

## **COLORADO LIBRARIES E-FLASH: 8/10**

### **From LIBRARY PEOPLE—FRIENDS OF COLORADO LIBRARIES**

An occasional news and opinion bulletin for supporters, volunteers and Friends of libraries (public, school, academic and special) on library issues, reading-related activities, and information.

Feel free to forward this to your contacts. To be added to the list, contact Library People, email [librarypeoplecolorado@yahoo.com](mailto:librarypeoplecolorado@yahoo.com)

### CONTENTS

- *RED FLAGS ABOUT FALL ELECTION*
- *FALL ELECTION RESOURCES AND BLOG FOR ALL*
- *USEFUL ADVOCACY AND AWARENESS RESOURCES*
- *PUBLIC LIBRARY VISITS, CIRCULATION SPIKE, STAFF STAY SAME*
- *THE DEBATE OVER THE VALUE OF LIBRARIES*
- *FUN FILMS WITH LIBRARY HEROES*
- *RESOURCE SHARING WORKS: THE ASPENCAT MODEL*
- *LOVELAND FRIENDS HELP CAPITAL CAMPAIGN*
- *ERIE WINS \$5,000 FROM HISTORY™*
- *VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR LIBRARY PEOPLE*
- *USEFUL INTERNET SITES AND BLOGS*

### RED FLAGS ABOUT FALL ELECTION

This fall's election includes three proposals with major financial impacts. Ballot measures 60, 61, and 101 (also known as the "bad 3") may sound relatively harmless, but their application will have sweeping negative impacts on all state and local services, says the Bell Policy Institute, along with many others.

A new informal group of library supporters, Bad 3 Bad 4 Libraries, says the issues will kill jobs, crush our economy and quality of life, and ravage the public services we count on everyday, including libraries, as well as education, police, fire fighting, and every aspect of our lives.

Educate yourself and others. Resources include the Bell Policy Institute, <http://bellpolicy.org/node/1231>, and Don't Hurt Colorado, [www.donthurtcolorado.com](http://www.donthurtcolorado.com).

#### FALL ELECTION RESOURCES AND BLOG FOR ALL

An easy-to-use blog and website for library supporters and people individuals contains complete information about proposals 60/61/101. Gain background and advice on what you can do by visiting <http://bad3bad4libraries.blogspot.com/>. The new site offers a variety of resources for library advocates, including info about the measures, the ins and outs of working within campaign law, and links to the statewide campaigns. The ULTIMATE: GET INVOLVED BY PLUGGING INTO Don't Hurt Colorado or The Bad 3, and work within their well-funded and highly public campaigns. Spread the word to anyone who will listen. :-)

#### USEFUL ADVOCACY AND AWARENESS RESOURCES

- OCLC's public library awareness campaign, "Geek the Library," now may be used by interested libraries. To register and obtain materials, visit <http://geekthelibrary.org>
- A national website is tracking challenges for public libraries everywhere. Visit <http://www.losinglibraries.org/about> to see what's happening everywhere!
- The last day to register to vote in the fall election is about a month in advance. You must be registered in order to take action on issues 60/61/101. To register to vote online, visit [www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/main.htm](http://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/main.htm)

#### PUBLIC LIBRARY VISITS, CIRCULATION SPIKE, STAFF STAY SAME

Public library visits and circulations per capita increased almost 20 percent between FY1999 and FY2008, while the number of public librarians per 25,000 people has remained virtually the same, according to the FY2008 Public Libraries Survey (PLS) report issued by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The PLS report found that Americans made 1.5 billion visits to public libraries in FY2008, up from 1.43 billion total visits the previous year.

The report includes a number of key findings that will assist the library community and local, state, and national policymakers in making decisions to better their communities.

- \* Library visitation per capita has steadily increased over the past 10 years.
- \* The availability of Internet terminals has nearly doubled over the past 10 years in response to patron demand.
- \* Circulation per capita has also generally increased during the past 10 years, increasing by 19.7 percent since FY1999.
- \* Children's program attendance gradually rose.
- \* The number of public librarians per 25,000 people has remained more or less the same over the past 10 years.
- \* This year's report includes a graphic showing the distribution of library outlets by state and geography type. A large number of the library outlets are located in rural areas. See the report at <http://harvester.census.gov/imls/pubs/pls/index.asp>. Other studies and resources are available from ALA at [www.ala.org/ala/professionalresources/libfactsheets/alalibraryfactsheet06.cfm](http://www.ala.org/ala/professionalresources/libfactsheets/alalibraryfactsheet06.cfm)

