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"I believe books never disappear. It's impossible for it to happen. Of all humankind's diverse tools undoubtedly the most astonishing are the books.

All the others are extensions of the body. The telephone is the extension of the voice.

The telescope and the microscope extensions of sight. The sword and plow the extensions of arms. In "Caesar and Cleopatra,"

when Bernard Shaw refers to the library of Alexandria, he says it's humankind's memory. I would say it's also humankind's imagination.

Humanity's vigils have generated infinite pages of infinite books.

Humankind owes all that we are to the written words.

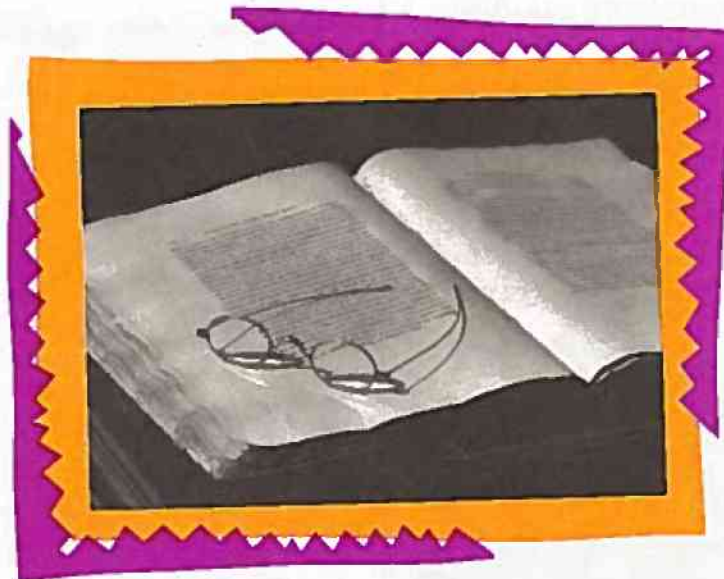
Books are the great memories of the centuries; consequently, their function is irreplaceable.

If books were to disappear, history would disappear. So would humans."

Borges

1990 Annual Report

A HIGH PERFORMANCE YEAR



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STATE LIBRARY & ADULT EDUCATION OFFICE

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The Colorado State Library and Adult Education Office (SLAEO) entered a new decade with a fresh perspective — one that anticipates change and delivers nothing less than the exceptional. Under the leadership of Nancy Bolt, SLAEO continues to define new ways of articulating an innovative vision and leading libraries and adult education into an unprecedented standard of excellence for the next century.

PHOTO BELOW: Jay Ambrose, Executive Editor of the Rocky Mountain News reads to a youngster on "Night of a Thousand Stars" at Denver Public Library

CENTER: Clay Jenkinson as Thomas Jefferson at the Governor's Conference

FAR RIGHT: From left to right: Eldon Rizzi, student; Julie Metz, School Media Specialist; Jane Ulrich, Southwest Regional Library System; Marie DeHerrera, Colorado Council for Library Development



Enriching Lives by Bringing People and Services Together

■ The **Library Services and Construction Act Program** distributed over \$1,811,563 in grants to Colorado libraries. This money funded 107 different projects. Figures represent a two-year funding period.

■ The **Colorado Refugee English as a Second Language Program** continues to receive refugees from Ethiopia, the Soviet Union, Afghanistan, Iran and Southeast Asia. In the 1990 fiscal year, 1,400 refugees resettled in Colorado. In 1991, an additional 1,450 refugees are expected. The program provides intensive English classes in Fort Collins and Colorado Springs as needed and regular courses in the Denver area.

■ The **Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped** survived another year of limited space and has high hopes for moving into a new facility early in 1991. Plans for improving services went forward with the help of the Friends of the Library who, through their fundraising efforts, secured grants for \$50,000 for the library's building fund, \$50,000 from the Gates Fund, and \$30,000 from the Seabury Fund.

■ The **Adult Literacy Commission** sponsored 15 regional hearings in 1990 to gather information on how illiteracy impacts communities, individuals and families. The Commission published a

report, *Silent Crisis: Illiteracy in Colorado*, which documented a great need for expanded literacy services to counter the high cost individuals, families and communities pay when large numbers of Coloradans lack basic literacy skills.

