



Centennial
State Libraries

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Public Library Election Results – November 2006

Fourteen public libraries in Colorado submitted ballot questions to their communities in November 2006. The issues ranged from asking for exemption from the Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) funding limits (informally known as De-Brucing) to asking for approval for the formation of a library district. Other ballot issues were mill levy increases, formation of a Capital Facilities District for a new library building, and permission to bond for new or renovated buildings. Ten measures passed. To see the list, visit www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/LibDev/PubLib/publibrary.htm.

Early Literacy Initiative Impacting Library Services

Three years ago, the Colorado State Library (CSL) launched an early literacy initiative based on the national model called Every Child Ready to Read @your library® (A program of the Public Library Association and the Association for Library Service to Children, American Library Association). The intent was to encourage the state's public libraries to enhance their children's services by gradually incorporating education, modeling, and information about early literacy skills that are the foundation for school reading readiness. ("Early literacy" addresses children from birth to six years of age.)

Three studies released this year confirm that CSL's work in early literacy is helping to create change:

- ✚ "Fast Facts" Training Jumpstarts Early Literacy Services (No. 239 - June 8, 2006) summarizes initial thoughts of those taking training several years ago, about HOW their library might adapt services.
- ✚ "Fast Facts" Early Literacy Initiative Impacts Public Library Services for Young Children (No. 237 - April 20, 2006) re-contacted some of these participants and determined that public libraries and librarians who attended training have begun earmarking time and material resources toward enhancing early literacy programming and services. (For example, 76% said their library has made changes to existing early literacy services such as story times and outreach to parents and caregivers.) (See www.lrs.org/fastfacts/index.asp?year=2006)
- ✚ "Early Literacy Programs and Practices at Colorado Public Libraries," (October 2006) is an extensive, qualitative report based on interviews with the state's library leaders in early literacy. They offer insight into challenges and successes, examples, and how-to's for new or improved early literacy programs and services. See www.lrs.org/closer.asp.

The Colorado State Library continues to enhance its early literacy services, including offering early literacy training to the community as resources permit. For information on the initiative, contact the Colorado State Library, 303.866.6900, mccune_b@cde.state.co.us. For general information on early literacy in Colorado, visit www.kidsliteracycolorado.DouglasCountyLibraries.org.



Communication & Technology Resources for Kids

A new handout from CSL summarizes the idea of “information literacy” as it applies to little ones. It lists public libraries with free telephone stories, five interesting Internet sites for preschoolers and primary grades to learn how to use a computer while practicing reading and writing, and other information from the Colorado State Library. Access the handout at http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/Childrens_Literacy_Resources.htm.

Free Educational DVD on Colorado Trout

The Colorado Trout Unlimited organization has produced a DVD version of their prize-winning video production, “Incredible Journey of the Greenback Cutthroats” (IJGC). They are making free copies available to public libraries. They explain:

“IJGC is the definitive natural history of Colorado’s official state fish (made so at our initiative in 1994) and efforts to restore it in the modern era under the Endangered Species Act. It was sponsored not only by TU, but also by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Forest Service, BLM, and Colorado Division of Wildlife. The production won nine awards at the International Wildlife Film Festival, was broadcast nationally over the PBS satellite, and was nominated for an Emmy by KRMA, which premiered it.”

A number of libraries may have received a copy through StateLINC. However, because the group plans to promote availability at libraries through its membership, teachers, and the media, you may wish to check that the DVD is catalogued and available.

If your library cannot locate a copy, you may request another by emailing the producer, HughGardner@gmail.com.

News Releases Now Online

The Colorado State Library has added a section to its web site for news releases and bulletins. Visit www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/CSLNewsBulletins/index.htm for timely information.

Web Sites for ESL Students and English-Learners

The fall issue of "Tech Beat" has a number of useful sites for teens and adults learning English. These are not necessarily specifically designed for that purpose, but the language is fairly straightforward and the activities and tours are entertaining. If your library has ESL classes or a large non-English speaking population, or if your school library had teens in these categories, patrons can use the sites on their own for practice, fun, and to free you up to assist others. Visit www.coloradoadulted.org/techbeat/techbeatfall06.htm. The regular, online publication is produced by Leecy Wise, leecy@fone.net, Director, Four Corners Virtual Resource Center, www.swadulted.com, 970-562-4418.

Popular Authors Bookmark Downloadable for You

A bookmark bibliography of 12 of the state's best-known, most-loved writers, in downloadable format to make copies, is available online. Visit www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/download/pdf/PopularColoradoFictionAuthorsBookmark_FI_NAL.pdf. The bookmark is laid out for a professional printer; you can adapt it to run on a deskjet printer by capturing the image with your computer's snapshot tool, transferring it to a Word document, then making two more copies on the regular-size paper. If you're confused, contact CSL for assistance: mccune_b@cde.state.co.us. You can also insert your library's contact information on the front of the bookmark, if you wish.

