

Students get valuable learning experience; libraries get valuable web sites

A 10-year-old oral history project is alive and available online thanks to a partnership between the University of Iowa's School of Library and Information Science (SLIS) and the Stewart Public Library, Grinnell.

Over the past two years, SLIS Professor Jim Elmborg has solicited 17 public libraries wanting help developing web sites to work with students in his "User Education--Multimedia" class. Students get experience in the real world of web development, and libraries get new sites they may not have been able to build themselves. Elmborg said the partnership is a great learning experience for everyone.

"I have taught multimedia workshops for some time, and I've always taught people within a context," said Elmborg, who conducted web site development workshops for faculty before coming to Iowa. "When I came to SLIS, It seemed natural to continue with that approach. Since students didn't have ready-made work to complete, I looked for people in libraries who wanted web work done. That turned out to be pretty easy," he said.



Two of Elmborg's students, Sara Prah1 and Corinne Ebert, partnered with Monique McLay Shore of the Stewart Public Library to create a web-based oral history exhibit. Ten years ago, the Stewart "Friends" group embarked on a project to record the memories of a group of 20 residents who lived in Grinnell during the Great Depression and World War II. Volunteers conducted interviews that were recorded on tape and later transcribed. Photographs and brief biographies of each person interviewed were produced for an exhibit. A final piece of the project was a video describing the venture and featuring six of the residents interviewed. Because of space limitations, Shore said that in the past few years the photos have been housed in an archive room. The project has given them new life.

"To see these beautiful portraits of so many people important to Grinnell displayed in this new way is very gratifying," said Shore. "And to have the interviews and audio and video clips so readily available through the web should really increase the awareness of this impressive project."

As a student, Prah1 said it was a challenging, yet satisfying, experience for her and Ebert.

"We approached it with the attitude, 'If it's possible and good for the project, we'll learn to do it,'" Prah1 said. "Since we were both very new to multimedia technology, we had to learn as we went along. This proved to be a terrific way to learn, since our interest in creating the site soon overwhelmed our anxieties, and learning to use the technology was a less daunting obstacle when it wasn't our ultimate goal. The technology became accessible to use in our desire to use it to communicate."

Prah1 said it was a true collaborative effort. "The enthusiasm of the Stewart library was extremely motivating," she said. "Knowing that the library fully intends to put the project to use and that there is community interest gives our work immediate value."

(Photos courtesy of Grinnell's "Voices from the Past" oral history project)

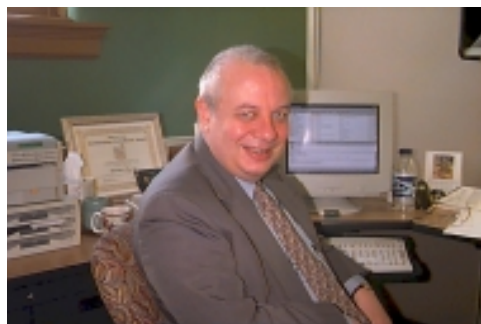
(Cont. on Pg. 4)



FOOTNOTES

New faces at Iowa Library Service Areas

Roy Kenagy, head of Information Services for the State Library, has accepted the position of administrator for the Central Iowa Library Service Area, Des Moines. He will continue at the State Library until the end of July. Kenagy has been with the State Library since May, 1994.



Barb Schultz (center) began her new duties as administrator of the North Central Library Service Area (NCLSA), Mason City, on April 8. Schultz grew up in Klemme, IA, was director of the Eagle Grove Public Library and most recently was director of the Martin County Library System in Fairmont, MN.

NCLSA Consultant, Tom Shepley, has accepted a position with the East Albemarle Regional Library System in Elizabeth City, NC.

Suzann Holland, (right) former assistant federal documents librarian for the Milwaukee Public Library, began her new duties on June 10 as a consultant at Southeastern Library Services, Davenport. Holland was raised in Eldridge, IA.

Iowa Center for the Book advisory panel meets

Members of the Iowa Center for the Book advisory panel met for the first time May 15 to discuss the role of the center and possible projects. Initial projects include an "All Iowa Reads" program, which will encourage everyone in the state to read and discuss a selected book; the continuation of First Lady Christie Vilsack's "Iowa Stories 2000;" the University of Iowa's Center for the Book Outreach program; and a web site listing literary events around the state. The advisory panel will take part in the Annual Iowa Writers' Celebration on September 27 at Iowa State University, featuring a celebratory kick-off for the Center.

