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News for South Carolina Libraries, May/June 2003

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News

For South Carolina Libraries

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May/June 2003

Books Ahoy Sets Sail At Public Libraries This Summer

Before long, boats, ships, fish, sharks, beaches, and pirates will be popping up in children's areas as public libraries across South Carolina prepare to launch Books Ahoy!, the 2003 Summer Vacation Reading Program. The art for the program features a "Library" boat and a variety of fish, seahorses, and a bright octopus reading as they swim through the ocean deep.

This year, Alabama and Mississippi have joined with South Carolina and Georgia to create and use the same materials. Eve Kneeland and her committee in Alabama prepared the handbook for a teen reading program called Tsunami Summer. The South Carolina State Library's Jane Connor and Mississippi Library Commission's Melissa Wright jointly prepared the Books Ahoy! Summer Vacation Reading Program Handbook. South Carolina State Library's web administrator, Cheryl Kirkpatrick, Children and Youth Services Consultant Jane Connor, and University of South Carolina-School of Library and Information Science intern Julie Gaines, all contributed to the summer reading website. Georgia was responsible for the wonderful artwork by children's illustrator, Eileen Christelow.



Eileen Christelow is the author-illustrator of many books including *Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed*, *The Great Pig Escape*, and *Jerome the Babysitter*.

To find out more, go to her website at: <http://www.christelow.com/>

For the first time the summer reading handbook is available online. Libraries can find links to both the Books Ahoy and Tsunami Summer handbooks and clip art at the summer vacation reading website:

<http://www.state.sc.us/scsl/BooksAhoy/>

Summer reading is a popular reading incentive program. In 2002, over 80,000 children participated, and they checked out over 1,400,000 books.

For more information on the Summer Vacation Reading Program, please contact Jane Connor at 803-734-8658 or email janec@leo.scsl.state.sc.us.

FROM THE DIRECTOR.....

James B. Johnson, Jr.



It gets more difficult with each passing day to think of anything but budget cuts. We've had major cuts at the State Library in the past three years and there doesn't seem to be any relief in sight. Unfortunately, our budget cuts translate into cuts for public libraries.

As librarians, trustees, and friends, our role as advocates for library services goes beyond budgetary issues. In the last issue of this newsletter, we emphasized the many partnerships involving libraries in the state. The list provided some examples, but it was not exhaustive. It seems to me that it is appropriate for us to remind these partners and those we serve what the library does for them. I guarantee many of them will be surprised.

Libraries are taken for granted because we don't do an effective job of "tooting our own horns". Your enthusiasm about your library translates into community enthusiasm. Community enthusiasm should translate into support from various funding sources.

I challenge each of you to pick out one or two services your library provides and learn as much about them as possible. Those services will be your talking points when you meet people at religious services, community meetings, school functions, etc. Decision makers will take notice when they hear people talking positively about the services their libraries provide.

The economy is bad now, but it will improve. When it rebounds, the needs of libraries should already be on the minds of county councils, county administrators, and legislators. At that point, you should be reminding them of your needs, not presenting them for the first time.

Florence County Library Receives Grant for Technology

The Florence County Library has been awarded \$100,000 in Federal funds provided by the Library Services and Technology Act. The money will be used to make needed upgrades to technology in preparation for the move into their new headquarters library in 2004. Library Director George Hobeika believes the new technology will have quite an impact on service, saying the upgrades "will solve our most critical need to catalog materials and circulate them to all of our Florence County and out of county patrons, young and old, rich and poor, those from all walks of life."



Sen. Hugh Leatherman (left) and Florence Board Chair Dr. Julia Mims accept grant check from SCSL's Jim Johnson.

The State Library's Jim Johnson presented the award at a ceremony held at the Florence County Library in February, where Florence Senator Hugh Leatherman was in attendance to accept the award on behalf of the library. Also in attendance were members of the Florence County Library Board, including Board Chair Dr. Julia Mims, members of the Florence County Council, and members of the Friends of the Florence County Library.



Library Supporters Gather in Columbia for Library Legislative Day 2003

Mary Jo Dawson, President, Association of Public Library Administrators



Library supporters meet with legislators to discuss library services in South Carolina

delegations at the annual Library Legislative Day on February 26, 2003. Sponsored by the Association of Public Library Administrators (APLA), this year's event was held at the Clarion Townhouse Hotel in Columbia.

