



A Newsletter of the Wisconsin Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning

Libraries and the state budget

Legislature grappling with 2001-03 funding proposal

by Cal Potter, Administrator
Division for Libraries, Technology and Community Learning

As you receive this issue of Channel, the Legislature is in the midst of deliberating the Governor's 2001-03 Biennial State Budget. Usually presented to lawmakers in early February, the budget bill is then introduced in the Assembly or Senate with one house passing it before the other begins formal debate. The bill introduction historically alternates sessions between the two houses. The past two sessions, with a split in the party majorities between the two houses, the bill has been introduced in both houses. This session the budget is Senate Bill 55 and Assembly Bill 144.

While formal budget jurisdiction before floor debate is in the Joint Finance Committee, standing committees often hold hearings and make recommendations on aspects of the proposal in their area of concern. In the case of library issues, the respective education committees also review these provisions. Throughout the process, legislators interact with members of the Joint Finance Committee in altering the Governor's bill to reflect their views. Thus, we have legislative calls to action from groups—such as the Wisconsin Library Association and the Wisconsin Educational Media Association—to contact their legislators.

This session's biennial budget bill includes many familiar library budget items. Aids for public library systems are the largest of the budgetary fund requests related to libraries, with the DPI under the statutory requirement to request a 13 percent funding level. The Governor, however, did not provide any additional systems aids. If enacted, this would reduce the percentage of state support for public library services to less than 9.5 percent in 2002 and less than 9 percent in 2003, down from today's approximately 10 percent.

The four library service contracts with

Public Library System Aid

Request funding to achieve a 13 percent index level to comply with S.43.24(6) of the Wisconsin State Statutes.

	Base 2000/01	Request 2001/02	Request 2002/03
System funding	\$14,749,800	\$20,208,400	21,420,900
DPI Requested Increase		\$5,458,600	\$6,671,100
Gov. Recom. Increase		\$0	\$0

the Cooperative Children's Book Center, the Regional Wisconsin Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Wisconsin Library Services (WiLS), and the Milwaukee Public Li-

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Participation sets record

Library Legislative Day draws 154

by Cal Potter, Administrator
Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning

On Feb. 13 a record 154 library advocates participated in the 2001 Library Legislative Day in Madison. A big thank you goes out to the Wisconsin Library Association (WLA) and Wisconsin Educational Media Association (WEMA) for their sponsorship, and to all those who made the journey to Madison to visit with their lawmakers about important library issues up for consideration in the 2001-03 legislative session.

Library Legislative Day Chair Carole DeJardin did a fine job of organizing the program with the

help of her committee consisting of WEMA Legislative Chair Madge Klais, Kris Adams Wendt, Paulette Feld, Mary Jane Wiseman, Barbara Arnold, Barbara Sanford, and Greg Crews. Sue Center, WLA federal relations coordinator, and Phyllis Davis, WLA legislative advocate, act as advisors to the committee.

Legislative Day 2001 used a modified format from previous years to ac-

Please see Legislative Day—on page 2



Senate Majority Leader Chuck Chvala addresses the Library Legislative Day audience. Seated (l-r) are Paul Nelson (WLA), Tony Driessen, Michael Gelhausen (WLA), Madge Klais (WEMA), and Carol DeJardin.

Legislative Day draws record crowd—from front page

commodate attendees who had early appointments with their lawmakers. Activities began with a 7:45 a.m. continental breakfast at the Inn on the Park followed

by a new feature this year—an Early Bird Briefing—that was well attended. This 8:15 a.m. program segment provided a legislative agenda review by WLA Library

Development & Legislation Committee Chair Paul Nelson, followed by WLA Legislative Liaison Tony Driessen giving very pragmatic tips on visiting your legislator.

The main event was held from 9-10 a.m., starting with welcomes by DeJardin, Klais, Michael Gelhausen (President of the WLA); and Paul Nelson. Assembly Majority Leader Stephen Foti, and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Chvala were the keynote speakers, fielding questions after their remarks. For those who got a later start on their Capitol visits, the main program was followed by a 10 a.m. repeat of the early issues briefing.

Without a doubt, Legislative Day 2001 was a great success. Again, all those who organized and participated should be commended. ■

Library Legislative Day in Pictures

Paul Nelson (speaking) and Assembly Majority Leader Stephen Foti (below)



Ed Van Gemert (UW-Madison Memorial Library) and other participants



Ron McCabe (McMillian Memorial Library, Wisconsin Rapids), left, and Doug Baker (Kenosha Public Library/Kenosha County Library System)



Paula Kiely and Sandra Lockett (Milwaukee Public Library)



Larry Nix (DLTCL), left, and Milton Mitchell (Indianhead Federated Library System)

Channel

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Send comments about bylined articles to the authors. Direct other content inquiries to editor Mark E. Ibach at (608) 266-3374 (mark.ibach@dpi.state.wi.us). Mailing list changes and requests for subscriptions or extra copies should be submitted to Karen Nowakowski at (608) 267-9219 (karen.nowakowski@dpi.state.wi.us).

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Benson Appoints Trustee Handbook Task Force

State Superintendent John Benson has appointed a task force to assist DLTC staff in reviewing and updating the Wisconsin Public Library Trustee Handbook. The current handbook was written in 1989 with minor revisions in 1998. The goal of the task force is to develop a document that will be a valuable tool for trustee training as well as a reference for library trustees throughout Wisconsin.

The new Public Library Trustee Handbook will be distributed to all Wisconsin public library and library system trustees, and will also be made available on the Internet.

John Benson has appointed the following members to the



Wisconsin Public Library Trustee Handbook Task Force.

- Joy Botts, retired library director (Sussex-Lisbon)
- Richard Brandt, Brookfield Public Library and Waukesha

County Federated Library System trustee

- Karen Busch, Cuba City and Southwest Wisconsin Library System trustee, and WLTA Chair
- Mike Cross, DLTC staff
- Ken Hall, Winnefox Library System staff
- Larry Nix, DLTC staff
- David Polodna, Winding Rivers Library System director
- Mary Poretti, Northern Waters Library System trustee and former Webster Public Library trustee
- Sandy Robbers, Indianhead Federated Library System staff
- Greta Thompson, Outagamie Waupaca Library System staff
- Michael Tyree, West Bend Public Library director
- Doug Zweizig, Evansville Public Library and Arrowhead Library System trustee

It is anticipated that the new Trustee Handbook will be available by late summer. For more information, contact Task Force Chair Mike Cross at (608) 267-9225 (michael.cross@dpi.state.wi.us). ■

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Cooperative Children's Book Center

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ccbcinfo@education.wisc.edu www.education.wisc.edu/ccbc/

Ginny Moore Kruse, Director

(608) 263-3720

The CCBC is a noncirculation children's & young adult literature research library and book examination center cosponsored by the Department of Public Instruction and UW-Madison.

