



**Colorado State Representative Report
MPLA Board Meeting July 12, 2003
by Suzanne Taylor**

Working Together – Works! 2003 Colorado Association of Libraries Conference, Keystone, Colorado, October 16-10, 2003. Charles Levandowsky will be the keynote speaker for the Julie J. Boucher Memorial Lecture on Intellectual Freedom. His presentation is “Civil Liberties Since 9/11.”

Drastic Cuts to Budgets of Colorado Libraries

Libraries across the state are reacting to the extensive cuts in state funds for libraries, particularly the latest cut - most of the funding for the Regional Library Service Systems. Since June 2002, state funding for libraries has been cut by 79%, a total of \$6.7 million dollars. This will result in a reduction of 60-70% of federal funds or \$1.5 million.

The most recent cut of \$1.8 million from the Regional Library Service Systems is having a devastating impact on local libraries. Threatened by the cuts are the cooperative purchasing discounts that the systems negotiate for all Colorado libraries, the statewide courier service that delivers 3.3 million items annually among libraries, including the popular interlibrary loan program, and networks that hold library records, allowing individuals to search across the state for the book or magazine they want as part of the statewide ACLIN/Colorado Virtual Library network. The Colorado Resource Center at the Denver Public Library that served the whole state has been eliminated, as well as the funding to libraries that bought \$2 million dollars worth of educational materials. Other cuts include the funding for the Colorado Talking Book Library material and 3 FTE from specific services, and State Funding for Libraries Grants (\$2M). Higher education continues to receive cuts that impact academic libraries. Ongoing discussions are taking place around the state in regard to service priorities and options.

For information on Colorado's libraries and the impact of budget cuts, contact the Colorado Association of Libraries, 303/463-6400; <http://www.cal-webs.org>

Legislative CAL-athon

Due to the very tight state budget situation, CAL decided not to host the usual Legislative Day in February. Instead a CAL-athon was held in January. The goal was to have 15 contacts per state legislator from library supporters. The campaign was very successful with 94% of Senators and 86% of Representatives being contacted. The information used as contacts were made is available on the CAL website – www.cal-webs.org.

Blue Spruce Award

A Walk to Remember by Nicholas Sparks is the 2002-2003 winner of the Colorado Blue Spruce Young Adult Book Award. The Colorado Blue Spruce Young Adult Book Award is unique in being a state book award nominated and selected entirely by middle and high school students.

School Library Survey—2002 Results Available Online

Results from the 2002 Colorado School Library Survey are now available online from the Library Research Service's web site at <http://www.lrs.org/>. Over 600 Colorado school libraries responded to this year's survey. The information gathered in the annual survey provides all library professionals with important statistics for planning, evaluating, and budgeting. The Library Research Service's web site also contains information about Colorado Libraries and the Digital Divide and statistics pertaining to types of libraries.

Rocky Mountain Antiquarian Book Fair

The public is invited to attend the Rocky Mountain Antiquarian Book Fair, sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Antiquarian Booksellers Association, in Denver on August 1-2, 2003. Nearly 100 exhibitors from all over North America will offer for sale out-of-print, collectible and rare books, map prints, photographs, and paper ephemera. For more information on the book fair, go to www.rmaba.org/aug_bookfair.html

Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library Opens

Denver Public Library's new Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library opened Saturday, April 26. The Library is located at 2401 Welton Street, Denver, at the entrance to the historic Five Points Neighborhood. The mission of the Library is to serve as an educational and cultural resource for the people of Denver, Colorado, and the world, focusing on the history, literature, art, music, religion, and politics of African Americans in Colorado and throughout the Rocky Mountain West.

Mesa County Literacy Student Recipient of ALA National Award

Elisa Murillo, Mesa County Public Library District (MCPLD) patron, volunteer, and literacy program participant, has been named as recipient of the American Library Association 2003 Paul Howard Award for Courage. Every two years, from candidates nominated by all libraries throughout the United States, one person is chosen to receive this award honoring an individual who has exhibited unusual courage for the benefit of library programs or services. An immigrant from Mexico, Elisa enrolled in the Adult Reading Program (ARP) of MCPLD to learn to read and write English. Elisa recognized the importance of learning to read so she could help her children prepare for future success in school. Her goals were to become a U.S. citizen and to get find employment. Elisa has now met her goals—she passed her citizenship test, found a job, and has been proudly sworn in as a United States citizen. Elisa continues to study in ARP and her whole family participates in the Children and Adults Together intergenerational literacy program, where the family learns and practices building reading foundations together. Because of the impact these program have had on her family's lives, Elisa has found the courage to speak as an advocate for literacy and libraries on TV and in public. Elisa tells of the isolation that non-native English speakers can experience.

Collaborative Virtual Reference Assumes Substance

The Resource Sharing Board and the Colorado State Library have received a LSTA grant to set up a statewide Collaborative Virtual Reference Service in Colorado. Reference service will be available over the Web, 24 hours a day/7 days a week. All libraries in Colorado are invited to participate. Currently, a Coordinator for the Service is being selected and training for librarians who will staff the service will take place in August. So far, 40 public and academic libraries are participating in the project. For more information, visit the Committee website at www.aclin.org/reference.

Littleton Teen Writers Win Awards at Film Festivals

A film script written by the Teen Writers Group at the Bemis Public Library (Littleton) won its third national award at the 2003 Lumiere All-School Film Fest. "[Squeegie and Bob](#)," a claymation video created collaboratively by students in Littleton and Suttons Bay, Michigan, also took second place of middle school animation at the April Windsong International Film Festival in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and a third place at the East Lansing Children's Film Festival in Michigan. The 90-second video follows two friends as they argue, then patch up their friendship.

Cherry Creek High School Wins AASL Outstanding School Library Program

Congratulations to the students and staff of Cherry Creek High School, Denver, Colorado for being recognized by the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) as the outstanding single school library program in the nation for 2003! The award honors school library media programs practicing their commitment to ensure that students and staff are effective users of ideas and information, as well as exemplifying implementation of Information Power, and recognizes exemplary school.