Channel

ALA Legislative Day draws 14 Wisconsin delegates

by Richard Grobschmidt, Administrator
Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning

Wisconsin was again well represented during annual Library Legislative Day activities May 12 and 13 in Washington, D.C. A delegation of 14 Wisconsin library advocates participated in the 29th annual event sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA).

Fourteen delegates represented Wisconsin this year in DC (last year there were 12). They were: Thomas and Lee Brown of Cottage Grove, Ron and Karen Busch of Cuba City, Charles and Sue Center of Madison, Richard Grobschmidt of South Milwaukee, Kathleen and Tom Joynt of Green Bay, Jessica MacPhail of Racine, Mark Morse of Eau Claire, Holly L. Roge of New Berlin, Bob Smiley of Stoughton, and Mary Jane Wiseman of Madison.

I'd like to extend a special thank you to Sue Center, WLA-ALA Federal Relations Coordinator, for her efforts to schedule the visits with our state's representatives' and senators' offices. Many of this year's delegates attended under the sponsorship of various library organizations

Pictured with Sen. Russ Feingold in his Washington, D. C., office are front, l-r, Jessica MacPhail, Kathleen Joynt, Mary Jane Wiseman, Sen. Feingold, Sue Center, and Karen Busch. Back row (l-r) are Tom Joynt, Mark Morse, Rick Grobschmidt, Ron Busch, Bob Smiley, Holly Roge, Lee Brown, and Thomas Brown.

and for that financial support we are most appreciative. Wisconsin would not have a delegation of this size traveling to DC each year if library groups did not recognize the important role of the federal government in terms of providing library funding. By supporting participation in National Library Legislative Day activities, Wisconsin is an important player in the lobby for library legislation.

The two days of activities began with a day of topical briefings conducted by the ALA on issues and corresponding bills now before Congress. Information session topics included LSTA Reauthorization, Intellectual Property, Government Information, Internet/Telecomm Issues, Appropriations, and Advocacy. One piece of legislation receiving a great deal of attention was the five-year reauthorization of LSTA. A bill version in the House proposes a spending level of $210 million, while a similar bill in the Senate proposes a $250 million spending level. Both funding levels are higher per year than those found under the previous five-year LSTA law.

Burmaster Approves 2004 LSTA Grant Program, Preliminary Budget

State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster has approved the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant program and preliminary budget for 2004. The LSTA funds will, once again, facilitate experimentation, demonstration, and enhanced library services in Wisconsin.

One LSTA funding priority will be to promote and demonstrate the role of public libraries and correctional libraries in improving literacy and reading skills. Grant funds can be used to promote early literacy, family literacy, and literacy for individuals for whom English is a second language.

Another priority will be improved library services through the use of technology, including funds that will be awarded to public library systems on a noncompetitive formula basis for technology projects, and funds that will be set aside to help public libraries and public library systems develop new shared automated systems or add libraries to existing shared systems.

Other LSTA funds will be used to allow representatives of one or more municipalities or counties to study the feasibility of creating a public library district. Funds also are budgeted to conduct a study of the relationship between public li-

Legislative Day—*from page 1*

May 13 was devoted to visits to Wisconsin's eight House and two Senate offices. Our delegation divided up the topics to be discussed and each presenter delivered a summary and an advocacy pitch so that all issues would be adequately covered in the appointment time available in the respective offices. Each legislative office was given two packets: one from the ALA on general library issues, and another prepared by the staff at the Department of Public Instruction's Division for Libraries, Technology, and Com-

Richard Grobschmidt

munity Learning, providing information about the LSTA, Ed Tech, and E-rate benefits distributed in each of our Congressional districts or, in the case of our two U.S. Senators, for Wisconsin as a whole.

Delegation members told of the need for our representatives to support legislation in a number of areas. Besides asking for a positive vote on reauthorization of LSTA at the annual rate of $250 million (the President's proposal was continuation at the previous level of $207.5 million), discussions included ad-

vocacy to fund Literacy Through School Libraries (ESEA) with at least $100 million (the President's proposal is for $27.5 million), updating the distance education provisions of the Copyright Act, producing a database protection bill that allows "fair use," and assurance that fair use protection be provided in regulating new devices that transmit digital materials. Also on the agenda was a discussion of the cost savings and improved Internet access Wisconsin's schools and public libraries realize as a result from participation in the Universal Service (E-rate) discount program. The delegation stressed to legislators that many schools and libraries are counting on E-rate discount funding to gain telecommunications access or to maintain existing access.

Planning will begin soon on next year's event, the 30th Annual ALA Library Legis-

Channel Contents

Legislative Day—*from page 2*

lative Day. A large state delegation is always more impressive, so please consider participating. Each year the delegates enjoy the lobby experience, where they get to meet with our elected officials and see their Washington offices, and get to tell the positive story of how federal legislation benefits library services. If vacation time allows, you can incorporate an extended visit to the Capitol City and enjoy so many of the other interesting sites and experiences it has to offer. ∎∎

LLAW publishes legal research guide

Are you occasionally called upon to answer questions involving legal materials? If so, a new publication from the Law Librarians Association of Wisconsin (LLAW) may be just the resource you need.

LLAW recently published a new edition of its "Introduction to Legal Materials: A Manual for Non-Law Librarians in Wisconsin." This guide is designed to offer a clear and concise explanation of basic sources — both print and electronic — used in federal and Wisconsin legal research for judicial, legislative, and administrative law. There also is a section on foreign, international and comparative law, a list of print and electronic reference resources, information on fee-based electronic resources, a section on how to read legal citations, tips on how to navigate the divide between legal reference and legal advice, and more

To purchase the guide ($10.00), contact Sunil Rao, UW-Madison Law Library, at (608) 262-8294 (strao@facstaff.wisc.edu). ∎∎

Statewide Resource Contracts

Cooperative Children's Book Center
4290 Helen C. White Hall,
600 N. Park St.,
Madison, WI 53706
ccbcinfo@education.wisc.edu .... www.education.wisc.edu/ccbc/
Kathleen Horning, Acting Director .... (608) 263-3720

Milwaukee Public Library/Interlibrary Loan
814 West Wisconsin Avenue,
Milwaukee, WI 53233-2385
Brian Hannemann, Interlibrary Loan Librarian .... (414) 286-3082

WiLS/Interlibrary Loan
728 State Street,
Rooms 464 and B106B,
Madison, WI 53706-1494
schneid@wils.wisc.edu .... http://www.wils.wisc.edu/
Kathy Schneider, Director .... (608) 263-2773

Wisconsin Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped
813 West Wells Street,
Milwaukee, WI 53233-1436
http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/dltcl/rll/lbphinfo.html
Marsha Valance, Regional Librarian .... (800) 242-8822

Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction,
125 South Webster St., P.O. Box 7841, Madison, WI 53707-7841;
(800) 441-4563, fax (608) 267-1052
www.dpi.state.wi.us/dltcl/

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Circulation Desk 224-6169
Mary Clark, Coordinator
Resource Sharing Technology 224-6179
Loretta Harmatuck
Government Services 224-6165
Mary Struckmeyer, Coordinator
Reference and Interloan 224-6168
Willeen Tretheway
Audiovisual and Technical Services 224-6171
Terry Wilcox
Interlibrary Loan Services 224-6163
Vickie Long
WISCAT User Support 224-5394

To send e-mail, use the following format (all lowercase letters):
firstname.lastname@dpi.state.wi.us

Wisconsin Child Care Information Center
Lita Haddal, Director .... (800) 362-7353 or (608) 224-5388

AV Notes
New videocassettes on topics of interest to library staff members

by Willeen Tretheway, Audiovisual Services Librarian
Reference and Loan Library

The five VHS videocassettes described in this article are recent additions to the Reference and Loan Library's (R&LL) collection. They are on topics and issues of particular interest to public and school librarians and library staff: library workplace safety, children's literature, censorship, privacy, and school library orientation.

