



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 Services <<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/LibDev/index.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/LibDev/PubLib/publibrary.htm>>
- School Library Media Consultant/CSAP @your library <<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/LibDev/SchoolLib/slschool.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>>



— REALISM —

This past year has been one of opportunity forged from the realism of severe state and local budget cuts. The 76% cut in state funding for libraries should have resulted in a 76% cut in federal funding. We were able to negotiate with the Institute of Museum and Library Services, our federal administrative agency, so that our federal funding was not reduced.

Still, because of the potential of further budget cuts, the State Library made the decision, with agreement from the Colorado Library Advisory Board (CoLAB), not to sponsor any open competitive grants this year for libraries across the state. Instead federal funds have been allocated to support continuing, top priority projects in this time of fiscal uncertainty, such as the AskColorado Virtual Reference Service, the statewide online database contract, courier, and the Collaborative Digitization Program.

One of the realities we had to face this year was the closing down of all seven Regional Library Service Systems. Over the past two years the budget for the Systems was reduced from \$2.4 million to \$600,000 in one-time funding. Only the existence of reserve funds in the seven Systems allowed them to exist in 2003–04.

— OPPORTUNITY —

The 2004 Colorado Legislature appropriated \$600,000 as an ongoing budget line. This provided the State Library and CoLAB the opportunity to design a statewide cooperative that would provide the most critical of System services to libraries. The Colorado Library Consortium (CLiC), the independent cooperative, was approved by the State Board of Education at its July meeting.

The attached reports show the accomplishments of the State Library during the past year. Here are some highlights:

- Initiated AskColorado Virtual Reference Service, responding to over 20,000 questions in the first year.
- With the Collaborative Digitization Program and the Colorado Historical Society, commenced the Colorado Historic Newspaper Collection project that now has more than 50 historic newspapers digitized and available on the Internet.
- Drafted Public Library Standards to guide decision-making and library development.
- Assessed the cumulative impact of budget cuts from other entities on local libraries (\$11.4 million).

These are just highlights. The hardworking and dedicated State Library staff continue to be active in helping libraries to serve Colorado residents, improve library service, and advocate for the role of Libraries in society.

—Nancy M. Bolt, Assistant Commissioner for Libraries

Funding Information FY 2003–2004 State Library Budget Summary

Library Program Item	State General Funds
Personal Services	\$874,176
Operating	42,664
CTBL Building Maintenance	45,869
Travel	3,408
Library Materials	-0-
Regional Systems	600,000
Colorado Virtual Library (ACLIN)	359,796
Reading Services for the Blind	93,800
General Fund Total	\$2,019,713
Library Services and Technology Act Funds	
Statewide Programs	\$1,853,844
Local Needs Grants	225,000
Statewide Impact Grants	299,362
LSTA Total	\$2,378,206

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Colorado State Library

Annual Report 2003/2004

REALISM & OPPORTUNITY
1876



MAKING A DIFFERENCE
@your library®

Colorado Talking Book Library

- Provided free library service to 10,793 print-disabled Coloradans.
- Circulated over 315,794 titles, many of multiple volumes, through its free mailing service of audio tapes.
- Welcomed the assistance of over 206 volunteers, who donated 17,142 hours of time to the library, the equivalent of 8.24 full-time employees.
- Received 11,882 hits on the Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) for the library, resulting in 22,648 searches.
- Bid farewell to Barbara Goral as director, who retired after 18 years of service. The new director, Debbi MacLeod comes to CTBL from the private sector.

Institutional Library Service

- Assessed needs and purchased 2,596 books, 796 periodical subscriptions, and nine audiovisual materials for institution libraries from grant funds.
- Recruited and trained eight new adult correctional library staff.
- Documented that 83% of prison inmates were registered users of their facility libraries.
- Through prison libraries, circulated approximately 600,000 materials and had about 450,000 user visits.
- Worked with the Department of Corrections to plan library services for the Colorado State Penitentiary II, to be constructed in Canon City.
- Worked with staff at Department of Corrections headquarters to computerize prison library catalogs on a central server.

Library Community Programs

- Directed Colorado's @your library Campaign, with advocacy training for hundreds of school and academic library staff, statewide distribution of more than half-million posters and bookmarks to promote library visibility, a partnership with Burger King valued at some \$100,000, and visibility on public television, public radio, and special populations publications.
- Launched a new partnership with the Rocky Mountain Antiquarian Book Fair on behalf of libraries that resulted in public visibility for libraries as well as support for eleven children's literacy projects.
- Enhanced library participation and visibility in children's literacy efforts, working with two statewide task forces, spearheading creation of a children's literacy web site, translating promotional materials into Spanish.
- Initiated annual community relations awards to recognize libraries for outreach and partnerships.



