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News for South Carolina Libraries, July/August 2002

Item Type	Text
Publisher	South Carolina State Library
Rights	Copyright status undetermined. For more information contact, South Carolina State Library, 1500 Senate Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201.
Download date	2024-10-08 22:09:13
Link to Item	http://hdl.handle.net/10827/2609



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News for South Carolina Libraries can now be viewed online from the State Library's web site:
www.state.sc.us/scsl

ISSN: 0146-1842

News

For South Carolina Libraries

Vol. 34, No.4

July/August 2002

The Power of Library Advocates

The need for library advocacy is frequently discussed in library literature and in library meetings. The number of people who actually contact their local, state, or federal office holders is comparatively small. This year, two hundred South Carolina library trustees, friends and staff have concrete results to show what a dedicated group of library advocates can accomplish.

On a very cold Wednesday (February 27, 2002), these two hundred library advocates came to Columbia to participate in Library Legislative Day. At the mid-day luncheon, these supporters, often only two or three from a county, met with their legislators and convinced them that public libraries should be included in the lottery funding bill that was before the General Assembly.

They were so convincing that an amendment to the House Appropriations Bill by Rep. Marion Carnell had 61 co-sponsors. Supporters also convinced the Senate to include public libraries in their lottery spending proposals. The support in both houses was strong and bi-partisan, thanks in large part to the contacts made by library advocates.

The final lottery spending bill signed by Governor Hodges provides \$1.5 million to the State Library for public library aid – that's quite a return for travelling to Columbia.

FROM THE DIRECTOR.....James B. Johnson, Jr.



The success of library advocacy efforts on the education lottery is reported in this issue's cover story.

Until the recent state budget cuts, library advocates for increased State Aid were successful in raising per capita funding from \$1.05 to \$1.98. In the past two years public libraries have seen State Aid drop due to state budget cuts. While many education programs were exempt from these cuts, public libraries were not. Advocacy efforts in the future will need to emphasize the need for additional funds, as well as make the case that public libraries are educational institutions.

Below are State Aid appropriations since FY95 when the \$2 for 2000 campaign began. Budgets in the next few years will continue to be lean. It is up to all of us as library advocates to come together to

address the lack of respect for what public libraries do to contribute to an educated and well-informed citizenry. The basis for all education begins with reading. It should be obvious that libraries have books to read. Perhaps, we need to be more vocal in stating the obvious.



*2000 census is being used. Previous years used the 1990 census.

Changes in News for SC Libraries

News for South Carolina Libraries

is published bi-monthly by the South Carolina State Library.

Publication of this document was partially funded under the Library Services and Technology Act, administered by the South Carolina State Library

Lucinda M. Kress,
Editor

Readers of the newsletter will see format changes starting with the current issue. The publication will be more focused on what is of interest to our readership in the general areas of public, academic and school libraries.

Two columns are being discontinued, "Around the State" and "Caroliniana". Readers interested in new books featuring South Carolina will now be able to see the Caroliniana column on the State Library's homepage, www.state.sc.us/scsl.

As always, if you have a topic of interest you would like to share with your colleagues, please Email: lucinda@leo.scsl.state.sc.us.



LSTA Funds Helping Libraries Serve Our Children

Internet Safety Video

You've taught your child not to talk to strangers. But have you made it clear that they shouldn't talk to strangers online either? This is one of the many important points made in a new eight-minute video on Internet safety produced by the Richland County Public Library (RCPL). The project was funded with a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant, which is administered by the South Carolina State Library.



“What's Under Your Hair? Use Your Brain When Using the Internet”

features kids from the Midlands who go to the library to research a project. While they discover all the information that is online, one student gets a valuable lesson on safely using the web. “Today's children often know more about the Internet than their parents,” said Kathy Stewart, a children's librarian at RCPL. “That makes talking to your child about using the Internet safely even more important.”

The video and brochures are being provided free of charge to all elementary and middle schools in Richland County and all public libraries across the state.

For more information, please contact Padgett Lewis, Public Relations Manager, (803) 929-3472 or Email: Plewis@richland.lib.sc.us.

Recommended Picture Books Collection

In South Carolina, children under 5 represent 6.6% of the 2000 population, yet over 23% of our children live in poverty. To develop the literacy skills needed to succeed in school children need to be introduced to books in order to develop a love of reading. Public libraries provide access to books and other materials for children, parents, teachers and other caregivers. As part of its long-time commitment to public libraries and children, the South Carolina State Library, through an LSTA grant, will make available a complete set 100 recommended picture books for each public library in South Carolina.

State Library Youth Services Consultant Jane Connor, with the help of a committee of children's librarians, identified 100 picture books that should be available in all public libraries in South Carolina. The committee developed a selected list of books that represent a diverse range, from standards like Green Eggs and Ham, to newer authors many representing different backgrounds and cultures. The books are primarily aimed at pre-schoolers, but many can be used through the first grade.