Back Talk, with Dr. Alan Sokoloff (Library Video Network, 2002; 40 minutes; closed-captioned; with an exercise poster) is a safety program to help workers in libraries learn how to avoid back injury while performing common library tasks. Program host Dr. Alan Sokoloff, chiropractor, stresses the prevention of workplace injuries, describes simple back exercises, and addresses how to handle injuries when they do happen. Topics covered include sitting safely; proper posture when using a computer; safely pushing, pulling, and reaching; shelving books in a healthy way; and lifting correctly. (VHS V-7358 (025908))

CCBC Choices 2003 (Friends of the CCBC Inc., 2003) is a two-part live video recording of the March 8, 2003, program in which Cooperative Children's Book Center (CCBC) staff members Kathleen T. Horning, Megan Schliesman, and Merri Lindgren introduced the annotated bibliography of the same title to librarians, teachers, and others interested in outstanding literature for children and youth. At this year's annual event, made possible by the Friends of the CCBC, they displayed and discussed some of the books published in 2002 that are recommended by CCBC professional staff. Part one of the video presentation, "CCBC Choices for Older Readers," is 93 minutes long, and part two, "CCBC Choices for Younger Children," is 82 minutes long. A copy of the printed bibliography accompanies the videocassettes. (VHS V-7373 (025923))

A First Look at Your Library Media Center (SVE & Churchill, 2002; 16 minutes; with guide) features Rita Paige, an animated flying computer, hosting a live-action program for primary grade students that introduces the library media center. Rita describes the types of materials found there, including books, periodicals and newspapers, reference materials, multimedia and computer resources, and access to the Internet. She tells how to identify, locate, and borrow materials, and says to ask the media specialist for help. Advice on how to properly handle materials and how to behave in the library is given, as is a reminder that the public library also is a good place to learn. Some children tell how they feel about reading and using computer resources, and why they like the media center. (VHS V-7370 (025920))

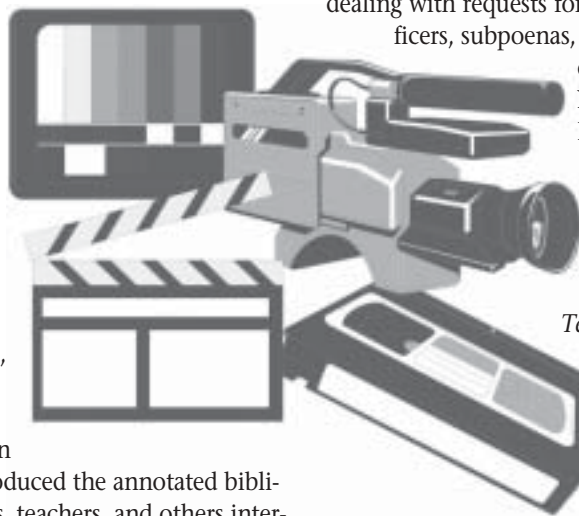*Safeguarding our Patrons' Privacy: What Every Librarian Needs to Know about the USA PATRIOT Act & Related Anti-terrorism Measures* (Association of Research Libraries Distribution Center, 2002; 120 minutes; with a 23-page manual) is a video recording of a live satellite teleconference broadcast Dec. 11, 2002. The program features a panel of presenters and question and answer segments offering libraries and their governing institutions an analysis of the implications of recent antiterrorism legislation. Panelists Tracy Mitrano (Cornell University), James Neal (Columbia University Libraries), Gary Strong (Queens Borough Public Library), and Thomas Susman (Ropes & Gray law firm) address key legal issues and concerns, and the impact of legislative and regulatory proposals affecting privacy and First Amendment rights of library users. They stress the need for library policies dealing with requests for information from law enforcement officers, subpoenas, and search warrants. The program moderator is journalist and newscaster Doris McMillon. The American Association of Law Libraries, the American Library Association, the Association of Research Libraries, the Medical Library Association, and the Special Libraries Association sponsored the teleconference. (VHS V-7359 (025909))

Tell It Like It Is! (National Coalition Against Censorship/Carousel Film & Video, 1999; 15 minutes) names some books that have been challenged, censored, or banned in classrooms and libraries, and looks at the negative impact of censorship of children's books through the eyes of writers and readers. Authors of children's and young adult literature including Betty Miles, Judy Blume, Walter Dean Myers, Betty Miles, David Klass, and Robert Lipsyte describe their awareness of censors as they write, and comment on decisions they have made and problems they have encountered over censorship. Young readers and adults who read challenged books as youngsters also express their views. (VHS V-7362 (025912))

Videos may be borrowed from the R&LL free of charge. The call numbers and booking system numbers included in the citations may be referred to when making requests.

Libraries and library media centers of all types may call or send requests for videocassettes directly to the Reference and Loan Library or they may send them through regular interlibrary loan channels. Organizations and businesses, teachers at kindergarten through 12th-grade schools, faculty and staff at academic institutions, and state agency employees may contact R&LL directly or send interlibrary loan requests through their libraries. All other users, including individual borrowers, should request materials on interlibrary loan through their public library. The R&LL phone number for direct video requests is (608) 224-6169 or toll free at (888) 542-5543 (rllill@dpi.state.wi.us). ∎

WAPL Spring Conference Report

Close to 300 public librarians and trustees attended the Wisconsin Association of Public Libraries session in Stevens Point on May 8 and 9. The theme of the conference was "Get to the Point." Attendees chose from sessions on a variety of topics, including virtual reference, advocacy, notable genre books, e-learning, oral history, early literacy, and many more interesting and informative topics. Conference attendees were treated to an evening reception at the Portage County Public Library.

Author Jacquelyn Mitchard was one of the luncheon speakers. Her topic was "Writing Books, Reading Books and All that Jazz." Richard Moore, Investigative

Reporter and Columnist, Lakeland Times, was the other luncheon speaker. Moore talked about "Democracy's Common Room: Protecting the Wealth of Libraries in Uncertain Times."