Prior to the luncheon, South Carolina State Library Director Jim Johnson provided an update to the 250 library supporters in attendance on the state budget crisis that has resulted in an 8.7% reduction to the current fiscal year's State Aid. Mr. Johnson also reported that the House Ways and Means Committee had recently completed work on a version of next year's budget that could eliminate lottery funds for libraries and reduce State Aid from the FY2001 peak of \$2 per capita to a disastrous \$1.01 per capita.

Armed with this alarming information, library supporters went to work welcoming and educating the 83 legislators at this year's luncheon about the detrimental effect these budget cuts are having on library service around the state. The legislators in attendance represented close to 50% of the total General Assembly, a 5% increase from the number at last year's luncheon.

Restoring lottery funds and State Aid for public libraries to \$2 per capita were the key issues discussed when library trustees, directors, staff, and friends of libraries met with their state

L e g i s l a t i v e

Against a backdrop of prominently displayed green and white "SAVE OUR LOTTERY DOLLARS" signs, library supporters urged legislators to restore State Aid to the FY2001 level and include lottery funding for public libraries in the FY04 state budget. Many of these same library trustees, directors, and supporters waged a hard-won battle for lottery dollars in 2002 and were not willing to relinquish this vital source of technology funding after only one year. For many public library systems in South Carolina, lottery dollars represent the sole funding source available to update hardware and software received during the 1999 Gates grant. Based on the numbers of legislators and library supporters in attendance, the clarity and consistency of the message, and the glitch-free event, this year's Legislative Day was a success. Thanks are due to APLA Legislative Chair Dwight McInvaill for organizing the event, the Lexington County



SCSL Director Jim Johnson presents information on state budget

Library System for providing decorations and set-up assistance, and Jim Johnson, Margie Herron, and other members of the State Library staff for their tireless efforts on behalf of public libraries.

All library supporters are urged to continue to stay in touch with members of their legislative delegations as the FY04 budget makes its way toward final approval.

Editor's Note: The SC House of Representatives added \$1.5 million back into the FY04 budget for public library technology aid from the lottery during floor debate. The budget now goes to the Senate.



DISCUS Brings Public Librarians Into Schools

What's the best way to promote DISCUS and other library electronic resources in your community? Dennis Adams of the Beaufort County Public Library (BCPL) believes that hands-on training sessions conducted at local schools are the ticket!

Adams and other BCPL Information Services staff have visited a number of local schools to conduct training sessions on DISCUS databases, NewsBank and the Library's web site resources for school media specialists, teachers, administrators and support staff. During the training sessions, teachers are also encouraged to use the e-mail link on the Library web site for help in planning assignments.

The Library reports an overwhelmingly positive response to this effort, with participants later noting how they have used these electronic resources in their classrooms and instructed their children in use of them as well. Adams notes, "These training sessions help keep our library staff 'visible' in the schools."

The Library's Long Range Planning Committee agrees that this training furthers the Library's overall marketing effort and information literacy outreach goals. Dennis Adams notes, "Although advertising and brochures can reach a greater audience, actual training sessions are the most effective promotion that the library can offer."

The Beaufort staff developed the training sessions as a productive follow-up to visits they made last fall to each school district and private school media center. They asked school media specialists to distribute "Homework Alert" sheets to teachers and offered to provide DISCUS training at their sites.

BCPL has been an active promoter of DISCUS from the start, offering the home access instructions as an appropriate supplement to reference interviews and transactions. Home access to the library's own online subscription resources are simultaneously promoted. Adams adds, "We feel that it is essential for individual public libraries to promote DISCUS to their communities, adults as well as children, if DISCUS is to survive increasing budget cuts in the state legislature."

For more information about BCPL's DISCUS training, contact: Dennis Adams, Information Services Coordinator, Beaufort County Public Library <dadams@mail.co.beaufort.sc.us>



Dennis Adams conducting DISCUS training at Coosa Elementary School, Beaufort, SC. -photo courtesy Bob Sofaly, Beaufort Gazette

To share your library's DISCUS training & promotion successes, contact: Mary Bull, DISCUS Project Director, (803) 737-7736 or email: mary@leo.scls.state.sc.us



New Campaign Encourages Seniors to "Take a Talking Book"

The Talking Books Services of the South Carolina State Library will be kicking off a six-month public education campaign, "Take a Talking Book," aimed at reaching the state's senior adults, their families and friends.