Future projects may include a statewide poetry and art competition, a "Letters About Literature" program where students correspond with their favorite authors, and an annual award for support of literacy and reading in Iowa.

Roy Kenagy, who was responsible for establishing the Iowa Center, announced that he is leaving the State Library in late July to become administrator of the Central Iowa Library Service Area, Des Moines. The center is headquartered in the State Library. A new coordinator for the Center has not yet been named.

Other members of the panel include: Timothy Barrett, director, University of Iowa Center for the Book; Mary Cameron, consultant, State Library; Holly Carver, director, University of Iowa Press; Susan Craig, director, Iowa City Public Library; Gary Frost, conservator, University of Iowa Library; Kristen Gerhard, collections officer, Iowa State University Library; Jim Godsey, director, Council Bluffs Public Library; Sid Huttner, head, special collections, University of Iowa Library; Karen Keninger, program director, Iowa Library for the Blind; Shaner Magalhaes, bureau chief, State Historical Society of Iowa, Library and Publications Bureau; Marilyn Mercado, interim dean, Rod Library, University of Northern Iowa; Christine Pawley, professor, University of Iowa School of Library and Information Science; Chris Rossi, executive director, Humanities Iowa; Kay Runge, director, Public Library of Des Moines; Jim Sixta, administrator, Northeast Iowa Library Service Area; Lorna Truck, deputy director, Public Library of Des Moines; Christie Vilsack, First Lady of Iowa; Tim Walch, director, Herbert Hoover Presidential Library; Anita Walker, director, Department of Cultural Affairs; Mary Wegner, state librarian; and Annette Wetteland, communications specialist, State Library of Iowa.

FOOTNOTES

Libraries represented at Latino Festival

Thousands of people attended the first annual Iowa Latino Heritage Festival in Des Moines May 25, including Karen Burkett-Sandoval, part-time children's librarian for the Kirkendall Public Library in Ankeny and director of the Bondurant Public Library.



Burkett-Sandoval, who speaks Spanish, spent the day staffing a booth where she handed out summer reading program materials and bookmarks, and spoke about the services available in Iowa's public libraries.

Her booth included three book displays: a collection of Spanish books for children, an assortment of books for children about Latino culture, and books on all the Spanish-speaking countries of the world.

"People sat down and read the books," said Burkett-Sandoval. "They were excited to see a book about their country of origin displayed. Burkett-Sandoval e-mailed libraries in communities with large Spanish-speaking populations and asked to use their name on a banner she created urging festival goers to visit their libraries.

"It was very rewarding when people asked how to sign up for a library card, where they could get the books on display, and where the library was located," she said. "The festival was a tremendous public relations opportunity, reaching thousands of people and spreading the word about the numerous services public libraries offer." (Burkett-Sandoval, at the festival, is shown above, left, with Senator Charles Grassley and with a young, future library customer.)



Important Dates

- July 1 - Year 5 e-rate discounts begin
- July 4 - Fourth of July Holiday - State Library closed
- July 26 - Registration for Fall Public Library Management I and II
- July 31 - Direct State Aid Final Report due (if not turned in last December)
- July 31 - Library Infrastructure Final Report due (if not turned in last December)
- July 31 - Open Access Annual Report due
- July 31 - Access Plus Annual Report due
- July 31 - 2001 LSTA Year 2 Partnership Grant claims due
- July 31 - 2001 LSTA Year 2 Partnership Grant Final Report due

Eichmann named director of library school

The University of Iowa School of Library and Information Science has announced the appointment of David Eichmann as director of the school, effective July 1.

Eichmann has an extensive background in the areas of software reuse, information extraction from large textual repositories, web search strategies, and automated systems. He joined the school's faculty in 1997.

He is a graduate of the University of Iowa, where he received his Ph.D. in computer science in 1989. He was an associate professor and program chair of software engineering at the University of Houston/Clear Lake and director of research and development of the Repository Based Software Engineering Program. He also held faculty positions at West Virginia University and Seattle University.

FOOTNOTES

Students get valuable learning experiences; libraries get valuable web sites (Cont. from Pg. 1)

Shore said she would “jump at the chance” to work with SLIS again. “I confess, I’m looking around at other projects to submit in the years to come,” said Shore.