In her keynote address, Mary Dempsey, Commissioner of the Chicago Public Library, focused on the role of public libraries in Chicago as a catalyst for economic development. Dempsey was appointed to her position as commissioner in 1994 by Mayor Richard M. Daley and the Board of Directors of the Chicago Public Library.

Since 1994, the Chicago Public Library has opened 29 new or fully renovated neighborhood branch libraries and Ms. Dempsey provided insight into the philosophy and politics behind the building of those libraries. She said the new public libraries have brought about positive changes in neighborhoods. They have been followed by private development, homes, schools, retail, and parks, as well as city services such as police and fire.

Dempsey said many of the issues faced by the Chicago Public Library are the same as those faced by public libraries everywhere, regardless of size. She said the issues public libraries need to focus on

are: what we know (e.g., libraries will not be replaced by the Internet; in difficult economic times more people use libraries); who we aren't (e.g., libraries are not museums, schools or day care centers); what we do (e.g., answer reference questions, create a culture of reading, and collaborate with community institutions); what we should not do (e.g., rail about what has gone wrong); and what we should do (use the tools we have in new ways to further our core mission of providing information, education, and recreation). In her follow-up breakout session at the conference, Dempsey elaborated on the partnerships Chicago Public Library has with museums, schools, and other community agencies and talked about the reading initiatives of the library (summer library programs, early childhood initiative, Chicago Book Festival, One Book One Chicago).

Robert Stack, Portage County Public Library, chaired the WAPL conference planning committee and was assisted by Mary Whittington and others from the Portage County Public Library. Kris Adams Wendt, Rhinelander District Library, was the program chair for the conference. Rebecca Berger, Door County Library, was the 2002 chair of the Wisconsin Association of Public Libraries. ■

Retiring Public Library Development Team (PLDT) director Larry Nix receives a standing ovation at the WAPL conference in Stevens Point. Nix retired May 22 after 23 years of service to the Wisconsin library community.

Goodbye from Larry
DLTCL's Nix retires May 22

Larry Nix, director of the Public Library Development Team (PLD), retired from his position in the Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning (DLTCL) on May 22.

"It has been a privilege to work on behalf of Wisconsin's libraries for more than two decades," Nix said. "In retirement I hope to pursue my interest in library history, among other things. I intend to maintain my connection to the Wisconsin Library Association, and I will look forward to seeing many of you in the future."

Nix served as the PLD director (formerly the Bureau of Public and Cooperative Library Services) in the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction since November 1983. From September 1996 to June 1997 Nix also served as Assistant State Superintendent for the DLTCL, and from May 1980 to November 1983 he was the Public Library Consultant for Administration and Buildings. Prior to joining DPI, Nix was director of the Greenville County Library in Greenville, South Carolina. Before that he served as associate director of the Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County in Charlotte, North Carolina, and as director of the Clinch Powell Regional Library in Clinton, Tennessee. Nix began his work in public libraries in January 1963 as a part-time library clerk at the Public Library of Nashville and Davidson County in Nashville, TN.

"I want to personally commend Larry Nix on his service to the schools and libraries of Wisconsin during his 23 years at the Department of Public Instruction," said State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster. "As a result of his leadership, Wisconsin residents now have increased access to a greater number of library resources. He has been a strong advocate of maintaining Wisconsin's tradition of 'free public libraries'. All of us at DPI wish him well in his retirement."

"Larry has demonstrated a level of commitment to his profession that we can all admire," said Richard Grobschmidt, administrator of the DLTCL. "Many of us have appreciated his willingness to share his knowledge and his passion for libraries."

The Public Library Development Team administers the state aid program for public library systems, the Library Services and Technology Act, the public library director certification program, and the public library data collection program. The team also coordinates the statewide summer library program and facilitates participation of public libraries in the federal and state E-Rate programs. Five library consultants on the PLD Team provide assistance to public libraries and public library systems on services to youth and special needs, library technology, public library administration and funding, public library law, and library continuing education.

"I have been extremely fortunate to serve on a team of outstanding library professionals who will continue to provide exemplary leadership to the Wisconsin library community," Nix said. "I wish all of you the best as you face these challenging times."

Nix can be contacted at 3605 Niebler Ln., Middleton, WI 53562; (608) 836-5616 (nixlt@execpc.com). ▊

MEDLINE searching made easier

Recently, the State Reference and Loan Library (R&LL), in a coordinated effort with EBSCO and the National Center for Biotechnological Information, created a LinkOut profile of full-text holdings indexed and abstracted by NCBI accessible through the PubMed search interface.

PubMed, a service of the National Library of Medicine, provides access to over 12 million MEDLINE citations and additional life science journals back to the mid-1960s. LinkOut is a PubMed feature that links to relevant web-accessible resources, including full-text publications, biological databases, consumer health information, research tools, and more.

The PubMed interface is a popular tool among medical librarians and healthcare professionals and the LinkOut feature will be a useful BadgerLink tool for any frequent users of the MEDLINE database. When a citation in a PubMed search results list corresponds to a full-text holding at EBSCO, users will see a "Library Holdings" icon that will link seamlessly to the full text of the article. As of this writing, R&LL staff are working out the technical details of adding a BadgerLink icon to better identify full-text availability.

To search BadgerLink holdings using the PubMed interface, follow the link from www.badgerlink.net or use www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?holding=wirllib. Institutions that have created a holdings profile with PubMed LinkOut can search their own holdings and the BadgerLink holdings simultaneously by adding a comma followed by the institution's name abbreviation code, assigned by NCBI, to the URL above (i.e., www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?holding=wirllib,yourlib).

For more information about PubMed LinkOut or BadgerLink, contact James Leaver at badgerlink@dpi.state.wi.us. ▊

Early learning leadership conference held April 15

by **Barbara Huntington**, Consultant
Public Library Youth and Special Services

The Division for Libraries, Technology and Community Learning (DLTCL) is involved with a year-long initiative to help make librarians aware of the potential service they can offer in the area of early learning. Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster's "New Wisconsin Promise" includes assuring that all Wisconsin children arrive at school ready to learn.

To start the initiative, the Division sponsored a Leadership Conference April 15 in Madison. Lt. Governor Barbara Lawton opened the conference with a welcoming speech that challenged the public library community to be active participants in the po-

litical process and to help voice the needs of very young children.

Keynote speakers Elaine Czarnecki and Gilda Martinez from Baltimore, both of whom are early childhood specialists and work for Johns Hopkins University, provided regional training sessions for public librarians in Maryland several years ago when Maryland hosted an early learning initiative. They used research to explain the type of activities that librarians currently use in story programs for children under 5 years old that help promote readiness skills.

The speakers gave examples of new things librarians could try and ways to enhance some things they are already doing. They also explained that if a librarian typically reads the title of a story before reading the book, the librarian could run his/her finger under the words as they are read to help the children understand that the text is what is being read. They suggested that librarians pause now and then and give learning tips to parents if they are in the room or send home tips after the story. The speakers encouraged librarians to use music, songs, and rhymes in their programs, and they also gave librarians a checklist to use to help them remember to incorporate different learning techniques in their programs.