Library Development, Public and School Libraries

SCHOOL LIBRARIES

- Continued support for the Power Libraries Program, that develops and promotes quality school libraries and promotes student achievement. Eight "Developing" school libraries joined 53 "High Performance" school libraries, in recognizing the role that outstanding school library media programs and practices that help students meet standards.
- Provided guidance and support to every school district to work on Educational Technology and Information Literacy plans, required for accreditation and federal technology funding. This statewide work included workshops, training, strategic planning, and consultations so districts design and implement effective strategies for incorporating ET-IL into learning and develop vision for effective use of technology and information.
- Working with the Education Technology Center in the department, initiated the new "Power Educators" program, to support student achievement by promoting collaborative work that produces powerful standards-based learning. The project operates through three grant programs for classroom teacher teams, initiatives in innovative efforts at improving curriculum, and district development.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

- Joined the Collaborative Summer Library Program (CLSP), a grassroots consortium of 26 states working together to provide high-quality summer reading program materials for children at the lowest cost possible for their public libraries. By combining resources, public libraries in participating states can purchase materials at significant savings. In the summer of 2003, 160,000 Colorado children enrolled in a summer reading program, and 88,000 completed the program.
- To further encourage the expansion and development of summer reading programs, awarded mini-grants to 54 libraries. In addition, Summer Reading Support Grants (\$1,250 each) went to the Colorado Adult Summer Reading Program, a new statewide project, and Colorado Young Adult Advocates in Libraries (C'YAAL), another statewide collaboration, for its teen summer services. The C'YAAL program saw a 51% increase in numbers of participating libraries and a 35% increase in number of participating sites.
- Established the Public Library Standards Task Force of 15 members from all sizes of public libraries representing all geographical areas of the state. The group began its work this year and continues to meet monthly to create the new Public Library Standards this fall.
- Sponsored a trustee workshop for public library trustees, featuring basic trusteeship, ethics, rights and responsibilities, library law, and the policy governance model for trustees.



Library Research Service

- Continued to experience heavy use of its web site, especially for information related to school libraries and their impact on academic achievement. The site won three awards, including the 2003 Helen M. Eckard Award from the National Center for Education Statistics and the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, recognizing it as the best library statistics site in the U.S. The site was visited over 138,000 times by at least 8,400 different visitors, making it one of the top ten library and information science research sites in the world, according to Google.
- Assessed the impact of state and local budget cuts on the state's libraries. Since July 2002, Colorado libraries have lost at least \$11.4 million in annual income, a conservative sample-based estimate. As a result of these cuts, most measures of library use—registered cardholders, library visitors, items borrowed, questions asked—declined from 2001 to 2002. Total annual circulation dropped from the previous year for the first time since World War II. In-depth and summary reports on this research may be found on the site under CLOSER LOOK and FAST FACTS for 2003 and 2004.
- Added the Colorado School Library Profiles to its web site, a major adjunct with customized reports for individual school buildings describing the status of their school libraries relative to their peers. Similarly customized annual profiles related to the forthcoming new state standards for public libraries will be released for the first time next year.

Networking and Resource Sharing

- Released a new interface for the Colorado Virtual Library, which included Spanish language and quick search options. CVL continued to be used heavily during the past year, with over 7,011,800 sessions on the web site.
- Expanded the membership of SWIFT—StateWide Interlibrary loan Fast Track—to 340 profiled and trained libraries. Over 125,000 interlibrary loan requests were processed during the year.
- Served as a development partner with OCLC and three other organizations to create WebJunction, a free Internet portal designed to help libraries support the public's use of computing and the Internet.
- Assisted Colorado libraries to receive \$866,000 in federal E-rate funds for Internet connectivity, basic phone service, and wiring, during this sixth year of the program.

- Released Colorado's Historic Newspaper Collection, a joint endeavor between the State Library, Collaborative Digitization Program, and the Colorado Historical Society. The project provides searchable Web access to the full images of newspapers published from throughout the state dating back to 1859.
- Launched the AskColorado virtual reference service. 215 librarians from 43 libraries collaborated to provide the service, which received over 20,000 questions during the year.
- Produced the video, "Bridging the Digital Divide in the Spanish Speaking Community." Funded through a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, copies of the videotape were distributed to libraries throughout Colorado and to every state library agency in the U.S.
- Enabled 58 public libraries to receive \$196,813 in funds to upgrade or replace public access computers and Internet connections through a matching grants program from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

State Publications Library

- Received nearly 3,500 publications from state agencies with over 600 involving Internet access. With a continued emphasis on capturing government electronic publishing, Internet publications were cataloged to enhance access.
- Continued to emphasize student, educator and public access to electronic Colorado government information by enhancing the Colorado State Publications Library web page (increasing use by 30%), including updating the very popular "School Research Topics: Notable Electronic Resources from State Government" plus "Quick Guides" to electronic information for state statistical resources and legislative web links.
- Provided interlibrary loan to libraries as well as answering numerous reference questions from Colorado and other locations around the U.S. on matters as diverse as a potato recipe, the history of the Colorado State Patrol, occupations of state legislators, and kindergarten content standards.
- Improved services to the 18 depository libraries around the state, with online information, training, procedures and contact lists, to enable depository libraries to better serve their customers.