Libraries and budget *—from front page*

brary, also were given no increases for the next two years. The Governor did, however, recommend a onetime appropriation of \$161,600 for the replacement of the automated system at the Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. The recommended funding for this upgrade would come from the dispersal of the Wisconsin Advanced Telecommunications Foundation (WATF)

fund.

The collection budget for the Wisconsin Reference and Loan Library also was not increased as requested by DPI. Newsline for the Blind, funded through the Universal Service Fund, was granted a cost to continue increase of \$23,000 in 2001-02 and \$22,000 in 2002-03.

In the last session of the Legislature, a major topic in the biennial budget debate

was ongoing state funding for BadgerLink. This resulted in the state assuming the funding, which was accomplished with the use of Universal Service Fund. SB 55 includes a cost to continue increase of \$73,500 in 2001-02 and \$150,200 in 2002-03. However, this increase is to be covered by an assessment on school districts. The highly unusual situation finds last year's base cost still being derived from the Universal Service Fund, but additional support directed to come from one segment of the user population, a re-

quired charge-back to schools. BadgerLink is available to Wisconsin citizens through their local Internet provider and thus the requirement to charge one segment of the constituency served is difficult to understand.

Statutory language requested by DPI that enables public library systems to borrow from the State Trust Fund was also included in the Governor's budget recommendations.

The accompanying charts illustrate the comparisons between the DPI budget request and the appropriation levels in the Governor's Budget Bill as submitted to the State Legislature. ■

BadgerLink

Cost to maintain current magazine and newspaper databases and to add an encyclopedia.

	Base 2000/01	Request 2001/02	Request 2002/03
Databases	\$1,700,000	\$2,138,600*	\$2,215,100*
DPI Requested Increase		\$438,600*	\$515,300*
Gov. Recom. Increase		\$73,500**	\$150,200**

*Includes \$365,100 to add the Grolier Encyclopedia. Funding for encyclopedia not recommended by the Governor.

**Governor recommended authorizing DPI to assess fees to school districts to pay for increased cost of current BadgerLink databases.

Statewide Library Contracts

Cost to continue increases for state contracts with the Milwaukee Public Library for interlibrary loan and operation of the Regional Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped, Wisconsin Library Services (WiLS), and the Cooperative Children's Book Center (CCBC).

Contracts	Base 2000/01	Request 2001/02	Request 2002/03
Milwaukee PL ILL	\$65,000	\$65,400	\$69,500
Wisconsin Regional Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped	\$736,400	\$830,000	\$1,012,200*
WiLS	\$180,900	\$180,900	\$180,900
CCBC	\$65,000	\$68,200	\$71,600
Total	\$1,047,300	\$1,144,600	\$1,334,200
DPI Requested Increase		\$97,300	\$286,900*
Gov. Recom. Increase		\$0	\$161,600*

*Includes \$161,600 for automated system replacement. The Governor recommends that funding for this purpose be taken from the Wisconsin Advanced Telecommunications Foundation fund.

Newsline for the Blind

Cost to continue and to provide some enhancements to this service.

Contract	Base 2000/01	Request 2001/02	Request 2002/03
Total	\$45,500	\$68,500	\$67,500
DPI Requested Increase		\$23,000	\$22,000
Gov. Recom. Increase		\$23,000	\$22,000

Library Issue Discussion Group Report

Budget tops list at discussion group meeting

The Library Issue Discussion Group met in Madison March 8 to address issues affecting libraries in the state and to develop consensus around statewide initiatives. The group meets several times a year and brings together leaders of various library organizations in the state.

State Legislative Issues

The state budget and legislative agenda were discussed in detail, with reports from WLA, WEMA, the University of Wisconsin System, and others about the impact on libraries of Gov. Scott McCallum's proposed 2001-03 biennial budget.

Among the budget items highlighted were:

- the lack of an increase in public library system aid (the DPI request was for a \$12.1 million increase to reach a 13 percent funding level. Instead, system aids, which currently stand at 10 percent, would drop to 9.5 percent in the first year of the biennium and 9 percent in the second year if enacted as proposed);
- the state contracts with Milwaukee Public Library, Wisconsin Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Wisconsin Library Services, and Cooperative Children's Book Center;
- the University of Wisconsin System Libraries request for materials, including access to electronic resources; and
- a proposal authorizing DPI to assess fees to school districts to pay for the increases in the costs of current BadgerLink databases (no other types of libraries or library users were mentioned in this particular provision).

There will be a number of opportunities for library supporters to provide information to their legislators about the impact of the state budget on their libraries and provisions that would be more helpful to libraries and their users statewide. Other legislative issues discussed were the Common School Fund, The Wisconsin Advanced Telecommunications Fund, TEACH, the Educational Communications Board, Uniform Computer Information Transactions Act (UCITA), and a proposed new Department of Electronic Government.

Federal Legislative Issues

The group discussed the proposed FCC regulations regarding the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), federal legislation that mandates the use of Internet filters in schools and libraries that participate in certain federal programs. DPI reported that its letter to the FCC regarding the proposed regulations focused on the timing of the act's implementation, Internet use by adults, and certification and compliance language. The FCC is expected to release its rules in April. Some members of the group expressed concern over misperceptions about the new federal filtering requirement, including that the requirement is limited to recipients of certain federal funds (E-Rate, LSTA and ESEA Title III).

A number of librarians and library supporters will be attending

ALA Legislative Day in Washington April 30 and May 1 to meet with members of Wisconsin's congressional delegation about national library issues.

Among the important matters to be addressed is the reauthorization of the LSTA program. The LSTA program is authorized through 2002 and a coalition of national library groups—including ALA, the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services—has drafted a set of recommendations for reauthorization that suggest only modest change in the LSTA language. The chief focus of

the reauthorization will be to ask for a major increase in the amount of LSTA money available to states. The reauthorization legislation will be introduced this year.

Library Group Sharing of Activities

The group heard activity reports from the System and Resource Library Administrators Association of Wisconsin (SRLAAW), the Council on Library and Network Development (COLAND), Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA), WLA, WEMA, and WiLS. Among topics reported on were a new SRLAAW website, the public library system E-book project, and a variety of spring meetings and conferences. A new feature of the WEMA spring conference is a virtual conference that will take

Please see Discussion Group—on page 6



Madge Klais (WEMA), Paul Nelson and Lisa Strand (WLA), and Michael Blumenfeld (WEMA)—pictured l-r—discuss legislative and budget issues and other matters at the March meeting of the Library Issue Discussion Group.

Trustee Corner

Library board members must avoid conflicts of interest

Editor's Note: This article provides only a general outline of the law and should not be construed as legal advice in individual or specific cases where additional facts might support a different or more qualified answer. If you have a question you would like answered in a future "Trustee Corner" column, contact Mike Cross at (608) 267-9225 (michael.cross@dpi.state.wi.us).