For small public libraries, such as Fairfield County, these books will supplement their collection by offering a wider selection of books. Fairfield Library Director Sarah McMaster plans to use this collection as part of the library's outreach efforts into day care centers. The library will use the forthcoming brochure, 100 Recommended Picture Books, as a family literacy tool, especially with parents who are reluctant to use the library.

For more information, please contact Jane Connor, Youth Services Consultant, (803) 734-8658 or Email: janec@leo.scsli.state.sc.us.



Update Your Bookmarks for DISCUS

Change your favorites! DISCUS – South Carolina's Virtual Library, has a new location on the Internet!

www.scdiscus.org



The new domain name will give DISCUS a stronger public identity and will make it easier to remember. Earlier DISCUS reached another milestone by providing access through libraries to home Internet accounts, 365 days, 24 hours a day.

DISCUS offers every South Carolinian access to millions of newspaper, magazine and professional periodical articles, online encyclopedias, biographical information, reference publications in business, health and other subjects, plus many other resources for learners of all ages.

Schools can access all DISCUS resources using the K-12 pages on the DISCUS web site. Presentations and staff training are easy when using the DISCUS "Toolbox" for promotional materials, including a DISCUS PowerPoint presentation, a brochure, links to DISCUS logos and a template for creating a home access handout or a DISCUS web page for your library.

By providing a virtual library of quality information, DISCUS has generated enthusiasm among students, teachers, librarians and anyone who needs information at the touch of their fingers. During 2000/2001 over 3.8 million full text articles were obtained, bringing the total number to over 10 million articles over the first four years.

Those familiar with DISCUS will see the return of Health Reference Center – Academic, which will bring the total number of databases to 18. Plus, there is the addition of the Greenville News, January 2002 to the present, to Custom Newspapers.

For more information about DISCUS, visit www.scdiscus.org or contact Mary Bull, DISCUS Project Director, (803) 737-7736 or Email: mary@leo.scsi.state.sc.us.



Library Leadership - South Carolina Library Association (SCLA)



SCLA President
Jeanette Bergeron

Jeanette Bergeron sees her role in SCLA as a way for her to give back to the profession that has supported her since the 1980's. During her term as President she wants the opportunity to share her years of experience and mentor younger members of the profession who she hopes will one day lead the state's library profession. Bergeron, currently an archivist with the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, has been a librarian in public, academic and corporate libraries. She feels it is her varied professional background that will allow her, as SCLA President, to reach out to a wider group of librarians.

Renewal, restoration and recommitment are emerging themes of SCLA 2002 in what is becoming an important rebuilding year for the association. Bergeron and Vice-President Tom Gilson of the College of Charleston will focus on three areas. The first is to restore SCLA's committee infrastructure to its full operation. The next priority is to address the attrition in membership, which is down from the traditional benchmark of 1000 members. The SCLA Executive Board will also hire an

Executive Secretary, with professional experience to manage the Association.

In telling people why they should join, Jeanette cites the unique ability of SCLA to provide our state's libraries with development of new leadership. She often repeats what one library executive told her, "SCLA is the place where we want our employees to learn to chair committees, plan programming, lead teams, become good communicators, learn management, and come back to the workplace as stronger contributing employees."

Expansion and Renovation of Furman Library to Become a Reality

On May 16 Furman University held a groundbreaking ceremony for the \$25 million expansion and renovation of its James B. Duke Library. The ceremony was led by Furman President David Shi and included remarks by Mary Peace Sterling, a Greenville resident and former Furman trustee who made a major gift to the library; Elizabeth H. Locke, President of The Duke Endowment and Janis Bandelin, Director of the Furman Library.

Construction was scheduled to begin in June, and work is due to be completed in 2004. The \$25 million cost of the project, which will include a complete renovation of the original building and an endowment for the new square footage, makes it the most ambitious and expensive construction project in Furman history. The primary gift comes from The Duke Endowment of Charlotte, N.C., which has made a \$9.5 million commitment to the library.

The 48,000 square-foot addition will be known as The Charlie Peace Wing and will provide for the library's growing collection. The addition, made possible by a gift from Ms. Sterling, is named in honor of her father, longtime executive with *The Greenville News-Piedmont* Company.

For more information about the project, visit <http://library.furman.edu/building/>



Sighted Children in South Carolina Experience a New Way of Reading

A collaborative partnership between the South Carolina State Library and The BEST Center, the official book examination and preview center for the state of South Carolina, has given the library's Talking Book Services division an opportunity to expose sighted children to special format materials available to blind and visually impaired readers. Housed at the South Carolina State Library, The BEST Center is a collaborative venture of the USC School of Library and Information Science and the State Library. The BEST (Books Evaluation Selection Training) Center supports teaching, learning, and research related to children's and young-adult literature and materials.