The Library of Congress, in cooperation with the State Library, provides talking books for people who are visually or physically impaired. The media campaign is a multi-pronged effort that uses television, radio, newspapers, and posters in a coordinated push to bring the talking books program to the attention of people eligible for the service. South Carolina is one of five states participating in the campaign from April through September 2003.



Videotaped public service announcements will be distributed to 33 television stations throughout the state, along with audio versions of public service announcements to 90 radio stations serving all major markets in South Carolina. Print announcements promoting the service will also be provided to 15 state newspapers.

The campaign is directed towards seniors who have had a decrease in sight or physical dexterity. The talking book program offers those who can't read regular print, hold a book, or turn a page an opportunity to continue to enjoy reading. These high-quality recordings of books and magazines are played on easy-to-use playback equipment. The talking books and equipment are sent by mail, at no charge, to registered patrons. Books are also available for loan in large print and Braille formats.

According to Frank Kurt Cylke, director of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress, the number of seniors currently served by the service is about 349,000 compared to the 1.8 million eligible seniors in America. The public education campaign is an effort by the Library of Congress to both increase and improve services to eligible older Americans. "This is the most ambitious targeted outreach effort we have ever undertaken," Cylke said. "We recognize that the senior population of the United States is a growing majority of this program's base of eligible patrons."

For further information on the talking book program or eligibility information contact: Talking Book Services, PO Box 821, Columbia, SC 29202, call 1-800-922-7818, or visit our website at www.state.sc.us/scsl/bph.

Volunteer Recognition

Talking Book Services volunteers were honored at an April luncheon at the State Library. "This was a great opportunity for volunteers to meet other volunteers. Many of them work independently rather than as part of a group," remarked Volunteer Coordinator, Naomi Bradey. "Making this get-together possible is our way of giving back some small portion of what they give to blind, visually impaired and other library users with disabilities," added Bradey.



In 2002, volunteers donated over 1,700 hours of service to the Talking Books Services division of the library.

For more information on volunteer opportunities at the South Carolina State Library, contact Naomi Bradey, Volunteer Coordinator at 803-734-4616 or email naomi@leo.scsl.state.sc.us





Children and Youth Services.....

Palmetto Book Alliance Announces Winners of 2003 Letters About Literature

Judges recently met and selected winning submissions for the *Letters about Literature* contest, a contest sponsored by the Center for the Book at the Library of Congress and its state affiliates, including South Carolina's Palmetto Book Alliance, a partnership between the South Carolina State Library and the University of South Carolina's School of Library and Information Science. K-12 students are encouraged to write to an author, living or dead, and explain "how that author's work has changed the student's way of thinking about the world" (Letters About Literature web site).



20 semifinalists in three levels (elementary, middle, and high schools) were selected by the contest's national coordinator, then a local panel of judges selected the first, second, and third place winners in each state division. A total of 802 letters from South Carolina students were submitted to the national contest. This year, the South Carolina middle school winner was Krupa Sandhinti, from Dent Middle School in Columbia, SC. Krupa's letter to Elie Wiesel for *Night* was among the top 6 in the nation!

Judges for the contest were: Sara Biltz, English Teacher, Lexington 5; Pamela Davenport, Lexington County Library; Beth Guscio, Richland County Public Library; Sandy Richardson, author; and Will White, Teen Librarian, Spartanburg County Library.

For more information on the Letters About Literature contest, go to the Library of Congress—Center for the Book at <http://www.loc.gov/loc/cfbook/letters.html>.

Georgetown County Receives National Award for First Steps Initiative

Georgetown County Government has received a National Association of Counties award for work done by the Georgetown County Library and the Georgetown Recreation and Leisure Services Division on a First Steps initiative to increase preschool readiness in literacy and motor skill development. Resources and training in these areas have been provided directly to childcare centers. Since October 2001, the library has established a collection of 30-60 books in 42 childcare centers and also given personal books quarterly to 630 preschoolers. Approximately 90 educators and parents attended the library's monthly workshops on topics ranging from medical issues to computer resources.

Dwight McInvaill, Director of Georgetown County Library had this to say about the award: "We were amazed and gratified to accept this first national 'Counties Care for Kids Award' presented by the

(Cont'd on page 7)

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



NEWSWORTHY

Charleston County Library celebrated the 5th anniversary of its main library in April. Festivities included author visits by Jill McCorkle, Bernard Cornwell, and Ann B. Ross. Other events included a lecture series, musical and dance performances, and art exhibitions.

