

Letter To Libraries Online

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LIBRARY BOARD NEWS

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STATE LIBRARY BOARD HOLDS TO CAP ON REIMBURSEMENT

At their meeting on December 6, 2002, the State Library Board voted to reduce all interlibrary loan net lender reimbursements to eligible libraries by 8% to stay within the budget cap of \$400,000 for the program this year. Net loans by Oregon public and academic libraries increased by 21% in 2001-02, causing the cap to be exceeded by nearly \$35,000. The Board decided that to control costs in the LSTA-funded program, the budget cap should not be raised. In other business, the Board approved a plan to reduce the Library's General Fund budget by \$112,628 beginning in February, if Measure 28, which would raise income taxes, does not pass in January. The plan calls for cutting printing and travel in Talking Book and Braille services and shifting fund sources in the Volunteer Coordinator position to save \$46,670, and making another cut of \$65,958 in the Ready to Read Grant program. The Legislature already voted to cut the Ready to Read Grant program in the Second Special Session last year by \$63,826. Because both of these cuts would come out of the second year of the biennium, the reduction from funding in the first year of the biennium would be 18%.

BOARD APPROVES E-REFERENCE PILOT PROGRAM

At their December 6th meeting, the State Library Board also approved a grant of \$170,000 in LSTA funds to the Multnomah County Library to begin a statewide E-reference program for Oregon in 2003. Multnomah County Library was selected to lead the project from two libraries that had expressed interest. They will be hiring a project coordinator and appointing a steering committee and hope to get the pilot project underway in the spring. They will be recruiting other Oregon libraries that want to participate in the pilot. The E-reference service will enable any citizen of Oregon to ask questions of librarians over the Internet, using chat or email applications. The LSTA-funded program is designed to replace the Oregon Reference LINK program. Library staff may also use the E-reference service to refer reference questions that can't be answered locally. The pilot project will be evaluated later in 2003 and recommendations made to the LSTA Advisory Council on the future of the project. "I applaud Multnomah County Library for taking the lead on this exciting new service," commented State Librarian Jim Schepcke. "It's important that Oregon keeps up with the latest developments in reference services, and that we do so collaboratively so we don't leave any libraries behind."

LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT NEWS =====

READY TO READ GRANT OUTSTANDING PROJECTS 2001-2002

Each year the staff of Library Development selects several projects that do an outstanding job of fulfilling the original intent of the Ready to Read program, "to establish, develop, or improve public library service to children ages 0-14." Other criteria include: an emphasis on service to preschool age children, enhancement of library services, potential for impact over time, and building partnerships. A

State Library representative visits each library to present the award.

Library: Deschutes Public Library Director: Michael Gaston Head of Children's Services: Heather McNeil Grant: \$25,604. The children's library staff provided a variety of activities to promote the Deschutes Public Library as a primary family resource for literacy information, and entertainment. In addition to a highly successful summer reading program, the funds provided family programming throughout the year and give-away books for participants in Ready, Set, Go (Healthy Start) and Early Words literacy training.

Library: Douglas County Library Director: Max Leek Children's Librarian: Dan White Grant: \$25,305. The Douglas County Library used the funding to continue a highly successful summer partnership with the Umpqua Valley Arts Association, which provided programs at all eleven library branches. The library was also a major partner in a community "Celebration of Literacy". In addition to these valuable partnerships on the county level, grant funds were used to allow staff to visit local child care and Head Start facilities to promote reading and library use.

Library: Hermiston Public Library Director: M'Lou Williams Outreach Librarian: Kelly Martinez Grant: \$2,611. The Outreach Librarian took the summer reading program to a variety of children in child care, Head Start and Migrant Head Start programs. Children enjoyed a story time each week as well as receiving weekly incentives to continue their reading during the summer at their care facility and at home.

Library: Nyssa Public Library Director: Faith Adams Grant: \$625. The Nyssa Public Library partnered with a local 4-H Club to develop, construct and perform puppet shows. Over 300 community members attended the ten performances of three fractured fairy tales.