Elmborg said the experience is invaluable to his students.

“They deal with the technology as it is in the real world, and they deal with organizational dynamics and have to negotiate the image of the library online. These are things they wouldn’t be able to do in a traditional classroom setting,” said Elmborg.

Maybe more important, Elmborg said students feel their work is really valued by someone other than their teacher. “They develop a very strong sense of ownership of their work, and they develop a commitment to the library that I think is a nice model for their future professional growth.”

(For more information, visit <http://mingo.info-science-edu/~elmborg/multimedia/Project/final.html>)



Well known library advocate dies

Norman Kelinson, a long-time supporter of libraries, passed away in Bettendorf, Ia. last month. According to an article in the Bettendorf Public Library and Information Center newsletter, Kelinson led the library through four decades of growth. He was appointed to the Board of Trustees in 1958 and served until October, 1998. He participated in building three libraries and helped establish the library’s Friends group and foundation (now called The Library Fund). He served as president of the Iowa Library Trustee Association and the American Library Trustee Association. Former President George Bush appointed Kelinson to the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science. Memorials may be made to The Library Fund, Bettendorf library.

Two Iowans recently named to BCR Board

Southeastern Library Services Administrator, Emily Navarre, was recently elected as an at-large trustee to the BCR Board of Trustees. Greg Cotton, Cornell College, was also named to the board as an OCLC Members Council Delegate. Other Iowans on the board include:

- * Mary Wegner, State Librarian (Board of Trustees)
- * Jim Godsey, Council Bluffs Public Library (re-elected to a second term as public library trustee)
- * Marilyn Mercado, University of Northern Iowa (at-large trustee)
- * Rich Doyle from Coe College (served as president last year; term ends June 30, 2002)

New web site gets great reviews

While changes and updates continue to be made to the State Library’s new web site, www.silo.lib.ia.us, initial reactions from customers have been positive. Many people like the new format and find it easy to browse. Comments about the site are always welcome. Contact Annette Wetteland, State Library, 1-800-248-4483; e-mail annette.wetteland@lib.state.ia.us.

FOOTNOTES

Iowa Commission of Libraries - Minutes April 23, 2002 - State Library

(These minutes are considered draft until approved by the Iowa Commission of Libraries)

Present: Berta Van Ekeren, Dale Ross, Monica Gohlinghorst, John Bennett, Eldon Huston, Bill O'Brien and Pam Bradley

Staff: Mary Wegner, Steve Cox, Carol Simmons, Annette Wetteland, Sandy Dixon and, Judy Jones

Guest: Barbara Schultz, Administrator, North Central Library Service Area

1.0 Set Agenda

Ross requested to add "D – Retreat Discussion" to 8.0 Discussion Items.

2.0 Introductions

Ross introduced Barbara Shultz, Administrator, North Central Library Service Area to the Commission. Schultz gave a brief overview of her background and her activities since assuming the NCLSA position three weeks ago.

3.0 Approve Minutes

Gohlinghorst moved to approve the minutes, Van Ekeren seconded. Motion carried.

4.0 Financial Report

Cox reported on the federal budget and noted that the State Library is still using funds from the 2001 fiscal year; 2002 funds will not be needed until August or September. Huston asked if federal funds had been cut back along with the state funds; Cox replied that they had. Cox said that federal funds from the previous LSCA appropriations have been used for computers and equipping the ICN rooms in the Miller Building. The Commissioners discussed the issue of indirect costs applied to the State Library's LSTA funds by the business office of the Department of Education, and directed Wegner to gather additional information about the reason for the 21% rate and the formula used to determine the rate. Cox summarized the state budget cuts, which currently are at approximately 12 % during FY02. Cox explained that we are using the funds saved from open positions to partially cover the budget cuts. Because of a state-ordered purchasing freeze, he anticipates a 15% return of funds to the general fund. Ross asked Wegner to talk about next year's budget. Wegner explained that because of budget cuts in the State Library's operating budget, the State library will no longer be able to afford to purchase databases to make them available free to libraries. She explained that she would be asking the Commission to vote later in the day to accept/reject a new database proposal in which libraries would be asked to pay part of the costs of a statewide database license. Huston moved to accept the finance report, Bradley seconded. Motion carried.

