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In this issue:



State Librarian of California, Susan Hildreth

Update from the State Librarian

This has been a busy fall! In my last update, I was just about to leave for the [CILIP](#) (Chartered Type Institute of Name Library and Information Professionals) Public Library Group Annual Conference in Glasgow, Scotland. I represented the Public Library Association at the Conference and hope that we will be hosting the CILIP chair at the [PLA Annual Conference](#) in Minneapolis in March.

The Glasgow conference was a wonderful experience. The Public Library Group represents all the Public Libraries Authorities (systems) in the United Kingdom (UK) including Britain, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. There are about 150 authorities and most of them were represented at the conference. All the conference participants attended most conference sessions and took their meals as a whole at the daily group breakfasts, lunches and teas. Each evening a lovely cocktail hour was held prior to an elegant group dinner for which most people dressed semi-formally. At the wonderful closing dinner complete with Scottish dancing, guests were in tuxes and formal wear.

The Glasgow attendees were very welcoming and wanted to know all about libraries in the United States. Of course, the UK group is facing many of the same issues as the United States (US) – lack of funding, constantly changing service expectations, and the shift of traditional librarian roles. One key observation is that public library service is mandated by law in the UK. This may be beneficial as a protection for library service but it does impact the nature of philanthropy for libraries. Most UK citizens feel library service is a responsibility of the government; and thus there is very little private funding for library service.

I learned some interesting terminology overseas. "Issues," for example, are circulations in the UK. When you hear the expression "we have lots of issues," it does not mean the library is facing lots of problems but that the circulation is increasing! Also, though "customers," not "patrons," is the UK term for library users, I'm not sure if the term relates to the lack of philanthropy for libraries or not. It was a great experience and I was proud to represent PLA and the US to our colleagues across the pond.

I returned to the US via Omaha, Nebraska where I attended the Chief Officers of the State Libraries (COSLA) meeting. I was not sure I would be welcome in Omaha where, in 2007, they had to say "good-bye" to Stacey Aldrich when she moved to California in



Yosemite Valley, Half Dome, [George Fiske], 1907. [California History Collection, California State Library]



Update from the State Librarian, cont. from page 1

August to assume her new role as Deputy State Librarian. The Nebraska folks were very gracious (despite their loss!). We had an exciting continuing education presentation with three interesting speakers – Aaron Schmidt, a mover and shaker with a great blog at www.walkingpaper.org, Brewster Kahle, founder of the Internet Archive in San Francisco and J.L. Needham, Manager of Public Sector Content Partnerships for Google (more information at www.google.com/publicsector).

I attended the [California Library Association Conference](#) in Long Beach amid the terrible fire season for our neighbors in the south: thank goodness no libraries were lost in the fires. The conference was a great place to see colleagues and friends - thanks to all of you who eagerly attended the State Librarian's Breakfast early on Saturday morning. There were many great programs in Long Beach and the Master Speakers were terrific. The Halloween-themed Infopeople exhibit area was very haunting!!!

I was busy during November but the month's highlight was the [Transforming Life After 50 Institute](#) in Pasadena. Along with our partners [Libraries for the Future](#) and the California Library Association, the California State Library proudly hosted this highly educational event that focused on all life aspects of the emerging "boomer" population and how libraries might be able to engage this active population. Please check out information about the *Institute* at <http://www.library.ca.gov/lfs/tlaf.html>. The Institute's next steps include the 45 participating libraries completing focused needs assessments for this population in their communities, and opportunities for program grants for participating libraries in 2008/09.

In early December, collaboration was the theme. I attended a meeting of the [California Educational Technology Collaborative](#), with participants representing UC, CSU, community colleges, K-12 and libraries, brainstorming on sharing content and making the best use of broadband connectivity. I also attended a meeting of the Expert Advisor Panel of the [California Emerging Technology Fund](#). It was exciting to discuss the potential of broadband in California with representatives of the Public Utilities Commission, the Governor's Broadband Taskforce, telecom companies and consultants, and other interested non-profits. It is important for libraries to be at the table in all these discussions.

At the invitation of Elizabeth Martinez, newly-appointed director of the Salinas Public Library, I had a great visit to Salinas on December 17th. What a success story - a library once headed for disaster is now on the road to recovery and exemplary services! Deep community support is evident for the library from the Mayor and Council to the library customers! Many new programs, services and facilities improvements are in the works. Mayor Dennis Donohue, an ardent library supporter and former CLA President's Award winner, sees reading as the organizing principle in making a healthy community. I wish we could clone Mr. Donohue for many other communities.

I wish everyone a healthy and happy new year and look forward to working with all of you in 2008!

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Surviving the firestorm: Southern California libraries show their best

Message from the State Librarian:

Thank goodness that we did not lose any libraries in the October 2007 Southern California fires. When I became aware that some of our libraries were used as deployment or rescue centers and that our library staff had volunteered to assist fire victims, we started collecting stories on how our libraries were used during this terrible crisis and how we were able to serve our communities under the most stressful conditions. I would like to thank the folks who took time to contribute the following first hand accounts. They show California libraries, and the great people who work in those libraries, at their finest.

- Susan Hildreth

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Perspective from County of Los Angeles Public Library

Fred Hungerford, Assistant Director Information Systems

[reporting between October 21, 2007 and October 25, 2007]

The County Fire Department utilized the [Malibu Library](#) as part of its command post for the Malibu fire. On October 22 we received a call from the Fire Department requesting that we create log-on IDs so that Fire staff could use the Library's public access Internet computers and our public WiFi service for writing and transmitting reports and e-mail.

As part of the Operational Area, the County Public Library was assigned to provide support to the Department of Public Social Services for care and shelter services. Libraries may be used to distribute disaster information, provide information and referral services and in an extreme disaster, may serve as shelters. During these fires our role was limited to the use of the Malibu Library and distributing public health advisories.

We also entered status reports on a daily basis into the County's Emergency Management Information System during times of emergency. This web-based system collected high level summary status data for all 88 cities in the County and every County Department. We also used this system to monitor emergencies, responds to requests for support from the County's Emergency Operations Centers or request support if needed for our agency.

Perspective from San Diego Public Library

Marion Moss Hubbard, Senior Public Information Officer, San Diego Public Library

The October firestorms were trying for the people of Southern California. This was particularly true in San Diego where over 250,000 people were evacuated in the path of the fires and smoke. While many of the staff members at the San Diego Public Library (SDPL) were directly affected by the evacuation, SDPL made a valiant effort to serve as many residents as possible and help restore a sense of normalcy. At the height of the fires on Tuesday, October 23, 11 of our 35 libraries were closed, but staff worked quickly to re-open facilities and all



National Guard members at the Rancho Peñasquitos Branch Library using the Internet to connect with friends and family. [Photo courtesy San Diego Public Library]

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State Spotlight: California Museum for History, Women and the Arts

Under First Lady Maria Shriver's stewardship, the [California Museum for History, Women and the Arts](#) (the California Museum) is growing into one of the most relevant museums in the state. Formerly the Golden State Museum, a non-profit created in partnership with the Secretary of State and the State Archives, the revitalized museum now illustrates California's robust history by including the stories of groups formerly pushed into history's margins.

Located just blocks from the State Capitol, the California Museum shows the public, educators and those who work for California communities our state's best features – our cultural treasures, our historical milestones, and our diverse people. Yearly, the California Museum proudly hosts international, national, and local crowds, and over 50 thousand California children. By showcasing to 1000's everything from women's artwork from the 19th century pioneer migration to the breathtaking collections in the California Hall of Fame, the California Museum offers California's past as inspiration for an even better future.



First Lady Maria Shriver and State Librarian Susan Hildreth after the 2007 California Hall of Fame induction ceremony December 6, 2007 [Photo courtesy California Museum for History, Women and the Arts]

The California Museum's thematic exhibits draw on items from organizations and museums statewide. For example, precious objects in the California Hall of Fame exhibit, such as John Steinbeck's typewriter, and Elizabeth Taylor's Oscars, are loaned by inductees, their families, their Foundations, and other entities. The 40 riches from Hearst Castle in *Treasures from Hearst Castle* (now through April 2008), and a baby coverlet made by Tamsen Donner on display in *Treasures from a Trunk: California Pioneers Quilts and Textiles* (now through June 2008) belong to the [California Department of State Parks](#).

The California Hall of Fame at the California Museum

[The California Hall of Fame at the California Museum](#), according to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, "provides a wonderful opportunity to honor leaders, and legends, whose imprints are stamped forever on our history and our lives. I want people of every age to be inspired by the stories of Californians who have shaped and continue to shape this state and the world."

