

O-1

February 16, 2004

Name (State Librarian)

Address

Dear:

We are writing to you, and to all of the state librarians in the 12-state Mountain-Plains Library Association region, about the activities of our organization that serve the library community in your state. As a regional organization, we provide a unique and well established network for individuals and organizations; MPLA is 56 years old, and is a presence in all twelve member states through its continuing education, conferences, and other activities.

We encourage you to join MPLA as a personal member. Only three of the twelve state librarians in our region are MPLA members, and we'd like to have all of you as participants and partners in our work to promote libraries and the development of those who work in libraries. As leaders in the state and region, we see you as a group and individually as people we want in our organization because of the opportunity for partnership that it would provide.

Some of the aspects of MPLA that should be of particular interest to you are:

- A section for State Agencies, Cooperatives and Systems, which brings together your colleagues with similar programs and interests across the region.
- Sponsorship of the MPLA Leadership Institute at Ghost Ranch, New Mexico, which is designed to help new professionals develop the leadership skills the profession will need in our states. This provides an exceptional learning and self-development opportunity which will have direct benefit on the pool of qualified leaders in libraries.
- Access to MemberClicks, an online directory of members in MPLA, that can be used to find individuals in all kinds of libraries and easily contact them by email.
- The MPLA newsletter, which gathers and reports library news from each of the member states. "Around the MPLA Region" runs several pages in every issue, and is contributed by representatives from each state. This provides a broad and detailed snapshot of activities in all 12 member states.
- Joint conferences, in partnership with all of the twelve state associations, that take us around the region where we network with new colleagues we would not otherwise encounter. One of the benefits members of MPLA value most is the networking and lasting contacts they are able to develop with colleagues outside of their own state.
- MPLA is smaller, cost is reasonable, and travel to joint conferences is more affordable. It is easy to participate and become involved.

Most importantly, MPLA is an active group in your state, providing services to librarians in your area, and we will both benefit from your visible support. We believe you will find this organization to be of significant value to you. We hope you will accept our invitation to join with us in our work to provide quality libraries in the MPLA region.

A membership application is enclosed. Please also visit our web page at [www.usd.edu/mpla](http://www.usd.edu/mpla) for additional information, our conference schedule, free jobline, and other resources.

Sincerely,

Carol Hammond  
President, MPLA  
Associate VP for Information Services  
Thunderbird: The American Graduate School Of International Management (AZ)

Suzanne Miller  
State Librarian  
South Dakota State Library