

Centennial State Libraries

November 21, 2003

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Why IT Has Not Paid Off as We Hoped (Yet) By Edward L. Ayers and Charles M. Grisham

The accomplishments of colleges and universities, like their technology, have tended to become invisible because they have been so successful. If you had told people ten years ago that card catalogs would virtually disappear over the next decade, to be replaced by the systems we now enjoy for the management of all forms of information, they would not have believed you. The real heroes of the digital revolution in higher education are librarians; they are the people who have seen the farthest, done the most, accepted the hardest challenges, and demonstrated most clearly the benefits of digital information. In the process, they have turned their own field upside down and have revolutionized their own professional training. It is a testimony to their success that we take their achievement for granted.

Excerpted from (c) 2003 Edward L. Ayers and Charles M. Grisham EDUCAUSE Review, vol. 38, no. 6 (November/December 2003): 40-51.

Nobel Prize Writer Singer Spotlighted by ALA Grants

The American Library Association has announced the availability of grants in the amount of \$450 as part of a year-long centennial celebration of Isaac Bachevis Singer's works. Support materials and grants are available for discussions, readings, screenings, dramatizations. "Assimilating America" applications are due by December 15. For information, contact Laura Hayes, ALA Public Programs, 312.280.5055, lhayes@ala.org, or visit http://www.ala.org/Content/NavigationMenu/Our_Association/Offices/Public_Programs_Office/Current_Programs/Assimilating_America_The_Life_and_Stories_of_Issac_Bashevis_Singer/Assimilating_America_The_Life_and_Stories_of_Isaac_Bashevis_Singer.htm (good luck).

More Mini-Grants for Children's Literacy Available

The Colorado Parent & Child Foundation, in cooperation with the Rocky Mountain Antiquarian Booksellers Association, the Colorado State Library, and the Colorado Association of Libraries, will award ten mini-grants of \$100 each to ten public OR school libraries to improve children's literacy programs. Applications are due by December 15, 2003. For a very short application form, contact Bonnie McCune, Library Community Programs Consultant, Colorado State Library, mccune_b@cde.state.co.us, 303.866.6891.

Resources for Teaching Spanish Speakers in Libraries

The Colorado State Library, as part of a training grant sponsored by the Gates Foundation, has put together several resources from the courses and other resources of library staff. Thanks to Vicky Nason, formerly with the Denver Public Library, and Ursula Cristol, Telluride Public Library, for contributing Spanish computer resources. Resources include topics like: Clases de Computacion en Espanol-Module I, Clases de Computacion en Espanol-Modulo II-Internet Basico II ; Instructions on setting up a Hotmail account in Spanish; and Instructions on setting up a Yahoo account in Spanish. If you are considering offering computer classes in Spanish at your library, and are looking for basic curriculum, please check out the resources on the Colorado Gates web site at: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/technology/gtrain.htm>. Or, if you have Spanish computer instruction materials that you would like us to link to or post directly from the Colorado Gates Grant web site, please let us know. Contact Rose Nelson, nelson_r@cde.state.co.us, 303.866.6946.

Combining Community Outreach with Halloween Fun

John F. Reed Library at Fort Lewis College proves that community outreach can be just plain fun. They report: One of our staff members came up with the idea of having our library student workers have a pumpkin carving contest for Halloween. It was a success!! We had 14 of our 20 students enter and then displayed above the reference desk. There were also prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. Our director announced the contest over our phone message system and also placed a message over our campus listservs. We had a total of 118 votes with people from all over the campus stopping by to vote. When our director went to a meeting the next day, a few people asked him which pumpkin won. We also contacted our campus newspaper to request coverage if they had open space. To our surprise, the pumpkin that won made the front cover.



We the People Bookshelf Program Gives away Books

"WE the People," a program sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association, has been initiated, in order to deepen Americans' understanding of their history, culture and heritage. Public and school libraries are invited to apply to receive a free set of 15 classic books. Five hundred libraries will receive the award. Free posters and bookmarks are also available. For guidelines on applying, visit <http://www.neh.gov>, or call 312.280.5045.

PRSA Offers Expertise to Nonprofits

The Colorado Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) is initiating a new Community Outreach Program that may provide just the type of counsel you are seeking. Public relations professionals are volunteering their talents and strategic insights to help not-for-profit organizations in our community that may not otherwise have the personnel or financial resources to accomplish their communications goals.

For 2004, PRSA's Community Outreach Program is focusing on education. If your

organization's mission includes furthering education in Colorado, please apply before Wednesday, December 3. This offer is open ONLY to official 501(c)3 organizations. For information, contact PRSA Management Office, 11166 Huron Street #27, Denver, CO 80234, 303.920.0176.

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

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