

ST-12

Wyoming Report to MPLA

April 2008

Submitted by Deborah McCarthy, WLA Representative to MPLA

#### Public Library Endowment Challenge Program

The Wyoming State Legislature enacted the Public Library Endowment Challenge Program which will go in to effect July 1, 2008. This provides an endowment of \$9.1 million to provide matching grants to the foundations of the state's 23 public libraries. The money raised by county library foundations will be matched on a formula ranging from 1:1 to 3:1 depending on the county. This will provide ongoing support for the public libraries in the state. Wyoming libraries are very grateful to our legislators for their continued support.

#### Laramie County Public Library

NPR book commentator Nancy Pearl, author of *Book Lust*, named the Laramie County Library in Cheyenne as one of "10 great places to find a nook and read a book" in an article in *USA Today*. The three story, 100,000 square foot library opened in September 2007.

#### State funding for higher education

In addition to funding for public libraries, the legislature was generous in funding higher education. The UW Libraries will see an increase in their permanent funding next year, and other initiatives on campus were also funded.

#### University of Wyoming

Construction of the 92,000 square foot addition to Coe Library is underway, as is renovation of the existing building. The anticipated completion date of the construction and renovation is September 2009. More information on the project is located at <http://digitalcollections.uwyo.edu/blogs/ILLC/> which includes a live webcam view of the construction site.

The University of Wyoming Libraries Development Board hosted the 2008 Book & Author Luncheon which featured guest speaker Dr. William T. Close, author of the bestselling novel "Ebola: Through the Eyes of the People." Dr. Close's moving presentation was well attended.

#### WLA Meetings

The WLA spring section meetings were held April 18-19, 2008 in Casper, Wyoming with strong participation from the Children and Young Adult Section and the School Library/Media Section. The 2008 Wyoming Library Association Annual Meeting will take place October 1-4, 2008 at the Parkway Plaza in Casper, WY. The 2009 conference will be held in the new University of Wyoming Conference Center in Laramie.