Nan Brien from the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families gave an overview of recent infant brain development. Jill Haglund with the Bright Beginnings Team at DPI explained the various early childhood networks public libraries can join to help reach very young children. Lita Haddal with the Child Care Information Center, located at the Wisconsin Reference and Loan Library, discussed the numerous free resources that she can supply to public libraries on a wide range of topics related to early childhood.

A panel of librarians closed the day with a description of their federal grant projects. Mary Driscoll of the Dane County Library Service and Carolyn Schaffer with the Madison Public Library talked about their joint efforts at "play literacy" with their shared use of the Readmobile. Jane Grabarski, Adams County Public Library, demonstrated some of the materials and toys purchased with her grant to provide adaptive technology and toys for preschoolers with

Pictured during the Early Learning Conference (l-r) are Kristi Williams, COLAND member, Barb Huntington, DLTCL, Lt. Gov. Barbara Lawton, and Rick Grobschmidt, DLTCL administrator.

COLAND meets May 2 in Monona

by **Larry Nix**, Former Director
Public Library Development Team

The Council on Library and Network Development (COLAND) met May 2 at the newly expanded Monona Public Library. John DeBacher, director of the Monona Public Library, and State Rep. Mark Miller, whose district includes Monona, welcomed the Council. DeBacher then gave a tour of the library, which is equipped with a distance learning laboratory that was financed by TEACH Wisconsin and the City of Monona.

Assistant State Superintendent Rick Grobschmidt updated the Council on the state legislative and budget situation, noting that Assembly Bill 169 and Senate Bill 128 relating to privacy of library records have been introduced in the Legislature. These bills allow the parents or guardians of children 16 or under to have access to the library records of their children. The Council passed a resolution recommending that the age be lowered to 12, and that this recommendation be forwarded to the appropriate legislative committees.

The Council reviewed a report relating to the library education requirements for Grade 2 and Grade 3 public library directors. The report, which was compiled by a Cer-

Summer Reading Program update

by **Barbara Huntington**, Consultant
Public Library Youth and Special Services

What is all that giggling about in public libraries this summer? The giggling and laughter is just part of the children's summer reading program. The theme for this summer is "Laugh It Up @ The Library," the colorful artwork for which was designed by children's author and illustrator Nadine Wolcott. There are programs about jokes, puns, and all other forms of silliness throughout the summer at participating libraries in Wisconsin.

Wisconsin is part of the Consortium Summer Library Program (CSLP) organization, which offers quality summer program materials at low cost for its 23 member states. The materials include theme-related posters, bookmarks, reading records, tee shirts, and incentive items. Consortium members meet once a year to make decisions on themes and products. The organization contracts with Upstart to develop the materials and to manage the orders. Upstart offers the materials to the public in its catalog at significantly higher costs, the year after the Consortium uses the materials.

The 2004 theme will be "Discover New Trails @ Your Library," and will focus on the Lewis and Clark Trail and other groups that went west in American history. The topic also serves as a nature exploration theme. Children's book illustrator Mark Buehner is creating the artwork. Wisconsin hosted the 2004 annual meeting April 18-20 in Madison.

Those attending the April meeting decided the 2005 theme will be "Imagine Dragons, Dreams and Daring Deeds." Award-winning children's book creator Steven Kellogg has agreed to do the artwork. The general concept for 2006 will be "Pets" and the theme will be selected at the meeting next year.

At the April meeting Highsmith/Upstart gave the Consortium a model rebate check for $39,750 for 2003, but company representatives indicated that the final amount of the rebate on the "Laugh It Up" materials is likely to be over $41,000. Upstart gives the Consortium a percentage of sales once a negotiated sales level is met. The money is used to offset Consortium expenses such as those related to the annual meeting.

The money will be used to initiate several new projects, one of which will be a teen manual developed for 2005. The state of Iowa created a manual and offered it to Consortium members in 2002 and 2003. Iowa will do that again in 2004, but will then stop creating a teen manual and use the one provided by the Consortium. Some of the ideas from the teen manual also will appear in a teen chapter within the manual.

The Consortium also is working with Upstart to create Public Service Announcements with celebrities. It is anticipated the first of those will be available in 2004, but no confirmed celebrity names are available at this time.

Wisconsin joined the Consortium in 2001 and Systems have since requested that the state remain in the Consortium and work toward maintaining or enhancing the quality of the materials. ∎

Early learning—*from page 7*

physical disabilities. Kelly Hughbanks of the Milwaukee Public Library explained the day care outreach efforts made through the "Books To Go" project.

Several regional training sessions have been held since the Leadership Conference and more will be hosted by the Systems next fall. The training sessions help librarians identify more ways they can effectively build readiness skills into their programming for young children. They highlight ways to reach the three primary targets of this initiative—teen parents, parents who use English as their second language, and parents of young children who live in poverty. Each session includes a segment on infant brain development research provided by a local partner, usually someone who has taken the Brain Team training from the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families. Also demonstrated were techniques for doing infant and toddler programs. ∎

Spring Interlibrary Loan meeting held April 29

by Mary Struckmeyer, Coordinator
Reference and Interloan

What are the implications of Z39.50 searching for interlibrary loan? What will the new Auto-Graphics interface look like? What new features will be added to ILL software in the next year? These topics and others were covered in a meeting with 37 representatives from public library system headquarters and resource libraries held at the Reference and Loan Library April 29.

Future ILL/resource sharing planning activities were addressed by Rick Grobschmidt, assistant state superintendent for the Division of Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning (DLTCL). Grobschmidt explained that because of the transition to new leadership and the implementation of new interlibrary loan and gateway software, more time is needed to decide on the best method of gathering, presenting, and discussing information on the future of resource sharing within the state. He stated that focus groups might be created to get input on this topic, but no definite plans have been made.

The Governor's proposed budget reduces by 10 percent the money available to fund four state level library contracts. Funding under these contracts goes to WiLS and Milwaukee Public Library for interlibrary loan services, the Cooperative Children's Book Center, and the Regional Library for the Blind and Visually Handicapped. No decision has been made as to how this cut will be implemented.

Grobschmidt also highlighted State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster's emphasis on the importance of early childhood learning activities and acknowledged librarians' long-standing tradition of involvement in this area through story hours and other programs.

Mary Clark, WISCAT coordinator at the Reference and Loan Library (R&LL), demonstrated the new Auto-Graphics interface that will be implemented sometime between July and September of this year. Search options will remain the same, but the look and feel of the database will change. Library staff members and customers should find the new version "more intuitive" and easier to search, according to Clark. Fretwell-Downing, the vendor providing WISCAT ILL software, also will upgrade to version 2.3 of its VDX software sometime between September and December 2003. Version 2.3 will fix many existing bugs, and it will add a brokering feature to make it easier for clearinghouses to manage interlibrary loan requests on behalf of member libraries.

