

ST-10

South Dakota Report

June 13, 1999

Big Sky, MT

INTERNET FILTERING BILL: South Dakota HB1186 was successfully modified through the diligent efforts of South Dakota librarians and the testimony of SDLA President Mike Mullin during the 1999 state legislative session. The bill as it was first introduced mandated Internet filtering software on all A public access computers@ in schools and libraries in the state thus restricting access by minors to obscene materials. The bill was welcomed by educational organizations as a way to limit their institutional liability. As the lone opponent of the bill, SDLA was able to amend the text of the bill significantly to include the alternative of establishing policies restricting access by minors to obscene materials via the Internet.

STATE LIBRARIAN SEARCH: The search process for a new South Dakota State Librarian is underway. A search committee has been formed and applications are currently under review. It is hoped to have a new person on board by fall, but the position will remain open until a suitable candidate is found.

SDLA ANNUAL CONFERENCE: Libraries: The Heart of the Community@ is the theme for the upcoming SDLA conference to be held October 6-8, 1999, in Watertown, SD. The keynote speaker will be William R. Gordon, ALA Executive Director. Barbara Williams, children=s author and winner of the SDLA Prairie Pasque Award, will also be a featured guest.

Deb Hagemeyer

South Dakota Representative