Helen Fellers, Coordinator of The BEST Center, had the idea of incorporating tours of the Talking Book Services division with BEST Center tours. The February through April 2002 tours introduced approximately 110 sighted children (ages 4-7), their teachers, and caretakers to the state's Talking Book Services program.

Christopher Yates, Reader Services and Collection Development Librarian for Talking Book Services, has the pleasure of speaking to the visiting children. He explained how blind and visually impaired children use talking and Braille books, demonstrated assistive computer equipment, and introduced them to Spinoza® (donated by the Spinoza Company)—the cuddly bear who “talks” through a hidden speaker and tape cassette player. Spinoza® has been the big hit of each tour. “It’s nice to interact face-to-face with these children,” said Yates, “and I hope I leave them with the understanding that books are fun and can be enjoyed by everyone, even people with disabilities.”



Chris Yates and Spinoza demonstrate that talking books are for kids too.

“The children have just been so excited and the teachers have been wonderfully pleased with all the new information they’ve received. It has been a marvelous opportunity for all involved,” remarked Fellers. The South Carolina State Library and its Talking Books division whole-heartedly agree and look forward to a long and productive relationship with the BEST Center.

**Guynell Williams, Director, Talking Book Services, (803) 734-4611 or
Email: guynell@leo.scsl.state.sc.us**



State Library to Host Viburnum Family Literacy Workshop

The South Carolina State Library will serve as host for the 2002 Viburnum/Library of Congress Family Literacy workshop in Columbia, August 14-16. The workshop will bring together libraries and their partners from Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, and South Carolina to share information and learn from experts in education, social service, health and juvenile justice to see how collaboration helps libraries reach children and families. The Viburnum fund is administered by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress.

The Viburnum Foundation awarded five \$3,000 grants to selected South Carolina public libraries to pursue the needs of family literacy in their communities. Four of these libraries received a second year of funding either to build upon their successful program or to try something new and innovative. The libraries selected for a second year of funding are: Berkeley, Colleton, Sumter and York. Williamsburg County Library received a new grant to develop a partnership with Headstart in Lane, South Carolina and the Three Bears Child Care Center to promote literacy awareness and the importance of reading to families of young children at risk.

PBA Honors 2002 Letters About Literature Winners



The Palmetto Book Alliance (PBA), the South Carolina State Library, the Center for the Book at The Library of Congress and Weekly Reader Corporation are excited to announce the South Carolina winners of the 2002 Letters About Literature contest. The first place winner for Level One (grades 4-7) was Teonica Murphy, a 7th grader from Dent Middle School in Columbia, who wrote to Mildred Taylor about her book Let the Circle Be Unbroken. Sadia Khan, an 8th grader, also from Dent Middle School, was the Level Two (grades 8-12) winner. Miss Khan elected to write to Ms. Taylor about her book Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry. All of the South Carolina winners received plaques and cash awards donated by the South Carolina State Library Foundation.

Feelings about racism and the impact of the 9/11 attack dominated many of the 600 letters sent to the judges. In their award-winning letters, Miss Murphy and Miss Khan questioned the need for people to be hated for the color of their skin, religion, or ethnic heritage.

Guidelines for the 2003 Letters About Literature contest will be available this September. **For more information about the contest, please contact Lucinda Kress, Coordinator, Palmetto Book Alliance, (803) 734-8647 or Email: lucinda@leo.scsli.state.sc.us.**



CIPA Case Goes to the Supreme Court

The three-judge panel sitting in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania held that “we are constrained to conclude that the library plaintiffs must prevail in their contention that CIPA requires them to violate the First Amendment rights of their patrons, and accordingly is facially invalid”; the three-judge panel ruled Sections 1712(a)(2) and 1721(b) of the Children’s Internet Protection Act to be facially invalid under the First Amendment and permanently enjoined the government from enforcing those provisions.

According to a Jenner & Block memorandum dated June 18, 2002, the three-judge panel in the CIPA case held that the FCC and IMLS cannot withhold funds on the ground that a public library has failed to install mandatory filters on every computer. The Court held that “[b]ecause of the inherent limitations in filtering technology, public libraries can never comply with CIPA without blocking access to a substantial amount of speech that is both constitutionally protected and fails to meet even the filtering companies’ own blocking criteria.” While this decision is directly binding only on the agencies and is not a directive to any particular library, the factual findings and legal conclusions of the Court may serve as useful precedents for other lower courts. ALA thus urges any library using mandatory filtering software to consult with legal counsel to reevaluate their Internet Use Policy and assess the risk of future litigation.

The Justice Department, acting on behalf of the Federal Communications Commission and the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Sciences, formally notified the Supreme Court on June 20 that it would appeal this ruling.

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DISCUS: www.scdiscus.org

Palmetto Book Alliance: www.palmettobookalliance.org

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*\$997.72 total printing cost, 2,250 copies printed,
\$.4432 per copy*

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P.O. Box 11469
Columbia, SC 29211

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