Our library board will be requesting bids for a remodeling project at the library. One of our library board members is a building contractor. May that library board member submit a bid on the remodeling project?

Not if the bid exceeds \$15,000. In addition, the board member should not participate in any board discussion, deliberation, or vote on the issue even if the bid will be for less than \$15,000.

Wisconsin's code of ethics for local officials (Wis. Statutes Section 19.59) prohibits, among other things, a local official from taking any official action that produces a substantial financial benefit to the official, the official's family, or an organization with which the official has a significant financial interest. (This law does not apply to the lawful reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses incurred in performance of board duties.) In addition, it is a felony [under Section 946.13(1)(b)] for a public official to participate in the making of a contract exceeding \$15,000, in his or her official capacity if the official has a direct or indirect financial interest in the contract.

Because both of the statutory prohibitions referred to above apply only to official actions, your board member may be able to avoid running afoul of these parts of the law by withdrawing from participation in any board discussion, deliberation, or vote on the issue. However, if the bid exceeds \$15,000, your board member may be committing a felony even if he or she withdraws from participation in any board discussion, deliberation or vote on the issue. Wisconsin Statutes Section 946.13(1)(a) provides that a public official may not, in his or her **private** capacity, negotiate or bid for or enter into a contract in which the public of-

ficial has a direct or indirect financial interest, if the official is "authorized or required by law to participate in his capacity as such officer or employee in the making of that contract." Because this section of the law applies to private actions, liability cannot be avoided merely by withdrawing from board involvement with the issue.

Wisconsin's law prohibiting public officials from having a private interest in public contracts (Section 946.13) includes certain exemptions, including an exemption for contracts involving receipts and disbursements of under \$15,000 per year.

Any person who violates Wisconsin's code of ethics for public officials may be required to forfeit up to \$1,000. Violations of the "private interests in public contracts" law can result in fines of up to \$10,000 and imprisonment of not more than two years, or both.

It is important that library board members avoid all potential conflicts of interest. Wisconsin's ethics and conflict of interest statutes are complex, and local governments also may have local ethics ordinances, so it is recommended that any questions about these issues be discussed with your municipal attorney. Information about these laws also is available on the League of Wisconsin Municipalities website (www.lwm-info.org/legal/faq/faq4.html). The League article covers the many Wisconsin laws pertaining to ethics, conflict of interest, misconduct in office, etc. ■

Discussion Group from page 5

place two weeks after the regular conference. The virtual conference is designed as a service for those who can not attend the conference, or as an enhancement for those who do attend. The Governor's Wisconsin Educational Technology Conference (GWETC) is being coordinated by DPI this year and will take place in October. The slogan of the WLA annual conference is, "Still Libraries After All These Years."

Access to Technology and Resources

The group also heard a report on the activities of the State Superintendent's Library and Information Technology Advisory Committee. Updates on other state and federal grant programs and activities were provided. DPI is in the process of compiling data being received from school districts and schools regarding school library media programs. The survey results will be published in the fall. There also will be a demonstration program sponsored by NetLibrary to allow schools to test E-books.

Discussion Topic

At each meeting of the issue discussion group a topic is selected for special consideration. The topic for this meeting was library technology training. Among the issues touched on were the need for technical support versus training, the difficulty of keeping trained staff, salary concerns, the need for standardization, and the benefits of the TEACH technology and training grants.

The group will meet again in May, with a conference call in April. ■

AV Notes

Native Americans: Audiovisuals at R&LL

by Willeen Tretheway, Audiovisual Services Librarian
Reference and Loan Library

Native Americans: Audiovisual Materials Available for Free Loan from the Wisconsin Reference and Loan Library is a new document that has been recently posted on the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) website. It is an annotated list containing descriptions of the VHS videocassettes, slides, filmstrips, 16mm films, kits, cassettes, LP records, and compact discs on Indians of North America, Central America, and South America, that are owned by the Reference and Loan Library (R&LL).

The list was compiled for the convenience of teachers, librarians, program planners, and others who want a browsing aid for locating audiovisual materials on Native Americans, and it can be found on the Reference and Loan Library's website

(www.dpi.state.wi.us/dltcl/rll/pdf/nativeamericansav.pdf). It also can be accessed from BadgerLink (www.badgerlink.net) by clicking on "Video Resources," then on "Reference and Loan Video Collection" and then on "Native Americans." The list is in portable document format (pdf) and is suitable for printing.

Over 200 VHS videocassettes—as well as some slides, filmstrips and 16mm films—are in Reference and Loan's collection of materials on Native Americans. There are documentary, informational, instructional, and dramatic presentations. They deal with Indian history, arts and crafts, traditional and contemporary culture and lifestyle, government, treaty rights, sovereignty, relations with other cultures and populations, and efforts to preserve traditional values. There are programs on ancient Indian civilizations and current cultures of Mexico and Central and South America. There are programs on many tribes found in the United States and Canada, including some that are specifically about Indians and Indian tribes in Wisconsin and the Great Lakes region.

It is recommended that programs be previewed for content and for use appropriateness prior to showing. Some programs are older, or are in older formats, but contain footage or images that might not be captured elsewhere. Also, some programs may be useful for documenting and illustrating changing attitudes toward, and views of, Native Americans.

To accommodate class and other programming schedules, the Reference and Loan Library will accept requests to reserve its videos, slides, filmstrips, and films for specific use dates if borrowers wish to plan ahead.

The collection also includes over 150 sound recordings of

documentary programs, music, stories, legends, and language instruction. There have been special efforts by some tribes and others to preserve Native American languages, and Reference and Loan has at least introductory level recorded instructional programs for Ojibwa (Chippewa), Cherokee, Lakota, Navajo, Jicarilla Apache, Tlingit, Menominee, Potawatomi, Mohawk, Choctaw, Cheyenne, and others.

Educators, in particular, may find R&LL's list helpful for locating materials for use in their classes on American Indian studies. Wisconsin school districts are required to provide instruction about the federally recognized tribes and bands located in the state. The American Indian Studies Program in the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) may be contacted for information about curricular requirements in the areas of American Indian history, culture, and tribal sovereignty.