2007's California Hall of Fame, launched on December 6, dazzles with the "imprint" of the careers of its 13 inductees: Ansel Adams, Milton Berle, Steve Jobs, Willie Mays, Robert Mondavi, Rita Moreno, Jackie Robinson, Jonas Salk, M.D., John Steinbeck, Elizabeth Taylor, Earl Warren, John Wayne and Tiger Woods. "This astounding group...represents the vast contributions Californians continually make to our state and beyond," says Maria Shriver. "I am so thrilled their stories and accomplishments will be shared and celebrated so that everyone will be inspired to make their own mark on history."

At the 2007 California Hall of Fame press preview, curator Amanda Meeker remarked that the 13 inductees' eclectic treasures will never be under the same roof again. Only at the California Museum, and only during the 2007 run, will Ansel Adams' original prints, Elizabeth Taylor's

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John Steinbeck's typewriter and signed first edition of *East of Eden* from the Steinbeck display at the 2007 California Hall of Fame exhibit.

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New and Renovated library openings around the state

Logan Heights Branch Library Ground Breaking



Jerry Sanders, Mayor of San Diego, address ground breaking crowds for the new Logan Heights Branch Library. Background: Carl Cohn (San Diego Unified School District Superintendent); Denise Moreno Ducheny (State Senator, District 40); Bessie Condos (California State Library); Ben Hueso (City of San Diego Councilmember District 8); Judith A. Harris (Library Foundation President). [Photo courtesy City of San Diego]

The San Diego Public Library held a ground breaking ceremony for the new Logan Heights Branch Library on Thursday, November 08. The new library, a recipient of a Bond Act of 2000 grant, will be located on an elementary school ground and adjacent to a middle school, and will be a two story 25,000 square foot library that will replace a 3,697 square foot library that was built in 1927. It will be a major cultural center for the predominantly Hispanic Community with a 300 seat "Centro Cultural" community room.

For complete details about the Logan Heights Branch Library construction project, please visit their page on the California State Library website.



Breaking ground for the new Logan Heights Branch Library of the San Diego Public Library (left to right) Jim Dawe (past chair of the Library of California Board and former chair of the San Diego Public Library Board of Commissioners); Bessie Condos (California State Library); Carl Cohn (San Diego Unified School District Superintendent); Denise Moreno Ducheny (State Senator, District 40); Ben Hueso (City of San Diego Councilmember District 8); Joe Gama (Associate Director of the Memorial Academy of Learning and Technology Middle School); Anna Tatar (San Diego Public Library Director). [Photo courtesy City of San Diego]



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Interview with new Braille and Talking Book Library Head, Mike Marlin

The California State Library's Braille and Talking Book Library, a regional library for the Library of Congress' [National Library Service](#) for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, serves customers in the northern part of the state. As of October 1, 2007, the Braille and Talking Book Library (BTBL) welcomed a new manager, Mike Marlin. Marlin works closely with BTBL customers, and the community agencies serving those customers, to develop the California State Library's services for those who are unable to read standard print library materials.

CSL Connection: *After receiving a Bachelor of Arts in Communications from Brown University in 1987, you earned a Masters in Library and Information Science from the University of Washington in 1992. What prompted you to move into professional librarianship?*

I've always used libraries. As a kid, I even hung out in them when my classmates were playing football or skateboarding. I was fortunate to grow up in Washington, D.C. which boasts a plethora of rich library collections. I conducted research for high school papers at Georgetown University Library, the National Archives, Library of Congress, and the Martin Luther King main branch of the D.C. Public Library. I felt at home surrounded by books.

After I left Brown University with a head full of deconstruction and meta-linguistics theory and a BA in Semiotics and Communications, I embarked on a community broadcasting career while most of my contemporaries pursued the art of subliminal advertising (and greenback accumulation) on Madison Avenue.

Landing in the competitive Seattle media market in 1990, I faced the prospect of working as an overnight radio board operator or finding another vocation. I remembered the encouragement of a head librarian I knew during a summer circulation assistant library job I had held years before and reflected on the umpteen enjoyable hours I spent cataloging and classifying recordings in FM radio libraries: the MLS was my natural next professional step.

CSL Connection: *We know your ability to see is significantly impaired. Has it always been so?*

I have always walked between sighted and unsighted worlds with differing degrees, as my blindness follows a path of gradual degeneration. When I began studying for my MLS, I could still read print even though Retinitis Pigmentosa, a hereditary form of blindness, had forced me to stop driving years before. Using an increasing array of accessibility aids, I was able to work in a series of fascinating library jobs including the Bastyr College of Naturopathic Medicine, the U.S.



Mike Marlin leads the California State Library Braille and Talking Book Library.



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New videos promote cultural understanding

Living in one of the nation's most diverse states allows Californians to learn about people from different countries without leaving home. But finding information on some cultures isn't always easy. Luckily, California has two new video projects that offer glimpses into two newer Californian peoples – Hmong and Somali refugees. The videos were produced under California Cultural Crossroads, a library-based program which promotes ethnic cultural programming through library and community collaborations.

Who Are the Hmong? The Brave People, a collaborative effort of the Hmong International Culture Institute and the [Stockton-San Joaquin County Public Library](#), tells of the Hmong journey through several continents for thousands of years. The Hmong way of life, the video shows, has flourished despite tremendous hardship for the Hmong people in China, Southeast Asia, Laos, Thailand, the United States and other countries. The video runs approximately 58 minutes and is available for interlibrary loan from the Stockton-San Joaquin County Public Library.

Produced by teens, and designed to raise awareness about the African refugee experience, the digital stories in [Refugee Voices: Somali Stories](#) record and preserve the experiences of East African refugees living in the San Diego area. Refugee Voices, which includes the shorts *Where is Home?* and *Girls Working for a Better Tomorrow* was made possible through a partnership between the [San Diego Central Public Library](#) and the [Media Arts Center San Diego](#).

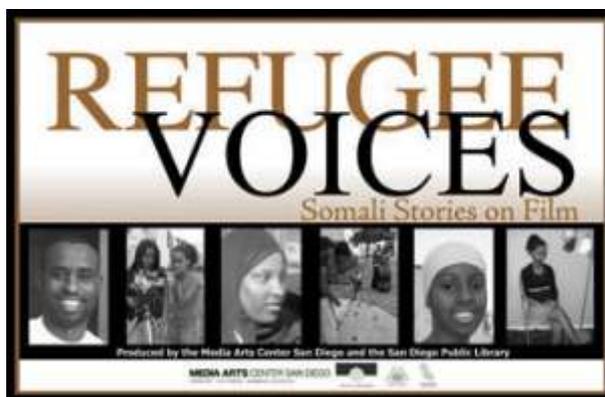
Since 1960, Somali people have struggled for unity and control of their destiny. *Where is Home?* illustrates that struggle as two Somali refugees describe growing up in the United States, and dreaming of returning to their homeland to help those still in need.

In *Girls Working for a Better Tomorrow*, Yasmin Hamud, a community leader who mentors San Diego's young Somali girls, shares her vision of a more united San Diego. She states in the video, "I would like to see a community that is more united and that works with one another so we can solve our own issues. It does not matter if you are an African American, Hispanic, or a Somali American, what matters is the community and the need for leaders and the potential of these children and their want to succeed."

For more information on *Who Are the Hmong? The Brave People*, contact Alex Bailey, Stockton-San Joaquin County Public Library at alex.bailey@ci.stockton.ca.us or by phone at (209) 937-7701. For more information about *Refugee Voices: Somali Stories*, contact Lynn Whitehouse, San Diego Public Library at whitehouse@sandiego.gov or by phone at (619) 236-5821, or Ethan Van Thillo, Media Arts Center San Diego at ethan@mediaartscenter.org.

Both videos were supported in whole, or in part, by the federal [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#) under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act grant funds administered in California by the State Librarian. However, the opinions expressed in the videos do not necessarily reflect the position or policy of the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, or the California State Library, and no official endorsement should be inferred.

For additional information about this project, contact Library Programs Consultant Kathy Low at (916) 653-6822 or email klow@library.ca.gov.



The Refugee Voices postcard includes photos of Somali youth. [Photo courtesy Karen Evenson]



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Braille and Talking Book Library staff member published through National Federation for the Blind

“All things are possible”: 20-year BTBL veteran inspires through National Federation for the Blind article

Every business day Valerie Ries-Lerman, a reader assistant in the California State Library's [Braille and Talking Book Library](#) (BTBL) for over 20 years, helps Californians with visual disabilities access information that improves the quality of their lives. Among her other duties such as serving at the BTBL public service desk, Valerie Ries-Lerman researches book requests by title, author or subject, and monitors accounts for approximately 3000 BTBL customers.

