



## New Version of Standards & Assessment Resource Bank on CD-ROM Available

The newly updated and expanded (July 1997) edition of the *Standards & Assessment Resource Bank* on CD-ROM is now available from the Colorado Department of Education (CDE). This electronic library of key resources is dual platform (Macintosh and Windows), and the latest edition features an easy, colorful, point-and-click interface, and more than 400 full-text documents and seven video clips.

Of the hundreds of documents on the Resource Bank, many will be of particular interest to Colorado libraries and their patrons, including:

- ◆ The Colorado Information Literacy Guidelines and Rubrics for Assessment of Information Literacy;
- ◆ Colorado State Assessment information — including the 1996-97 *Demonstration Booklet* for the reading/writing assessment and media and public information materials for increasing educators' and the public's understanding of the state assessment;
- ◆ The five adopted Colorado Model Content Standards (and "hot links" to the drafts of the second round standards on the CDE web site);
- ◆ Content standards and public information materials from several Colorado districts;
- ◆ U.S. Department of Education funding sources;
- ◆ Overview of Goals 2000 Educate America Act;
- ◆ Colorado Commission on Higher Education *College Entry Level Expectations*;
- ◆ ERIC Digests relating to information literacy and libraries;
- ◆ Bibliographies of resources on standards, assessment and content areas;
- ◆ "Hot links" to sites on the World Wide Web with standards information (requires an Internet connection);
- ◆ Information on educator licensure in Colorado.

### An Electronic Library of Key Resources

The Resource Bank is designed to support implementation of standards-based education at the local level, and is a valuable resource to the members of the Colorado education and library communities, as well as to Colorado citizens working on any aspect of standards-based education.

Among the many other key resources you will find on the new version of the Resource Bank are:

- ◆ More than 40 teacher-developed classroom units and assessments aligned to the Colorado Model Content Standards in several different subject content areas;

- ◆ Expanded school-to-career resources, including connections with service learning and a Community Outreach Kit;
- ◆ Award-winning student art work from the 1997 Cherry Creek Arts Festival;
- ◆ An overview of standards-based education and the legal, technical and design issues relating to assessment;
- ◆ Summary information about national content standards;
- ◆ Articles and guidelines relating to equity, cultural diversity and special needs populations, including the Colorado Department of Education *Opportunities for Success Guidelines for Special Needs Children*;
- ◆ Sample assessments in math, science, reading and writing from the New Standards Project and the Urban District Assessment Consortium — in both English and Spanish;
- ◆ And much more! *More than 400 full-text documents in all.*

### Contributing Your Unit or Assessment to the Next Edition of the Resource Bank

Detailed instructions for teachers and library media specialists on how to submit standards-based units and assessments for inclusion in the next Resource Bank are included on the Resource Bank CD-ROM. They are also available on the Resource Bank home page at <<http://www.cde.state.co.us/stand.htm>>, and the CEMA home page, <<http://www.aclin.org/other/education/library/cema/rbank.html>>. You can also phone CDE at 303/866-6618.

### Ordering Copies of the Resource Bank

To order your subscription to version 2.0 of the *Standards & Assessment Resource Bank* on CD-ROM, which includes the Version 2.5 update in six months, complete the order form on page 4 and mail it with your check for \$30.00 per order (payable to Colorado Department of Education) to:

Resource Center  
Colorado Department of Education  
201 E. Colfax Avenue, Room 106  
Denver, CO 80203

Checks only; no purchase orders, please. The Colorado Department of Education FEIN is (84-0644739.)

For further information, contact the Colorado Department of Education at 303/866-6618 or send e-mail to <[resource\\_bank@cde.state.co.us](mailto:resource_bank@cde.state.co.us)>. Information and an order form are also available at the Resource Bank home page on the World Wide Web at the following URL: <<http://www.cde.state.co.us/stand.htm>>.

*Standards & Assessment Resource Bank v.2.0*  
Order Form on back of newsletter.

# It's happening ...

FROM THE STATE LIBRARY AND ADULT EDUCATION OFFICE

## The Future of Libraries, Part II

by Nancy M. Bolt, Colorado State Librarian,  
<nbolt@csn.net>



Last June I wrote an article about the future of libraries, and blithely said I would follow up in a month. Ha! "Life is what happens when we are making other plans," as a needlepoint a friend made me says — complete with the double k.

My interest in this topic has not waned, only increased in the intervening months. I ended the June article by listing four roles:

- ◆ the safety net role
  - ◆ the high tech service role
  - ◆ the information access role
  - ◆ the civil society role
- I've since added two more:
- ◆ the information literacy role
  - ◆ the place.