Clark also led a discussion on plans for testing and implementing patron-initiated ILL requests. Between now and November 2003, half a dozen libraries will test the function that allows local library patrons to initiate requests for items. Current plans call for all of these requests to be "mediated," meaning they will be reviewed by ILL staff members before being referred to the statewide system. Depending on the results of this test, unmediated patron initiated requests also may be tested at a future date.

Another VDX system capability recently implemented is e-mail notification of low volume responders. Because some small libraries do not receive requests every day, they can be configured to receive an e-mail alerting them that a request has been referred to their library, instead of having to check for requests each day.

Patrons who have included an e-mail address in their library registration information can be profiled to receive a notification message when the local library updates the status of the request to "received." Libraries interested in implementing these e-mail features should contact Terry Wilcox toll-free at (888) 542-5543 (terry.wilcox@dpi.state.wi.us). The complete draft implementation plan for WISCAT and WISCAT ILL is available at www.wiscat.lib.wi.us/pdf/ implement.pdf.
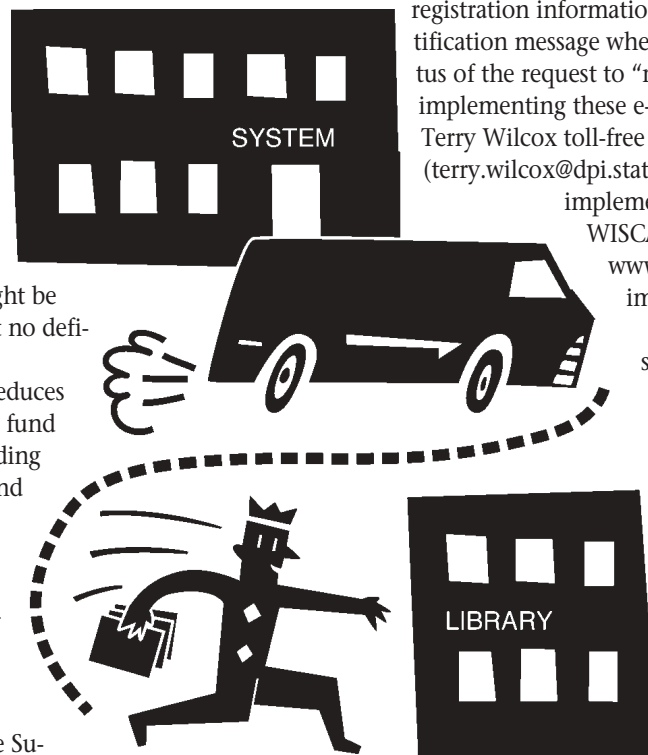
Garrett Erickson discussed the statistics capabilities of VDX software and provided a chart and handout with definitions of fill-rate statistics. Between March 18, 2002, and April 24, 2003, more than 500,000 requests were processed statewide using WISCAT ILL. A list of the 100 most frequently requested titles is available on the WISCAT Statistics Page at www.wiscat.lib.wi.us/ stats.html. WISCAT usage statistics broken down by public library system area and by individual public libraries also are published on this page at the end of each month. In the near future, Erickson said he hopes to incorporate data for non-public libraries within systems. To get the full picture of state-level ILL transactions by type of library, requests referred by mail, e-mail, OCLC, and other methods would have to be added also, said RLL Director Sally Drew.

Erickson's next task will be to look at gathering statistics to accommodate the needs of public library system staff. Customized reports for individual libraries are not available at this time, since Crystal Reports software must be used to download figures and produce reports.

Because of the vacancy in their training position, R&LL staff

ILL meeting—*from page 9*

have not been able to devote as much time as they would like to encouraging schools that have paid to update records on WIS-CAT to use the ILL features. Most ILL referrals from R&LL to schools are currently done by mail or e-mail. R&LL has available copies of a WISCAT brochure aimed at schools. Approximately 160 school libraries are currently participating in WISCAT inter-library loan. Several computer-based WisLine sessions introducing school library media staff to WISCAT ILL have been presented and more are planned.

Drew said that the Statewide Library Delivery Service Committee is studying ways to incorporate schools so that items do not have to be sent through the U.S. Postal System. It was suggested that the CESAs and public library systems work together to provide delivery to and from schools. CESA staff interested in exploring this option should contact Sally Drew at (608) 224-6161 (sally.drew@dpi.state.wi.us).

R&LL staff also are encouraging schools to update their holdings in the database. This can be done by batch tape loads as

Trustee Corner

What can our library board do to protect the confidentiality of public use of our library? We are especially concerned that library staff know the applicable laws and understand the importance of library patron confidentiality.

Libraries have a long tradition of concern for the confidentiality of individuals' use of library books and other resources. In addition, almost every state (including Wisconsin) has laws that protect library patron confidentiality.

The two most important actions your board can take to protect library patron confidentiality are to
 • adopt a library policy on the protection of patron privacy, and
 • make sure all library staff receive training on compliance with patron privacy laws and with the library's policy on the protection of patron privacy.

Library policies can provide greater protections for patron privacy than the protections provided by state law. Wisconsin Statutes Section 43.30 provides protections for library patron *records*, while a library policy can provide protections against disclosure of *any* information about patron library use. Information about library use can include staff observations of patron use of library materials and resources.

A sample public library policy on the protection of patron privacy is available at www.dpi.state.wi.us/dltcl/pld/doc/privacypolicy.doc. This sample policy outlines the legal require-

well as by interactive updates. There is no charge for updating records via tape loads. According to Drew, R&LL is still at a "developmental stage" in terms of working with other types of libraries using the new automated statewide WISCAT system, but feedback from other libraries indicates this is a worthwhile endeavor.

Vickie Long, WISCAT trainer, demonstrated techniques for Z39.50 gateway searching of participating libraries' online catalogs. Users currently can choose from among 25 public and academic automated library systems as well as WISCAT to search using the Bibsearch button. Library consortia such as M.O.R.E. and OWLSNet allow searching of many member-library catalogs by choosing a single selection from the gateway list. Shelf status is available at many libraries, although not for University of Wisconsin System locations. Appropriate gateway searches might be for very new items and multiple copy requests (such as book club titles).

Mary Struckmeyer reminded participants that there are several ways of sending reference requests to the R&LL. Although there is no form available on WISCAT ILL, requests may be sent using a blank form and changing the designation for type of material to reference. Either ILL staff or reference staff may send requests directly to R&LL by e-mail using the online form at www.wiscat.lib.wi.us/forms/lib_form.asp. R&LL staff members are in the process of customizing a QuestionPoint e-mail form to simplify the procedures for librarians submitting questions. Struckmeyer reminded librarians to read all responses from R&LL staff and to be sure to pass on information included for patrons.

During the roundtable portion of the meeting, attendees discussed alternate sources for obtaining census microfilms not available from the Wisconsin Historical Society Library. Among alternate sources that resource library staff use are borrowing from the National Archives or calling directly to the historical society library in the state for which census information is desired.

