Letter To Libraries Online

An Electronic Newsletter

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LIBRARY BOARD NEWS
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STATE LIBRARY BOARD MEETS IN BAKER CITY

The State Library Board of Trustees will meet on August 17th at
the Baker County Public Library in Baker City. The Board will
tour the recently expanded library and hear a report from the
Libraries of Eastern Oregon on their progress in improving public
library services in Eastern Oregon. The Board will also hear a
report from the Network Consultant from the National Library
Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped at the Library of
Congress on her recent evaluation of Talking Book and Braille
Services. In addition, the Board will hear from consultants who
recently evaluated the State Library's special collections.

The State Library staff will present the Board with a proposed
list of automated resource sharing systems that would be used to
determine reimbursement levels for interlibrary loan net lender
reimbursement this year. Jim Hayden of Redmond will chair the
meeting, which will begin at 9:00 a.m. An "open forum" will be
held at 11:00 a.m. for anyone who would like to address the Board.

LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT NEWS
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LEGISLATIVE SESSION A MIXED BAG FOR LIBRARIES

Oregon libraries had some victories and some disappointments in
the legislative session that ended in early July. Here is a
wrap-up of the major pieces of legislation affecting libraries:

Measures That Passed
 HB 5026: the State Library budget bill passed early in the
 session with a 6% increase over current funding.
 SB 307: the State Library's bill to provide statutory authority
 for the Talking Book and Braille Services endowment fund passed
 easily.

HB 5014: the end-of-session funding bill contained $80,000 for the Libraries of Eastern Oregon.

Measures that did not Pass
 SB 202: the "Connect Oregon" bill did not pass despite very strong lobbying efforts by a coalition of library groups.
 HB 3163: strong opposition from the Oregon Library Association helped to cause the Uniform Computer Information Transactions Act (UCITA) to not advance past an initial public hearing.
 HB 3995: a bill to increase marriage license fees to increase funding for the Ready to Read Grant program was unsuccessful.
 SB 27: a bill to require disclosure of children's library records to parents and guardians did not advance past an initial hearing due to strong opposition from the Oregon Library Association.

FY 1999-2000 PUBLIC LIBRARY STATISTICS AVAILABLE ON NEW LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT WEBSITE

Library Development sends out a hearty "Thank you!" to the people in the library community who have helped scrutinize and verify the 1999-2000 public library statistical data. Thanks to your care, and informative answers to Bibliostat's edit checks, the data is in good shape and should go through the federal examination process with only a few changes. The FY 1999-2000 data is now posted to the website at http://www.osl.state.or.us/home/libdev/publibstats.html in downloadable Excel format, with tables in PDF format to follow.

FY 2000-2001 OREGON PUBLIC LIBRARY STATISTICAL REPORT COLLECTION NOW STARTING

The new statistics collection season has begun! An information packet was sent out in late July to all public libraries with materials to aid in the collection of FY2000-2001 statistics. The State Library is once again using Bibliostat Collect to gather statistics. Bibliostat lists the previous year's figures, automatically totals some data elements, and does a mechanical check of data.

For help with using Bibliostat Collect or tips on common statistical report questions, check out the Report Public Library Statistics page linked to the new Library Development website at: http://www.osl.state.or.us/home/libdev/index.html. You'll find a

PowerPoint walkthrough as well as other help.

For help with the survey, or questions about statistics, please call Ann Reed. If you would like a telephone walk-through of the Bibliostat software, please call Val Vogt. The 2000-2001 Statistical Report is due October 1.

READY TO READ GRANT 2001-2002

Grant applications were mailed to every public library in early July. The applications will be due September 4, 2001. If you have not received your application packet please contact MaryKay Dahlgreen or Val Vogt.

INTERLIBRARY LOAN NET LENDER REIMBURSEMENT APPLICATIONS

The application form for the Oregon LINK Interlibrary Loan Net Lender Reimbursement program for public libraries is in the packet mailed to public libraries announcing data collection via Bibliostat Collect/Oregon Public Library Statistical Report. The application form is the vehicle for certifying that the library met the net lender eligibility criteria in the year 2000-2001. The application form must be returned to the State Library by the deadline of October 1, 2001. The statistics about interlibrary loans as reported in Bibliostat Collect/Oregon Public Library Statistical Report will be used to calculate which libraries were net lenders in 2000-2001. The net lender reimbursement grant checks will be mailed by the end of December.