### The Safety Net Role

Public and school libraries have historically played this role. Public libraries have been known for over a century as "the people's university." School libraries, even when they weren't open past school hours, provided a source for curriculum and recreational related materials for kids whose parents couldn't or wouldn't take them to the public library. Libraries were where immigrants studied to be citizens and school kids studied to be adults.

This basic role has not changed in the technological age, though the emphasis has shifted from print to electronic resources. I believe that by 2025 — maybe sooner — there will be a computer with a telecommunications connection in every home and classroom (if not pocket!), just as there is in almost every business today. The technology will be as pervasive as the telephone, television, and VCR are today. For the first time last year, more computers and modems were sold than televisions. I'm not foolish enough to predict what that computer will connect to. Who had heard of the World Wide Web just a few years ago? Now, who *hasn't* when every TV show has its Web address at the bottom of the screen! I'm just talking about access to whatever that is.

But 2025 is a long time away and, as with every new technology, those with the least ability and least resources are the last to possess and use it. Those without Internet/Web access in the business world today are at a distinct communication and information disadvantage. I believe the same is true of libraries and the ability to serve users. And, increasingly, it is true for individuals.

That's where the safety net comes in. Name one other institution where you can walk in the door, get professional help, and get any information you want or need just for the price of your taxes. I can't think of one other. And certainly not one as friendly as the library! A technologically well-equipped library with trained staff empowers all library users to be as informed and knowledgeable as the person with a computer on his or her desk.

So, who uses the library as this technological safety net now? In a recent study done by the Colorado State Library and Adult Education Office, 800 Colorado residents were asked about libraries and literacy. First, 75% of the respondents felt it was very or somewhat important that the local library provide free access to the Internet/WWW. Our study showed that 48% of Coloradans have and use a computer with a modem at either work or home. Of the half that don't have computers, only about 20% use a computer at the library or school. Thirty percent, presumably, don't use computers at all. Not surprisingly, those without computers were under 35, have incomes less than \$25,000, didn't vote in 1996, and are heavy library users.

Guess which half most wanted the library to have computers, access to the Internet/WWW, and training? Those without computers at home or work! And parents without a computer in the home, particularly if their kids are under 18, were even more likely to want the library to provide Internet/WWW access and training.

So what does this safety net role mean for libraries? I think it has four major implications.

First, we *must* get all of our public and school libraries online (Colorado academic libraries already are) with a dedicated connection to the Internet as quickly as possible. We need this if we are to provide the best, most equitable service to all Colorado residents. It is imperative. Every day we delay, we put more of our current and potential users at a disadvantage.

Second, this impacts how we run and allocate funds for our libraries. Two studies have shown that four things are necessary for a library to enter the technological age:

- ◆ most important is the attitude of the library management and governing authority; if they don't support and advocate for library staff, staff can't or won't move forward by themselves;
- ◆ there must be adequate computer equipment and connectivity to the Internet/WWW;
- ◆ staff must, *must*, **must** be trained in how to use Internet/WWW resources and teach others how to use these information resources as well;
- ◆ staff must, *must*, **must** be given authorized time to practice and collaborate to increase their confidence in using the Internet/WWW. This is a skill that doesn't come easy for all of us.

Third, playing this role benefits our libraries as well as users. When Rick Ashton, Director of the Denver Public Library, was asked by the new Commissioner of Education, Bill Moloney, about trends in library service, Rick first answered with one word: UP! He went on to say that the more electronics added to the library, the more circulation and other service use goes up. They feed on each other.

The fourth implication has the potential of not being as positive. Libraries must **not** be identified as **only** serving the poor and downtrodden. The poor and downtrodden and those who serve them have not fared well, politically, in recent years. While this is a critical role, it must be augmented by other roles. In future months I'll highlight each of these.



# Library News

Congratulations to the Colorado libraries named 1997 "Best of Show" winners in the Library Administration and Management Association (LAMA) Public Relations Section Swap & Shop. The awards are given annually to recognize the most outstanding individual pieces of public relations materials produced by libraries during the past year. This year's Colorado winners are:

- **Annual Reports — Denver Public Library**
- **Calendars of Events — Boulder Public Library**
- **Newsletters — Westminster Public Library**

The Pikes Peak Library District's Community Video Center took first place in the Documentary Event category at the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA) Awards. The winning production, *The Making of Pepito's Story*, also won a second place award in the Performing Arts (under \$250,000 budget) category. *'97 Bazillion Ways to Read*, a public service announcement promoting the Pikes Peak Library District's Summer Reading Club, won second place in the Children's (under \$250,000 budget) category. Congratulations!

