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Mountain Plains Library Association Executive Board
North Dakota Report
July 24, 2004

The Fargo Public Library launched a campaign to preserve a 14 print collection depicting Lewis and Clark's journey along the Missouri River in January. Reference Librarian Steve Hubbard reports, "All prints are sponsored." Sponsors were asked to pay \$250 to have the Bodmer, Catlin, and deSaint-Memim prints professionally restored. Mark Ryan of the Plains Art Museum gave a public lecture on April 19 to discuss the restoration process and publicly unveil the restored prints.

Doris Ott and Stacey Goldade (ND State Library), Bonnie Krenz (Griggs County Library), Marlene Ripplinger (Harvey Public Library), Charles Pace, Beth Postema, Edie Discher, Maxine Hilburn and Cynthia Wray (Fargo Public Library), and Marvia Boettcher and Christine Kujawa (Bismarck Public Library) attended PLA's 10th National Conference held at the Washington State Convention and Trade Center in Seattle last February. 8,000 attendees participated in a variety of sessions including ones about equal accommodation for physical and remote users, the increase of open source freeware for public libraries, smart card interfaces on websites for patron self check-out and fine payment, and implementation of RFID technology.

Bismarck State College celebrated National Library Week by extending the library world to the outside world. Carolyn Twingley and Liz Mason spearheaded the project, "Discover the World as BSC Library." Plans were based on a project done at Wesleyan University which included "cataloging" every day items by placing Library of Congress call numbers on them. Approximately 136 call number signs were placed on all kinds of things around campus including a large vinyl sign on the Jack Science Center categorizing it: "Science-Study and Teaching - Q 181 .B57 2004 - Discover the World at BSC Library!"

Exploring Frontiers in Literacy is the theme of this fall's 31st Plains IRA Regional Reading Conference to be held in Bismarck, October 6-9, 2004. Co-sponsored by the N.D. Reading Association, the International Reading Association, the ND Department of Public Instruction, and Mandan and Bismarck Public Schools, it is endorsed by the Reading Associations of Kansas, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, and South Dakota. Conference Co-Chairs are Joyce Hinman and Michele Svihovec of Bismarck.

News media personnel (radio, television, and newspaper) from across the state were invited to a hands-on training session at the North Dakota State Library to learn how to access and use the Gate Group and Proquest Online Resources.

Librarians Marlene Ripplinger, Bonnie Krenz, and Stacey Goldade attended the "Sustaining Public Access Computing" workshop in Seattle sponsored by the Gates Foundation. 49 participants from small rural libraries and 17 from a state library agency or regional system discussed barriers to providing public access computing in small rural communities.

Due to the success of the library's first poetry slam for teens held last October, and in honor of National Poetry Month, Erin Smith, Children's Librarian at Fargo Public Library, hosted a second open mic and poetry slam for teens in April. Prizes were awarded and everyone enjoyed free pizza and pop.

Lisbon Public Library hosted "Hot Reads For Cold Nights" over a six week period this winter. Forty-three people participated and read 600+ items during the event. A celebration party was held April 22.

Each year during March, the Optimist Club and Security State Bank in Valley City sponsor "Library Skate Month." A percentage of the proceeds from the Optimist's regular Sunday night roller skating is donated to school libraries in Valley City to purchase books.