

COLORADO LIBRARIES E-FLASH: 3/10

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

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FALL ELECTION ISSUES COULD HAVE MAJOR IMPACT

The Colorado Public Library Advocacy Initiative advises that two amendments and one proposition will be on this fall's statewide ballot. They have the potential to devastate libraries and schools throughout the state. It is important to be well informed about these initiatives and share information.

Amendment 60 - focuses on local budget constraints. Here is just one provision:

* "re-Brucing." All property taxes are reset to where they were since 1992. Even if voters passed an increase by public vote, even if they exempted you from tax limitation provisions, these

limits are re-imposed in a variety of ways. Result: millions of dollars of revenue will be immediately lost to schools and libraries.

Amendment 61 - focuses on banning public financing. This includes:

* no more certificates of participation (COPs), lease-purchase, lease-back, emergency, dedicated revenue bonds means to borrow money. All borrowing requires a vote.

* when you pay back current debt, you must then immediately reduce your tax collections by that amount. No more refinancing.

Proposition 101 - focuses on cuts to public service. An example: * reductions in specific ownership taxes. Schools and library districts are the hardest hit: losing nine-tenths of the revenue from this source.

The combined effect of these will slash many school and library budgets by as much as one-third in a single year.

For more information, see this analysis by the Bell Policy Institute. <http://www.thebell.org/node/1231>. A web page at the Secretary of State's site provides a variety of information about registering to vote and other related election items. It is: GoVoteColorado.com

LIBRARIES AT THE LEGISLATURE

The Legislative Committee (LC) of the Colorado Association of Libraries (CAL) has two ways you can participate during National Library Week. Let's let our legislators and the public know what essential services and resources our libraries provide. For an overview, go to: www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/LobbyDay/index.htm

(1) The LC has arranged to have an information booth on the second floor of the Capitol on Wednesday, April 14 to speak with legislators. If you can spare 1 - 4 hours of your time to help man the booth, please contact Amy Phillips alphillips22@gmail.com or Kelly Hall mkellyhall@yahoo.com. Colorado libraries will spotlight the theme: Libraries Mean Business, to show the many ways Colorado libraries build business, boost the local economy and aid job-seekers.

- Can you share a success story that captures this theme? along with a photo of the storyteller. Also desired:

- Other examples of how "libraries mean business" demonstrated in print materials or articles that showcase library programs and services, in PDF form. Send to Aspen Walker, Douglas County Libraries, awalker@dclibraries.org, or Amy Phillips, alphillips22@gmail.com.

For more information on Lobby Day at the Capitol, visit www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/LobbyDay/LobbyDay.htm

(2) If you can't help at the booth at the Capitol, you can show your support by contacting your legislator. If you are willing to do this, please contact Elena Rosenfeld at erosenfeld@highplains.us. Information on how to contact your legislator and messages can be found at www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/LobbyDay/ContactLegislator.htm

For information on any activities, contact Amy Phillips alphillips22@gmail.com, Shelley Walchak, Colorado State Library, walchak_s@cde.state.co.us 303-866-6891.

THE NEW ASKCOLORADO: UTILITY AND COOLNESS COMBINED

In the last few years, libraries have seen an explosion in online communication tools available for reaching and serving patrons. The use of IM, text messaging, online chat and related technologies are becoming embedded in the fabric of libraries' online service offerings. Technology and the evolving need for flexibility to serve library patrons, led AskColorado to endorse a migration to a new software platform, InstantService. InstantService is currently used by Florida's AskALibrarian and has gotten outstanding reviews. Library representatives from public, academic and school libraries from across the state, chose InstantService after reviewing several vendor options. InstantService offers the expected, basic function of live chats with a librarian, but the (**NEW!**) integration of email to provide patrons with a communication option if the AskColorado service is busy or closed for a holiday, A SIGNIFICANT improvement.

Looking forward to the spring...**text messaging will be added as an option** so that patrons can communicate with the AskColorado library service using a handheld device like a cell phone. AskColorado features live, online reference service. If you've never used it, check it out at www.askcolorado.org

LIBRARY RESEARCH SERVICE UPDATES SITE FOR ALL INFORMATION

The Library Research Service at the Colorado State Library launched a new website. It is a whole new look with updated navigation, graphics, and features. You can explore the site (www.LRS.org) and forward your response to it (<http://dev.lrs.org/sitecomment.php>). Along with this redesign, the blog is moving to a different home. Find it now at <http://www.lrs.org/news>. The RSS feed for the blog is also changing. Update readers to <http://feeds.feedburner.com/LRSNews>. The LRS site contains ALL SORTS of statistics and reports about Colorado's libraries.

NEW ALA REPORT DETAILS ECONOMIC TRENDS IN LIBRARIES AND OUTLOOK

At every turn, news reports and research indicate fairly dramatic changes in U.S. library funding, services and staffing - most occurring in the last 18 months. According to a new report prepared by the American Library Association (ALA), libraries of all types are feeling the pinch of the economic downturn while managing sky-high use.

Compiled from a broad range of available sources, *The Condition of Libraries: 1999-2009* presents U.S. economic trends (2009), and summarizes trends in public, school and academic libraries across several library measures, including expenditures, staffing and services. The report also highlights trends in services provided to libraries by library cooperatives and consortia. The report covers school libraries as well as public. The full report is available at [www.ala.org/ala/research/initiatives/Condition of Libraries 1999 .20.pdf](http://www.ala.org/ala/research/initiatives/Condition_of_Libraries_1999_20.pdf). Individual reports by type of library are available at <http://www.ala.org/ala/research/index.cfm>.

