

South Dakota MPLA News July 2003

It's summer and virtually every library in South Dakota is heralding their summer reading programs. Many are using the "Laugh it Up @ Your Library" theme with some unique twists. My favorite is having readers deposit dog bones in a Plexiglas doghouse after they read the required number of books. At the end of the program the bones will be donated to the local animal shelter. We are also seeing more teen programs taking off this year to great response. Teen boards and other youth advice on developing these programs appear to be part of the success formula.

South Dakota libraries made the national news in May when Bill Gates and Tom Brokaw visited the Watertown Regional Library, the Waubay Library and the Webster Library. The visit was a follow-up on the impact of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation State Partnership Grants on small, isolated communities. This was a great opportunity for Mr. Gates to see how his gift has brought the world into rural American libraries.

"Read Across South Dakota With Clifford" From June 9 to June 13, Sherri Blumer, Director of Education and Outreach at South Dakota Public Broadcasting (SDPB), Wess Pravecek, Ready To Learn Coordinator at SDPB, Pamela Chamberlain, Children's Services Development Coordinator at the South Dakota State Library traveled the state with Clifford. Clifford is the beloved character creation of popular children's book author, Norman Bridwell. The program featured the sharing of Clifford stories, Clifford related games and activities and an appearance by Clifford himself. In addition, information concerning the importance of summer reading and South Dakota Public Broadcasting's Ready To Learn program were made available for parents. Clifford visited 10 sites across the state. The programs were attended by 1,528 children and 563 adults.

The program was implemented at 10 libraries around the state. Two libraries were visited each day. The ten libraries were: Avon Public School Library; Bristol City Library; Faith Public Library; Gayville-Volin School Library; Hand County Library; Lower Brule Community Library; Northwest Regional Library (Newell); Rapid City Public Library; Stanley County School Library (Ft. Pierre); and Sturgis Public Library. The libraries were selected based on a competitive grant application system. The libraries that received the program demonstrated a community commitment to it, as well as a limited summer reading program budget. We had a total of 38 school and public libraries apply for the program statewide.

Solo Artist in Libraries (SAILs) Grants Awarded for 20th Year. Fifteen applications were reviewed and eight communities were awarded grants for this year's SAILs Program. The

program brings an artist into the local library to conduct workshops and classes in their particular area of expertise. Artist residencies will be funded at the Alcester Community Library, Canton Public Library, Cozard Memorial Library (Chamberlain), Elk Point-Jefferson Community/School Library, Kennebec Public Library, A. H. Brown Public Library (Mobridge), Tripp Public Library, and Deubrook Community/School Library (White). This program, which is jointly funded by the South Dakota Arts Council and the South Dakota State Library requires matching funds from the local community to cover artist's travel and supply expenses. This collaborative program has been in place since being launched by Dennis Holub and Dorothy Liegl in 1984. Cozard Memorial Library was one of the recipients during the inaugural year. This program is limited to public libraries that serve communities of 5,000 or less population. The popularity of this program has grown to the point that libraries are usually funded every third year. This is one program that would definitely benefit from additional funding support.

Public Library Training Institute. The nineteenth annual Public Library Training Institute was held June 8-20 on the campus of Northern State University in Aberdeen. 24 library managers from small to medium public libraries from across the state attended. A special participant was Linda McCleary from the Arizona State Library. Linda came to observe and supported the Institute with her newsletter and organizational skills. Dr. Mary Bushing and Colleen Kirby were the primary instructors this year, supplemented by several State Library staff presentations. The curriculum included: cataloging and classification, weeding and selection, SoDakLive, Braille and Talking Books, advocacy, working with trustees, goal setting, Interlibrary loan procedures and government documents. There were six graduates who earned the Public Library Management Certificate after completing the four year course of study: Lili Jo Sjomeling (Phoebe Apperson Hearst Free Library, Lead), Janet Miller (North Sioux City), Jane Norling (Beresford Public Library), Jan Gossman (Bison Public Library), Edith Nelson (Canton Public Library), and Mur Anderson (Hill City Public Library).

South Dakota State Library will be advertising soon for a Technical Services/Catalog Librarian to fill the vacancy created by the departure of Wayne Haas. If you ever thought you might like to try South Dakota and feel up to the unique challenges we offer, watch for our announcement!

SDLN has signed a contract with ExLibris to provide new ILS software for the network which must be migrated from the PALS system by November 2004.