

ST-12

## WYOMING REPORT TO THE MPLA EXECUTIVE BOARD

June 13, 1999

### Business and Entrepreneurial Resources go on statewide database

The Wyoming district of the U.S. Small Business Administration has partnered with the Wyoming State Library and Natrona County Library to place the collection of the Small Business Association (SBA)'s Business Information Center (BIC) into the statewide libraries database called WYLD. <http://wyldweb.state.wy.us>

More than 400 books, videos and software resources from the Wyoming BIC were catalogued and made available for interlibrary loan. The Natrona County Library in Casper where the Wyoming BIC is located will serve as the interlibrary loan center. Dane Jervis, BIC manager, noted that this is a first-time partnership. The project will serve as model for other BICs that want to join a statewide information resource and delivery system.

### E-Rate success in Wyoming

Only eleven of Wyoming's eligible libraries completed the application process in the allotted time during Year One of the national Universal Service Fund's E-Rate program. In Year Two of the E-Rate program Wyoming saw a 100 percent increase in the number of eligible libraries applying for E-Rate funding within the window of opportunity. Brian Greene, WY's Library E-Rate Coordinator, said it was done the old fashioned way - constant direct communication by phone, email and face-to-face (F2F) meetings.

### State Library receives Award of Excellence

The Wyoming State Archives recognized the Wyoming State Library for efforts that "ensure the long term preservation and access of information distributed by state government agencies in an efficient manner... Library staff have also enhanced opportunities for access to many State Archives collections by including bibliographic information about collections on the Wyoming Libraries Database (WYLD), thus providing immediate information on many historical records to Wyoming communities." Venice Beske, MPLA's 1996 Beginning Professional Award recipient, is project director of this effort.

### New Public Library Directors in Wyoming

Jill Mackey is new director of the Crook County Library ; Sandra Munger is the director of the Big Horn County Library; Bill Nelson, director of the Natrona County Library is the newest WY library director; and Cynthia Twing is the director of the Johnson County Library. Three of these openings were due to the retirement of directors. The fourth became available in Natrona County when Lesley Boughton became Wyoming's State Librarian in January of 1999. Director openings will be available soon in the Uinta and Weston County Libraries. Frank Swan is

retiring as Uinta County Library's director and that position has been advertised. Elizabeth Barritt has recently resigned from the Weston County Library effective near the end of this month.

Wyoming Library Association (WLA) web site renewed

An ad hoc committee on Electronic Communications for WLA has established a new WLA web presence which can be found at: <http://www.wyomingweb.net/>

Features that have been added include: online membership form, online discussion groups, online meeting room, links to electronic versions of library newsletters and publications, and the genesis of a wonderful professional development area.

1999 WLA conference to be held in Cheyenne

Yes, our next annual conference will be October 13-16, 1999 in Cheyenne, WY. Conference theme is: America's Libraries: Embracing the Future, Preserving the Past.

Former Wyoming Library Director edits recognized book

The book *Leaning Into the Wind* was recognized by the Christian Science Monitor as one of 39 Notable Books of 1998. It is a collection of rural women's stories and poetry edited by Nancy Curtis, Linda Hasselstrom and Gaydell Collier, the recently retired director of the Crook County Library. There are plans to produce a second collection of similar stories and poetry.

Wyoming's Center for the Book receives \$10,000

Linn Rounds, director of Wyoming's Center for the Book, and Judy Yeo, successful grant writer for the State Library and current MPLA CE Committee Chair, received a \$10,000 grant from the Jeld-Wen Foundation which bought more than 1,000 books for young readers throughout Wyoming. The funds were used to underwrite the Center's "Young Readers on the Range" project.

Goshen County Library receives \$29,000 grant

The Goshen County Library received a \$29,000 grant from Union Pacific Railroad. It will fund ten new computers, printers and a phone system with voice-messaging. Isabel Hoy is director.