Ries-Lerman holds a BA from the University of California at Santa Cruz, and was on the Dean's honor roll at the University of California at Santa Barbara but, she says, "It's never easy for a disabled person to find gainful employment." Wanting to "hearten and inspire...blind and physically handicapped individuals" with the story of how she came to work in the BTBL in Sacramento, Ries-Lerman wrote a first person narrative for the Fall/Winter 2005 [National Federation of the Blind](#) (NFB) California *Journal*. What follows is an edited version of Ries-Lerman's original article.

“A Young Woman's Search for Meaning” by Valerie Ries-Lerman

The seasonal fog draping Sacramento made this winter day seem ordinary, but it wasn't. Today held something different, something promising. Like the spring that was soon to come, this day offered one young woman hope.

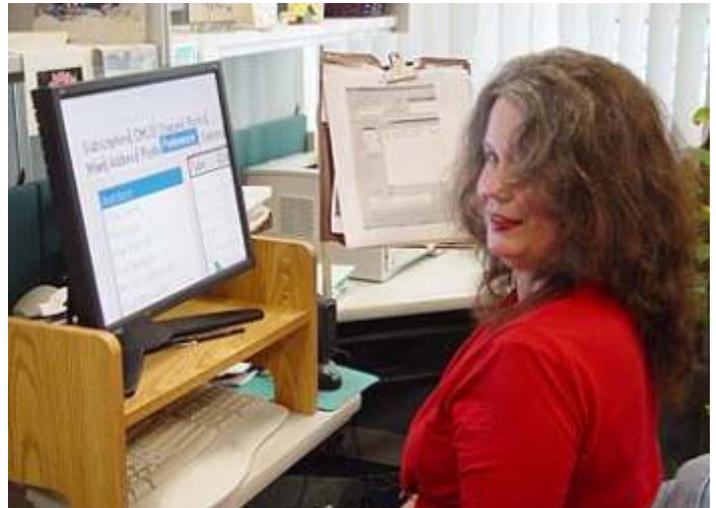
Like any modern young woman she dreamed of doing valuable work but a problem held her back: she was legally blind. No one, least of all her, knew how she'd make it in a world where no one quite understood what living as a blind person meant. She had given everything she had to make it in the seeing-world, but all she had to show for it was a monthly S.S.I. check.

Until this day.

She suspected the available job might hold the key to the thing that

mattered most, a station in life with meaning. Simultaneously determined and reticent, she knew she was capable of carving out a piece of life that she could call her own.

Standing at the door to the California State Library, she took a deep breath. She had prepared well for this job interview, but was nervous about first impressions. She didn't yet know how to use a cane, and without a cane's silent alert, her lack of sight, her awkward stare, made others uncomfortable. It was one of the hardest things she'd ever do, but her future depended on this job: she held her head high, and pushed through the library's heavy glass door for what became a three hour interview.



BTBL reader assistant Valerie Ries-Lerman uses "Zoom Text" at a plus 5 magnification to see the computer screen. Her reading stand brings work up to eye level.



California Research Bureau plays role in California's retirement reform effort

Almost 80 years ago, in 1928, the California Commission on Pensions of State Employees recommended the establishment of a "prefunded" pension system in which an employee and employer would make contributions to a designated fund during the employee's career that, together with the interest earned, would be sufficient to pay the entire cost of the employee's pension benefits. The Commission warned that "any system which proposes to provide funds only as they are needed to [pay for benefits] is inviting disaster," and that mounting debt from such a system could eventually "cause serious embarrassment to the state, forcing it either to make staggering appropriations, or to default in its obligations to members of the system."

Today, most public employee pension plans in California are prefunded in the manner recommended by the 1928 Commission. As a result, California's public retirement systems are substantially funded with the majority of pension costs paid by investment gains earned by pension plan trust funds rather than by employer and employee contributions. A recent California Research Bureau survey of the state's public retirement systems found that even after the financial market downturn of the early 2000s, the state's public retirement systems on the whole are better off financially than they were in the mid-1990s.

In contrast, it appears that the 1928 Commission's predictions about mounting debt from retiree benefits that are not prefunded have come true with respect to retiree health benefits for public employees. Historically, the State and most public employers that provide health benefits to retirees have done so on a "pay-as-you-go" basis, paying for benefits as the costs come due with little or no money set aside to pay benefits in future years. New accounting rules now require governmental employers to report their liability for retiree health benefits as it accrues. Due to recent double-digit increases in the cost of medical care and longer life expectancies that will increase the amount of medical services that the typical retiree will receive, this liability has grown to an estimated \$100 billion.

In response to ongoing concerns about the cost of providing pensions and health benefits for retired public employees in California, on December 28, 2006, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger established, by Executive Order S-25-06, the Public Employee Post-Employment Benefits Commission to address unfunded obligations for promised post-employment benefits. The Commission will release its final report in January 2008, and will likely recommend that the State and local governments consider options for prefunding retiree health benefits as well as the establishment of mechanisms to increase the oversight of trust funds used to pay retiree benefits.

In February 2007, the Commission requested that Grant Boyken, Senior Research Specialist with the California Research Bureau (CRB) write a report to provide the Commission and members of the public with background on the issues. The report, titled "Funding the Golden Years in the Golden State" was released in March 2007 (<http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/07/05/07-005.pdf>).

The Commission also asked Boyken to conduct a statewide survey to determine the current funding status of California's 85 public retirement systems. He presented the results of the survey at a hearing in Burlingame in July. A summary of the survey and results is included in December 2007's [California Research Bureau Public Retirement System Survey](#).

Boyken has also prepared research briefs for the Commission and testified at hearings held throughout the state in 2007 on topics such as actuarial accounting practices for retiree benefits, governance and oversight of retiree benefit trusts, options for prefunding retiree health benefits, and strategies used in other states to address the costs of post-employment benefits.

For more information about the research or about the Commission's work, please contact Grant Boyken, Senior Research Specialist in the California Research Bureau at the California State Library at (916) 651-9700 or via e-mail at gboyken@library.ca.gov. The California Public Employee Post-Employment Benefits Commission also maintains a website at <http://www.pebc.ca.gov>.

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Tribal Archives, Libraries and Museums: Guardians of Language, Memory and Lifeways

October 2007 conference

Nothing has greater significance for the cultural preservation of our individual tribes than to ensure that we wisely and professionally preserve our history, artifacts, stories, art, and literature for generations to come.

- Wilma Mankiller, Honorary Conference Chairperson

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Five hundred and sixty individuals from 46 states, 3 Canadian provinces and 203 tribes gathered in Oklahoma City October 22-25, 2007 for the second national [Tribal Archives, Libraries and Museums: Guardians of Language, Memory and Lifeways](#) conference. The first nationwide conference was in 2005. The [Oklahoma Department of Libraries](#) with support from the [Oklahoma Museums Association](#), [Red Earth, Inc.](#), and tribal representatives from throughout the state hosted the event.



Kelly Haney's "The Guardian" atop Oklahoma's Capitol Building dome. [Photo courtesy Susan Hanks]

The Oklahoma conference received major funding from the [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#), the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, and the [Western Council of State Libraries](#), and brought together Native American archivists, librarians, cultural directors, educators, elders, and others concerned with the preservation, management, interpretation, integrity and guardianship of tribal cultural preservation. Sold out at 560 registrants (double the 2005 attendance), the conference encouraged collaboration among tribal entities and non-tribal institutions; presented contemporary

issues related to the development of tribal libraries, archives and museums; and provided an opportunity for institutions and individuals to network and build support for tribal cultural institutions and programs.

Renowned Master Artist, Seminole Chief, and retired State Senator, Kelly Haney's creation, the [Guardian](#) was [selected](#) for the 2007 conference logo. Haney's magnificent work has adorned the top of the Oklahoma Capitol Dome since 2002. Haney's message to each conference participant as a "Guardian of Culture" was to "Dream big... Work hard... Believe deeply ... for this is just the beginning. Let us all rise to our potential."