Library: Umatilla County Special Library District Director: Ken Reading Children's Programming Director: Chris Hildebrand Grant: \$9,059. The Umatilla Special Library District modeled their successful outreach to child care project on the "Training Wheels" program in Wallowa County. Under the mentoring of the coordinators of that project, the Children's Programming Director created "Take Off!" which provided library outreach to childcare and education facilities as well as UCSLD member libraries. In addition to reaching a wide array of children and caregivers, partnerships were begun with a variety of community agencies.

Library: Waldport Public Library Director: Jill Tierce Grant: \$306. The Waldport Public Library used the grant funds to provide toddler and preschool story times to children in the library and community care facilities. Groups from the care facilities also visited the library, heard a story, and received information about the summer reading program.

COOPER WINS INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM AWARD

The 2002 Robert B. Downs Intellectual Freedom Award-presented by the faculty of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science (GSLIS) at the University of Illinois-has been awarded to two recipients: retired librarian Zoia Horn for a lifetime of defending intellectual freedom, and Ginnie Cooper and the Multnomah County Library Board of Trustees (Portland, Oregon) for their stand on the Children's Internet Protection Act. Cooper's commitment, along with that of the Multnomah County Library Board of Trustees, led to the library's serving with the ALA as plaintiffs in the case against the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). In May, the plaintiffs received a unanimous lower court ruling that CIPA is unconstitutional because the mandated use of filtering technology on all computers will result in blocked access to substantial amounts of constitutionally protected speech. The Court found that filters both over block (block access to protected speech) and under block (allow access to illegal or unconstitutional speech). The U.S. Supreme Court is expected to hear arguments on CIPA in late winter or early spring 2003. More information about this case can be found at ALA's CIPA website:
<http://www.ala.org/cipa/>.

OREGON LINK INTERLIBRARY LOAN NET LENDER
REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM 2001-02

A summary of interlibrary loan net lender reimbursement grant awards for 2001-02 was sent to libraries in late December. The mailing included reimbursement checks for the 86 libraries eligible for net lender grants. Fifty-seven public libraries will be reimbursed \$260,403 and twenty-nine academic libraries will receive \$139,598 for a total of \$400,001.

The ILL Net Lender program began in 1996 and reimburses libraries that loan more materials than they borrow in one of two categories: loans within shared automated systems (at \$1 per net loan) and loans by other means (at \$4 per net loan). To be eligible, a public or academic library is required to fill ILL requests from public, academic and school libraries without charge, and must endorse the Oregon Library Association Interlibrary Loan Code. Libraries submit applications each year. Reimbursements are made with Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds administered by the Oregon State Library.

2001-02 saw the continued strong growth of interlibrary loans by Oregon's public and academic libraries. There was an overall increase of about 20% over the previous year, when all categories of loan statistics collected are included. The historical statistical summary on the Net Lender program linked from the State Library's Web page at <http://www.osl.state.or.us/home/libdev/grants.html> will be updated in the near future. Contact Pam Horan for more information, pam.horan@state.or.us, phone 503-378-2112, ext. 224.

E-RATE NEWS AND REMINDERS

The new filing deadline for Form 471 is February 6, 2003 and was extended by the Schools and Libraries Division (SLD) due to technical difficulties with the new online form.

There is also a revised method of calculating E-rate discounts for libraries, based on local school district student eligibility in the Free and Reduced Lunch Program. For details see the SLD Web site at <http://www.sl.universalservice.org/whatsnew/reminders-F471.asp#F471R8>

You may find local school eligibility data grouped by district and linked from the new Oregon E-Rate Web page <http://www.ode.state.or.us/erate/resources.htm>

Reminder: For a successful E-rate application, you must ensure an open, fair competitive process. Form 470 (Description of Services Requested), the first form in the application process, MUST be posted on the Schools and Libraries Division Web page for no fewer than 28 days. Your application will be denied if you submit Form 471 or sign a contract for services before the 28 days has elapsed. For details see the SLD site:

<http://www.sl.universalservice.org/whatsnew/reminders-F470.asp#F470R1>. For more information contact Pam Horan, pam.horan@state.or.us, phone 503-378-2112, ext. 224.