QUOTABLE FACTS ABOUT LIBRARIES; KEEP THEM HANDY

The American Library Association has released an updated version of *Quotable Facts About Libraries*. Excerpts include:

1. 59% of adults in the U.S. have public library cards
2. Americans go to school, public and academic libraries nearly three times more often than they go to the movies.
3. Reference librarians in the nation's public and academic libraries answer nearly 5.7 million questions weekly. Standing single file, the line of questioners would span from Long Island, New York, to Juneau, Alaska.
4. A 2009 poll conducted for ALA found that 96% respondents

agreed that public libraries play an important role in giving everyone a chance to succeed because it provides free access to materials and resources.

Keep a copy handy and work them into your conversations and correspondence. Astound your friends. See www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ola/quotablefacts/QuotableFacts2010.pdf

NEW LIBRARIES REVITALIZE CITIES

A recent study summarizes how libraries are being used to revitalize cities. A mixed-use, multimedia complex that is meant to foster social interaction and creative ferment as much as reading and research, the library of the future is also intended as an engine of city-center rejuvenation. Examples have gone up in dozens of places around the world, including Salt Lake City; Vancouver, B.C.; and Cardiff, U.K. These library buildings incorporate a constellation of nontraditional and even non-library uses, like cafes, shops, auditoriums, galleries, classrooms, conference centers, offices, even housing. Some are placed adjacent to theaters, concert halls and museums to form cultural campuses; others are joined to schools. See www.miller-mccune.com/culture-society/new-libraries-revitalize-cities-8596/

PUBLIC LIBRARIES RECEIVE MINI-GRANTS FOR SUMMER READING

Seventy-three public library sites will receive Summer Reading Mini-Grants. Each participating library site will receive \$200 towards buying books for the library. Reading regularly during the summer helps students to prevent "summer set-back" where students can lose reading gains of the previous school year. Library sites provide a local match of 25% of the grant. The statewide summer reading theme for 2010 is "Make a Splash, READ!" The teen theme is "Make Waves @ your library."

LOCAL LIBRARIES PROVIDE INNOVATIVE ACTIVITIES

- *BERTHOUD BY THE BOOK SELECTS THREE CUPS OF TEA:* Three Cups of Tea is the 2010 Berthoud by the Book Selection. The city-wide program features a full calendar of events during March and April, to involve readers of all backgrounds and ages in reading the same book. See <http://berthoud.colibraries.org/berthoud-by-the-book>

- *Storybox Special is expanding!* Storybox Special is Southern Peaks Library's early literacy program for home childcare providers. If you know someone who cares for children regularly in his or her home in or near Alamosa, whether licensed home childcare provider or "Granny or Auntie," a family member who cares for an extended family's children, that person may be eligible. Each month Babette Reeves delivers a new box of books to providers. She also gives a free training so providers can help develop early literacy skills. Support comes from the Friends of the Library who received a \$3000 grant from the El Pomar Foundation. For information, visit <http://babetter.wordpress.com/>

ARRA GRANT MONEY AVAILABLE FOR RURAL LIBRARIES

Grant money may be available for libraries and other community facilities through the USDA's Rural Development Community Facilities Grant Program. See www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/LibraryDevelopment/PublicLibraries/download/pdf/ARRAGrantMoney.pdf

- This money is being offered through ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act).
- The funds will help rural communities up to 20,000 in population to improve their community facilities (including libraries), enhance educational opportunities, and improve economic conditions.
- The loans and grants are available to public entities including municipalities, counties and special districts as well as non-profit corporations and tribal governments with the legal authority necessary for construction, operation and maintenance of the facility.
- 80% of this money will be available as loans, 20% of the money is available as grants.
- Community Facilities Grants are authorized on a graduated scale. Applicants located in smaller communities with low populations and low incomes will receive a higher percentage of grants. Grant funding limitations are based on population and income, economic feasibility and availability of funds.
- Applications are handled by USDA Rural Development field offices.

Due to Colorado Tabor laws, governmental entities such as municipalities, counties, and special districts will need to work closely with the USDA field officers and get legal advice on their eligibility for any loans. Please note that should ballot issue 61 pass this fall, future revenues would have to be

reduced in compliance with its requirements. For information, visit the USDA website <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/co/>

LIBRARIES IN THE NEWS

- Libraries are not going extinct; technology enhances their usefulness, by Fred Beisser, *Your Hub Franktown*, <http://denver.yourhub.com/Franktown/Stories/Opinion/Write-a-Column/Story~737123.aspx>
- It's possible Colorado will need a new motto after this next election. Something like: 'Just like California, but without the flakes and quakes.' That's because California's potholes, IOUs in lieu of tax refunds, billions in budget cuts and overall government paralysis could be exported to Colorado... "Extreme forces in Colorado," by Dan Haley, *Denver Post*. http://www.denverpost.com/opinion/ci_14515523
- Gubernatorial candidates weigh in on the fall ballot measures. *Denver Post*. www.denverpost.com/search/ci_14445856?source=email

LIBRARY STORIES FROM THE CSL BOOTH AT CAL

The Colorado State Library's booth at the Colorado Association of Libraries conference in November 2009 had the theme "Libraries: A Place of Endless Possibilities". Visitors were encouraged to share their stories by writing them, typing them or telling them (to our flip cameras). Now you can read or listen to the fantastic stories and celebrate the many ways libraries transform lives. To listen to or read stories, visit www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/Presentations/CAL.htm

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 or.

USEFUL INTERNET SITES AND BLOGS

- 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.
- 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)