

Web Support Services

- Developed a number of interactive surveys and registration processes to increase the speed and efficiency of CDE products.
- Developed and launched the CDE Technical Assistance and Services Index, which provides users with a keyword searchable database of grant opportunities, programs, workshops, and information about the services provided by CDE staff.



Internet contacts:

Colorado Talking Book Library

<<http://www.cde.state.co.us/ctbl/index.htm>>

CSL Staff/Contact Information

<<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/slstaff.htm>>

Library Community Programs/Children's Literacy

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/Childrens_Literacy_Resources.htm>

Library Development/LSTA

<<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/lsta.htm>>

Library Research Service <<http://www.lrs.org>>

Networking and Resource Sharing <<http://www.aclin.org>>

Public Library Consultant/Summer Reading Program

<<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/slpromo.htm>>

School Library Media Consultant/CSAP @your library

<<http://www.cde.state.co.us/litstandards/index.htm>>

Standards in Action

<<http://www.cde.state.co.us/action/index.htm>>

State Institutional Library Services

<<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/slinstit.htm>>

State Publications Library <<http://www.cde.state.co.us/stateinfo/>>

Web Support <<http://www.cde.state.co.us>>

This year, 2002–2003, the Colorado State Library has seen triumphs in a time of severe trials:

— TRIUMPHS —

The Summer Reading Program again attracted over 65,000 children. All research shows that kids who read during the summer maintain or improve their reading levels for their return to school in the fall. Summer Reading Programs are just one of the major contributions that public libraries make to student achievement.

Library Research Service conducted a landmark digital divide study finding that 67% of those using computers in public libraries have no other access to the Internet. Another LRS study focused on the savings provided by courier service between libraries.

The State Library worked closely with the Colorado Association of Libraries to revise the Colorado Library Law. This law now allows many more opportunities for local libraries to organize and receive funding.

In cooperation with CDE's Educational Technology Center, the State Library conducted over 40 workshops to help school districts develop educational technology/information literacy plans.

— TRIALS —

The biggest challenge this year has been dealing with budget cuts. Due to the state's dismal financial situation, library funding was cut by over \$6 million, or 77 percent from previous years.

Hardest hit was the Denver Public Library (DPL) as the Colorado Resource Center (CRC), which lost all of its \$2.3 million funding and ceased CRC services. A second major cut was the elimination of the State Grants for Libraries program, \$2 million less for school, public, and college libraries to spend on books and other resources, including group database subscriptions, thus jeopardizing the statewide contract that provided these databases at greatly reduced rates.

During the year, more budget cuts were made by the legislature. All funds to buy books and resources for institutional libraries and large print books for the Colorado Talking Book Library were cut. Over the year six positions were eliminated at the State Library.

Late in the year, all funding was eliminated for the Regional Library Systems. While ultimately \$600,000 was restored from tobacco funds, substantial reductions in services are underway. All are cooperating to retain a minimum level of service that includes courier and computerized catalogs for many small libraries.

To respond to the budget crisis, the State Library created a Resource Sharing Strategic Plan. A task force developed broad goals for a quality resource sharing program in Colorado and specific advice on priorities in the face of budget cuts. We are now implementing their recommendations.

In the coming year we will be working hard to meet continuing trials and bring about some triumphs.

— Nancy M. Bolt, Assistant Commissioner for Libraries

Funding Information FY 2002–2003 State Library Budget Summary

Library Program Item	State General Funds
Personal Services	\$933,325
Operating	44,542
CTBL Building Maintenance	44,034
Travel	3,740
Library Materials	97,823
Regional Systems	2,462,436
CVL (ACLIN)	359,796
Reading Services for the Blind	93,800
General Fund Total	\$4,039,496
Library Services and Technology Act Funds	
Statewide Programs	\$1,378,301
Local Needs Grants	225,000
Statewide Impact Grants	707,400
LSTA Total	2,310,701
STATE LIBRARY TOTAL	\$6,350,197