■ A fund for **Access Colorado** was approved by the legislature in 1990. Access Colorado will make library resources available to anyone in the state with a local phone call. Aggressive planning for network development, fundraising and overall project implementation is well underway.

■ The **Greening of America** was celebrated by SLAEO in 1990 with the **Directory of Environmental Education Resources (DEER)**. DEER serves as a clearinghouse for environmental education resources of all kinds for pre-school children through adults. It links resource providers with potential users. DEER is a project of the Colorado Department of Education's Resource Center.

■ A \$70,000 federal grant was awarded to SLAEO to study the impact of school library media centers on student achievement. After the research is completed in 1991, results will be shared in a series of statewide meetings.

■ **Colorado Information Connection: Governor's Conference on Library and Information Services** was successfully completed in 1990. Colorado had 32 corporate contributions totaling approximately \$80,000 in financial support. Public Service Company, Information Handling Services and IBM were the lead sponsors. Colorado will join with other states in sending resolutions and delegates to the White House Conference in July, 1991.

■ SLAEO offered a week long institute in 1990. "**Redefining the Role: The School Library Media Specialist and Information Power**" was attended by 37 school media specialists.

■ SLAEO is supporting the efforts of the Colorado Preservation Alliance as they continue to work toward a statewide preservation plan. A preliminary assessment revealed that 35% of library and archival collections need preservation attention.

Just the Facts, Please...



■ The **Amnesty Education Program** is phasing down as a separate entity. Students are being integrated into ongoing adult education programs statewide. At its height in 1989, the Colorado program had grown to 6,730 students in 39 programs at 125 locations. Approximately 3,000 students will participate in 1991 programs.

■ The **Cooperative Purchasing** project for Colorado libraries got well underway in 1990. By the end of the year, 140 libraries had expressed interest in allocating a portion of their budgets toward the contract.

■ Fifteen adult literacy **Area Resource Teachers (ART)** were recruited in 1990 and have completed initial training in facilitation skills, program design and development. These ART's specialize in reading and English as a Second Language instruction and represent seven Colorado regions.

■ The Colorado State Library, Colorado Library Association, and Colorado Educational Media Association were jointly awarded the 1990 Grolier Grant for \$2,000. Monies were distributed among seven school and public libraries to help support "Night of a Thousand Stars" activities. This National Library Week promotion encouraged family reading and was celebrated by over 1,000 libraries throughout the country.

Federal funds from the Library Services and Construction Act Title I 84-034 are financing 100% of the costs of this publication from a project amount of \$523.61.

■ 74,992 children participated in summer reading programs in public libraries, institutions, military bases and schools throughout Colorado. This compares to 47,058 children in the 1989 program, which is a 59% increase.

■ Requests for custom research services increased from 265 in 1989 to 375 in 1990. That's a 41.5% increase.

■ 2,500 people throughout Colorado participated in 25 Speakouts, three Regional Conferences and the Governor's Conference as part of Colorado Information Connection.

■ 6,100 Colorado High School Equivalency certificates were awarded in 1990, compared with 5,449 the year before. That's an 11.9% increase.

■ Almost 9,000 print-handicapped readers were served by the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped in 1990. Circulation peaked at 324,845 large print and recorded books.

■ Adult basic skills instruction was provided through 11 homeless shelters. The number of adults served over last year increased by 53%.

■ 1,034 volunteer literacy tutors were trained in 1990. The number for 1989 was 294, which is a 252% increase.

■ Ten SLAEO librarians provided library service to inmates and staff of state correctional facilities. In 1990 there were 9,160 residents in all types of state-supported correctional facilities; and 8,646 in 1989. That's a 6% increase.

■ The Emporia in the Rockies library school program had 104 students enrolled as of December, 1990. Kris Bowen of Pagosa Springs has the distinction of travelling the farthest to attend classes in Denver.