To address concerns about shipping costs to return items to libraries not on the delivery system, interlibrary loan librarian Terry Wilcox suggested that member libraries should sometimes expect to return materials via mail. If they will not, systems should have a method for picking up those costs for member libraries. She reminded libraries using the South Central Delivery System that printing and using shipping labels is mandatory. Questions about reserves were also addressed. Notes requesting reserves should be added to citations fields, the additional numbers field, or in any serials citation field rather than in the notes field when editing requests, because only the first library in the rota has notes printed on the pick slip. Failure to print notes on all pick slips will be corrected at a future date.

Another query, arising from powers created by the USA PATRIOT Act, concerned storage of patron information on old requests. Currently, this information stays on requests that have been kept in a history file that goes back to the system's implementation date in March 2002. Attendees agreed that stripping the patron information from completed requests on a quarterly basis would be acceptable once the vendor has that ability. ■

Menomonee Falls Public Library dedicated March 1

by Richard Crane, Director
Menomonee Falls Public Library

The new two-story 51,000 square foot Menomonee Falls Public Library was dedicated March 1 with Richard Grobschmidt as the featured speaker. The building was designed by Phillips Swager Associates of Naperville Illinois.

Its primary exterior finishes are glass, local Lannon stone, and prefabricated panels of sliced and polished limestone. The entire south wall of the building is glass, and the second floor is cantilevered out ten feet over the first floor. Natural light is brought into the center of the building by means of a high clerestory that wraps around beneath the soaring high roof over the second floor. The construction method made it possible to finish the building with only eleven months of construction. The new library is part of a $23 million civic center project that also includes large additions to the village hall and police department.

The library boasts numerous small group study rooms, many lounge areas, and porches on each floor. Because it was unlikely that there would be sufficient traffic to support a staffed cafe, food and beverages are provided by vending machines. The 150-seat dividable community room has multimedia projection equipment and can be linked with the village board room in the adjacent building. The library boardroom also is available for smaller meetings. A separate children's program room can accommodate up to 50 seated at tables. In all, there are 63 public access computers, including a computer lab, which is available for access when not in use as a classroom.

Greatly expanded display space exists in the lobby area with open shelving and glass cases, in addition to more than 500 lineal feet of picture rail throughout the library. A drive-through book drop allows patrons to return both print and audiovisual materials from the comfort of their vehicles.

The children's room sports a forest theme with a large hollow oak tree that stands against a forest mural that curves around to cover two walls. Authentically shaped bear paw prints in the carpet lead visitors to the learning tree and program room. Some of the children's computer stations are extra wide with two chairs to facilitate working together.

The building is laid out to permit the highest activity areas—new books, children's materials, and audiovisual materials—to be seen from the new boulevard that will pass the structure.

About 1,100 people attended the dedication events while the Menomonee Falls Symphony brass section played from the atrium bridge. There were choral and string ensembles from the high school, a magician, storyteller, mime, and readers from the Falls Patio Players presenting selections from the Sandburg-Steichen letters. The Steichen family home is in Menomonee Falls and is currently being restored. ■

Trustee Corner

from page 10

ments for the protection of patron records and provides sample rules to be followed by library staff to protect patron privacy. The sample policy also includes guidelines for staff handling of subpoenas and search warrants, including those authorized under the USA PATRIOT Act.

The sample policy is not intended as a recommended policy, but is instead intended to be a starting point for development of a local library policy—ideally to be developed with the assistance of the municipal attorney (or library counsel). Working with your municipal attorney would be a good opportunity for him or her to become familiar with the state law that protects library records (Section 43.30).

Once you develop and approve a library policy on the protection of patron privacy, it is important that your library hold training sessions to ensure that library staff members understand how to comply with patron privacy laws and with the library's policy on the protection of patron privacy.

Questions about Wisconsin's library record confidentiality law can be directed to Mike Cross at (608) 267-9225 (michael.cross@dpi.state.wi.us). ■

MPL, MPS join forces in program

'Learning for All' targets needs of library users with learning disabilities

by **Paula Kiely**, Deputy City Librarian,
and the staff of Milwaukee Public Library

"Learning for All" is a new Milwaukee Public Library (MPL) project designed to improve service to youth who learn differently—youth with learning disabilities. Having a learning disability means that the brain processes information differently for these children than it does for others. Some information is "lost" while traveling through the brain, causing a discrepancy between ability and achievement.

Among children with special needs, those with learning disabilities make up the single largest group. The disability may be physical, mental, or a combination of both and can include dyslexia, Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD), or slower understanding of words and phrases.

Prior to the training provided through this project, Milwaukee librarians had little experience and background in serving elementary, middle, and high school students with learning disabilities. Thanks to this grant, librarians and other staff who serve youth are now equipped with basic knowledge so they can recognize what is often referred to as an "invisible" disability.

Funded through a 2002 Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant, the project was developed and implemented by a committee of Milwaukee Public Librarians in partnership with Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) staff Diane Rozanski and Pamela Penn. The committee, comprised of librarians from the Milwaukee Central Library and the neighborhood libraries representative of administration, children's, adult, and young adult services worked in partnership with Milwaukee Public Schools' Exceptional Education, Assistive Technology, and School Library Media Center Departments.

All librarian staff, from children's librarians to adult services, received training conducted by MPS specialist Cathy Emanuele. As one staff member commented, "This presentation was extremely helpful in making us reassess how we deal with all people in the library!" New materials were reviewed and added to the collection including books, videos, and software aimed at improving reading comprehension, writing skills, study skills, and self-esteem.

Milwaukee Public Library Communications and Marketing staff, together with the project committee, developed a marketing campaign to reach the intended audience of parents, teachers, school librarians, and students. Two brochures were created to explain the program: one for adults, and one written specifically for students.

A special "kit" with tools to help students was developed as part of the marketing campaign. These free learning kits, which were made available at all library locations, include Learning for All logo pencils, a booklist prepared by public and school librarians, and homework tips with simple ideas for easier reading and better writing.

The kits also include two EZC readers—colored rulers or "viewfinders" that help readers concentrate on each line being read—colored overlays that can be placed over a page to provide better contrast, and sticky notes with the Learning for All logo for marking a reader's place in a book.

Letters were sent to all public and private City of Milwaukee schools and agencies that serve youths to inform educators and families about the availability of the free kits. An ad also was placed in a special issue of Metroparent magazine devoted to the subject of children with special needs.

A PowerPoint presentation was developed by MPL librarians Rachel Collins and Barbara Gregory to be used for inservice training at outside locations, such as the Wisconsin Adaptive Technology Conference and parent-teacher organization meetings.

Start-to-Finish reading kits, currently found in MPS libraries, are available to check out at Milwaukee Public Libraries. By expanding the use of software already owned by MPS, students can continue developing their reading skills outside of the classroom using technology with which they are already familiar.

