

## **ST-12 - Wyoming**

### **MPLA Board Report March 2012**

#### **Wyoming Library Association Report**

**Submitted by Stephen Boss**

**3-15-2012**

#### **Wyoming Library Association Reception for Legislators**

The Annual Wyoming Library Association legislative reception took place on a snowy day on February 23, 2012 at the Wyoming State Library in Cheyenne. The reception was held from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. and was preceded by an update from WLA lobbyist Marian Schultz on pending legislation and other relevant session information.

#### **Wyoming Budget Balanced -- No Cuts This Year**

The Wyoming Legislature wrapped up its work Thursday, closing the books one day early on a four-week session that saw lawmakers approve a \$3.2 billion budget to fund operations for the next two years.

The budget bill that Gov. Matt Mead signed earlier in the day keeps state spending essentially flat. It gives Mead authority to spend up to \$150 million in reserve funds if necessary to keep state government functioning in the face of sagging natural gas prices, until lawmakers return to Cheyenne next year.

Lawmakers had warned state agencies to brace for budget cuts. While those cuts didn't materialize, the Legislature put agencies on notice to brace for 4-percent cuts starting next year.

#### **Wyoming Legislature Appropriates \$3 million More for Endowments**

The 2011 Wyoming State Legislature approved an additional \$3 million in state matching funds for public library endowments. This brings total state funding available to \$15.1 million, effective July 1, 2011. So far, the state's library foundations have raised \$2.65 million, which has been matched by \$7.23 million in match and incentive funds. Total state funding available per county is now \$656,522.

#### **Legislative Support for the University of Wyoming/UW Libraries**

The Legislature continued to invest substantially in the state's only university, especially in areas of capital construction and one-time funding initiatives. UW's standard budget was approved -- and even expanded -- with new, re-occurring funds related to its ongoing agreement with the

National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) and UW libraries. The latter would assist with the goal of UW becoming a member of the Greater Western Library Alliance.

### **Wyoming Library Association 2012 Conference**

The 2012 WLA Annual Conference will have the theme of “**Celebrate Our Past — Create Our Future**”. The conference will be held at the Parkway Plaza Hotel and Convention Center in Casper, Wyoming on September 26 -29, 2012.

### **Wyoming Library Association / MPLA Joint 2015 Conference Planning**

The Wyoming Library Association is looking for a location in the state to host the 2015 joint Wyoming Library Association/MPLA conference. One of the venues we are looking into is the Jackson Lake Lodge near Jackson. The setting is beautiful. We are making sure the facilities can accommodate a joint WLA/MPLA conference. We are keeping our options open as our investigations are preliminary at this point.

### **MPLA Membership Renewals**

Like many other state representatives I have been contacting MPLA members in Wyoming who need to renew their membership. I am pleased to report that a number of the people contacted rejoined MPLA. The Wyoming numbers are up a bit since 2011.

**03/14/12**

**03/30/11**

**04/12/10**

Wyoming	Personal	Inst.	Personal	Inst.	Personal	Inst.
	38	1	33	1	40	2

### **Freeding E-Book Collection Available via WYLD**

The Wyoming State Library is providing access to a new e-book service from LibraryIdeas, called **Freeding**. Freeding eBooks offer a wide variety of titles from small and independent publishers. At this time, there are over 20,000 titles in the collection and all are available all the time for simultaneous use. Freeding does not intend to meet the need for current New York Times bestsellers, but it offers a very attractive supplement to many collections, especially in nonfiction and genre fiction. Notably, works by Wyoming authors Joanne Kennedy and John D. Nesbitt are available in Freeding. Details about Freeding are available on the GoWYLD Libraries site. <http://gowyld.freading.com>

So far the statistics from the Wyoming State Library show that there have been:

- 388 Unique Users
- 922 Total Downloads