5.0 Communications

A. Commission Report

Ross attended the PLA Convention in Arizona. He reported that the required reauthorization of the federal Library Services and Technology act is proceeding well. A new formula may help Iowa get a larger share of the federal money beginning in FY04. Congress should vote on the reauthorization some time this fall.

O'Brien said there would be a library in the new Supreme Court building, which should be complete in late September or early October. The library will have a small collection, mostly electronic, and the Supreme Court will continue to rely on the State Law Library for additional information.

Huston reported that he visited the public library in Sedona, Arizona.

Bradley reported that cooperative efforts are being made between education and libraries in southeast Iowa.

B. State Librarian's Report

Wegner reported that this year she was not invited to appear at an legislative appropriations committee hearing. She also alerted the Commission about an unsuccessful attempt late in the legislative session to outsource the State Medical Library.

Wegner said that the Iowa Center for the Book has been officially approved by the Library of Congress. The next meeting will be May 15 in Iowa City.

Wegner noted that SILO Coordinator Alan Schmitz located a matching grant from Sun Computers that will help in purchasing servers for the SILO system. The grant is worth \$50,000.

The SILO team developed a list of Iowa public libraries that have access to high speed internet access but do not currently make high speed access available in the library. The State Library will send a letter to the libraries explaining what they can do to get this service, and inquiring about barriers preventing libraries from having high speed access. Right now about 26% of Iowa libraries have high speed internet service, compared to 80% nation wide. Discussion followed on high speed internet service and its importance to libraries in providing high-quality services to customers who want to use

(Cont. Pg. 6)

FOOTNOTES

Iowa Commission of Libraries - Minutes April 23, 2002 - State Library (Cont. from Pg. 5)

library computers. Ross noted that Wegner is a member of the "Alliance for Advanced Telecommunications Services", a group appointed by the governor and made up of private and public sector representatives which is working to make high speed internet access more available to Iowa communities.

Wegner reported that Jim Sixta has resigned, effective June 30, as Administrator of Northeast Iowa Library Service Area, but will stay on through October as a consultant. Eunice Reisberg has been appointed interim administrator.

Wegner has been traveling to libraries in Iowa discussing the importance of collaboration and partnerships. She also has stressed the importance of teaching library customers to find, evaluate and use information (Information Literacy skills) as both a key role for libraries and also an opportunity for collaboration.

Since the last Commission meeting, she met with AEA media directors; the Iowa State University library faculty; the Central Iowa Library Service Area Alliance; the School of Library and Information Science Advisory Panel and program evaluators; and helped Karen Burns present three workshops in southwest Iowa on information literacy and telling the library story. She attended the IEMA Annual Conference, where Gerry Rowland gave a presentation on the school library medica center survey being developed, and also attended the spring meeting of ILA-ACRL. She and Jean Donham from Cornell College spoke on "The Future of the Librarian" at a meeting of the multi-type library group in Dubuque. She also attended the Westgate lecture in Johnston on April 18.

Wegner reported that the search for the Central Iowa Library Service Area Administrator is going well and the committee will present three names to the Board in the near future. They hope to hire by September.

C. Library Service Areas Report

Wegner welcomed Barb Shultz back to Iowa and reported that Library Service Area staff and Library Development staff from the State Library meet together monthly.

6.0 Public Comment

None

7.0 Action Items

A. Bylaws Review Committee

Van Ekeren and Bennett reported that they had reviewed the Commission bylaws and had no changes to recommend.

B. Appoint Nominating Committee for Commission Officers

Ross asked Bradley and O'Brien to serve on the Nominating Committee for Commission officers. They will report at the June meeting.

C. EBSCO database contract

Wegner reported that the State Library has purchased Electric Library and FirstSearch databases for Iowa libraries and their customers for several years. Earlier this year, Electric Library notified the State Library that their price increase would be 20% for next year. The Area Education Agencies already provide Ebscohost databases for schools, and the AEA's ACEM purchasing group solicited a bid from Ebsco to expand database availability to all Iowa libraries. A group of State Library and LSA staff examined database options and developed a plan. Under this plan, local libraries would be able to purchase access to the Ebsco databases from the State Library for a nominal fee. The State Library will use federal funds to subsidize the remainder of the Ebsco charges, as there is no state money available for database purchasing. Public libraries will be charged a base price of \$25.00 plus \$.02 per capita. Academic libraries will be charged a base price of \$500.00 plus \$.25 per FTE. This project benefits Iowans by making the same databases available across the spectrum in Iowa school libraries, public libraries and college and academic libraries. Schultz noted that remote access would be part of the service and that this project would be a great opportunity for Library Service Areas and libraries. There would be lots of cross training possibilities as well. Wegner acknowledge the staff who put in many hours to get the information needed to make this decision: Sandy Dixon, Roy Kenagy, Judy Jones, Beth Marie Quanbeck and Katherine Von Wald. Huston moved to direct the State Library to drop Electric Library, drop the WilsonSelect part of the FirstSearch package, and add the EBSCO databases with the charges to libraries as outlined. Gohlinghorst seconded. Motion carried.