Academic libraries will soon receive their mailing with the Oregon LINK Interlibrary Loan Net Lender Reimbursement program application, and an announcement about the web-based collection of the interlibrary loan statistics.

The State Library Board of Trustees will be considering the annual revision of the list of Shared Automated Resource Sharing Systems at their August 17, 2001 meeting. The list is a tool to help libraries categorize the interlibrary loans that were loaned or received during 2000-2001. It will be available on the Library Development website after the Board meeting.

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                  OTHER LIBRARY NEWS
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OREGON PUBLIC LIBRARIES SHINE IN NATIONAL SURVEY

The National Center for Education Statistics has released "Public Libraries in the United States: Fiscal Year 1998," and for the second time in a row, Oregon public libraries reported the highest circulation per capita of any state in the West. Oregon public libraries circulated 10.21 materials per capita in 1998, the third highest in the country after Ohio (12.46) and Indiana (10.90).

Oregon public libraries also ranked highly in the number of interlibrary loans borrowed for library customers per capita. Oregon ranked second with 326.70 interlibrary loans per 10,000 populations served. Rhode Island, which has one automated system to serve all of its public libraries, was ranked first with 453.47 interlibrary loans per 10,000.

Oregon ranked in the top ten states, at number 10, for local support of public library services. Oregon's $24.89 per capita local income in support of public library services compared well to the national average of $20.18. Oregon ranked 17th in total exp enditures per capita for public library services. Oregon spent $25.61 per capita on public library services in 1998. Ohio led all states in this category at $42.31 per capita expenditures. The entire report is available on the NCES website at http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2001307.

LIBRARY CELEBRATES NATIONAL BUILDING AWARDS

Multnomah County Library recently received two of eight prestigious awards for library architectural design from the American Institute of Architects and the American Library Association. Jurors chose Central Library and Woodstock Library from a record 160 entries, ranging from public libraries in Greece to private prep school and university libraries in the United States.

Co-sponsored since 1963 by AIA and the Library Administration and Management Association, a division of ALA, the biennial awards recognize distinguished accomplishment in library architecture by

an American architect, regardless of library location or type.

A six-member jury honored the Central Library and Portland architects Fletcher Farr Ayotte for reconfiguring the building's interior to maximize public space and create new staff work areas. Jurors recognized the Woodstock Library for its elegantly simple and functional design by Thomas Hacker and Associates Architects, Inc., of Portland.

EXHIBIT-CENSORSHIP IN SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES

A new edition of the exhibit, Censorship in Schools and Libraries, is available for purchase in time for Banned Books Week if you order by September 1, 2001. The exhibit presents 28 illustrations, each one approximately 11" by 14" with accompanying text that is 11" by 14". This history of censorship in public schools and libraries highlights incidents of censorship that have occurred in the United States during the last one hundred years. Included are descriptions of the censorship of Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, In the Night Kitchen, The Catcher in the Rye, and the novels of Judy Blume and Robert Cormier. U.S. Supreme Court and lower court decisions are an integral part of the exhibit. The new edition includes efforts to censor the popular Harry Potter books and the installation of filtering software in computers in the Loudon County, Virginia Public Library. The cost including mailing charges is $35.00 postpaid. An e-mail order to coal.cen@juno.com is acceptable or a purchase o rder of letter to Long Island Coalition Against Censorship, PO Box 296, Pt. Washington, N.Y. 11050.

CAMPAIGN FOR AMERICA'S LIBRARIES

ALA's "@ your library" campaign was officially launched during National Library Week, 2001. The key messages are: Libraries are changing and dynamic places, libraries are places of opportunity, and libraries bring you the world. The campaign is also designed to convey what is unique about libraries and to convey about librarians as well as libraries.

The Campaign for America's Libraries public web site, http://www.atyourlibrary.org, provides high interest, library related consumer links, general interest Web links and fun library facts. The site features four main audience-specific sections with

Web links and information about libraries and reading specifically tailored for each of these target audiences: kids and parents, teen, adults and seniors. There is information about public, school, academic, and special libraries.

The Campaign suggests that you use the Web site by:
* Linking to the Web site from your library's site
* Feature the site on your already existing list of useful Web sites
* Use the site as a launching pad for Internet classes.
* Print the address-www.atyourlibrary.org-on flyers, brochures and other promotional materials to link your library to the larger library community.

