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Arizona Library Association Report, July 2005
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AzLA Conference

The Arizona Library Association's annual conference will take place from October 11 through October 13, 2005 at the Mesa Convention Center in Mesa, Arizona. The theme for this year's conference is AZ Libraries: Cultural Crossroads, and will showcase how all types of libraries serve the state's rich and diverse population and collaborate with other institutions to develop and deepen awareness and respect for that diversity.

The conference location is in the heart of the arts district of Mesa and will kick off with a reception that will include a progressive tour of a number of museums in the downtown area including the Mesa Southwest Museum, the Arizona Museum for Youth, and the new Mesa Arts Center. The conference will feature more than 70 programs on a wide variety of topics. Roy Tennant, an internationally recognized pioneer in digital library development and Internet training will be the keynote speaker. Mr. Tennant is currently the Manager of eScholarship Web and Services Design for the California Digital Library and writes a monthly column for Library Journal. He will discuss how new standards and technologies are offering libraries opportunities to serve their clientele much better than they have ever been served before. He will discuss how services like Google and Amazon have demonstrated new possibilities to libraries, even while drawing away some of users. His talk will answer the questions: What should libraries be doing differently and where should they focus their efforts? Where are they failing and where are they most likely to succeed?

There will be a number of authors presenting at the conference including nationally known poet and writer Jimmy Santiago Baca., author of *A Place to Stand: The Making of a Poet* (2002) and *Winter Poems Along the Rio Grande* (2004). He has received the International Prize, the National Hispanic Heritage Award, the Pushcart Prize, the Southwest Book Award, and the American Book Award.

More information about the conference will be available on the AzLA web site later this summer.

National Library Legislative Day

Arizona Librarians had a successful series of meetings during ALA's National Library Legislative Day. The Arizona contingent was led by State Librarian GladysAnn Wells. She was accompanied by AzLA President Laura Thomas Sullivan and AzLA Teacher-Librarian Chair Ann Dutton Ewbank. The group was very fortunate to meet with a number of legislators in person including Representatives Raul Grijalva, Rick Renzi, Ed Pastor, and J.D. Hayworth. They also participated in very productive meetings with aides to Senator John McCain and Representative Jim Kolbe. In addition to the ALA packets, legislators were presented with packets focusing upon Arizona specific issues including information on how LSTA funds are

used in each of their districts. Ann Dutton Ewbank made a strong case for the need to require highly qualified teacher-librarians as part of the No Child Left Behind Act.

State Archives Building Funded

After nearly 20 years of lobbying efforts, Arizona librarians and archivists throughout the state celebrated when the Arizona legislature approved \$30 million for the construction of a new, state of the art archives building. The new building will provide enough space to house state and local records for at least the next 25 years. Both the Arizona Library Association and the Friends of Arizona Archives lent their support to this project and played an important role in convincing legislators of the dire need for the facility. The current facility was outgrown in the 1960s and the State's most important records are now housed in an attic of the Old Capitol where dust, leaks and a lack of climate control have taken their toll. The new facility will also include a conservation lab where historic documents can be preserved and repaired.

Librarians in the News

Jennie O'Leary, Coordinator of Library Services for the Arizona Department of Corrections, has been elected Vice Chair/Chair-Elect of the American Library Association's Library Service to Prisoners Forum for 2005-2006 and as Chair for 2006-2007. Jennie is currently chair of the AzLA Services to Diverse Populations Interest Group.

Kristin Fletcher-Spear, Teen and Youth Services Librarian at the Foothills Branch of the Glendale Public Library has been selected as the Eighth Horner Fellow. As a librarian working with teens, she is interested in the differences between teen and youth services in public libraries here in the United States and in Japan. Kristin is a nationally known expert in the field of graphic novels in libraries. She is in the process of writing a book on graphic novels in libraries for Voice of Youth Advocates. The book will focus on manga—Japanese comics. Kristin is an advocate of Japanese culture in her current program for teens. The Horner Fellowship was endowed through the generosity of the late Dr. Layton "Jack" Horner and his wife Marian. Under the auspices of the Arizona Library Association, this unique Fellowship was created in 1989 to foster cultural understanding and to facilitate informational exchanges between Arizona and Japanese librarians.

Two Arizonans made Library Journal's Movers & Shakers List this year and were featured in the March 15th issue. Jennifer Duvernay, Science Reference Librarian at Arizona State University's Noble Library, was selected for her efforts to make the information shopping experience just as satisfying as shopping at Nordstrom. Her passion for shopping and customer service was reflected in an article published in LJ entitled A Nordstrom Experience. Jesse Haro, Web Services Manager at the Phoenix Public Library, was selected for his web site creation. By letting customer expectations, rather than traditional library organization drive the design, Jesse created a model which is easy to use and looks professional.

AzLA Online Newsletter: AzLA took a leap into the digital world last year when it made the decision to publish its newsletter exclusively online. Although scary at the time, that decision has proved to be very successful, both in terms of saving the organization money and by providing a

more effective method of promoting the organization to both members and non-members. By saving on the printing costs, the organization has been able to expand the content and the publication has a number of regular columns, in addition to the President's column. These include Dan the GovDocs Man written by Dan Stanton from Arizona State University's Hayden Library, The View from the (not so) Ivory Tower from ASU Noble Science and Engineering Library's Linda Shackle, and Random Thoughts !?!, a humorous column on library land from Peoria Public Library's David Hunenberg. A long running feature in the newsletter is On the PL Road written by Louis Howley, current MPLA Recording Secretary and Phoenix Public Librarian. Lewis has visited public libraries throughout the country and writes a wonderful column on his discoveries. The AzLA Newsletter is available on the organization's web site at <http://www.azla.affiniscap.com/displaynewsletter.cfm>