## Emporia MLS Program Accepting Applications

The Colorado State Library has invited Emporia's ALA-accredited master's of library science distance education program to continue in the Rockies. Emporia first brought the program to Colorado in the Fall of 1989. Since then, nearly 200 students have earned their graduate degrees and are experiencing rewarding careers in the library field.

Emporia's 42-credit hour program will take approximately two years and eight months to complete. Classes meet on weekends. A two-credit hour course will meet for two weekends in a two-month span. There are at least two weeks between each class meeting.

Visit the Emporia home page on the Web at <http://www.emporia.edu/S/www/slim/slim.htm> to find out more about the program.

For an application, or if you have questions, contact Jean Redeker or Dan Roland at 800/552-4770. Application deadline is April 1, 1998.

## Partnering Pays Off

When the Basalt Regional Library began to concentrate on developing its juvenile fiction collection two years ago, it was in the back of librarian Jean Winkler's mind to also develop a summer reading program to utilize that collection. Working with Bob Shivley, the middle school librarian, a plan was developed to lure students in grades 5 to 8 into the library during what would already be a busy summer. Competing with summer activities is tough, especially with this age group.

In this cooperative program, the middle school promoted the program to students during the last week of school in May. The "hook" was cast that students would earn extra credit for the fall school term. The librarians met with the principal, then with the school staff, to come to an agreement about giving participants extra credit in school.

Students signed a contract agreeing to the number of books they would read during the summer. It was co-signed by a parent. Also required was participation in three book talks with their peers. Twenty-eight students signed up.

The participants kept a portfolio of their work. As they read books, they listed them in the portfolios. When they attended a book talk, they were given a motivator — a coupon for a slice of pizza or a friendship bracelet, all graciously donated by local businesses. During book talks, the group facilitator noted the books discussed by participants and put the student comments in their portfolios. At the students' last required book talk, they were awarded a one-day pass to the new Basalt Pool.

Books talks were held at the library twice weekly and one Saturday each month. Suggestions for what to read next were supplied by the librarian and the peer group. One natural side effect of the program was recommended reading list written by the intended audience.

Potential for success existed when males signed up for this usually female-dominated activity. Success was realized when students decided to attend more than just the three required book talks! Of the 28, 11 met their contracts. Eight additional students kept records of their summer reading, and three of these attended two book talks.

The partnership paid off for these students, and hopes are high for next summer.

### CENTENNIAL STATE LIBRARIES

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# Notes to note

The **Romance Reader Website** offers in-depth reviews of the latest in romance fiction, as well as author interviews, reader contests, feature columns, and publisher information. Bookmarks with the URL of the site and a brief description are available for libraries to give to their patrons. For 150 bookmarks, send four 32-cent stamps; for 300 bookmarks, send six stamps. Address requests to: Romance Reader Bookmarks, PO Box 2516, Midland, MI 48641-2516. Visit the site at: <<http://www.theromancereader.com>>.

**Free Materials for Schools and Libraries** is a 16-page newsletter that is published five times per year, and provides educators and librarians with a reliable list of free materials and services. All materials included in the newsletter have been examined by professional reviewers and are recommended to subscribers due to their accuracy and/or technical quality and their suitability for us.

Each issue includes information on 80 to 100 items. Subscriptions are \$17 prepaid or \$20 billed from: Connaught Education Services, Box 34069, Dept. 349, Seattle, WA 98124-1069.

The American Library Association will host its first **Volunteer Day** at its 1998 winter meeting in New Orleans. The event will be held the afternoon of Friday, January 9, and the morning of Saturday, January 10. Activities, such as read alouds, puppetry, Internet training, storytelling, and shelf reading will take place in New Orleans-area libraries. Registration is \$5 and will be used to provide t-shirts for the participants. Transportation to and from the libraries will be provided. Volunteers will receive a follow-up mailing that will enable them to select the times and activities of their choice. Register on the conference registration form that appeared in the September issue of *American Libraries*.

## Standards & Assessment Resource Bank v.2.0 Order Form

Enclosed please find a check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ subscription(s) to the Version 2.0 and 2.5 updates of the *Standards & Assessment Resource Bank* on CD-ROM (runs on both Macintosh and Windows platforms).

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## Centennial

### STATE LIBRARIES

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