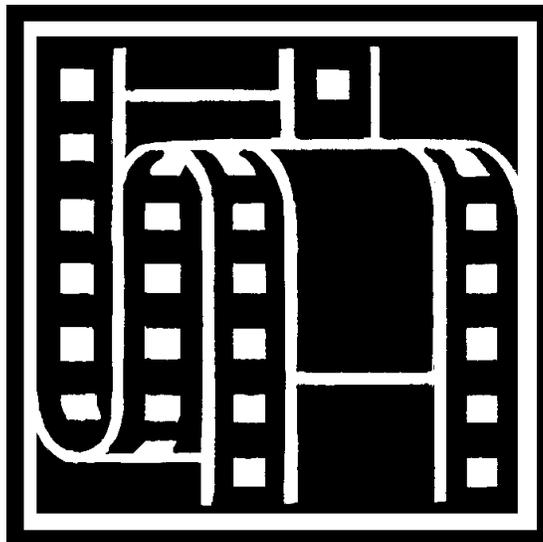
The website for the American Indian Studies Program provides information about the Wisconsin Statutes relating to American Indian studies, bibliographies, an extensive information packet, and more. It is at:

www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/dlsea/equity/aisintro.html. For more information, DPI's American Indian Studies consultant is J.P. Leary, and he can be reached at (608) 267-2283 (jp.leary@dpi.state.wi.us).

Materials may be borrowed from the Reference and Loan Library by anyone free of charge except for return shipping

where it applies. Instructions for borrowing the Native American materials appear on the list. Copyright law protects all of the materials. For more information about the collection or about borrowing, contact the Reference and Loan Library, AV Booking/Circulation Dept., 2109 S. Stoughton Road, Madison, WI 53716; (608) 224-6169 or toll-free (888) 542-5543. You also can contact Willeen Tretheway at (608) 224-6171 (willeen.tretheway@dpi.state.wi.us).

Descriptions of many more audiovisual materials about Native Americans that are held by other libraries in the state may be found on WISCAT, Wisconsin's statewide database of library holdings. WISCAT can be accessed on the web at <http://wiscat.brodart.com> or by clicking on "WISCAT" at the BadgerLink website. Materials found on WISCAT may be requested on interlibrary loan through local libraries. The programs described in *Native Americans: Audiovisual Materials Available for Free Loan from the Wisconsin Reference and Loan Library* represent a small part of the R&LL's overall audiovisual collection. These materials, as well as the other materials in the library's collection, can also be found on WISCAT. ■



Reader Connection

Libraries are integral to humankind

Editor's Note: *These are excerpts from the Library of the Year Award acceptance speech, Nov. 1, 2000, by Ervin W. Johnson, Darlington resident, who with his wife, Phyllis, donated funds for the new Darlington library. The article opens with additional remarks from Carol McDaniel, director, Johnson Public Library, Darlington.*

Carol McDaniel remarks

On Nov. 1 the Johnson Public Library in Darlington received the distinguished honor of being selected as the Wisconsin Library Association's Library of the Year for 2000. There are many criteria for the award, one of which is "changes or improvements in physical facilities resulting in better services." It was Darlington's good fortune to have the opportunity to build a new library. Completed in February 2000, the library is a fine example of what a small community can do to provide an exemplary library to its citizens and area residents. With a generous donation from lifetime residents, Ervin and Phyllis Johnson, the city of Darlington was empowered with the ability to build a library facility that is as up to date as possible.

Building a library involves the efforts of many people. Working together to accomplish this common goal is rewarding and challenging. The architect designed a building that offers handicapped accessibility, staff visibility, private study rooms, patron computer workstations, a children's story hour alcove, room for 50 percent collection expansion, and an adult reading area. The library board members, mayor, and city council members worked tirelessly to ensure that the final plans would provide what they envisioned. The builder paid attention to every building detail. As director, I found that sharing in the process was a wonderful and exciting experience.

The community of Darlington is proud to be selected as WLA Library of the Year for 2000. It is a special honor to join the ranks of other notable libraries throughout the state of Wisconsin. I encourage others to nominate their libraries for the award for 2001.

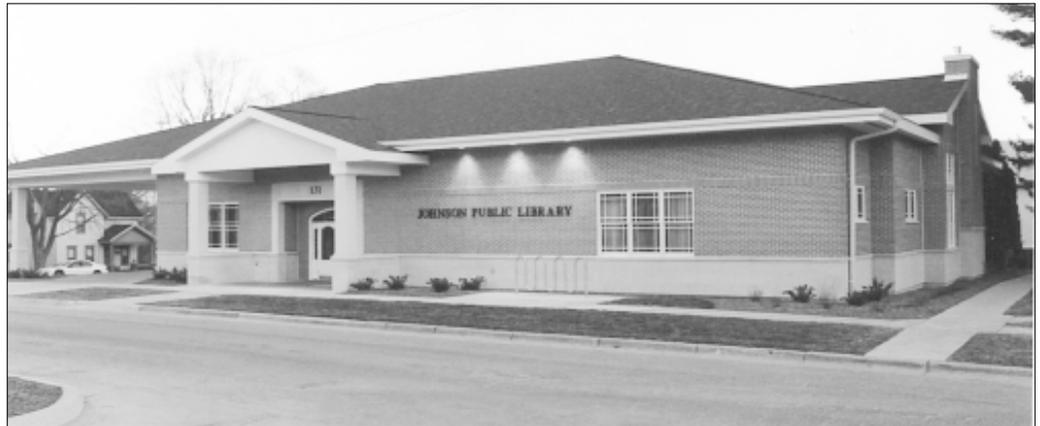
Excerpts of Ervin W. Johnson acceptance remarks at WLA

This is a grand and glorious occasion and it is quite humbling to realize that the Johnson Public Library of Darlington has been chosen to receive the coveted award of being the outstanding public library of all of the State of Wisconsin for the year 2000. This is truly a year to be remembered as we start the new millen-

nium for our community of about 2,400 people and the surrounding area.

I have become known as a person who isn't too free with the money, but when Phyllis and I decided to go ahead with this project we wanted to build the very best building and furnish it with the very best so that it would be functional and a facility of which the community could be justly proud. We wanted the library and the furnishings to be uniquely different and uncommonly beautiful. I had an uncle (now deceased) who said, "Why settle for the mediocre if the best is at hand."

During my lifetime we have seen great strides in our country in the field of technology. We have not seen the same progress in our social sciences or in our relationships with our fellow human beings. There is a wide chasm between our advances in



The Johnson Public Library in Darlington, recipient of the 2000 WLA Library of the Year Award.

dealing with things and our progress or loss of progress in social sciences. It is our sincere hope that this library, together with libraries in other communities, together with our fine schools in this area and good churches will in some way aid in closing the gap between the progress we have made in technology and that of human relationships.

Libraries are temples of learning. Learning has liberated more people than all the wars in history. The written word is mightier than the sword. Genuine change does not come from government. Real change begins with ourselves. We cannot legislate social change. It must occur in the minds and hearts of 'we the people'. If a nation is to go forward it is up to 'we the people' back home.

It is our sincere hope that many generations of young folks and folks of all ages will enjoy and benefit from the use of the library, and that it will enrich the lives of all who pass through its doors.

The 6th Chapter of St. Luke states: "Give and it shall be given to you, good measure, pressed down and running over." Let me

Please see Darlington—on page 11

From the other side of the virtual reference desk

by Margaret Allen, Library Consultant
Area Health Education Centers

Consumer health information is just another abstract concept until you need it for yourself or a family member.

