ST-2 Colorado Report
July 22, 2011

The CTBL Celebrating 80 Years

On July 19, the Colorado Talking Book Library celebrated 80 years of service and the anniversary of the program with an open house for their many patrons. Patrons are served locally through a national network of 113 cooperating libraries. The network is connected through the Library of Congress's National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS). In the beginning, there were just 19 libraries across the country and Colorado was one of the original libraries.

Throughout its history, the NLS program has undergone countless technological changes, rotating through various types of records before switching to cassette tapes in 1969. In 2009, it began offering a digital system that allows for downloading audio books via the internet.

Some interesting facts:

The 33 ½ rpm record was first developed for the NLS program before going commercial.

The first talking book recorded was Woodrow Wilson's biography of George Washington.

Happy anniversary to CTBL!

The NRS Roadshow

This summer, the Networking and Resource Sharing (NRS) Team (of the Colorado State Library) is hitting the road and visiting libraries around Colorado to share updates on all of our Statewide Services, answer your questions, and share a picnic lunch. The Roadshow meetings are providing an opportunity for the NRS folks to talk about how they can help individual libraries, an opportunity for librarians and staff to ask questions about NRS services, and an opportunity for Colorado librarians to network with regional library colleagues about how they are taking advantage of NRS services.

The primary statewide services provided by the State Library are: the Colorado Virtual Library (CVL); SWIFT, the electronic interlibrary loan system that facilitates easy, efficient resource sharing among Colorado libraries. SWIFT is available to all libraries in Colorado and there is no charge for the SWIFT software, support, and training.; Plinkit, a website creation and hosting service provided by the Colorado State Library, offers small, rural libraries across Colorado the opportunity to move their library online in an easy-to-manage format. By leveraging centralized design and hosting capabilities, Plinkit helps libraries connect their customers to their library's catalog, information, and services 24/7; Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection - In partnership with local communities, CHNC makes Colorado newspapers from 1859 – 1923 available online. Experience infamous and everyday Colorado history as it was reported back then. Funny, heartbreaking, sometimes downright odd, but the Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection is never boring; and, AskColorado/AskAcademic, a virtual reference cooperative composed of member libraries interested in providing real-time, 24/7 online service to library customers. The service is centrally coordinated by the State Library (Kris Johnson, to be specific) but core services are provided by the member libraries throughout the state of Colorado (and now Texas and Missouri for AskAcademic) that staff the service. AskColorado/AskAcademic is a human-powered search engine, working together to provide 21st century service to 21st century library customers!

BEST Conference offered by the Colorado State Library

Attendees at the BEST Conference in Breckenridge on August 25 and 26 will have two days of learning centered around the topics of broadband, e-rate, sustainability, and technology. Thanks to a grant from the Gates Foundation, registration, lodging, food, and travel expenses will be covered for one staff member per library.

CAL conference 2011

The 2011 Colorado Association of Libraries annual conference will be held October 13-15 at the Embassy Suites Loveland Hotel, Spa, and Conference Center, located in Loveland. The theme this year is Team Up! Powering Library Partnerships. The conference is sure to be full of supportive information and exciting new trends for Libraries -- all kinds of libraries.

This year's conference will continue the popular events including the Tech Petting Zoo and Battle Decks. The Tech Petting Zoo, or TPZ, is an excellent introduction to many of the latest trends in online resources and software for your library. Also join us for an evening of the ever popular Battle Decks and challenge your fellow CAL members to a match of quick wits as they present PowerPoint presentations they've never seen before.

There will be lots of sessions, opportunities for networking, meeting up with our fantastic exhibitors at this year's CALCON 2011!

Submitted by Mary Katherine Katzer
MPLA Colorado rep