Oklahoma City as conference host

Oklahoma City was an excellent host. Home to the nation's largest state-specific Indian population, native traditions, cultural experiences and artistic expressions are ingrained in the state's everyday life. Oklahoma's tribal cultural centers, museums, libraries, galleries, and historic sites provided admirable venues, and many, including the [Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center](#), [Oklahoma City Library](#), [Oklahoma History Center](#), the [Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History](#), the [National](#)



Susan Hanks (left), California State Library, Tribal Library Programs Consultant and Vice President elect, American Indian Library Association with Jean Whitehorse, Outreach Librarian, New Mexico State Library Crownpoint Resource Center. [Photo courtesy Alison Freese]

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CSL scholarships make Ohio conference possible for 22 California rural library representatives

The California State Library (CSL) provided scholarships to 22 California rural library representatives to attend the annual [Association for Rural and Small Libraries](#) (ARSL) convention in Columbus, Ohio September 27-29, 2007. The CSL's Rural Library Initiative, funded by Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds, supported the scholarships. In Ohio, a total of 177 participants from 28 states, Canada, and the Philippines joined to discuss challenges, strategies, and opportunities for the future of libraries in rural communities. Jon Torkelson and Carla Lehn of the California State Library also attended and participated in convention programming.



California State Library's Carla Lehn with rural library representatives, Ken Davenport (L), consultant for the Northeast Iowa Library Service area, and immediate past president of ARSL, and Jim Malzewski (R), Rural Sustainability Project manager for WebJunction/OCLC. [Photo courtesy ARSL]

The ARSL conference, which covered issues affecting rural and small libraries and their staff and trustees, featured 2007 Librarian of the Year Mary Baykan describing Maryland's process of using data and statistics to win support for library initiatives and funding, and Sirsi/Dynix Vice President of Innovation Stephen Abram speaking on rural libraries responding to changing technology and new generations of library users. Conference session topics included *What it takes to be the "Best Small Library in America"* hosted by Rebecca Miller, executive editor of Library Journal, and Herb Landau, director of Mt. Joy Pennsylvania's Milanof-Schock Public Library, winner of the 2006 Best Small Library award; and, *You can do it! Practical techniques for supporting public computing*, featuring Barbara Gersh, Project Manager for MaintainIT, TechSoup.org in San Francisco, and Margaret Miles, County Librarian of Plumas County.

California "talk tables" and "poster session" at ARSL

The ARSL conference offered discussion groups, talk tables, and poster sessions designed to encourage best practices sharing.

At their "talk tables," California's library representatives introduced attendees to innovative library programming in rural California. Ronda Wittenburg of the Humboldt County Library hosted the "Children's Author Festivals" table and told visitors how national authors participate in Humboldt's librarian-produced biennial festival. Constance Corcoran of the Tuolumne County Library, at her "[Tech-Know Rodeo](#)" table, explained how Tuolumne's all-day exposition, planned by library staff and local educators, presents newer information technologies to people over 40. Adrienne Haylor of the Colusa County Free Library, at Colusa's "Get Your Feet Wet with Stonyford" table, shared how community volunteers spontaneously rallied to save their library after a freeze and flood.

California's "poster session" featured Brenda Crotts of Butte County Library explaining "Books by Mail" and "Book Club in a Box." Crotts showed how Butte's programs not only enable citizens to receive materials through the mail, but also allow libraries or community groups to host book discussion groups through materials they receive in user-friendly packages.

Scholarship recipients will be serving on the host committee for the ARSL 2008 Conference in Sacramento, the first time this national conference will be held in California. For more information about the California State Library's Rural Initiative, please contact Jon Torkelson at (916) 651-3037, or email at jtorkelson@library.ca.gov, or Carla Lehn at (916) 653-7743, or email at clehn@library.ca.gov.



California Library Awards

Humboldt County Library branch receives IMLS 2007 National Medal for Museum and Library Service

The Kim Yerton Memorial Hoopa Branch of the [Humboldt County Library](#) was [one of five](#) libraries selected by the [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#) (IMLS) to receive the 2007 National Medal for Museum and Library Service, the nation's highest honor for extraordinary public service.

On January 14 First Lady Laura Bush presented Hoopa Community representative Connie McKinnon, Humboldt County Library Director Victor Zazueta, Humboldt County Board of Supervisors Chair Bonnie Neely, and Kim Yerton Branch Manager Kristin Freeman with a newly-minted medal at a special White House ceremony. The library will also receive a \$10,000 award.



Left to right: First Lady Laura Bush, Board Chairman Bonnie Neely, community member Connie McKinnon, and IMLS Director Anne Radice. [Photo courtesy The Institute of Museum and Library Services]

Anne-Imelda M. Radice, Director of the Federal Institute of Museum and Library Services says National Medal winners, such as the Kim Yerton Memorial

Library, "provide ground-breaking programs that respond to community challenges, serve as models for the nation's museums and libraries, and most of all make a difference in people's lives."

Kim Yerton, California's only joint county-tribal library on an Indian reservation, does indeed "make a difference" in California. The library connects thousands of rural Hoopa Valley residents with Native American reading materials, computer access and engaging literacy programs. Since December 2001, Kim Yerton has recorded more than 55,000 visits, circulated more than 43,000 items, hosted 175 children's programs, logged more than 17,000 computer sessions, and handled more than 8,600 requests for materials or information by community members. With less than 70 living speakers of the Hupa language left, the library also houses the largest collection of Native American materials of any institution in the Humboldt County system.

Road to the National Medal

Kristin Freeman who, according to the library director, "got the ball rolling" on the IMLS application, works full-time with the winning library's customers. Freeman says, "I felt confident about competing for the award. We are an access hub: we give this remote community (which includes an elementary school, a high school, and a junior college) 32 hours of weekly services, activities and programming that our people



Award-winning Kim Yerton Library in the rural Hoopa Valley. [Photo courtesy Shinjoung Yee]

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California Center for the Book Director Mary Menzel interviews California author, Susan Vreeland in Winter 2007 *Public Libraries*

The November/December issue of *Public Libraries* features Mary Menzel, the director of the [California Center for the Book](#), interviewing bestselling California author Susan Vreeland whose work, *Girl in Hyacinth Blue*, gained Vreeland international acclaim.

Called "Huckleberry Moments: An Interview with Susan Vreeland," Menzel's interview prompts Vreeland, a longtime English teacher in San Diego high schools, to address Vreeland's genuine and specific gratitude for [San Diego Public Library's](#) excellent services. Among her other laudatory comments, Vreeland says of her California library, "You can imagine how grateful I was for the branch library book transfer system in San Diego, whereby I could telephone the central library and ask for obscure books to be sent to my branch library." Further, Vreeland notes her "experience" as professional writer made her "conscious" of the importance of library service. "All intellectual labor," she says, "is collaborative. Unfortunately, the research providers are seldom acknowledged."

Public Libraries, the official journal of the [Public Library Association](#) (PLA), is free to PLA members. Non-members may subscribe to *Public Libraries* by visiting <http://www.ala.org/ala/pla/plapubs/publiclibraries/subscription.cfm> or emailing khughes@ala.org.

To learn more about the California Center for the Book, please visit their website at <http://www.calbook.org/>.

BTBL staff member published, cont. from page 8

Waiting two weeks for a possible offer was hard, but she had faith: the power of the [National Federation of the Blind of California](#) (NFBC) was behind her. Dedicated individuals from the NFBC had lobbied the legislature for positions at this library (that served the blind) to be made available to blind individuals specifically. Contacting the NFBC, she once again conveyed her qualifications and desire to be considered as a serious candidate for the coveted position at the Braille and Talking Book Library at the California State Library.

The news came within the week – she had the job. Her exclamations of joy could be heard from the rooftops of this sleepy government town. Like the spring that was now blossoming, this opportunity held for her the very real promise of renewal and hope.

The seasons turned, and sooner than she'd even thought possible, twenty years passed. Today, being a reader assistant at the Braille and Talking Book Library has given her a life full of purpose and meaning: she is sure she has served her community well. She sincerely thanks the NFBC for helping her and so many others realize their dream - a fulfilling station in life.

Through eyes that reflect on what was so dear on that far distant day, she's reminded of the strides we have all made. And yet, still, the road to empowerment and employment for a blind person is not an easy one. It is lit though by a beacon illuminated by our hopes and dreams. Blindness need never be considered a barrier to employment. We can all make a difference. All that is needed is a never failing sense of hope and determination. Working together, with the help of organizations such as the NFB, all things are possible. Success is there for the taking.



Surviving the firestorm, cont. from page 3

libraries were back in operation on Thursday.

For many people the library was one of the few places during the fires that they could go for free information, resources, and to connect with the outside world. Even National Guard members who were in San Diego to assist with the fires used the Internet at the libraries to connect with friends and family. With schools shut down, many SDPL branches had extra programming for children, including opportunities for kids to create pictures that illustrated how they felt about the terrible events happening around them.