At my annual physical in April 2000, I learned that my mammogram results required more films and follow-up with a breast surgeon. Since breast cancer does not run in my family and I had survived a viral induced heart problem eight years ago, I had assumed that my major risk was heart failure, not cancer. However, for women in the U.S. the lifetime chance of getting breast cancer is one in nine. Other cancers are common, along with the major problems of heart disease, stroke, and diabetes.

While waiting for follow-up, I happened to be developing a workshop on Women's Health on the Internet, for presentation at the Wisconsin Women's Health Conference held in Wausau last April. Suddenly the sites I was viewing took on a new meaning. Beginning with MEDLINEplus (<http://medlineplus.gov/>) and the National Women's Health Information Center (www.4woman.gov/), I found a variety of information from reputable organizations. I went to my surgical consultation as an informed patient.

This led to a biopsy that came back positive for breast cancer—not what the surgeon expected. I soon learned that I would have to decide between a lumpectomy with radiation or a mastectomy. The information from the Internet and a breast cancer book I purchased helped convince me that both were equally effective in my situation, so I chose a lumpectomy with lymph node dissection. When the cancer was also found in three lymph nodes, I learned I would also need chemotherapy. Questions lists on the National Cancer Institute website helped me develop a long list of questions that I used for first and second opinions with medical oncologists. From the Breast Cancer Decision Guide (www.bcdg.org/) I knew they would recommend one drug known to cause heart problems, so I also researched alternatives

using MEDLINE and current online oncology conference abstracts.

Finding support

Beginning with the initial diagnosis, I received support via the Internet. From research on consumer health information-seeking behavior, I knew that many seek support as well as information via the Internet. In contrast to in-person support groups, Internet support is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Both have their place. Our NAHEC Healthier Northwoods People consumer health gateway site

(www.nahec-wi.org/health/) includes a section on Finding Support to help consumers find appropriate support resources for any diagnosis.

I began by sharing my diagnosis via e-mail with friends and colleagues, which lead to many offers of support as well as the discovery that I had many colleagues who also have faced and survived a breast cancer diagnosis. As a result, I was able to visit with many of them while at the Medical Library Association Annual Meeting just before my actual surgery. I also joined a breast cancer discussion list. While this has been an ongoing source of support, I do feel that consumers should be cautioned about sharing too much on publicly archived mailing lists.

One outstanding private source of support has been the Comprehensive Health Enhancement Support System (CHESS) Breast Cancer module developed by the UW-Madison Center for Health Systems Research and Analysis (<http://chess.chsra.wisc.edu/Chess/>).

The CHESS program is a national leader in consumer health computer applications, and participants are patients at CHESS partner sites throughout the United States and Canada. The UW Cancer Center in Wausau sponsors my participation. Access to the CHESS Breast Cancer site is password protected, maintaining patient confidentiality and privacy. Resources include online forums where patients correspond with each other, an Ask the Expert section, general breast cancer information, decision guides, personal stories, and links to breast cancer resources on the Internet. CHESS also has offered online chat sessions with experts

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Wisconsin Area Health Education Centers and library outreach

by Margaret Allen, Library Consultant
Area Health Education Centers

In this information age, access to high-quality health information resources is a requirement for safe and effective health care. Until recently, this has been a considerable challenge for rural health providers. While some providers used Grateful Med to search MEDLINE and order articles from a full-service medical library, most did not have the necessary training or computer equipment. The advent of the Internet opened new possibilities for health information access, including free PubMed MEDLINE from the National Library of Medicine (www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/PubMed/), as well as faster means of obtaining library resources via online catalogs and databases.

What is AHEC?

The Wisconsin Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) system began in the early 1990s with six years of start-up funding from the U.S. Health, Resources and Services Administration, Bureau of Health Professions, Department of Health and Human Services. Core AHEC funding is now part of the UW-Madison Medical School budget, with additional funding from federal and private grant programs and partnerships. Its mission is "to improve access to Wisconsin's underserved communities through the development of community-based, culturally relevant, collaborative health professions education programs. The Wisconsin AHEC system accomplishes this mission by fostering cooperation and collaboration among Wisconsin's health professionals, educational institutions, and communities." There are four regional AHEC centers in Wisconsin—Northern, Southwest, Eastern, and Milwaukee. Each focuses its efforts on programs serving "underserved" communities, including rural communities that don't have enough physicians and other health professionals, and communities serving minority populations.

Technology and library outreach initiatives

To date, technology and library outreach efforts have focused on rural communities, with the goal of enhancing the practice environment in order to improve health professional recruit-

ment and retention. Why is this important? Today's students have excellent on-campus access to information resources and are encouraged to base their practice on the best current evidence. When sent to rural communities for clinical experience, they notice the lack of access to libraries and information resources. Research suggests that this is one reason that not enough choose to practice in these communities once they

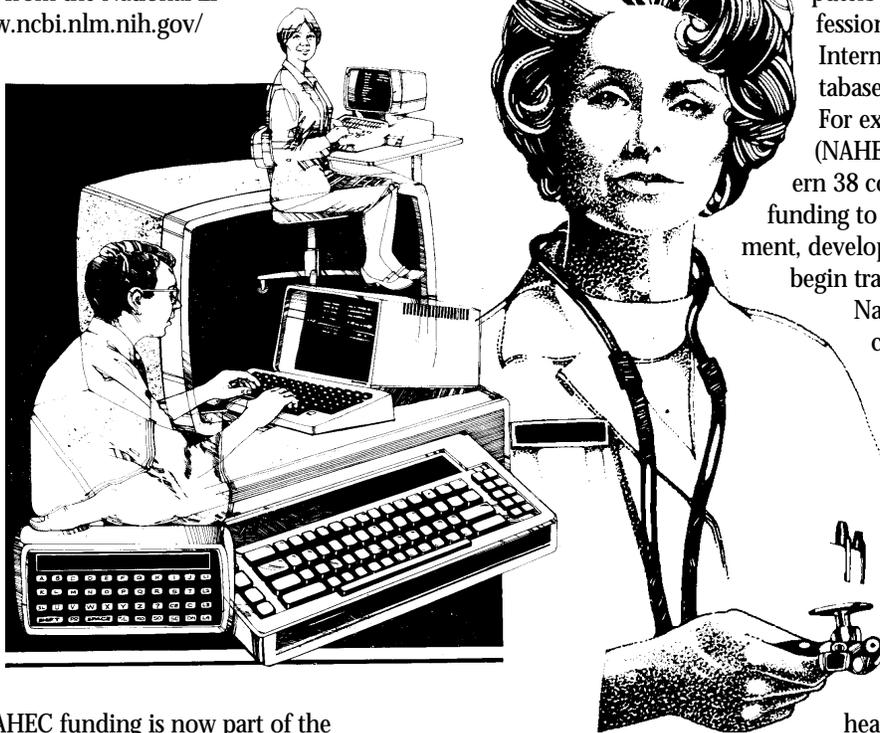
complete their education. Therefore, our first AHEC technology initiatives focused on providing computers and teaching health professionals to search the Internet and bibliographic databases for health information. For example, Northern AHEC (NAHEC), covering the northern 38 counties, used AHEC funding to conduct a needs assessment, develop a grant proposal, and begin training. NAHEC received a National Library of Medicine (NLM) grant of \$363,145 (June 1997 through Feb. 2000) that provided a full-time outreach librarian, library consultant services, and computers for partners that had a demonstrated need. Educational efforts focused on teaching health professionals and students to use the Internet and

MEDLINE to search for health information. Partners included 45 organizations at 58 sites.

