

# Letter To Libraries Online

An Electronic Newsletter



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## LIBRARY BOARD NEWS

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## STATE LIBRARY BOARD APPROVES CHANGES IN ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

The State Library Board of Trustees met at the Oregon Library Association Annual Conference in Portland on April 5th. The Board approved changes to the State Library's administrative rules. Included in the changes was a new process to terminate the official recognition of public libraries. The process would be used in cases where public libraries are closed, or no longer appear to meet the statutory requirements of a public library. Also included in the revisions were changes to the list of Oregon documents depository libraries.

The Board also approved a recommendation from the Talking Book and Braille Services Advisory Council to propose to Governor Kitzhaber that he sponsor legislation to create an endowment fund for Talking Book and Braille Services in state law. The endowment fund has been in existence as part of the State Library Donation Fund for several years, but is not specifically authorized in state law. The next meeting of the State Library Board of Trustees is scheduled for June 16th in Salem.

## LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT

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## ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Two advisory councils to the State Library Board of Trustees will meet in May. The Library Services and Technology Act Advisory Council is scheduled to meet May 19, 2000, in Grants Pass, at the Josephine County Library. The meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. The main order of business will be reviewing LSTA project proposals and structuring a recommendation to the State Library Board about which libraries to invite to submit full grant applications. A few special requests for available LSTA funds will also be considered. Demonstration will take place of the Southern Oregon Library Information System, an LSTA-funded automated library system for Jackson, Josephine, and Klamath counties.

The Talking Book and Braille Services Advisory Council is scheduled to meet May 22, 2000, in Portland, at the Oregon Commission for the Blind. The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. The Council will hear a report about collection management of the talking book and Braille collection at the State Library. A donation fund expenditure plan for 2000-2001 is being considered.

#### LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT WINS FRANCIS KEPPEL AWARD

In order to encourage prompt and accurate submission of public library statistics from each state, The National Center for Education Statistics honors state data coordinators who submit data by the deadline with the Francis Keppel Award. This is the first year that Oregon has earned the Keppel Award, and it is all due to Library Development's work in collecting the public library statistics, entering them into a spreadsheet electronically by the deadline, and then responding to error messages from the federal office. The Library Development team members who carried out this work are Christopher Rumbaugh, the LSTA/State Data Coordinator, and Val Vogt, administrative assistant.

#### LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE CELEBRATED

The Awards Ceremony of the Letters about Literature contest was held in the Capitol Galleria, Oregon State Capitol Building, on April 12, 2000, with a welcome statement by Governor John Kitzhaber, and awards presented by Secretary of State Bill Bradbury. Letters about Literature is planned and sponsored in Oregon by the Oregon Center for the Book, a service program of Library Development Services, coordinated by MaryKay Dahlgreen. Dahlgreen's fine planning and networking was evident in the participation of the government celebrity guests, the Oregon authors who help judge the donated bookstore gift certificate prizes. Val Vogt and Phyllis Lichenstein, Oregon State Library volunteer, assisted with the presentation. Peggy Mangis, OSL Board of Trustees Chair, was a judge of the contest. Oregon students read their award winning letters to authors of books that meant a lot to them. Nationally, 19,000 students entered the contest.

#### LIBRARY WORKSHOPS, CONFERENCES, AND CLASSES

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## CATALOGING WORKSHOP

OCLC/WLN announces the Book Blitz cataloging workshop. The workshop will be held Tuesday - Friday, June 6 - 9, 2000, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the WLN Office in Lacey, Washington. The course instructor will be Deborah A. Fritz, MLS who has taught cataloging workshops to more than 400 people since 1989. Ms. Fritz provides this and other cataloging related workshops on a regular basis as part of the services of her Florida based company, The MARC of Quality, <http://www.marcofquality.com/>. She is the author of Cataloging with AACR2R and USMARC (ALA, 1998), which has sold more than 3,000 copies. This four day session lays the groundwork for cataloging all types of materials by covering the basics of the cataloging rules and the coding standards with an emphasis on books. This workshop will make it much easier to do cataloging. Following is the four day schedule:

Tuesday and Wednesday, Bibliographic Description:

Thursday, Access Points:

Friday, Copy Cataloging:

The registration deadline for this course is May 4, 2000. The cost is \$300.00. To register, visit the OCLC/WLN web site at <http://www.wln.org/training>

If you have any questions, please contact: Lynn Dickey, P.O. Box 3888, Lacey, WA 98509-3888, phone: 800-342-5956, ext. 4036, [dickeyl@oclc.org](mailto:dickeyl@oclc.org), fax: (360) 923-4009.

## SERIALS CATALOGING WORKSHOP

OCLC/WLN is sponsoring the CONSER Basic Serials Cataloging Workshop to be held on Thursday and Friday, June 15 - 16, 2000, at University of Washington, Seattle, WA. The hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day and the cost is \$115.00 per person for members; \$200.00 per person for non-members. Registration deadline is May 18, 2000.

This workshop is directed toward beginning serials catalogers or technicians and general catalogers working with various formats without specialized training for handling serials. Instruction in both print and electronics serials cataloging will be included. The course focuses on the elements contained in the core record, as well as problem solving and decision making relative to serials cataloging. All materials are based on the CONSER Editing Guide and CONSER Cataloging Manual, AACR2 and the Library of Congress Rule Interpretations.

For more information, and to register, visit the OCLC/WLN Web site at <http://www.w/n.org/training/serialcat.htm>

#### CONTINUING EDUCATION INFORMATION

The University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Library and Information Studies will offer two interactive continuing education courses via the Internet this summer. These non-credit courses will run for six weeks, July 17 - August 25, 2000.

##### Virtual Collection Development:

Every day, new resources become available in electronic format on the Internet. How does this impact traditional library collections? In this on-line course, you will learn how to select and evaluate these resources, what policies should be in place, how libraries are delivering electronic resources to patrons and how to use the Internet as a collection development tool. Course fee: \$285.00

##### The Automated Public Library: Selecting an Integrated Information System:

If you are choosing a new or second-generation integrated information system for your public library, this course will introduce you to the turnkey vendor marketplace, examine the data conversion alternatives, and provide tools for developing an RFP and strategies for evaluating the vendors. Course fee: \$325.00

There is no software to purchase. Readings will be included in the course web site or provided as links to other sites.

For registration or questions, please contact Jane Pearlmutter,

Director of continuing education, UW-Madison School of Library & Information Studies, 600 N. Park Street, Madison, WI 53706, (608) 262-6398, e-mail: [jpearl@slis.wisc.edu](mailto:jpearl@slis.wisc.edu).

### FACILITATION SKILLS INSTITUTE

The Association of Research Libraries' (ARL) Office of Leadership and Management Services (OLMS) announces open registration for the Facilitation Skills Institute to be held May 10-12, 2000, in Denver, Colorado at the Holiday Inn Denver, Downtown.

As people seek to accomplish more through groups, facilitation skills are increasingly important. Participants will leave the institute with the skills they need to improve the quality of group and team work. The institute provides ample opportunity to practice facilitation techniques on real organizational issues.

Competencies gained or enhanced by this institute include the ability to apply problem-solving and decision-making skills, ability to practice facilitative leadership and knowledge and understanding of tools to assist groups to engage in divergent and convergent thinking.

The cost is \$350.00 for ARL members and \$420.00 for non-members.

For more information on-line:

<http://www.arl.org/training/fsimay.html>

Register on-line:

<http://www.arl.org/training/fsimay.html>

### MANAGING GROUP PROCESS-ADVANCED FACILITATION LAB

The Association of Research Libraries' (ARL) Office of Leadership and Management Services (OLMS) announces open registration for the Advanced Facilitation Lab on Managing Group Process. The lab will be held June 5 - 7, 2000, in San Antonio, Texas.