When Qualcomm Stadium was pressed into service as a major evacuation center, SDPL's Central Library and Friends of the Library Groups delivered books to the stadium to help comfort evacuees and occupy their time until they could find other accommodations or return to their homes. Anne Porter, a Qualcomm volunteer who coordinated with the Central Library Deputy Director, Bruce Johnson said, "...thank you personally for opening your heart and the library's resources to kids and adults who were lost and afraid...you are a hero and make the library great and San Diego an amazing place to live."



Children at Malcolm X Branch Library expressed their feelings about the fires raging in San Diego. [Photo courtesy San Diego Public Library]

The Rancho Bernardo Library, in the heart of the firestorm area, was already one of the most visited and highly circulating branches in the SDPL system. It served as an annex to the City's Local Assistance Center, offering services and support to fire victims. Since the fires, even more customers, including those in outlying areas, are visiting this branch. To assist customers with their informational needs, the library is purchasing additional library materials to replace lost and damaged materials and to support the rebuilding efforts, which includes materials on topics such as reconstruction, interior decorating, landscape architecture and recovering from traumatic loss. In addition, the Library Foundation has agreed to cover approximately \$10,000 in costs of library materials that were destroyed or damaged in the homes involved in the fires.

Until tested in a crisis, we never know how we will respond. The firestorms of 2007 demonstrated the character, heart and service that is so integral to the San Diego Public Library and its staff, who made an indelible mark on the lives of so many in the community in their time of need.

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Perspectives from San Diego County Library

Sandra Coleman, Youth Services Librarian, San Marcos Branch

On Monday morning as we listened to the news of fire making its way into Escondido, we began to pack our bags and make phone calls to a list of friends to determine if they were safe or needed any assistance packing or evacuating.

By two that afternoon homes one block south of us were evacuated and as the smoke became thicker and family members began to experience difficulty breathing we decided to leave. The Coleman family spent a little time at a friend's apartment in central Escondido making arrangements for our night's stay. Oceanside would be the evening's destination. The Baha'i community of Oceanside opened the doors to its local Center and families from Escondido and Valley Center found refuge there. Tuesday morning as the families were gathered we began to consider how we could help others affected by these fires. One friend contacted the local evacuation site, El Camino High School, to



Rancho San Diego Parking lot with flames coming over the ridge; evacuated people are camping in the parking lot on October 23, 2007 in the early morning. [Photo courtesy San Diego County Library]



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Surviving the firestorm, cont. from page 14

inquire as to their needs. Help with the children, was the reply. So a friend who plays guitar and four others of us, packed children's instruments and crayons and coloring pages and drove to the High School. I've often seen images of evacuation sites broadcast on the television, but the experience of actually walking into one caused me to hesitate momentarily upon entering as my heart filled with empathy.

After breathing deeply and taking in the vision of a sea of cots, the sound of reverberating voices and continuous movement, we were escorted to the center of the room where an activity center was arranged. Our small group began to sing children's songs and the young ones along with their parents came quickly to join in the fun of playing instruments, dancing and singing. After two hours of singing every childhood song we could think of, talking with children that were coloring, sculpting with play dough, and playing board games it was time for dinner to be served. So we gathered up our things and said good-byes to the young friends we had made. The sights of smiling children's faces along with those of their parents are the most striking memory of my experiences from this past week.



Thank-you sign from Spring Valley branch library to firefighters. [Photo courtesy San Diego County Library]

Ellen S. Zyroff, Principal Librarian and Public Information Officer, San Diego County Library [reporting from [Lemon Grove Branch](#)]

Customers affected by the wildfires have been coming in to the Lemon Grove Library all week. I had a customer today who said that "one of the first things" she grabbed when she got evacuated were her library books so that they wouldn't burn up and also so that she would have something to do while she was at the evacuation center. Another customer, an elderly woman, came in and told me that her son had just lost his home in Poway. He lost everything they owned. She wanted to print out the GTM stores coupon from the Internet so that she could buy them some items. She said she had never used a computer before, so I printed it out for her from the Internet and she was very thankful for my help. Yesterday, a very disoriented customer from Potrero came in and she said luckily her house only had wind damage. She was very frazzled and I was open to listening to her story. She said that the Harris fire practically started in her backyard. She left feeling better and I felt good that I could help her by just hearing her story. It's difficult not to cry when they tell you their story. I was glad we were open this week to serve people at this time of crisis. We were very busy and checked out a lot of movies and books to families with children who couldn't leave the house.

Ellie Slade, Librarian II, Ramona Branch [also reporting on [Poway Branch](#) area]

I left my Rancho Bernardo home today [Monday October 29th, 2007] to venture into the "before and after the fires zones." Some of the "before zones" in Poway were left untouched. At first the tranquil images of suburban Poway filled my vision as I traveled through



SDCL East Mobile Library staff snapped this photo November 14, 2007 their way to their regular stop near the Rincon Reservation in San Diego County. [Photo courtesy San Diego County Library]

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Surviving the firestorm, cont. from page 15

north side of the canyon where secluded custom built ranch homes dot the green hilly landscape surrounded by huge boulders and white picket fences. On public fences along the highway there were handmade murals on butcher paper in bubble letters that said, "Thank you fireman!" But other than these signs, there was no vestige of fire.

Traveling further into Poway, the "after zones" that are closely adjacent to the untouched areas bore out another reality. The fire cannibalized the canyon and consumed the once wide open green space; replacing the verdant hills with rubble, ashes and knotted blackened tree trunks. Sporadic tattoos of red fire retardant were dumped and smeared on the blackened earth next to the scorched underbrush.

Signs with "Evacuate livestock here," "Rosie is back," "Pray for us," and "You have a friend in Jesus" were posted along the rustic road as I descended into Ramona. To my right I saw a makeshift altar of silk flowers, perhaps in tribute to the people who died or sacrificed their home, livestock or labor. As I approached Ramona, some of the horses,

haystacks and quaint lifestyle remained. Not all was lost; the fire somehow erratically skipped round pouncing on some homes and miraculously ignoring others. Everywhere a smoky chemical smell something like burning plastic mixed with greasy barbeque grill ashes permeated the atmosphere. As I moved closer to the commercial area of town a big sign that prominently advertised, "Anxiety counseling," in chipped green and white paint hung outside of a shabby clapboard house.

Despite the beautiful day and the overwhelming feeling of "thank God I did not lose my house," I could not help to think what it was like for the people who did not have towels, bedding or a roof over their head with an unknown rebuilding period hanging the balance. I went into the public library and noticed that yellow tape was over the drinking fountain as water had not been restored yet. Despite the tragedy of the last week, there was an esprit de corp feeling that could be felt in the library, as well as the supermarket, feed store and barber shop. No matter if you were in Ramona, or Rancho Bernardo, people were helping each other out and wanting to tell their story of how they left or lost their homes at 4:00 am with trees falling and traffic backed up waiting to flee the fires.

My once quiet suburban neighborhood has been visited by the likes of Arnold Schwarzenegger, President Bush and FEMA. Where houses once stood, there a signs that read, "ACME Demolition" or "Termites Finally Gone."

Even though things do not seem very funny, I bought a Halloween half mask of an owl with an orange nose that cackles on my face or in my purse....depending on how funny or absurd I want to feel. However, I don't want to put on a witch mask or be named after the Witch Fire that burnt down some 300 homes in my small area of Rancho Bernardo.

Writing this all down helps let it go and makes room for the new changes that will undoubtedly occur in the future. It compartmentalizes and synthesizes reality into smaller mouthfuls that can be digested by the overwhelmed mind. It is often said that life deals us a large pill that we cannot even lick, let alone swallow. Be that as it may, I am sharing this with you to let it go. I do not want the experience to stick in my throat like a peach pit and choke off my breathing with memories of smoke.

It is now 193.5 hours since the first San Diego fire was discovered and we are 70 to 90% contained. I just watered my roses and checked to see if they are still growing. Good news: the roots survived and the flowers will flourish again. I take my best lessons from nature and keep planting.....The color of hope is green.



2007 Harris Fire damage outside the Potrero branch library
[Photo courtesy San Diego County Library]



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State Spotlight, cont. from page 4

tiny "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf" costume, Jonas Salk's vials of the polio vaccine from 1954, the Steinbeck typewriter, and *East of Eden* manuscript pages, Earl Warren's Supreme Court Robe, and Tiger Woods' golf clubs be steps from each other.