New focus on the consumer

In 1999, NAHEC began planning for continuation of library outreach by contacting all project partners to evaluate what worked, what didn't, and what partners wanted for the future. One new concern was how to deal with patients searching the Internet for health information and bringing information of dubious value to their medical appointments. Providers wanted help teaching consumers to search the Internet for quality health information. The latest research indicates that many people turn to the Internet for health-related information. According to a recent study by the Pew Charitable Trust (www.pewinternet.org/), "Online Health Care Revolution," 55 percent of Internet users search for health-related information (compared to 47 percent of users who have shopped online).

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AHEC—*from page 10*

This needs assessment led to the development of the Healthier Northwoods People (HNP) project, with new goals of helping providers develop consumer health resource centers in their communities and working with them to teach consumers, particularly senior citizens, to search the Internet for quality health information. The project includes funding for personnel, computers, data projectors, and related expenses, including two one-year Outreach Librarian trainee positions.

The HNP project matched a new consumer health focus at the National Library of Medicine, which sponsors MEDLINEplus (<http://medlineplus.gov/>), a comprehensive gateway site for federal and other reputable health information resources. The National Library of Medicine funded HNP for \$299,349 over a two-year period beginning March 2000, with Dr. Suzanne Matthew, NAHEC Executive Director, Wausau, as Principal Investigator. The project director is Diana Robertson, NAHEC library services coordinator, and Coleen Crowley, St. Croix Falls, is the first-year outreach librarian trainee. NAHEC is recruiting for the second year trainee, to be based in Marinette.

Project partners include health care

providers, public health departments, and colleges. Current members are located in Wausau, Amery, Antigo, Ashland, Balsam Lake, Barron, Clintonville, Crandon, Cumberland, Eau Claire/Augusta/Menomonie, Grantsburg, Hayward, Hertel, Lac du Flambeau, Ladysmith, Marinette, Marshfield, Minong, New Richmond, Osceola, Park Falls, Rice Lake, St. Croix Falls, Siren, Superior, Washburn, and Woodruff. NAHEC is recruiting additional members for the final year of the project.

Major HNP achievements include the development of the Healthier Northwoods People consumer health gateway website (www.nahec-wi.org/health/) and train-the-trainer workshops with training materials that include five modules. The first—"Gateways to Quality Health Information"—is a demonstration program that can be used with groups. It is provided in two versions, one to use with a live Internet connection and another with screen captures for use when the Internet is not available. The other four cover introduction to Windows and the Internet, e-mail, searching for quality health information, and finding health information using BadgerLink (WISCAT and EBSCO health-related databases).

Partners are encouraged to work with all interested organizations in their communities, including public and school libraries. NAHEC librarians are available to help with the training, and partners may borrow the grant data projector. For ex-

ample, Crowley has taught several sessions at the Osceola Public Library and several health provider sites. She also has worked with several senior citizens interested in training others. In Ladysmith, local partners including the Marshfield Clinic, Mount Senario College, public schools, and the public library offered Windows, Internet, and e-mail training on their own. In March they were scheduled to work with NAHEC librarians to teach searching for quality health information. Some project computers are placed in public libraries, especially when the local health providers don't have space or personnel to support a consumer health resource center.

The UW Health Sciences Libraries also developed a consumer health project, using funding from the Greater Midwest Region, National Network of Libraries of Medicine. They developed a consumer health website, and will be presenting information on evaluating online health information at the Wisconsin Association of Public Librarians meeting this spring.

Information Access Project

In 1999, Margaret (Peg) Allen, library consultant, began working with Southwest Wisconsin AHEC (SWAHEC) to develop an information access grant for underserved communities in the SWAHEC region. A focus group meeting determined that needs included Internet

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Darlington *from page 8*

just say—"We have found this to be true."

Seldom does one have a dream and then be able to live long enough to see that dream come true. We thank God for all of this. The year 2000 will indeed be a year to remember for our little city and the surrounding area in Southwest Wisconsin. We are grateful for this blessing and wish to thank everyone who in any way made this possible.

Thanks again to the Wisconsin Library Association. For those of you who have not seen the library, pay us a visit. ■■

Calendar

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| April 18-20 | Wisconsin Association of Academic Librarians (WAAL) Spring Conference, Radisson Hotel, La Crosse. |
| April 23 | LSTA FY 2002 information session. ETN sites in Wisconsin. |
| April 24 | Information and Technology Literacy Standards Matrix Workshop, West Allis. |
| April 24 | Information and Technology Literacy Standards Matrix Workshop, Cedarburg. |
| May 1 | National Library Legislative Day, Washington D.C. |
| May 2-4 | Wisconsin Association of Public Libraries (WAPL) Spring Conference. Hotel Mead, Wisconsin Rapids. |
| May 18 | Delivery Services Advisory Committee via videoconference with sites in Madison, Ashland, Wausau, and Green Bay. |
| May 21 | Public Library System Technology Consultants Annual Meeting, Madison. |
| May 27 | Public Library System Interlibrary Loan Spring Meeting, Madison. |
| June 9-14 | Special Libraries Association Annual meeting, San Antonio. |
| June 14-20 | American Library Association Annual Conference, San Francisco. |

For more details about specific meetings, see the WISDOM calendar at www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/dltcl/pld/wisdom.html.

COLAND meeting reports

Budget, goals are focus of Jan. 12 meeting

The Council on Library and Network Development met Jan. 12 via videoconference technology at four sites: Appleton–Fox Valley Technical College; Chippewa Falls–CESA 10; Madison–Pyle Center; and Milwaukee–Milwaukee Area Technical College.

Phil Sawin (meeting chair) reported that COLAND received a response from the October letter sent to former Gov. Tommy Thompson regarding the budget. A letter also was sent to Doris Hansen, TEACH, regarding use of TEACH dollars for libraries.