These kits contain adaptive works of fiction and nonfiction on CD-ROM and cassette. Students can read along with a copy of the book, or on a computer where each word is highlighted as it's read aloud. The software also is available on MPL computers in the Children's Room. Other new reading products include Quicktionary II, a scanner that reads text aloud and translates English and Spanish; Speaking Homework Wiz, a talking dictionary with five word games; and Write Outloud, a word processor that reads typed words and sentences aloud.

Learning For All
From page 12

WYNN Reader, a word processor and web browser that reads text aloud using a reading voice that can be altered in pitch, rate, and inflection has proven popular with MPL librarians.

"At a recent class visit, I was able to make use of WYNN Reader," said Rachel Collins, children's librarian. "I noticed that the teacher spent over 15 minutes with one child, helping him stay focused and on task. The information the class was reading on the web was often in small print with colored backgrounds and challenging vocabulary. I copied and pasted the information in the Reader, then altered the font size, word and line spacing. The child proceeded to read independently and the teacher was able to continue with the other children in the class."

At the Central Library, Children's Services Coordinator Kelly Hughbanks said, "A student asked for a dictionary because she was having a hard time understanding many of the words in an article she copied from the Internet. We pasted it into WYNN Reader and created a clipboard with her words and the definitions. She was pleased to have a list ready-made to turn in to her teacher."

There's no better place than the library to partner with schools in providing free access to a wealth of reading material, readers' advisory assistance, and programs such as Learning for All to offer the extra help these students need beyond the classroom.

All children and teens deserve the opportunity to learn, whether in the classroom or independently in the library. Learning for All is helping to make this possible. ▐▌
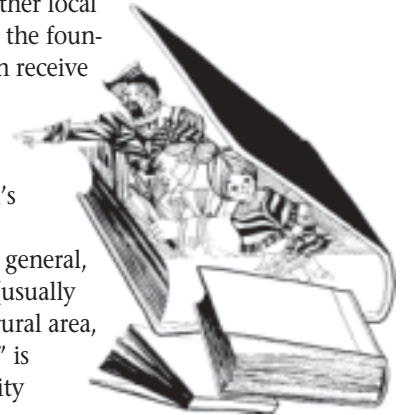
Libri Foundation offers children's books to rural libraries

Established in 1989, the Libri Foundation helps rural libraries acquire new hardcover children's books they could not otherwise afford to buy. The foundation works with an applicant library's Friends of the Library or other local organization to encourage and reward local support of libraries. The Friends, or other local sponsors, can contribute from $50 to $350, which the foundation matches on a two-to-one ratio. A library can receive up to $1,050 worth of new hardcover children's books through the foundation's Books for Children program. The local librarian selects the books the library will receive from the foundation's 700-title booklist.

Libraries are qualified on an individual basis. In general, a library should serve a population under 10,000 (usually under 5,000), have a very limited budget, be in a rural area, and have an active children's department. ("Rural" is usually considered to be at least 30 miles from a city with a population over 40,000.)

Applications are accepted from independent libraries as well as libraries that are part of a county, regional, or cooperative library system. A library system also may apply if all the libraries in the system meet the requirements. Applications are accepted from school libraries only if they also serve as the public library. A branch library may apply if the community in which it is located meets the definition of rural.

For complete eligibility details, or to request an application packet, see the Libri Foundation website at www.librifoundation.org/. The first application deadline was July 15, but a second is Nov. 15, 2003. ▐▌

COLAND*—from page 7*

tification Study Committee established by the Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning (DLTCL), recommended among other items that the basic library management course commonly known as A50 be upgraded and that it continue to be offered to help satisfy the requirements for both Grade 2 and Grade 3 certificates. Other items recommended by the committee included having public library system staff members conduct orientation sessions for new public library directors and developing a public library administrator's handbook. The Council endorsed the recommendations of the committee with the proviso that additional input be sought from the small public library community. The Council asked DLTCL staff to report back to COLAND on the availability of "for credit" courses that meet the requirements for Grade 2 and Grade 3 certificates.

In response to a report on the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant categories for 2004, the Council passed a resolution requesting that State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster consider funding a Library Marketing Audit and Plan if additional LSTA funds became available.

The Council received a variety of reports from DLTCL staff on division activities and projects.

John Reid, chair of COLAND, appointed a nominating committee with instructions to report back at the next meeting of the Council.

The Council passed a resolution expressing its appreciation and best wishes to Larry Nix, former director of the Public Library Development Team, on the occasion of his retirement from state service. ▐▌

Milwaukee Public Library system grew up with city

Editor's Note: *This article is reprinted with the permission of author John Gurda. It originally appeared in the May 3, 2003, issue of the* Milwaukee Journal/Sentinel. *Gurda, a Milwaukee historian, writes for the Crossroads section on the first Sunday of each month.*

The Milwaukee Public Library has been part of my life since early childhood. When I was growing up on S. 34th St., my whole world lay within the square mile bordered by my grandparents' hardware store on Lincoln Ave., Jackson Park on S. 43rd St., Blessed Sacrament Church on Oklahoma Ave., and the Layton Park branch library at 2913 W. Forest Home Ave.

The library was as far as my siblings and I were allowed to walk when we were old enough to leave the yard. (Drews Five & Dime, in the same block, was an added attraction.) Summertime, especially, was library time, and I plowed through piles of easy readers to remain in Billy the Bookworm's good graces.

By the time I outgrew Billy, the Layton Park branch had moved to another cramped storefront on 43rd and Forest Home—an important bus transfer corner. My family lived in Hales Corners by then, but the branch remained a regular stop, particularly during my high school years. I must have spent hundreds of hours there between buses on my way home from Marquette High School.

In those dear, dead days before bar codes and laser scanners, every patron had to enter his or her library card number on a slip to check out a book. I used my card so often that the number was hard-wired into my mental circuitry; I'm sure I'll go to my grave remembering 54-13940.

In more recent years, the public library has enabled me to make a living as a Milwaukee historian. From maps to manuscripts, I am absolutely dependent on the collections of the Central Library, especially the treasures stored in the Frank P. Zeidler Humanities Room.

Although I visit more often as a patron, I've also been a member of the library board for the last decade. I've gotten to know the institution from the inside out, and everything I've learned convinces me that Milwaukee has one of the finest systems in the country.

That system celebrates 125 years of service to the community this year. It was in 1878—Milwaukee's own childhood—that the city decided to give library service the same tax support that was already paying for its street and water systems. Not the same level of support, by any means, but enough to ensure that all citizens had access to a sampling, at least, of their culture's bound heritage.

Although its public incarnation dates to 1878, the library system actually began in the city's infancy. In 1847, just one year after Milwaukee incorporated, a group of book-starved pioneers decided to start a library. It is significant that they met in December, after ice had shut down the shipping lanes—and therefore communication with the outside world—until the following spring.

Most of the founders were young Yankees who had not yet made their fortunes, and they called their group the Young Men's Association. "Regular" members paid a $2 initiation fee, and graybeards over 35 shelled out $5.