A link on the ALA Web site, http://www.ala.org/@yourlibrary , provides information about the Campaign, products from the ALA store, downloadable logos, PR tools & materials, and an e-mail list for library staff.

                    FUND DEVELOPMENT NEWS
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                        PERSONNEL NEWS

With much regret all around Betzy Fry announced her resignation from the State Library effective July 26, 2001. Betzy served half time as Fund Development Consultant for Library Development Services, and half time as Fund Development Officer for Talking Book and Braille Services.

Both programs experienced phenomenal growth in the two years that she worked at the State Library. Her depth of knowledge and experience about fund development benefited many public libraries and foundations. Not only the 22 libraries with which she actively consulted, but her audiences at workshops, and the readers of her electronic newsletter tips also learned from Betzy. Betzy solidified the annual solicitation process for the Talking Books program, developed the first two annual donation expenditure plans, expanded TBABS' marketing to include outdoor festivals, and spent valuable time visiting donors.

In between her work for Library Development and the Talking Books program Betzy was a well-integrated member of the State Library, contributing to agency committees and celebrations with her well-known energy and style. Betzy has obtained the position of Development Director at the Portland French School, a job that has much in alignment with her role as mother to a four-year-old son and a six-year-old daughter. Betzy's first new responsibility is to raise funds for improvements to the school library.

Please join the entire State Library staff in wishing Betzy well in her new position!

EZRA JACK KEATS FOUNDATION MINI-GRANTS TO PUBLIC AND
PUBLIC SCHOOL LIBRARIES

September 15, 2001 is the deadline for applications for the $350 grants to encourage literacy and creativity in children. Visit the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation website at http://www.ezra-jack-keats.org.

PS. (FROM THE STATE LIBRARIAN)
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The recent ALA conference gave me the opportunity to finally visit the most controversial library constructed in the past decade. The San Francisco Public Library's New Main Library was supposed to be the high tech "library of the future" when it opened five years ago. But unfortunately, it was surrounded by controversy, even before it opened.

Our national library gadfly, Nicholson Baker, (now more prominent than ever with his new book, DOUBLE FOLD) relentlessly criticized the library director for putting technology before books. He accused the library of throwing away old books that would not fit on the shelves of the new building, because so much space was devoted to computers. His criticisms caught on with many of the library staff, and others in the community, and even though Nicholson Baker has since moved to the East Coast, the controversy still seems to be alive to some extent.

It happened that I had an all-day meeting at New Main during ALA,

so I spent my breaks and some time after the meeting having a good look around this infamous library.

The most surprising thing I found in my time there was that far from having too much technology, New Main seemed to be woefully short of the public Internet access it needed. There were only six PC's on the main floor for quick access (15 minutes) to the Internet and a line of about 20 people patiently waiting their turn to use them. There were other PC's for Internet access that could be reserved for longer use elsewhere throughout the library, and these seemed to be in great demand.

New Main has lots of PC's that cannot be used for Internet access, but only for catalog access or to access other resources. A lot of these PC's weren't being used when I was there. Five years ago it was not as apparent as it is today that by far the best strategy for libraries is to integrate Internet access, catalog access and access to all other resources on every PC. If every PC at New Main had Internet access, they might be able to get rid of the queues and do away with what appeared to be a fairly staff-intensive reservation system.

I found New Main to be an attractive enough building, but somewhat confusing to walk around in. The placement of the toll booth style checkout counters has been criticized, and there is something weird about their design, as I found out when I inadvertently walked backwards through one. The signage of the library has also been criticized and will reportedly soon be replaced. In the meantime, the library interior is defaced by white paper laser-printed signs nearly everywhere you look.

I expected to see a lot more art in the building. After all this is San Francisco. More art would do a lot to warm the place up and make it more friendly and inviting.

I understand that SFPL plans to spend about $17 million to correct the design problems at New Main and create more space for books. I will be interested to go back in a few years and see how this went. There is a lot to be said for setting aside construction funds up front for "post-occupancy" improvements, especially with a library this large. SFPL is fortunate to have the funds to do this. My standard for the success of the post-occupancy improvements will be that when I go back, I won't see a single

paper sign. -- Jim Scheppke


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