Members also reviewed the 2000-01 goals adopted at the November meeting. In relation to the goals, members discussed the status of the budget. Cal Potter, administrator of the DPI Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning (DLTCL), reported on Department of Public Instruction (DPI)

and WLA activities in relation to the budget and legislative efforts. The Council approved a motion to send a communication from COLAND to Gov. Scott McCallum addressing library budget issues.

E-Books

Peter Hamon provided background on the E-Book project being carried out by a consortium of public library systems. He described how E-Book technology could fit into a library setting, and explained the difference between E-Books and the devices needed to use them. The consortium received Wisconsin Advanced Telecommunication Fund (WATF) grant monies to carry out the project, which is providing access to over 3.5 million people in 11 systems and Milwaukee Public Library. Training libraries has been a big part of the project, and Peter discussed the potential need for having state funding in the future.

WiLS

Kathy Schneider briefed members on Wisconsin Library Services (WiLS) and their cooperative purchasing program, which combines the buying power of libraries, in turn saving money. There are four different types of arrangements being used for purchasing from vendors. She also updated members on the new organization of the WiLS governing board, which consists of 12 members—11 elected and 1 DPI representative.

From DPI

Dick Sorensen reported on the school library media survey forms mailed to district library media directors. The survey, to be conducted through the web, was due to be completed by Feb. 2. A statewide group of library media specialists developed the survey. There also is a national survey being carried out by the American Association of School Librarians in conjunction with the federal government. Potter congratulated Dick Sorensen on his retirement (28 years with DPI) and his work with the council.

Sally Drew and Bob Bocher reported on the work being accomplished by the Library Information Technology Advisory Committee. Bocher updated mem-

Please see COLAND—on page 13

March 9 meeting update

COLAND members hear from Rep. Olsen, Supt. Benson

Highlights of the March 9 COLAND meeting were presentations by State Representative Luther Olsen, Chair of the Assembly Education Committee, and State Superintendent John Benson. Olsen gave the Council some straightforward advice on achieving library budget goals, pointing out that legislators needed to know there is widespread grassroots support for library programs. He suggested keeping the message simple, and that library supporters should be able to indicate how the lack of budget increases will effect them personally. He noted the success of the effort to get ongoing state funding for BadgerLink as a good example of how to communicate with legislators.

In his remarks to the Council, John Benson focused on the negative impact that the Governor's budget would have on the Department of Public Instruction, including transfer of essential educational assessment services to the Department of Administration. On a more positive note, Benson told members about the efforts in the Village and Town of Medina to get a new library building. Benson, who lives in the Town of Medina and who was involved in fund raising efforts, indicated that the library is expected to receive an anonymous gift valued at \$900,000 toward a new building.

In other business, the Council received a full briefing on the Governor's budget as it relates to libraries. The Council voted to send letters to the Joint Finance Committee and members of the legislature in support of the library budget initiatives. The Council expressed special support for additional funding for public library systems and funding increases in BadgerLink with funds from the Universal Service Fund not school district fees.

Eugene Engeldinger, Carthage College Librarian, made a presentation to the Council on the private academic college and university libraries in Wisconsin. The Council also received briefings from the staff of the Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning on ongoing Division activities.

The Council will next meet on May 11. ■■

Benson appoints LSTA Advisory Committee members

State Superintendent John T. Benson appointed four new members to the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Advisory Committee. Members provide advice to the state superintendent on the LSTA program, including funding priorities and specific grant awards.

New members of the committee serving three-year terms are: **Alan Engelbert**, director, Manitowoc-Calumet Library System and Manitowoc Public Library; **Karen Krueger**, director, Hedberg Public Library, Janesville; **Douglas Lay**, Mosinee, trustee, Wisconsin Valley Library Service; and **Sandi Szafranski**, director of curriculum and technology, CESA 2, Milton.

Continuing members of the committee are: Peg Allen, consultant, Northern Wisconsin Area Health Education Center; Elizabeth Buchanan, assistant professor, School of Library

and Information Science, UW-Milwaukee; Kenneth Frazier, director, UW-Madison General Library System; Janet Jennings, director, Superior Public Library; Marcia Nagy, extension services coordinator, Milwaukee Public Library; Joan Airoidi, director, Northern Waters Library Service; James Gollata, director, Miller Memorial Library, UW-Richland; Ken Hall, coordinator, Winnefox Library System; and Pamela Nyberg Kiesner, assistant director, Brown County Library. ■



Ken Hall, Joan Airoidi, Alan Engelbert, Janet Jennings, Cal Potter, Karen Krueger, and Sandi Szafianski discuss priorities for the LSTA grant program at the March 12-13 committee meeting.

COLAND members discuss budget—*from page 12*

bers on a draft Technology and Resource Sharing paper describing the relationship between WISCAT and linking shared automated systems. Staff also has prepared issue papers on linked systems, shared automated systems for public libraries, Internet access, WISCAT, and interlibrary loan. Drew reported that the Department has issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for WISCAT. A subcommittee is reviewing the purpose, goals, and technology requirements of WISCAT and some members will be assisting in the evaluation of the responses. Potter commented on the need for DPI to continue to serve all types and sizes of libraries. Committee members discussed the role TEACH

plays in providing telecommunications access and voted to send a letter to TEACH concerning the need to provide complete access for libraries to the Internet.

Drew then briefed committee members about the recently authorized use of the 211 number to access human service information. The service currently has not progressed very far, but DPI plans to stay involved with the issue. COLAND passed a motion to correspond with the Public Service Commission (PSC) to express interest in being involved in discussions when the PSC develops rules and regulations for 211 service. Drew described the Collaborative Digital Refer-

ence Service which is a Library of Congress project with which the R&LL is involved.

Bocher closed the meeting with a report on the federal E-rate program. He reported that Wisconsin is now in year three of the E-Rate program, and explained that Wisconsin libraries and schools received about \$25 million this year. The Children's Internet Privacy Act (CIPA) affects schools and libraries receiving funding through ESEA, LSTA, and E-rate discount programs and requires libraries and schools to filter Internet access. Nothing defines what kind of filters are to be used. ■

From the other side

from page 9

on various topics, such as legal aspects of breast cancer related to employment.

In conclusion, my experience with breast cancer has reinforced my sense of the value of the Internet, as well as its potential for misleading consumers. Today's health consumers often need to make informed health decisions, such as what type of surgery is best for them. While recent books on breast cancer and other health concerns include selected websites, many consumers will first turn to Internet

search engines that can lead to poor information. Librarians can help by

- developing quality collections that include books with online information;
- linking to quality filtered health information gateways from library web pages;
- teaching consumers to search for health information using these gateway sites, and
- teaching consumers how to evaluate information found on websites. ■

AEHC and library outreach

from page 11

access, health professional training, and familiar concerns related to working with patients searching the Internet for health information. As in northern Wisconsin, health professionals were concerned with the quality of online health information. The grant proposal submitted in September 1999 was funded for \$299,724 over a two-year period beginning February 2001. Joel Davidson, SWAHEC executive director, Madison, is the principal investigator. The project's outreach librarian will be based at Gundersen Lutheran Medical



Center in La Crosse, which has both an extensive professional library and a Health Resource Center for patients and families. Initial rural project partners include clinics, hospitals, county agencies, and technical colleges in Adams-Friendship, Berlin, Black River Falls, Cashton, Darlington, Dodgeville, Fennimore, Green Lake, Mauston, Prairie du Chien, Sparta, Viroqua, and Wautoma.