D. Library Service Areas (LSAs)/State Library Plan of Service

The draft Plan of Service, mandated by state code, was distributed to the Commission. This draft was developed by

FOOTNOTES

Iowa Commission of Libraries - Minutes April 23, 2002 - State Library (Cont. from Pg. 6)

Library Service Area staff and State Library - Library Development staff working together. The group completely revamped the Plan of Service this year, using THE NEW PLANNING FOR RESULTS by Sandra Nelson, a library planning model recommended by the State Library and LSA staff to local libraries. The planning sessions were facilitated by Sandy Dixon and Karen Burns, each of whom have considerable experience with both groups facilitation and planning processes. The group used the definitions of "goal" and "objective" which are included in the Nelson book. The plan has been approved by 6 of the 7 LSA boards. The one who opted to not approve had concerns regarding timelines and goals. Huston asked if baseline data was available to use when assessing outcomes and Dixon said yes. Bennett requested that existing baseline data be reported to Commissioners. Bennett questioned the use of the word "equal" in the vision statement; discussion followed. Bradley moved to approve the Plan of Service, Van Ekeren seconded. Motion carried. The document will be forwarded to the Department of Education.

Several LSA board members have expressed a desire to be more involved in the development of the next year's Plan of Service. The Commission approved this methodology for development of next year's Plan, which must be developed in consultation with the library service areas and the area education agency media centers: A group made up of one trustee and the administrator from each LSA; the two AEA media directors who have been appointed as liaisons to the State Library; the chairman of the Commission of Libraries; and the State Librarian will meet in the early fall to draft the next Plan of Service, using the present plan as a starting point. This draft will be forwarded, for comments, to the Commission of Libraries, to each LSA Board of Trustees, and to the AEA media directors by late fall. The drafting group will meet again after the first of the year to consider the comments and prepare a final draft.

8.0 Discussion Items

A. Open Access terms of agreement

Wegner presented an overview of the Open Access program. Commissioners discussed the requirement that, in order to receive direct state aid, libraries must participate in Open Access and Access Plus. Commissioners also discussed challenges faced by libraries who have a high volume of Open Access transactions, since the state reimbursement is considerably less than the actual cost per circulation.

The Open Access Terms of Agreement are re-visited and rewritten by State Library staff each year. Wegner suggested an addition for the coming year of the following sentence: "When loans to Open Access customers exceed 25% of an Open Access library's circulation for the previous fiscal year, for the next fiscal year the library may institute a loan limit for Open Access customers." She explained that this new wording would apply to 16 Iowa libraries, who would be free to decide whether or not to institute loan limits.

Commissioners agreed that the new sentence is an extension of the local options which are already allowed by the Open Access agreement, which presently states that "Equipment, interlibrary loan, reference services and reserve service are considered local options." Huston moved to adopt the change in the Open Access Terms of Agreement; Gohlinghorst seconded. The motion carried.

B. LSTA 5-year plan evaluation

Wegner said that the evaluation of the Five-Year Plan for the Use of Library Service and Technology Act Funds, FY98-FY02, had been submitted to the Institute of Museum and Library Services on April 30. It is too long to distribute in hard copy to the Commissioners, but it will be available on the State Library's web site.

C. New LSTA 5-year plan

Ross noted that the new plan has to be submitted by July 30. Wegner said the work of the LSTA Task Force in 2000 provided good information to use. She distributed draft goals and asked the Commission to look over them and advise her if changes needed to be made.

D. Commission Retreat

Ross suggested that the Commission have a retreat in conjunction with the June meeting to focus on the LSTA 5-year plan. The Commission will meet late afternoon and evening on June 24, followed by their regular meeting on June 25.

9.0 Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: June 24-25, 2002. Location to be announced.