



Arizona Library Association Report, July 2003
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Arizona Library Budgets Decline: Public, university, and school libraries across the state are facing serious reductions in their operating budgets due to the decline in the economy. The Prescott Public Library has cut 10% from its FY 2004 operating budget and reduced its materials budget by 25% in order to avoid cutting personnel. The Glendale Public Library's budget was reduced by \$447, 295 and the groundbreaking for their next branch was delayed by one year. The Flagstaff City-Coconino County Public Library lost one position and had a \$50,000 reduction in its materials budget. The Phoenix Public Library lost 16.4 FTE positions and had a 9% budget reduction. As a result, public service hours at their facilities were reduced by nine hours a week and the materials budget was reduced. The University of Arizona libraries eliminated 22 professional and classified staff positions and an additional \$100,000 in student wages.

Arizona Library Association Reorganization and Association Management Changes: This is the first year of operations for AzLA under its new, streamlined structure, as approved by the membership in 2002. Under its new structure, AzLA now has nine elected officers including the President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, ALA Councilor, MPLA Representative, and three Regional Representatives as compared to the 32 elected officers under the old structure. All other AzLA offices are now filled by appointment by the Elections/Appointments Committee including the presidents of the four divisions representing types of libraries, as well as the chairs of the interest groups and standing committees. In addition to the organizational structure changes, AzLA was also confronted with the need to find a new organizational management firm when the owners of its first and only association management firm, Meetings and More, Inc., decided to pursue other career interests. After an RFP and interview process, a new firm was selected to provide association and conference management services to the organization. President Brenda Brown has been working closely with the new firm, Gilstrap, Motta, and Cole to ensure a smooth transition.

AzLA Regional Forum: With the assistance of the Yavapai County Library District, AzLA's 2003 Regional Forum was held in April at the historic Hassayampa Inn in Prescott. The theme for the day was *Libraries and the USA Patriot Act: How Do We Respond?* The daylong event provided Arizona librarians with the opportunity to learn more about the Act and discuss its implications for intellectual freedom and the preservation of civil liberties. The event featured an introductory presentation by Leah Sandwell-Weiss from the University of Arizona Law Library. This was followed by a very spirited panel discussion between Eleanor Eisenberg from the Arizona ACLU and Gail Thackerey from the Arizona Attorney General's Office.

Life Options Centers Project: Arizona librarians are currently exploring new models to serve the boomer generation through the Life Options Centers project. The project has been made possible with the support of Libraries for the Future, Civic Ventures, Inc., and the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust. Approximately one of every four Arizonans is from the baby boomer generation and Arizona's population of adults, age 60 and over, is expected to triple from 875,000 today to just under three million by 2050, making it critical that libraries and other social institutions be ready to serve this group of seniors who will undoubtedly have different needs from those of today's retirees. The project had its beginnings with a series of five meetings of the Maricopa County Commission on Productive aging held from September 2002 through January

2003. The 60-member Commission represented the many sectors involved in promoting civic activities, serving the aging population, and addressing demographic and cultural diversity in the region. The Commission discussed the implications of research about the changing nature of retirement and aging in American society and the particular circumstances in Maricopa County. In May 2003, librarians were invited to participate in a two day training institute designed to assist Maricopa County organizations in learning about methods for leveraging resources to ensure older adults' access to meaningful choices for work, service, lifelong learning and community connections. Among the topics covered were program planning, collaboration with other agencies, and developing public spaces to meet the needs of the target group. Attendees were presented with a publication entitled the *Life Options Blueprint*, a planning guide and resource for organizations and leaders involved with older adults and their communities. The Piper Trust has invited organizations to apply for \$15,000 planning grants to plan for how the Life Options Concept could work in their communities. There is the possibility that the Trust may make additional grants funds available for the implementation of selected Life Options projects.

White Mountain Storytelling Festival: The second White Mountain Storytelling Festival will be held during Labor Day weekend in Show Low, Arizona. The event will feature storytelling workshops and performances, along with food, music, and other entertainment. The festival will again focus upon the ethnic, cultural, and historical aspects of Arizona and the Southwest.

Arizona Young Readers Awards Announced: The Arizona Young Readers Award Committee announced its 2003 winners. They are:

Picture Book: *The Water Hole*, by Graeme Base
Intermediate Book: *Babe & Me*, by Dan Gutman
Teen Book: *Stargirl*, by Jerry Spinelli

Mr. Base and Mr. Gutman will be presented with their awards at the AzLA Annual Conference in December. Mr. Spinelli will not be able to attend.

University of Arizona School of Information Resources and Library Science Survives: Librarians throughout the state breathed a sigh of relief when they learned in April that the U of A library school had been taken off the University's program eliminations list. One of the factors for this change in direction was a grassroots effort by librarians throughout the state who contacted their legislators, the University President and Provost, and the Arizona Board of Regents in support of the school. Director Brooke Sheldon sent an e-mail message to Arizona librarians thanking them for their efforts. In her words, "every single one helped!"

AzLA Annual Conference—Blaze Trails @ Arizona Libraries: AzLA's 2003 annual conference will be held at the Phoenix Civic Plaza, December 9-11. Conference attendees will have the opportunity to participate in a community service effort to benefit a library in Mexico. Participants will be asked to donate books for a new village library in Matt Orates, Mexico. The conference will feature presentations by noted authors including Joanne Mapson, Jodi Picoult, Eric Kimmel, Graeme Base, and Annie Fox.