

Oklahoma Library Association

"To promote all library interests and services in the State of Oklahoma"



January 4, 2001

Oklahoma Library Association Representative

ST-8

Basha Hartley

Oklahoma Library Association Conference - April 18-21, 2001

The Oklahoma Library Association Conference will be held on April 19 and 20 at the Renaissance Hotel and the Myriad Convention Center in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Oklahoma Library Association Legislative Day – February 27, 2001

Librarians, trustees and library customers will once again visit the Oklahoma State Legislature to ask for a commitment to support state libraries on February 27. This year OLA has set the following goals in their legislative request:

1. Increase the funding for statewide electronic databases as requested in the Oklahoma Department of Libraries budget. (ODL is requesting \$750,000 for this increase.)
2. Provide the funding to replace or renovate obsolete or inadequate library buildings.
3. Provide the funding to upgrade technology in Oklahoma libraries.
4. Preserve Oklahoma's heritage and historical records through the construction of a new State Archives facility. (A ten year space crisis in the State Archives is endangering the permanent documents of state government, compromising information access to citizens and costing state agencies thousands of dollars in storage fees.)
5. Ensure quality information services to Oklahoma school children by staffing our school libraries with certified, masters level school library media specialists.
6. Preserve Oklahoma's tradition of local control of libraries.

OLA will be welcoming trustees of small libraries throughout the state to this special legislative day to talk about the importance of improving the state databases. The state database allows customers at even the smallest of libraries to have access to thousands of periodicals as well as other online services.

Interim Director for the Oklahoma Department of Libraries – Susan McVey

With the resignation of Bob Clarke on October 1, 2000, Susan McVey became the Interim Director of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries. Susan is one of the very best librarians in our state and we are proud of her.

Oklahoma Health Connection

Using a \$25,000 grant from the National Library of Medicine, staff members at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (OUHSC) Library and the Oklahoma Department of Libraries are working together to train public librarians at public library pilot sites around the state in the provision of consumer health information. This grant was one of three awarded by the National Network of Libraries of Medicine South Central Region Office.

“Our goal is to improve public librarians’ capability of handling consumer health questions,” said Marty Thompson, Professor and OUHSC Library Director. “We want to enhance their ability to search the health literature and provide them with a connection back to the Health Sciences Library if they don’t have the resources available to help a consumer.” Thompson added, “We encourage patients and consumers to take information back to their health care professionals and discuss it with them.”

This pilot project involves eight municipal libraries around the state and two multi-county library systems – one located in eastern Oklahoma and one located in western Oklahoma. In addition, the project includes an Oklahoma Health Connection website for librarians and consumers, plus a virtual health reference desk where public librarians can submit health questions.

Upcoming OLA Workshops

OLA is sponsoring three workshops in the coming months:

1. *Can We Agree to Disagree? Conflict Resolution in the Workplace* – February 9.
2. *Creating Cyber-Seniors and Making Internet Sources and Resources Available to Older Adults* – March 30.
3. *Alternative Medicine and Health Resources* – Date and final title not yet set.