California Museum Deputy Director John O'Connor states, "Directing [the 2007 California Hall of Fame] has been an inspirational journey. Maria's broad vision and leadership has brought to life this vivid illustration of California's rich and diverse culture and accomplishments. The inductees individually are inspirational -- and collectively they are a powerful showcase, worthy of enormous state pride. California is truly a special place and I believe the California Hall of Fame articulates that in a unique way."

Remarkable Women

The California Museum's Remarkable Women exhibit, launched in 2004 by First Lady Maria Shriver in collaboration with the California Department of State Parks, sheds light on the nature of Californian cultural and professional success. Museum community relations manager Kelly Bitz says, "Our Remarkable Women move our visitors to go after their own dreams."

The Juicy Couture girls' story in *California Dreamin'* for example, reveals to young girls that business smarts are cool. The Sesquicentennial Quilt (created by 200 master quilters) in Women Working Together shows visitors the skill and patience inherent in traditional craftsmanship. Latinas, the first California exhibit to honor the many contributions of outstanding Latina women, hails Hispanic women's enduring role in California's development.



Elizabeth Taylor display at the 2007 California Hall of Fame exhibit.

The museum's over 200 Remarkable Women are either native Californians or people who have made California their home. 2007 California Hall of Fame inductee, Elizabeth Taylor moved to Hollywood as a child, and legendary Amelia Earhardt, who found her love for flying in San Diego, came to California after boarding school. One surprisingly native Californian is the great "French Chef" Julia Child, a Marin County local.

Though originally scheduled to last a year, Bitz reports the popular Remarkable Women is now a permanent museum exhibit.

California Cultural and Historical Endowment grants

A non-profit historical and cultural institution, the museum has raised the money for its renovation and renewal through individual donations and fundraising campaigns. The California Cultural and Historical Endowment (CCHE) housed at the California State Library provided \$375,000 for museum renovation planning. The Governor and First Lady's Conference for Women also provided funding for Museum exhibits and programs. Because the museum is at the site of the old California History Museum, the museums' [trustees](#) can devote its resources "to building and maintaining what's inside" and not on the structure itself.

The sale of Proposition 40 bonds has provided funds to CCHE to "protect and preserve California's cultural and historic resources" through award of grants to nonprofits, public organizations, and Indian tribes for eligible capital asset projects and project planning. The CCHE Board divided its program funding into three separate competitive

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Interview with Mike Marlin, cont. from page 6

National Park Service and Environmental Protection Agency, and URS Consultants, an environmental engineering firm. I gravitated through visual aids such as hand-held magnifiers, lighted telescopes, jeweler's glasses, closed captioned television monitors (CCTV), and screen magnifier software.

After my visual editing skills foundered while working on a music magazine I had co-founded, I embarked upon a new trajectory – learning Braille. I also investigated screen reading software and optical character recognition scanners. When I was no longer able to read print at all, the Washington State Vocational Rehabilitation office helped equip my job and home with more sophisticated accessible technology I needed to function efficiently.

CSL Connection: *You most recently worked as program coordinator and special needs librarian in [Tucson's Pima County Public Library](#) where you developed literacy, environmental, music, and financial education programs for teens and adults. Can you tell us about a couple of these programs? Do you think they would work well at the California State Library?*

At the [Seattle Public Library](#) I had organized low vision fairs and children's programs and I brought similar educational and entertaining programs to Tucson residents. I put together a rock concert featuring Harry and the Potters (a wizard rock band that tested the ear canals of fellow library staffers) to draw middle and high school readers to the library, and I was a gun-totin', cigar chompin' librarian on the horse-drawn library wagon in the Tucson Rodeo Parade.

Because talking books events are near and dear to my heart, I know programs about audio books and the art of narration would inspire Braille and Talking Book library staff, customers, and the CSL in general. In Tucson, I arranged for [Scott Brick](#), a well-known audio book narrator who has recorded over 300 books, to do a presentation for the community and it was a huge hit.

CSL Connection: *We hear a lot about the "digital age" when it comes to libraries. What does "digital age" mean for the California State Library's BTBL? How do you see BTBL using new technologies?*

While BTBL customers use and appreciate blogs and wikis, their focus right now is on the future of digital books and the technology surrounding them. When the [National Library Service](#) implements its flash memory digital books and digital players in 2008 a new reality will set in for nearly a million print disabled readers. BTBL will be digitizing its recording studios sometime in 2008 and this will mean a huge learning curve for our staff and volunteer narrators. Meanwhile there is already a burgeoning commercial digital book business with services such as Bookshare, Recordings for the Blind and Dyslexic, Overdrive, Net Library, audible.com, and noncommercial endeavors like the Gutenberg Project.

Part of BTBL's outreach mission is to inform our customers about all these options as we become a hub for the E-book (digitized text files which are listenable and convertible to Braille or large print) and the audio book revolution. "[Reading into the Future: An Overview of the National Library Service's Digital Talking Book Test Program](#)" is great article from AFB Access World about a possible digital future for BTBL. Your readers can check it out here: <http://www.afb.org/afbpres/pub.asp?DocID=aw080604>

CSL Connection: *Is Braille a thing of the past then?*

While it is true there are fewer Braille book readers among our customers due to the proliferation of audio books, I hesitate to say Braille is a dying art form. Thanks to electronic media, Braille is now computerized, making it easy to convert files into Braille via an embosser and providing web Braille books to clients with refreshable Braille displays. People can store digitized Braille files for embossing their books, manuals, newsletters, and more which cuts down on



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rounds, and eligible organizations could apply each time a round was announced over the years. In August 2007, the Board reserved funding to support 41 round 3 projects.

The California Museum was awarded a Round 1 planning grant in late 2005 that enabled the museum to fully plan new installations to reflect an expanded vision and direction: to move from being a California History Museum to a California Museum of History, Women, and Arts. The 2005 CCHE planning grant to the California Museum was \$375,000 with a \$375,000 match by the museum.

John O'Connor says the CCHE funding for the Round 1 grant will enable the museum to transform itself into an engaging, state-of-the-art cultural institution that will continue to inspire visitors by telling California's unique history in a very special way. As the California Museum developed its renovation plans, they decided to apply for a CCHE Round 3 construction grant to implement their plans. In August 2007, the CCHE Board reserved \$1,935,000 for a museum renovation grant that should be in place in 2008. The Round 3 grant will fund part of the complete overhaul of the two main gallery interiors on the first floor, including the signature spiral staircase, exhibit infrastructure, key architectural elements and all permanent exhibits. This renovated space will engage and educate students and the public about California's diversity, history, and unique influence on the world of ideas, innovation, art, and culture, including the impact of California women in the arts.

For more information about the [California Museum for History, Women and the Arts](http://www.californiamuseum.org), please visit www.californiamuseum.org.

To arrange a tour of the [California Museum for History, Women and the Arts](http://www.californiamuseum.org) please call (916) 654-1729 to or email reservations@californiamuseum.org.

Interview with Mike Marlin, cont. from page 18

Braille collection shelving. There are Braille transcription societies all over the U.S. and worldwide. Thousands of children learn Braille every year independently and through various state schools for the blind. Braille is a language and an incredible tool for finding one's way around. I've put Braille labels on my music collection, files, dishwasher, microwave, washing machine, wife (just kidding), and I know I'm not alone!

CSL Connection: *The California State Library is actively recruiting library professionals like you! Will you share with our readers your experience moving to Sacramento from Tucson? How is working and living in California's capital different from working and living in a smaller town?*

I lived in Seattle for 15 years before moving to the Southwest, so I'm used to the big city! What I miss most about the desert is the intense quiet - you can leave the outskirts of Tucson and stand on a boulder and hear absolutely nothing but the rustle of a cactus wren. Also, work life is far more casual in the Old Pueblo (but folks work just as hard!) I am glad, though, to be back in an urban setting with a vibrant cultural scene and decent public transportation.

I'm excited because Sacramento has great restaurants and a substantial music scene that spans multiple genres. I am a lover of ethnic foods and am an amateur musician with extremely eclectic tastes. Who could ask for more than all that and a variety of interesting libraries and beautiful outdoor settings! I look forward to exploring the history, terrain, and culture of Northern California.

You can contact Mike at mmarlin@library.ca.gov or (916) 651-0182.



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New and Renovated library openings, cont. from page 5

County of Los Angeles Public Library Ground Breaking for Acton/Agua Dulce Public Library



The County of Los Angeles Public Library held a ground breaking event for the new Acton/Agua Dulce Public Library on Monday, October 29. The new library, a recipient of a Bond Act of 2000 grant, will be 10,874 square feet and is partnering with the Acton/Agua Dulce School District.

