – no longer published
- “Colorado Year Book” – library has this annual, biennial, or triennial statistical abstract-type publication from 1918 through 1964 – no longer published
- “Standard Summary of Motor Vehicle Traffic Accidents in Colorado” – library has this annual publication for 1962 (semi-annual), 1971, 1977, and 1982 to the current
- “Statistical Abstract of Colorado” - library has 1976/77 and 1987 – no longer published
- “Vital Statistics” – library has from 1983 to 2000 – continued by online resources listed above and the “Colorado Health Watch” in paper
- Print information from the Colorado Department of Education, much of which has been continued online, includes:

- “The Biennial Report of the Superintendent of Instruction” contains early statistics on school districts - library has 1870-71 to 1962-64.
- Pupil membership, statistics, ethnicity, achievement, etc. by district – library has by various titles from 1961/62 to 1999
- Certificated personnel, statistics, salaries, etc. by district – 1968 to 1997
- Dropout rates and graduation rates – 1985 to 1998 (earlier rates are in Pupil Membership reports, but reported differently)
- Revenue and expenditures – 1969 to current
- Public school transportation – 1969 to 1991
- Annual report, K-12 public education - 1980 to 1999, 1987, 1991, and 1998 were not published

What’s All About Me?

“It’s All About You - A Survey of Colorado Library Personnel” was launched recently. Sponsored by Colorado Association of Libraries Management and Administration Division [MADCAL] the survey is intended for ALL Colorado library personnel and information professionals from directors and administrators to librarians and paraprofessionals to clerks and pages. The study includes personnel in all types of libraries – academic, public, school, and special libraries – as well as information professionals in non-library settings.

Who: All library personnel and information professionals in Colorado’s academic, public, school, and special libraries, as well as non-traditional information centers

When: October 15 to November 30, 2003

Why: Because great libraries need great people!

Where: Go to www.LRS.org and click on “It’s All About You”

This LSTA funded project will provide data to the leaders of academic, public, school, and special libraries about critical staffing issues in libraries across Colorado. The goal of this project is to provide data that will inform decisions about staffing, strengthen the library profession, and ultimately better serve Coloradans.

The survey takes less than 5 minutes and is your opportunity to share your opinions and experiences with the library community. Please participate in this important survey and encourage your colleagues to participate, too. Because...It’s All About You!

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

Last Modified: 10/24/2003