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Colorado State Library

Annual Report 2002/2003

TRIUMPHS & TRIALS



THE PAST YEAR
@your library®

Colorado Talking Book Library

- Provides free library service for 12,112 print-disabled Coloradans.
- Circulated over 450,000 volumes.
- Over 180 volunteers donated 17,295 hours of time to the library, the equivalent of eight full-time employees.
- The Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) for the library received 4,801 hits, resulting in 17,859 searches to the catalog.
- The web site received 45,840 hits resulting in 89,997 searches. The three most popular sites on the web page were the application form, subject listings, and the descriptive movie listing.
- Offered a Family Literacy Summer Reading Program. This most popular summer program ever offered by the library drew 72 adults and 96 children.
- Unfortunately, due to state budget cuts, the Colorado Talking Book Library's state funding declined by \$117,000. The library was forced to cut two positions and lost all funds to purchase large-print books, descriptive video, and blank tapes used to repair and record locally produced books.

Institutional Library Services

- Made approximately 650 phone, email, and onsite contacts with school library staff in juvenile correctional and mental health institutions.
- Provided training for library staff at the Pueblo and Lookout Mountain Youth Services Centers.
- Assessed needs and purchased 4371 books, 1072 periodical subscriptions, and 167 audiovisual materials for institution libraries.
- Arranged for the distribution of library materials and equipment to other institutions when the library at the Colorado Mental Health Institute at Ft. Logan was closed due to budget cuts.
- Arranged for all Department of Corrections libraries to remain open some hours during the hiring freeze, even though 14 library staff positions were vacant.
- Recruited and trained 15 new adult correctional library staff.
- Worked with Department of Corrections to start new prison libraries in Trinidad and Ft. Lyon.
- Following the retirement of a long-term employee and the subsequent elimination of the position due to budget cuts, reorganized the correctional library program to provide coverage. Three Consultants now supervise 22 DOC libraries and 46 library staff.



- Budget reductions required slashing the operating budget for 22 prison libraries from \$142,000 to \$59,000. All monies used to purchase new books for libraries were eliminated (Department of Corrections budget). Fiscal impacts from several state agency budget cuts continued to snowball with 15 prison library staff positions vacant for most of the first half of the year along with the abolishment of other positions and dissolution of the entire library at Ft. Logan.
- For next fiscal year, Institutions already have received the following cuts: (1) The entire library materials budget of \$78,131 was eliminated. (2) The DOC eliminated the librarian position at the San Carlos Correctional Facility.

Library Community Programs

- Organized the first statewide collaboration involving schools, libraries, bookstores, youth groups, and care providers for the Read Across America celebration in March, encouraging children and adults to read together.
- Created and promoted the "Closing the Achievement Gap" web site that provides numerous resources to educators, parents, and others to assist at-risk students improve their school skills.
- Managed Colorado's @your library statewide campaign for the Colorado Association of Libraries, providing training to hundreds of library staff, mentorships for intensive assistance, and collaborations with the media, corporations and other nonprofits.

Library Development, Public and School Libraries

- Provided assistance to school districts to fulfill the tenets of the Educational Technology and Information Literacy plans called for in School District Accreditation rules, the e-rate application process, and to be eligible for federal technology funding. In addition to developing resources, provided training (offered in cooperation with CDE's Educational Technology Center unit) to almost 60% of the state's school districts.
- Focused on the punny food-related theme "Chews to Read" (*Elije Leer*) for the 2003 Colorado Summer Reading Program, providing the CD-based program manual and support materials to many public and school libraries throughout the state. The main manual was also available online, and serves as a valuable resource for reading programs at any time of the year.
- In cooperation with local Regional Systems and school districts, created a handbook and provided training statewide to many school librarians for use of the standards for information literacy and school library guidelines, *Colorado Students Achieve Power@your library*. Local district librarians and teachers participated in intensive 'trainer of trainers' sessions, after which they provided the content to other librarians in their area.
- Managed the federally funded Library Services and Technology Act to support 17 Local Needs projects to improve local area library services. Statewide Leadership Initiatives provided funding for five far-reaching projects: newspaper digitization; virtual reference services; a study of recruitment issues in libraries; a library public relations effort; and the statewide database contract packages for school, public, and academic libraries.