1990 OPERATING BUDGET SUMMARY

LIBRARY PROGRAM ITEM	BUDGETED FUNDS
Personal Services	\$ 690,957
Operating Expenses	79,895
Travel	6,300
Library Materials	64,825
Regional Systems	1,593,131
County Equalization	135,469
Colorado Resource Center	1,074,716
Payment for Lending	163,642
TOTAL	\$ 3,808,935

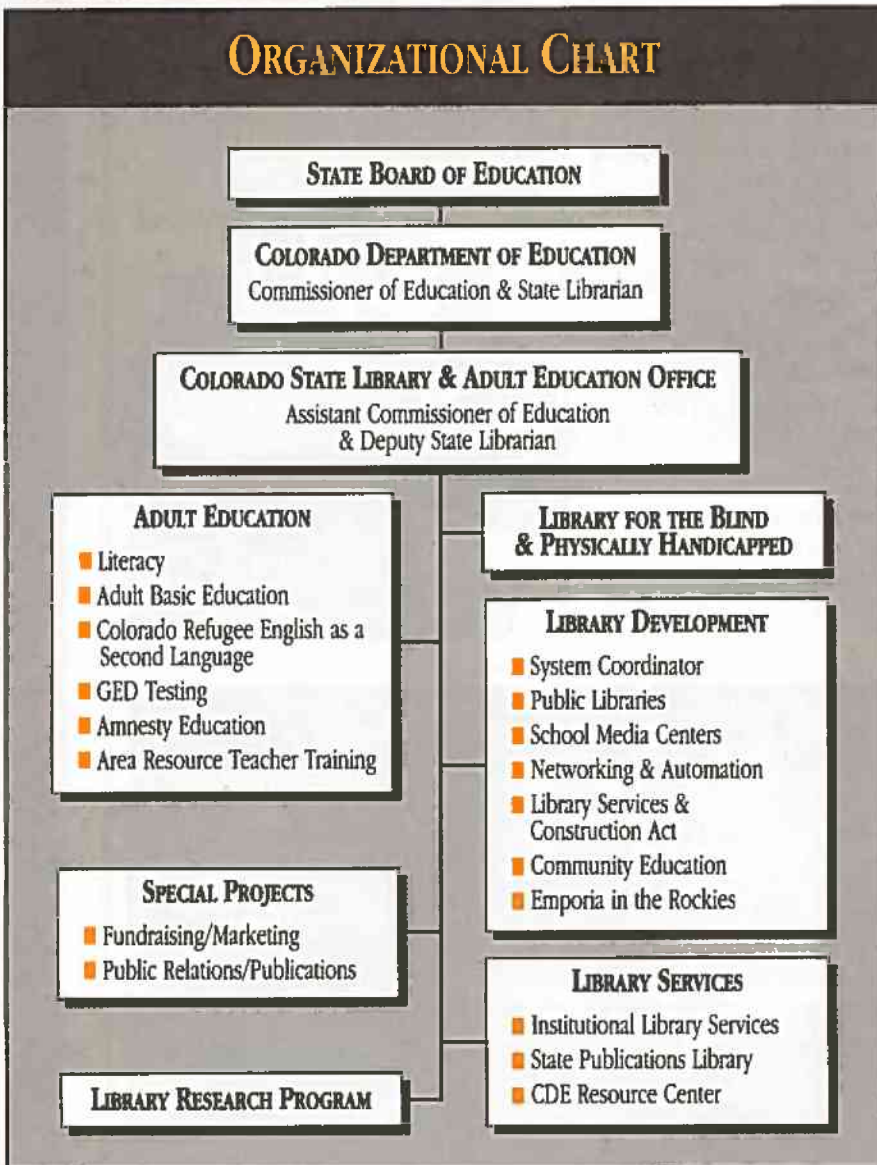
ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM ITEM	BUDGETED FUNDS
Personal Services	\$ 62,672
Operating Expenses	9,278
Travel	1,167
TOTAL	\$ 73,117



Many people were responsible for the success of the Library Law Bill in 1990. The bill clarified library board responsibilities, how library districts are formed, and how elections to increase library funding are conducted.

From left to right: John Campbell, Pathfinder System Director; Eloise Fasshold, Arapahoe Library District Director; Nancy Bolt, Deputy State Librarian

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



The mission of the Colorado State Library and Adult Education Office is to provide leadership in the adult education and library communities and to develop, promote and deliver lifelong learning opportunities and library services to the people of Colorado.

COVER PHOTO COURTESY OF DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY

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