For complete details about the Acton/Agua Dulce Public Library construction project, please visit their page on the California State Library website.

Celebrating at the ground breaking for the new Acton/Agua Dulce Public Library are left to right: Lee Jennings (President, Friends of the Library), Supervisor Michael Antonovich, Kathy Howard (Past President, Friends of the Library).
[Photo courtesy County of Los Angeles Public Library]



Breaking ground for the new Acton/Agua Dulce Library are left to right: Lee Jennings (President, Friends of the Library); John Breviodoro(donated land for the new library); Kathy Howard (Past President, Friends of the Library); Judy Bartlett (Friends of the Library); Supervisor Michael Antonovich; Leona Sexton (Acton/Agua Dulce School Board); Terri Maguire (Deputy County Librarian); Bessie Condos (California State Library); Sandy Madsen (President, Acton/Agua Dulce Arts Council); Alene Griffin (Friends of the Library); Lillian Smith (Editor, Agua Dulce/Acton Country Journal).
[Photo courtesy County of Los Angeles Public Library]

Lincoln Public Library

Lincoln Public Library opened on Saturday, October 20. Situated on a 65 acre site in the 12 Bridges Development, the library is the first completed building of a partnering effort between Sierra College and the Western Placer Unified School District--other buildings will include a high school and a satellite college campus.

The new library, which is 37,872 square feet and approximately 17 times larger than the 2300 square foot Carnegie Library, is a state of the art library that includes expanded collections for seniors, children, teens, parents, and members of the Spanish

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 21](#)



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New and Renovated library openings, cont. from page 20

Community; study carrels; Homework Center; Computer Lab; Business and Career Information Centers and a teen area with specialized exhibits, collections, computers, and specialized listening and viewing equipment to support teen needs.

For complete details about the Lincoln Public Library construction project, please visit their page on the California State Library website.

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Mayor Kent Nakata addresses the crowds at the opening of the new Lincoln Public Library. In the background are staff members left to right: Renae Mahaffey (Library Coordinator of Carnegie Library); Katrin Olafsson (Librarian II); Darla Wegener (Library Director); Andrea Stephenson (Library Media Teacher); Patrick Sweeney (Library Coordinator, Twelve Bridges); Susan Hutchins (Library Assistant). [Photo courtesy City of Lincoln]



Ribbon cutting event for the new Lincoln Public Library (left to right): Jordan Knighton (NTD Architecture); Mary Anne Kearney (Library Staff); Julie Miller (Library Staff); Renae Mahaffey (Library Staff); Katrin Olafsson (Library Staff); Tom Cosgrove (City of Lincoln Councilman); Leo Chavez (Superintendent/President Sierra College); Carri Werve (Lincoln Library Board Member); Dolores Martinez (Lincoln Library Board Member); Spencer Short (City of Lincoln Councilman); Mary Kennedy (Lincoln Library Board Member); Barbara Sloan (Library Staff); Patrick Sweeney (Library Staff); Mickey Haggard (Lincoln Library Advocate); Melissa Borelli (Library Staff); Darla Wegener (Library Director); Jill Loya (Library Staff); Kent Nakata (Mayor City of Lincoln); Bessie Condos (California State Library); Paul Carras (Western Placer Unified School District Board Member); Scott Fischer (Librarian); James McLeod (Western Placer Unified School District Board Member); Linda Derosier (Library Staff); Linda Stackpole (City of Lincoln Councilwoman); Brian Haley (Dean Library/Learning Resource Center, Sierra College); Andrea Stephenson (Library Media Teacher); Janice Maddox (Library Staff); Heather Brophy (Library Staff); Esther Peden (Retired Library Coordinator). [Photo courtesy City of Lincoln]



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Tribal Archives, cont. from page 10

[Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum](#), and the [Oklahoma History Center](#), hosted pre-conference workshops.

Session highlights and topics

National tribal activist and leader and honorary conference chairperson [Wilma Mankiller](#) encouraged participants to share their "experiences with each other and be inspired and challenged to continue your work in preserving, managing, interpreting and maintaining tribal cultural knowledge and tradition." Though Mankiller was diagnosed with breast cancer within days of the conference and was not able to attend, she sent a message advocating for cancer awareness and education. Common Ground Breakfasts, Keynote Speakers, and Native American presentations complemented concurrent sessions. A wide range of topics were addressed including collection management software and digitization, language documentation, and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). Excellent Native American resources were shared including the electronic publications, [Protocols for Native American Archival Materials](#), and Kappler's [Indian Affairs: Laws and Treaties](#).

The Dewey vs. Library of Congress (LC) classification systems debate permeated several events. Cataloging presents a unique challenge to many tribal collections: almost everything regarding Native America, games, religion, history, culture, traditionally has existed in Dewey 970.1-970.5 at the nation's public libraries. Some work has been done, by Michael McLaughlin, American Indian Resource Center Librarian, County of Los Angeles Public Library, to begin to break specific Native American subject areas out of the 970's and incorporate them into standard Dewey subject numbers. Many tribal librarians advocate for LC accepting increased difficulty for increased flexibility to expand classifications. Conference participants addressed these facts.

Resources, inspired leadership, abound in Oklahoma

Native American materials and resources were abundant at the conference. Alongside the mainstream exhibitors, Facts on File, Metal Edge, Hollinger Corporation, participants also found [Eaglecrest Books](#) (readers featuring exclusively Native American children and families), the [Cherokee National Historical Society](#) and [Singing Wolf Records](#). The Oklahoma Library Association had a good supply of autographed *Everyday is a Good Day: Reflections of Contemporary Indigenous Women*, and *Mankiller: A Chief and Her People* by Wilma Mankiller.

Conference Master of Ceremonies [Curtis Zunigha](#) guided participants through the 2 ½ day conference, keeping attendees focused, on time and inspired. Zunigha set the tone for the conference at the opening night reception when he said tribal libraries are places "where the card an Indian carries is a library card," a moving and historical statement given that Indians were once required to carry identification and proof of employment in the United States.

For information about California State Library services to tribal libraries, please contact Tribal Libraries Program Consultant Susan Hanks at (916) 653-0661 or email shanks@library.ca.gov.

Save the Date

[2009 National Conference](#) of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums:
Guardians of Language, Memory and Lifeways

October 18 - 22, 2009

Red Lion on the River
Portland, Oregon



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California Library Awards, cont. from page 12

would only find in Eureka over 60 miles away.”

Kim Yerton, according to Freeman, customizes programming for its predominantly Native American customers. “Our area’s three tribes - Hupa, Yurok, and Karuk - are oral tradition tribes. Because storytelling is a big part of their lives, we celebrate that tradition as we simultaneously celebrate reading and teach the skills essential to today’s communication and employment demands.”

For more information on the Kim Yerton Library, contact Branch Manager Kristin Freeman at (530) 625-5082.

Cataloging advocate Henry Snyder wins National Humanities Medal

At a White House ceremony November 15, 2007, George Bush presented Henry Snyder, director of the University of California at Riverside’s [Center for Bibliographical Studies and Research](#), with a National Humanities Medal.



President George Bush presents Henry Snyder with the 2007 National Humanities Medal at the White House.

[Photo courtesy Henry Snyder]

Snyder, a tireless advocate of preserving and cataloging California’s historical newspapers, was one of 10 medal recipients for 2007. The [National Endowment for the Humanities](#) awards the National Humanities Medal to those whose work has broadened citizens’ engagement with the humanities or helped preserve and expand Americans’ access to important resources in the humanities.

Snyder was recognized for his work on three extensive research projects:

- [The English Short-Title Catalogue](#), a searchable database of every known publication in England and its dependencies from the birth of the printing press in 1473 to 1800.
- [The California Newspaper Project](#), which began in 1990 to preserve and index the state’s newspapers from 1846, when the first publication appeared, to 1922. It is part of the larger United States Newspaper Program, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities to preserve and inventory the nation’s newspapers.
- [The Catálogo Colectivo de Impresos Latinoamericanos hasta 1851](#), a searchable database of Spanish- and Portuguese-language publications printed in North and South America, the Caribbean and the Philippines from about 1539 through 1850. The latter project began in 2000. It has been funded by the National Science Foundation.

The projects are “how we recall our heritage,” Snyder says. “As we try to recover our past and try to understand what happened and how cultures evolved, we need to have access to these records.”