At the end of the three day experience, participants will be equipped to encourage group members to examine assumptions and employ new thinking/behaving skills, structure group interactions according to specific criteria for effectiveness, detect group breakdowns and decide when/how to intervene, use tools that help a group create desired results and understand the root causes of

group/organization ineffectiveness and what a facilitator can do about them.

The workshop site and lodging will be held at La Mansion Del Rio Hotel, 112 College Street, San Antonio, Texas 78205.

The cost is \$490.00 for ARL members and \$550.00 for non-members.

For more information on-line:

<http://www.arl.org/training/groupjune.html>

Register on-line:

<http://db.arl.org/training/regform.html>

Hotel reservations:

1-800-292-7500

#### ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

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#### ANNUAL CELEBRITY READING LIST

The Gardiner Public Library in Gardiner, Maine collects responses from celebrities on their favorite reading materials. Working with Gale Research, the library sponsors an annual survey of what celebrities read. Annual lists go back to 1985, with different individuals for each year. The year 2000 includes:

Gillian Anderson, Jackie Collins, Jeff Foxworthy, Christina Ricci, Nolan Ryan, Eli Wallach, Tony Blair, Barbara Taylor Bradford, Betty Buckley, David Copperfield, David Flanagan, Faith Hill, Lisa Loeb, Gary Remal, Olympia Snowe, Sada Thompson, Gary Thruudeau.

<http://www.gpl.lib.me.us/wrw.htm>

#### PERSONNEL NOTES

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It is with sympathy that we mourn the passing of Wilma Howe, Vicki Howe's mother, who passed away on April 12, 2000. Wilma was a temporary OSL employee in the early 1980's, when we were converting to DRA and had volunteered as an Oregon Index inputter since that time.

PS. (FROM THE STATE LIBRARIAN)

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About a year ago, I wrote in this space: "The fact is that public library circulation is not falling. Not in the U. S. and not in Oregon."

A year later, I can say that at least half that statement is still true.

In Oregon, in fiscal year 1998-99, total circulation rose 3.2% from the previous year. This was the 27th consecutive year that public library circulation has risen in Oregon, a pretty remarkable record. Circulation per capita is now up to about 10.4 statewide, the highest it has ever been, after a tiny dip of -.01% in 1997-98.

Nationally, however, a recent survey of 100 public libraries published in the February 15th issue of LIBRARY JOURNAL showed a small drop in circulation (0.5%) in the most recently completed fiscal year. More than half of the libraries reported a drop in circulation. When asked to explain the drop, 95% of respondents blamed the Internet.

So maybe public library circulation is beginning to flatten or decline nationally. The LIBRARY JOURNAL survey is only a small sample of public libraries, so we will need to await a more definitive national survey, such as that done by the National Center for Education Statistics every year.

I've found, in looking at our Oregon data, that not too much should be made of the fact that over half of the "LJ 100" libraries reported a circulation drop. It's not uncommon for individual public libraries to experience declines in circulation from one year to the next. In Oregon, again in 1998-99, about half of the libraries reported a drop in circulation, yet overall statewide circulation was up.

Perhaps the most important reason for this is the fact that the Multnomah County Library's circulation rose 10.4%. They account for 30% of the entire state's circulation (and they only serve



about 20% of the state's population). There should be no mystery as to why Multnomah County Library's use continues to grow. They are in the midst of making huge improvements to their facilities, technology, collections, and staff. Their operating hours have increased substantially since they passed a five-year levy in 1997. Even though some of MCL's facilities were closed for renovation in 1998-99, the library still managed to turn in a terrific performance. Just imagine what they will do when all of their facility expansion and renovation is complete.

The Deschutes Public Library System is another case in point. Their circulation rose nearly 8% in 1998-99 with increased resources from a one-year levy (that has now become the permanent tax rate of their new library district) and an outstanding new library facility in Bend.

Based on examples like these, I can't buy the notion that the Internet is killing library circulation. I still believe that good things happen to good libraries. - Jim Schepcke

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