Future activities include statewide coordination of AHEC library/technology initiatives. The current NAHEC Monday e-mail with an "Internet Tip of the Week" will become a collaborative effort. There are plans to develop a single consumer health gateway website, as well as a statewide website for continuing education opportunities for Wisconsin health professionals. Working with the Wisconsin Hospital Association, Wisconsin AHEC is coordinating a Wisconsin health careers initiative, with a new website (www.wihealthcareers.org/).

Getting Involved

Both the NAHEC and SWAHEC outreach projects include recruitment of new partners. Librarians, teachers, and students are potential partners for developing consumer resource centers and local programs to teach consumers to search for quality online health information

Contact Margaret (Peg) Allen at (715) 687-4976, or send her e-mail at PegAllen67@alumni.macalester.edu. ■

Updated guide to children's books now available

CCBC Choices 2001, which describes 228 of the best books for children and young adults published in the last year, is now available from the School of Education's Cooperative Children's Book Center (CCBC).

At least 4,500 new trade books for children and young adults were published in 2000. They're part of nearly 189,000 children's books

currently available for purchase in the United States—three times as many as a decade ago.

With so many options, Choices is an invaluable tool for finding the best. Choices books have been carefully selected by the professional staff of the CCBC, and include 48 first-published works of 26 authors and 22 illustrators.

To obtain a copy, Wisconsin residents should send a personal check for \$2.25 payable to Friends of the CCBC Inc., P.O. Box 5288, Madison, WI 53705. Out-of-state residents should send \$7.00 to the same address. Information also is available at <http://www.education.wisc.edu/ccbc>.

CCBC Choices 2001 was published by the Friends of the CCBC Inc. ■



Division's Gates Grant approved

In February the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation notified the Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning (DLTCL) that its grant application had been approved. This application is part of the foundation's "State Partnership Grant Program."

The State Partnership Grant Program awards noncompetitive grants for computers and technical support to public libraries serving low-income communities. Low-income communities are defined as libraries serving a population with greater than 10 percent poverty. At this time it is not known how many of Wisconsin's public libraries will qualify for the grant because the poverty figures will be based on the 2000 census data, which will not be available until later this year. Libraries that have already received a Gates Foundation grant as part of any other foundation program are not eligible as part of the State Partnership program.

The State Partnership Grant Program provides eligible libraries with PCs, printer, a full library of Microsoft software programs (e.g., Windows, Word, Excel, and Internet Explorer), training, and technical support. The primary condition placed on libraries is that the PCs must be used for public Internet access. PCs will be allocated to libraries based on population served. Communities serving less than 5,000 population will receive one PC, while communities serving over 35,000 citizens will be eligible for six PCs and a server. (As part of the division's grant, staff sent to the foundation data on the population served by our public libraries.)

Wisconsin's qualifying libraries will need to complete a short grant application in August/September 2002. Computers will not be delivered until early 2003.

For more general information on the Gates library grant program, see the foundation's website (www.glf.org/learning/libraries). For more specific information on the Wisconsin application, contact Bob Bocher at (608) 266-2127 (robert.bocher@dpi.state.wi.us). ■

Library Legislative Day



David Weinhold (Eastern Shored Library System) shares some thoughts with Barbara Strauss (Outagamie Waupaca Library System) and Gretchen Farwell (UW-Madison Steenbock Library) during Library Legislative Day.

2001 TLCF Conference Professional Development, Standards & Portfolio Assessment

April 30 - May 1, 2001

Holiday Inn Holidome, Stevens Point

Featured Speakers

- Tom Carroll, U.S. Department of Education
- Newly-elected State Superintendent of Public Instruction (invited)

**Wisconsin FY2001 TLCF Awards
will be announced**

The conference also will include workshops and breakout and poster sessions presented by TLCF practitioners, DPI staff and others.

For a registration form, call Amy French at (608) 261-6327 or visit the TLCF website.

www.dpi.state.wi.us/dltcl/imt/tlcover.html

Around Wisconsin—People, Places & Awards

People

Mark Arend is the new field services librarian for the Winnefox Library System. He was the assistant director of the Beaver Dan Public Library for the past 20 years.

Cheryl Becker is the new public library consultant for the South Central Library System (SCLS). She was previously the assistant director/head of reference and adult services at the Mt. Horeb Public Library.

Amy Brandt is the new Readmobile librarian at the Madison Public Library. She was previously the youth services librarian at the Sun Prairie Public Library.

Shawn Brommer is the new SCLS youth/special needs coordinator. She was previously the youth services consultant for the Southern Tier Library System in Painted Post, NY.

Jane Brooks and **Heather Petry** are new library assistants at the Deerfield Public Library.

Phyllis Davis, former SCLS library development consultant, is the system's new associate director. She was previously SCLS automation coordinator.

Suzan Dill is the new youth services assistant at the Mt. Horeb Public Library.

Cindy Gandrud, UW-River Falls Chalmer Davee Library, has been elected secretary of the Wisconsin Association of Academic Libraries.

Nancy Hunt, new technologies coordinator for the Indian-head Federation Library System, recently retired. She began with IFLS in 1984.

Audrey Johnson is the new director of the Barneveld Public Library. She replaces **Earlene O'Keefe** who resigned March 1, 2001, after 16 years as the director.

Judy Kirsch retired from the W. J. Niederkorn Public Library in Port Washington after 34 years. She has served as director

since 1982. Assistant director **Barb Roob** has been named interim director.

Karen Lovejoy is the new electronic resources librarian for the Winnefox Library System. She was previously at Chicago Public Library.

Linda Overbey is the new director of the Charles & JoAnn Lester Library in Nekoosa. **Lore Ponschok** is the library's new head librarian, and **Lynn Borre** is the new children's librarian.

Edee Raatz is the new assistant director of the Wautoma Public Library.

Sue Marie Rendall has joined the Portage County Public Library, Stevens Point, in a job-shared youth services librarian position.

Jana Reeg-Steidinger, UW-Stout Library Learning Center, has been elected vice chair/chair elect of WLA's Library Research Round Table.

Places

The **Jane Morgan Memorial Library**, Cambria, and the **Rock Springs Public Library** are new member LINK libraries.

The **Monticello Public Schools IMC** and the **Herzing College Library** are new SCLS Multitype members. ■■

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