Newspaper Project brings Snyder to California State Library

Snyder and his team have so far digitized 200,000 newspaper pages in the California Newspaper Project’s free, searchable online [database](#). “California has the second-largest number of published newspapers in the United States, even though the first one



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California Library Awards, cont. from page 24

wasn't published until 1846," Snyder says. "Newspapers are the single most important record of local history, yet also the most ephemeral. They don't survive. People read them one day and burn them in the fireplace the next."

While directing the California Newspaper Project, Snyder combed the California State Library's newspaper collection to gain bibliographic control over all California newspapers. Snyder worked extensively with California State Library Director of Special Collections Gary Kurutz who says, "Henry Snyder is a real dynamo. He is passionately devoted to recording and preserving bibliographic resources - his work is an enduring imprint on human history."

Tulare County Library wins national literacy award for *Jail House Rocks*

The Tulare County Library has received [ProLiteracy Worldwide's](#) program innovation award for *Jail House Rocks*, a project of Tulare County Library's Read to Succeed literacy program. The winning *Jail House Rocks* is a six week series of classes on basic health, work development, and financial literacy for inmates. [ProLiteracy Worldwide](#) is the largest organization of adult basic education and literacy programs in the United States.

Jail House Rocks is the brainchild of Patricia Habeck, Tulare County Library's Literacy Program and Literacy Specialist. "For the guys in the California county corrections facility, getting their GED, taking their drivers test, passing their citizenship test, reading their bus schedule, and reading to their kids are benchmarks of success. I designed the *Jail House Rocks* module to move them closer to that success," she says.

Programs [like *Jail House Rocks*] give individuals reading, writing, and math instruction while they are incarcerated and then introduce them to support literacy services they can use once they are released," says David C. Harvey, ProLiteracy CEO and president. "As many as 70 percent of all inmates in federal, state, and county corrections facilities are reported to have the most minimal literacy skills. But research shows that inmates who receive literacy instruction are less likely to return to jail than inmates who don't study." Harvey says *Jail House Rocks* appealed to ProLiteracy's judges because it can be replicated in other facilities. "Tulare already has shared the program module with neighboring prisons. Some of the concepts have even been adopted and used with inmates at the state prison in Coalinga, California," he says.

Habeck and her team are "jazzed" not only about the national literacy award, but also the positive change *Jail House Rocks* is making beyond the inmate community. "One inmate," Habeck tells us, "who we're going to help with his GED was released a couple of weeks ago. When he came in [to the library] today he told us his uncle is a tribal chief at the Tule Indian Reservation. Because of Tulare County Library's work in the jail with this young man, our Tulare Literacy team is meeting with the chief next week to set-up literacy services on the reservation. *Jail House Rocks* created this inroad into this community. We're really excited about that!"



Patricia Habeck receives national literacy award from Lynn Reed. Left to right: Lynn Reed, ProLiteracy board member; Patricia Habeck, Literacy Coordinator, Tulare County Public Library; Brian Lewis, Library Director, Tulare County Public Library; David C. Harvey, President / CEO, ProLiteracy. [Photo courtesy Tulare County Public Library]



California Library Awards, cont. from page 25

For more information about *Jail House Rocks* and Read to Succeed please contact Patricia Habeck at 559-733-6445 or email at readtosucceed2001@yahoo.com.

Tulare County Library receives some funding for their literacy program from the California State Library. Tulare County Library has been a part of the California Library Literacy Services since 2000.

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Solano County Library website design wins "Best Non-Profit" design award

The [Solano County Library's](#) website design, crafted by ISITE, has won the "Best Nonprofit" website award from the Massachusetts Innovation and Technology Exchange (MITX), a professional organization of over 6000 technology, marketing and digital media professionals.

Solano County Library Director Ann Cousineau reports ISITE's web designers spoke to staff from Solano's children and young adult, reference, and circulation groups as part of the redesign process. Independent of the ISITE research, the library conducted focus groups in the community to determine what customers wanted from their library's website. "Since the website would be available 24/7, we had to make sure it was more customer-friendly and easy to use. In essence we wanted to develop a virtual branch," Cousineau says.

California Big Read Grant Awards

The [National Endowment for the Arts](#) (NEA) has awarded [Big Read Grants](#) to 7 California applicants. Big Read is the largest federal reading program in U.S. history, and nationally 127 libraries, municipalities, and arts, culture, higher education, and science organizations have received the grants which total \$1,598,800. During the January-June 2008 programming, the selected applicants will host celebrations of classic novels. California [recipients](#) of the NEA Big Read grants for January-June 2008 programming are:

- Black Storytellers of San Diego, Inc., Chula Vista, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*
- County of Los Angeles Public Library, Downey, *Bless Me, Ultima*
- Friends of the Encinitas Library, Encinitas, *To Kill a Mockingbird*
- Mono County Libraries, Mammoth Lakes, *Fahrenheit 451*
- National Steinbeck Center, Salinas, *Fahrenheit 451*
- Orange County Public Library, Santa Ana, *To Kill a Mockingbird*
- Stockton-San Joaquin County Public Library, Stockton, *The Maltese Falcon*

For the full press release from the [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#) about the January-June 2008 grants please visit: <http://www.ims.gov/news/2007/111607.shtm>.

The next Big Read application deadline is February 12, 2008 for communities wishing to host a Big Read from September 2008-June 2009. For more information on the Big Read, including program FAQs, the complete list of Big Read novels, and application deadlines, please visit www.neabigread.org.



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Field Feedback: **The California State Library hears from you!** **Association of Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL)**

Thank you for sending a delegation to the Association of Rural and Small Libraries in Columbus, Ohio. I came back with new ideas and new sources to tap for money or should I say funding. It really was a great conference

Jacque Meriam, Head Librarian, Merced County Public Library

Thank you for your support of the Rural Library Initiative. I was one of many able to attend the Association of Rural and Small Libraries conference in Ohio...I'd like to think I represented Del Norte County and California in the best possible way. I learned a lot from the other states and just totally enjoyed the experience!

Kelley Nolan, Library Literacy Manager, Del Norte County Library

Braille and Talking Book Library (BTBL) member grateful for Braille cards

Thank you for the Braille cards and bookmarkers. My classmates and I greatly appreciated it. We did a presentation at an elementary school in San Leandro on September 28th. The kids loved receiving the Braille cards and bookmarkers. They also enjoyed feeling the Braille. One little boy said, "Bumpy bumpy!" Another boy said, "Neato!" It felt good to teach young children about Braille. Thank you again for your generosity and support.

Robin Patche, California School for the Blind

Praise for Library Director Orientation

I want to personally thank you [the CSL] staff for the wonderful presentations, great food, and comfortable accommodations during the "New Directors Meetings" last week. I had a great time, and I'm so very thrilled to say I'm a part of this incredible state - and the library people who work here! Thank you again, for allowing us 'deputies' to be a part of this, too! Someday we may just attend as a director!

Renee Hayes, San Anselmo Public Library

Videoconference with Ken Burns about *The War* "illuminates" the documentary

I just want to thank you for enabling the videoconference with Ken Burns last night.

Both my wife and I attended, as you know; and we talked about it the rest of the evening. Mr. Burns's comments illuminated aspects of both his individual creative processes, as well as the content of this specific documentary. That he would take many hours out of his busy schedule to confer with librarians and library patrons in California demonstrates his extraordinary intellectual generosity.

I found his statements brilliant, moving, and incisive. I hope that many people around the state who did not attend in person will watch the archived session. I know I'm going to tell my friends and family to watch it on the Web, and I intend to watch it more times myself.

David Cismowski, Senior Librarian, California State Library

Editor's note: The November 8th videoconference and interview with [The War](#) director Ken Burns is available on the California Center for the Book [website](#) at www.calbook.org.



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Field Feedback, cont. from page 26

Transforming Life After 50 Institute

Thank you for sponsoring the wonderful institute last week. It was the most effective seminar that I have ever attended. Suzanne Flint's institutes have been very impressive for their content and organization. The speakers were excellent and gave us a breadth of understanding that would not be possible on our own. The schedule made the event conducive to learning. Ending the sessions on time was outstanding. Our Director also attended the ELF institute and felt that it was equally impressive.

We have started our ground work for the community survey and we anticipate that this grant will give us a greater presence in the boomer community.

Stephanie Tanton, Library Manager, Mission Viejo Library

"Great" fall 2007 CSL Connection!

CSL Connection just keeps getting better and better. I love the lead in to articles to pick people's interest...there is so much to be proud of in this state!

Keep up the great work you and others do for us.

Diane Duquette, Director of Libraries, Kern County Library

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