What they received for that sum (and $2 in annual dues) was unlimited access to a small but growing collection of books shipped from the East. Members could check out one large book (or two small ones) for two weeks, with a one-week renewal privilege.

The Young Men's Association library moved often in its early years, generally in search of lower rent. Despite a well-re-ceived lecture series, the organization was dogged by debt.

There was, in the meantime, a rising tide of sentiment for a tax-supported system open to everyone. "If a library is a good thing, and all of us believe it is," the Milwaukee Sentinel editorialized, "it is best as a public library."

The breakthrough came in 1878, when the Young Men's Association offered its collection of nearly 10,000 books (a third in German) as the nucleus of the Milwaukee Public Library. The association's reading room on Milwaukee St. was remodeled, the first city librarian was hired (at $1,200 a year), and the newly public library reopened to a brisk business in July 1878.

Two years later, its holdings swollen to 15,000 volumes, the institution moved to the second floor of the new Library Block, at 4th St. and Wisconsin Ave. The reading room there was open to "all well-behaved persons" from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day but Sunday, when patrons could enter at 2 p.m.

By the early 1890s, the collection had mushroomed to 65,000 books, and the reading room was attracting 75,000 patrons a year. Space was soon at a premium.

The city decided to solve the problem by building a combined library and museum at what is now 814 W. Wisconsin Ave. The neoclassical monument opened in 1898, and it was universally hailed as a milestone in Milwaukee's civic progress.

Under the leadership of City Librarian Kate Huston, that landmark has been painstakingly renovated in the last few years. The Central Library is the hub of a system that includes 12 branches (among them the striking new Washington Park library); circulates more than 3 million

WebJunction technology portal launched

Continuing the work of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's U.S. Library Program, OCLC, the Colorado State Library, The Benton Foundation, Isoph, and TechSoup have created *WebJunction.* This technology portal is a web-based, public access computing center that provides information about using technology effectively in a public setting. It is intended for use by public librarians and other organizations that help the public use computers to get information and resources.

The *WebJunction* portal currently has five main areas:

• Policies and Practices helps libraries keep track of the various political and environmental issues that are critical to sustaining public access to information technology. It includes sections on technology planning, acceptable use policies, issues around accessibility, and strategies for fundraising and marketing.

• Technology Resources helps library staff members stay ahead of technology issues, problems, and innovations. The portal helps librarians maintain existing infrastructure while keeping pace with new trends. It includes tools and tips for handling hardware and software within the library, overview of basic and advanced networking options, security measures, and guides to basic troubleshooting.

• Buying Guide helps librarians plan and review options before making decisions to upgrade or change the existing installation. It includes reviews and peer opinions of hardware and software, purchasing advice, and information about buying discounted and used hardware and software.

• Learning Center is an online learning environment that has online courses, downloadable lessons, training tips and other tools to enhance public access computing knowledge and skills. It can help staff acquire and update their own skills and help them learn how to teach the public.

• Community Forum allows freewheeling interaction with peers around the country. Librarians can post and discuss items of mutual interest, attend online events facilitated by experts, and access career information, event calendars, and success stories.

Connecting to *WebJunction* is easy. You must have Internet Explorer 5.0 or higher or Netscape Navigator 6.0 or higher. When you log on you can register to become a member, opt-in to help evaluate and develop the portal, or just search for information.

To design the most useful library portal possible, *WebJunction* conducted a needs assessment and gathered more than 1,800 responses from library and technical staff, as well as state library and regional library cooperative staff about what they would like to see the site contain. With the needs assessment in mind, *WebJunction* is designed to help users collaboratively plan for the merging technology needs of their organization. *WebJunction* improvements and enhancements will be driven by portal users who provide feedback about their use of *WebJunction* and their needs. Content will be enhanced by contributions from portal users.

Sign on to *WebJunction* by visiting www.webjunction.org, register to be a frequent user, take what information you need, and share your thoughts at the community forum. ❙❙

MPL—*from page 14*

books, CDs, videos and other materials; and serves more than 2.6 million patrons a year.

Although budget cuts loom in this era of fiscal duress, the library system remains a pivotal community resource. A public library is the most democratic of all institutions, gathering in one place—whether architectural or electronic–the accumulated knowledge, wisdom and folly of an entire civilization, and then sharing it, free of charge or restrictions, with all who enter. ❙❙

Calendar

Sept. 19	Library and Information Technology Advisory Committee, Madison.
Oct. 21-23	Governor's Wisconsin Educational Technology Conference, La Crosse.
Oct. 29-31	Wisconsin Library Association, Milwaukee.
Nov. 13	Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Advisory Committee, Madison.
Dec. 12	Library and Information Technology Advisory Committee, Madison.

**For more details about specific meetings, see the WISDOM calendar at
www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/dltcl/pld/wisdom.html.**

All Wisconsin public libraries now have Internet access

The Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning (DLTCL) is pleased to report that all Wisconsin public libraries now have Internet access. Since 2000 this figure has been between 98 percent and 99 percent of libraries having access.

But over the past six months the final few libraries that previously did not have access were connected. Furthermore, 96 percent of the state's 387 public libraries have broadband (high-speed) Internet access. Most of these are through direct data lines subsidized by the state, and several through their local cable provider or local phone company.

The division first surveyed public library Internet access in 1994, at which time just 6 percent had Internet access. ▌▌

Correction

In the March-April issue of Channel there was an article by Mark Beatty on the AskWisconsin Virtual Reference Service (page 14).

In that article was a list of current members that listed UW-Madison. It should have read UW-Colleges. We apologize for any inconvenience this error may have caused. ▌▌

School libraries receive $17.4 million from Common School Fund

The Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL) recently presented a ceremonial check for $17.4 million to State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster on behalf of Wisconsin's K-12 public school libraries.

The funds are distributed annually by the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL), which invests the principle of the Common School Fund (now totaling about $530 million) in loans to local governments and school districts and in local and state bonds. Since 1990, BCPL has earned about $261 million for the state's public school libraries. DPI distributes the funds based on the school district census of persons between the ages of 4 and 20. For the current school year, this amounts to $13.87 per student.

The principle of the Common School Fund

State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster (left), accepts a ceremonial check from Secretary of State Douglas La Follette and Attorney General Peggy Lautenschlager. Also pictured is Kate Bugher (right), president-elect of the Wisconsin Educational Media Association (WEMA). State Treasurer Jack Voight was unable to attend the ceremony.

grows each year with the addition of revenues from civil and criminal fees, fines and forfeitures, and unclaimed property. The Board of Commissioners, created in the 1848 state constitution, is the trustee for the Common School Fund. The constitution mandates that earnings of the Common School Fund be devoted to "the purchase of suitable libraries and apparatus therefor." The board includes Secretary of State Douglas La Follette, Attorney General Peggy A. Lautenschlager, and State Treasurer Jack C. Voight. ▌▌

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