USA PATRIOT ACT TELECONFERENCE

A variety of library organizations in Oregon hosted the USA Patriot Act Teleconference on December 11, 2002. An excellent summary of the teleconference by Karen Schneider for the California Library Association IF Committee is available at <http://lii.blogspot.com/cla-ifc/>. Nancy Kranich, Chair of ALA's IF Committee compiled a list of resources post 9/11 for the American Booksellers Association, that is available at: <http://news.bookweb.org/freeexpression/981.html>.

PUBLIC LIBRARY DATA ON THE MAP

The GeoLib Program of the Florida Resources and Environmental Analysis Center (FREAC) at The Florida State University was awarded a National Leadership grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services for a two year project to develop a nationwide public library database system linked to a digital base map. The GIS project will include data sets from the US Census and Oregon's and other states' public library survey data from the National Center for Educational Statistics and be available through the Internet.

While national digital inventories of accurate locations and critical external information are available for major public agencies such as hospitals and emergency health care, police and schools, no comparable national digital database for public libraries has existed. With the database developed through this project, public librarians and policy makers will be better able to answer such questions as: is the library

providing the right balance of library services in light of changing populations? What are the effects of poverty on library services? The answer to these and many other public-library based questions will be best addressed by a nationwide database which will be linked to a geographic information system (GIS) base map. This project, spearheaded by Florida State University researchers, is a critical first step towards creating a database that will make public libraries equal players in having access to data that can shape local, regional and national library policies. For more information, see the Website at <http://www.geolib.org/IMLS.cfm>. For a sample of the map, see <http://imf.geocortex.net/mapping/demos/geolib/launch.html>.

OTHER LIBRARY NEWS

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DESCHUTES PUBLIC LIBRARY CHOSEN FOR STAFF EXCHANGE

The State Library Board has chosen the Deschutes Public Library System to participate in the Horner Library Staff Exchange Project in 2003 and 2004. The Board will make a \$3,000 grant from the Horner Fund of the State Library Donation Fund to assist with the exchange project. The Deschutes Public Library will send a staff member to the Fujian Provincial Library in 2003 for four weeks to learn about library service in China and share information with Chinese librarians. Fujian is Oregon's sister province and the Fujian Provincial Library maintains a sister library relationship with the Oregon State Library. In 2004, two librarians will travel from Fujian to spend four weeks at the Deschutes Public Library to learn about Oregon libraries and to share professional knowledge with Oregon librarians. The Deschutes Public Library will be the fourth Oregon library to participate in the staff exchange project. Other participants have been the State Library, Multnomah County Library, and the Valley Library at OSU.

ORBIS TO MERGE WITH CASCADE

In one of the most significant developments for library resource sharing in years, the Orbis Library Consortium has announced a decision to merge with the Cascade Library Consortium in Washington to form the Orbis Cascade Alliance. Both consortia currently maintain union catalogs and unmediated interlibrary lending systems for their faculty and students. Combining the two systems will result in one of the largest library resource sharing networks in the U.S. with an estimated 22 million holdings. The Alliance will have 26 academic library members, including all of the state universities in Oregon and Washington, and most of the private academic libraries as well. "Building on a decade of working together on an informal basis, it is wonderful to see Orbis and Cascade combine forces to form such a powerful collective," said Patricia Cutright who is Chair of the Orbis Council. Over the next seven months, representatives of the two consortia will draft agreements and combine their union catalog

systems. The Alliance expects to hold its first meeting of library directors in spring 2003 and merge union catalogs later in the summer.

FUND DEVELOPMENT NEWS
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A NEW YEAR, A NEW PLAN

New Year's Resolutions often focus on personal changes that we wish to make. However, you can resolve to focus time and energy in the coming year on creating, reshaping, or reinvigorating your Friends group, Foundation, fundraising or public relations efforts.

By creating a plan that lists realistic goals and timelines, you will have a road map to follow. By setting reasonable goals that you are likely to meet--but with some stretching involved-- you will not disappoint yourself. Identify the key areas you would like to improve. Do you need to learn to delegate, find volunteers to take on responsibility, or do you need to find inspiration to start a new campaign?