- Helped develop and promote the State Library's *Resource Sharing Strategic Planning* document. In conjunction with this strategic plan, and due to the severe budget cuts received by the State Library, new grant projects will not be offered in 2003–2004. Instead, the funds will be used to support absolutely essential programs in the state.

Library Research Service

- Continued its primary ongoing work: meeting the research and statistics needs of school, public, and academic library decision-makers.
- The most noteworthy LRS achievement of the year was the "Colorado Public Libraries and the Digital Divide" study. This study found that 67% of public library Internet users do not have access to the Internet at home, school, or work. Another noteworthy finding was that 60% of public library patrons under age 18 use Internet computers for school assignments.
- With the availability of current data on school libraries and on public libraries, evidence of the damage done by state and local budget cuts is beginning to mount. Generally, spending on both school and public libraries is dropping. Statewide, school library spending per student decreased 10 percent between the 2000–01 and 2001–02 school years. Average spending by non-district public libraries decreased about 3.5 percent. Most library districts (with dedicated mill levies, fiscal autonomy, and—in most cases—exemption by voters from the TABOR Amendment) are the only library jurisdictions that weathered the onset of the current economic decline. Their average spending grew by 20%.
- Library leaders are scrambling to maintain essential services that support statewide resource sharing. Overwhelmingly, statewide courier service has been identified as the most critical service to continue. The popularity of this service with librarians and patrons is little wonder. According to an LRS study, the courier saves public and academic libraries and their patrons \$1.4 to \$2.1 million annually in shipping charges alone.

Networking and Resource Sharing

- The Colorado Virtual Library continued to be used heavily during the past year, with over 6,880,000 sessions on the web site.

- SWIFT—StateWide Interlibrary loan Fast Track—expanded its membership to 300 profiled and trained libraries. Over 100,000 interlibrary loan requests were processed during the year.
- For the fifth year of E-rate (connectivity to the Internet), Colorado libraries received nearly \$440,000 in federal funding.
- Held 27 workshops throughout the state to prepare library staff to train the public on the use of computing and the Internet. Many of the workshops focused on serving Spanish speakers. The workshops were funded through a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.
- In conjunction with the Resource Sharing Board, held a Leadership Institute to discuss new potential models of resource-sharing in the state.
- Worked with the Collaborative Digitization Program to support the Western Trails Project, an IMLS-funded grant for collaboration of cultural heritage institutions from Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, and Wyoming.
- In conjunction with the Collaborative Digitization Program and the Colorado Historical Society, received an LSTA grant to digitize Colorado historical newspapers.
- Assumed support of the state's Geographic Information System (GIS) Metadata Clearinghouse. Serve as the official node on the federal network and provide a searching interface through the Colorado Virtual Library.
- Received an LSTA grant to create a Collaborative Virtual Reference Service for the state, which will be launched in September 2004.

State Publications Library

- The spring Statewide Survey of the Use of State Publications in Depository Libraries showed an annual total use of 95,628 print/electronic publications and state web pages, a 14.5% increase over the prior year. This represents an average of nearly 6,000 uses per depository library per year, or 115 uses per library per week. The most requested state information subjects were demographics, education, business/economy, and laws and regulations.
- Monthly visits to the SPL web pages have almost tripled from FY2002. There has also been a 15% increase in reference questions answered via e-mail on the web site.
- Received nearly 3,500 publications from state agencies with about 600 involving Internet access. With a continued emphasis on capturing government electronic publishing, Internet publications were cataloged to enhance access. An official count of catalog display records amounted to nearly 20,000 items online.
- Continued to emphasize student, educator and public access to electronic Colorado government information by enhancing the SPL web page, including updating the very popular "School Research Topics: Notable Electronic Resources from State Government" and "K–12 Student Achievement Resources."
- State agency budget cuts resulted in fewer paper copies of publications available for distribution to depository libraries. This is because more publications are being put up on the state web pages, and elimination of paper copies reduces costs.