#### THE DEBATE OVER THE VALUE OF LIBRARIES

- A Fox news station in Illinois threw down the gauntlet. Libraries may be "a waste of tax money," they claim. A well-spring of support is materializing, including a piece from *Slate* summarizing the brouhaha. See <http://slatest.slate.com/id/2259335/?wpisrc=newsletter>
- The news story set off a response from *Vanity Fair*, and a later counterpunch by Chicago's Public Library Commissioner. Now an NPR blog, "Monkey See," relates why the next pop culture wave might be libraries. Host Linda Holmes lists reasons libraries make happy media stories, including a preposterous level of good will. See [www.npr.org/blogs/monkeysee/2010/07/20/128651136/why-the-next-big-pop-culture-wave-after-cupcakes-might-be-libraries](http://www.npr.org/blogs/monkeysee/2010/07/20/128651136/why-the-next-big-pop-culture-wave-after-cupcakes-might-be-libraries)
- Another fun item, a video: Librarians Do GaGa, [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a\\_uzUh1VT98](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a_uzUh1VT98)
- And a local businessman expressed his support in a note sent to director Margaret Morris of the Manitou Springs Public Library after a flood in its lower level in July. Following the clean-up in which he'd helped, he wrote, "I think public libraries are the greatest! I know if it wasn't for the help I received at my local public library, I would have never been able to start my own business. I spent a lot of time at the my local library learning how to use a computer before I could

afford to buy my own. A library is also full of many other resources helpful to the small business person.”

- As for Colorado's public libraries! Even in the age of massive Internet communications, still relevant and heavily utilized. For example, in 2000 users of Internet computers numbered 3,168,620; by 2008, they jumped to 6,786,768. In 2000, interlibrary loans numbered 162,349; by 2008, they leaped to 430,620. See the Library Research Service site, <http://tinyurl.com/2e66h32>

#### FUN FILMS WITH LIBRARY HEROES

While writers might seem more glamorous, librarians are the quiet heroes of the literary world. They stand up against censorship, they uncover ancient mysteries, they laugh in the face of computerization and stop the corporate world dead in its tracks. From Katharine Hepburn to Rachel Weisz, the *Huffington Post* rounded up films that give librarians the center stage. See [www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/08/16/librarians-save-the-day-1\\_n\\_672494.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/08/16/librarians-save-the-day-1_n_672494.html)

#### RESOURCE SHARING WORKS: THE ASPENCAT MODEL

AspenCat is consortium of 30 smaller libraries in Colorado. Since November 2009, these libraries have been migrating to an integrated library system solution. The Colorado Library Consortium reports about half of the libraries have migrated to the union (consolidated) catalog, and another 15 will be moving over this fall. Evaluations show patrons like the system, and they love the easy access to a much larger collection. The average AspenCat collection is 15,000 items. When all libraries have migrated, patrons will have access to nearly half a million items. But even half-way through the migration, the numbers of borrows between libraries in impressive. Many of these libraries had only loaned 5 or so items a month prior to moving to AspenCat. *If you make it seamlessly easy for patrons to borrow for other library collection, they will and they will love you for it!* Search AspenCat at: <http://www.aspen.cat.info/>. More info at [www.coloradolibraries.org/?s=AspenCat](http://www.coloradolibraries.org/?s=AspenCat)

#### LOVELAND FRIENDS HELP CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The Loveland Public Library Friends group has been involved in a capital campaign since 2008, raising money to supplement city funds for the expansion and renovation of the library. In spite of the bad economic times, so far they have raised about 67% of the \$2 Million goal. A groundbreaking ceremony was held recently. Barbara Franke, Friend board member, Friends of the Loveland Public Library

#### ERIE WINS \$5,000 FROM HISTORY™

Erie (High Plains Library District) recently won \$5,000 from the History Network in an initiative associated with "America: the Story of Us." The Library Outreach Contest encouraged libraries to create themed exhibits, media projects, and public programming about the role their community played in the broader national story. Erie was awarded a first place prize for a project entitled "Erie: From Working Coal Town to Suburban Boom Town." The portable slide show, created by librarian Carol, showcases the town's coal mining past. History, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, sponsored the contest. See [www.mylibrary.us/about\\_my\\_library/news\\_detail.asp?news\\_id=295](http://www.mylibrary.us/about_my_library/news_detail.asp?news_id=295)

#### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR LIBRARY PEOPLE

- Representative from small/rural library to sit on Library People Board. Meets quarterly.
- Volunteers to assist with website and E-Flash news bulletin
- Fund-raising
- Events (meetings, authors, etc)

For information, call 303.394.3710 or send an email to [librarypeoplecolorado@yahoo.com](mailto:librarypeoplecolorado@yahoo.com).

#### USEFUL INTERNET SITES AND BLOGS

- [www.coloradobook.org](http://www.coloradobook.org): Book Organizations of Colorado, calendar of events; connection to blog and to post book events (<http://booc.wordpress.com/>); and address to post events via email [BOOC@yahoogroups.com](mailto:BOOC@yahoogroups.com).
- [www.coloradolibraries.org/about/](http://www.coloradolibraries.org/about/) Colorado library blog, created by the Colorado State Library and Colorado Library Consortium, with news, innovations, events, photos, and ideas. Sign up to get email notices about news and comment yourself.

- <http://www.ilovelibraries.org/>, The "I Love Libraries" site with lots of ideas and fact about issues facing libraries.

(For information about this E-Flash or Library People, contact [librarypeoplecolorado@yahoo.com](mailto:librarypeoplecolorado@yahoo.com))