Break down the goal into simple tasks. Writing "Fund Bookmobile" on your "To Do" list is intimidating. Instead, brainstorm a list of ideas and tasks that can help you accomplish the major goal. In the planning process, you must first clearly identify your goal as well as the relevant details of cost, staffing, timeline, etc. Once your path is clear, you can attain your end result more quickly, and with less frustration. Resolve to plan, plan to succeed. Kathy Thomas

LIBRARY WORKSHOPS, CONFERENCES, AND CLASSES
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COMPUTERS IN LIBRARIES 2003 CONFERENCE DISCOUNT

Bibliographic Center for Research (BCR) is sponsoring discounted rates for the Computers in Libraries 2003 conference in Washington D.C. March 12-14, 2003. BCR's group registration rate is \$155 for the three-day event. The discounts are offered in cooperation with Information Today, Inc. More information about the conference is available on Information Today's Web site at <http://www.infotoday.com/cil2003/default.htm>

All Oregon libraries are eligible for the discounts through Oregon's statewide membership in BCR, funded by the Library Services and Technology Act. To receive the discount, libraries must send registration and payment to BCR by January 24, 2003; checks should be made to Information Today, Inc.

Discount prices of \$99 on the Computers in School Libraries conference and \$185 for both Computers in School Libraries and Computers in Libraries general conferences are also available. No discount rates are

available for pre- or post-conference events.

For more information about the discounted rates contact BCR's Stephanie Jauregui at sjauregu@bcr.org, (800) 397-1552 or (303) 751-6277. Mail registration and payment to: BCR, 14394 E Evans Ave, Aurora CO, 80014-1478.

PS. (FROM THE STATE LIBRARIAN)

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[NOTE: I submitted this as an op-ed piece to the Oregonian a few weeks ago. In case they choose not to print it, or in case you don't see it, here it is! - Jim]

When the history of the Multnomah County Library is written, it will tell of two phenomenal library directors, standing like bookends at the beginning and the end of the 20th century. They are Mary Frances Isom and Ginnie Cooper. Together, they deserve most of the credit for the fact that citizens in Multnomah County enjoy some of the best public library services anywhere.

Mary Frances Isom was the builder. After coming to Oregon in 1901, she took a private, membership library that served the elite of Portland and made it a public library, funded mostly by Multnomah County. In establishing a public library for all of Multnomah County, and not just Portland, Isom was a visionary, because at the time, there were only two other county libraries in the entire country. Isom went on to build the Central Library, and a system of branch libraries with the generous assistance of Andrew Carnegie.

If Isom was the builder, Cooper was the rebuildder. By 1990, when Cooper became director, the Library system was run down. Gresham had managed to get a new facility, but the rest of the libraries were shabby, too small, and not ready for the Internet revolution that was about to transform library services. Ginnie Cooper, in only a dozen years, changed all that. She rebuilt the entire system, and added new branch libraries in areas that badly needed them. There were no Andrew Carnegies around, so she formed the Library Foundation, and put a series of bond and levy measures on the ballot that Multnomah County citizens strongly supported.

Cooper brought quality back to a library system that 12 years ago was not among the best anywhere. The quality begins with the new and renovated buildings, but it doesn't end there. For example, no library I know in the country is more committed, and does more, to serve children and their families. The Multnomah County Library is also known for its outstanding technology, including an award-winning website.

The annual performance statistics that the State Library collects from all Oregon public libraries tell the story of Ginnie Cooper's

achievement. In 1990, when she became director, the Library checked out 4.9 million books. A decade later, in 2001, that figure had nearly tripled to just under 14 million books checked out. A comparison to other major public libraries in the country shows that in 2000, only seven other public library systems in the entire country checked out more books than Multnomah County Library, and all served much larger populations. And Multnomah County Library checked out considerably more books than libraries serving some of the largest cities in the county (e. g., Chicago, Houston, Philadelphia).

No government service touches the lives of more people •young and old, rich and poor •than does a public library. And if that is so, few people have had as positive an effect on the daily lives of ordinary citizens in Multnomah County as has Ginnie Cooper. --Jim

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