Sarah Bull Clarkson is the recipient of the 2003 Lucy Hampton Bostick Award. The award is presented by the **Friends of the Richland County Public Library** and honors those who have made a significant contribution to libraries or literature in South Carolina.

Barnwell Library Campaign was named as recipient, with other area non-profit organizations, of \$112,500 in grant money from the Maytag Foundation. The Foundation recognizes programs that fall within one of three categories: Education, Strong Families and Early Childhood, and Community Enrichment.

Over 3000 people attended **Spartanburg County Public Libraries'** 2nd annual "Come Celebrate the Magic of Reading" Family Reading Festival recently, braving the rain to enjoy events, including magic and puppet shows, face painting, and crafts. Featured artists included illustrator Diane deGroat, musicians Howard Hanger and Jazz Fantasy, and the Newbery award winning author Louis Sachar. Plans for next year's festival are underway, including a visit from author Bruce Coville, so mark your calendar for March 6, 2004.



The 2003 **Kids Count** county and state reports are now available online at www.sckidscount.org. To view the reports, go to "2003 Kids Count County and State Reports" in the "What's New" box. Young Adult reports are available at www.scyoungadults.org. Special Kids Count reports, such as Right Start, are also available online. Kids Count is no longer mailing these reports because of funding cutbacks.

Rogers Library at Francis Marion University dedicated the Progress Energy Technology Center, a new high-tech computer lab, on February 27. The lab was established with an \$80,000 gift to the library from the Progress Energy Foundation as part of a \$160,000 contribution made by Progress Energy to FMU's Campaign for Excellence. Richard Chapman, provost of FMU, said this about the new facility, "This new computer lab will greatly enhance the academic performance of students who need access to this technology while working in the library. We are grateful to Progress Energy for helping us meet this need."

(Cont'd from page 6)

Georgetown County Receives National Award....

National Association of Counties. The size of the other seven national winners averaged at populations of 800,000 citizens, 14 times the size of little Georgetown County. So it was really an honor to garner this prize for South Carolina."



The S.C. State Legislature has also recognized these efforts with a concurrent resolution, sponsored by Reps. Vida Miller and John Snow and adopted by both the House and Senate. The resolution officially commends the recipients for their "outstanding commitment to education" and congratulates them on the award.

SC Rep. Vida Miller presents resolution to G'town's award recipients. L to R: Elizabeth Jenkins, Cynthia Gaither, Rep. Vida Miller, Dwight McInvaill, Linda Gironde, and Elizabeth Huntsinger

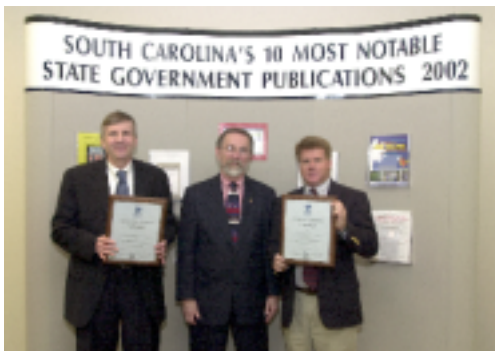


Notable Documents Awards

South Carolina State Library recognized excellent state government publications with its annual Notable Documents Award during a ceremony held on or near Freedom of Information Day, March 16, the birthday of President James Madison, an early supporter of citizen access to information. Three judges from SC's state documents depository libraries selected winning documents from a review of 2002 publications received at the State Library. The judges were Ellen Chamberlain, University of South Carolina-Beaufort Library; Ann Hare, Lander University Library; and Mary Morgan, South Carolina State Library.

Jim Johnson, State Library Director, presented awards to the winning agencies during a ceremony held at the State Library on March 17, 2003. "Disseminating information produced by state government agencies of all types is an endeavor the State Library will always support, and honoring these agencies for their service to citizens through the provision of vital information is a privilege," said Johnson.

For a complete list of the winning publications, please see <http://www.state.sc.us/scsl/press/>



L to R: Robert Oldendick, USC, Institute for Public Service, SCSL Director Jim Johnson, and Jon Pierce, USC Institute for Public Service



L to R: Karen Owens, Commerce Dept., SCSL Director Jim Johnson, and Elizabeth Rosinski, DHEC

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State Library: www.state.sc.us/scsl

Talking Book Services: www.state.sc.us/scsl/bph

DISCUS: www.scdiscus.org

Palmetto Book Alliance: www.scpalmettobookalliance.org

SC Reference Room: www.state.sc.us/scsl/refdesk

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