Colorado Libraries Move in New Direction

The Colorado Library Advisory Board, established in 2002, voted to dissolve. Board members felt a reallocation of time, energy and resources to other activities will be more effective than the present structure. An ad hoc group will advise Colorado State Library Director Eugene Hainer on flow of communication with library representatives, essential for the state agency to respond to Colorado's needs. For more information, visit www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/CSLNewsBulletins/index.htm.

Colorado's Public Libraries Identify Areas for Assistance

A recent survey of Colorado's public libraries, conducted by Library People—Friends of Colorado Libraries, identified areas in which libraries believe they could benefit from assistance from volunteers and the community.

Of the libraries responding, nearly 75% have local Friends groups. These organizations are comprised of members who are involved with a library as volunteers and donors. Libraries said they are interested in receiving assistance with their Friends group. More than half identified 'membership development' as a priority. Other needs that were noted included recruiting volunteers (43%) and fund-raising (41%). Respondents also expressed an interest in legislative advocacy, Board training, training volunteers to work in the library, and management of book sales.



As for needs of the library system in general, 41% of respondents identified "improved space" as the highest local concern. Advocacy and marketing also ranked high with 31% of respondents citing advocacy and 28% of respondents citing marketing or community outreach as a need in their districts. Support for computer equipment tied with programming for adults, with nearly 25% of libraries choosing those as areas of interest for assistance.

Library People—Friends of Colorado Libraries is a statewide philanthropic support group helping libraries through grants, technical assistance, connections, and advocacy. The organization is an avenue to involve individuals, corporations and foundations to enhance library collections, services and programs. For information, visit www.librarypeople.org, or contact librarypeoplecolorado@yahoo.com.

Out & About With CSL Staff

- ✚ Gene Hainer (CSL Director) attended the 100th anniversary celebration for the Lamar Public Library, read a holiday story for the kids and offered brief remarks on the occasion. Also in early December, he assisted Pitkin County librarians with their group planning process at the Aspen Public Library. On December 9, he attended Emporia library school graduation ceremonies, Golden.
- ✚ Kris Johnson (AskColorado) organized and led the second annual AskColorado workshop, held concurrently with CAL, which was attended by some 75 librarians from across the state.

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- ✚ Nance Nassar (School Library Consultant) recently attended the School Library Journal Summit - worked on the goals and vision of the school libraries in the next 5 to 10 years. What we want school libraries and school librarians to be to meet the need of the students in 21st Century Learning. She also presented two "Better Library Instruction Using Test Data" workshops - Fort Collins and Denver; participated on the UCD interviewing panel to make recommendations for hiring a new Director of the School Library Program; met with the AIRS Task Force and the CASL Board in early December.
 - ✚ Teresa Allen (Youth Institutions Consultant) and Diana Reese (Institutional Libraries Coordinator) visited youth institutions in Denver, Brighton, and Colorado Springs and the Colorado Mental Health Institute - Ft. Logan. Teresa made additional trips to Adams Youth Services Center in Brighton to weed and develop its collection. Teresa, in collaboration with the volunteer assistant from Pueblo City-County Library, consulted with library staff at Sol Vista Youth Services Center in Pueblo about interlibrary loan and programs for youth.
 - ✚ Diana Reese traveled to Delta and Pueblo to train new correctional library staff.

Find an Author Database Provides Great Leads for Libraries

A report from the Book Organizations of Colorado about the free Find an Author database shows an increase in usage in October and November. This follows promotion at the CAL conference and related to Children's Book Week. There was an upswing in visits to the site in October, along with a spike in activity in mid-November. Some authors are reporting that they scheduled speaking engagements through the site. The Find an Author site is located at http://www.coloradobook.org/booc_authorspeaker.htm.

Burger Announces Emerging Leader Participants

American Library Association President Leslie Burger announced the librarians who will take part in the Emerging Leaders 2007 (EL '07) program. The effort was initiated by Burger and is intended to welcome and train new librarians to get a jump-start in leadership.

Participants will receive two days of training with Maureen Sullivan, organization consultant, and Connie Paul, executive director of the Central Jersey Regional Library

Cooperative; participation in a problem-solving workgroup; networking with 100 peers; an inside look into ALA structure and an opportunity to serve the profession in a leadership capacity.

Coloradans appointed to the program include Heather Clark, BCR; Christopher Cronin, CU Boulder; Dianne Frick, Challenger Middle School; Amy Hoseth, CSU; Merinda McLure, CSU; Nicole Van Thiel, Jeffco PL.

Free, Refurbished Typewriters Available

Through the services of Tech For All, a Colorado nonprofit, a limited number of refurbished electric typewriters and some word processors may be available. If you're interested, contact Rose Keating at rosekeating@yahoo.com, 303.777.7771 x114.