

Department of Libraries

News

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James H. Douglas, Governor • Martha Reid, State Librarian
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From the State Librarian ...

Who hasn't thought recently of the famous Charles Dickens's lines from *A Tale of Two Cities*? "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times ... it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair." We've been hearing bad news from across the country that libraries are struggling with budget cuts at a time when library use and patron demands are rising. In Vermont I hear that interlibrary loan postage coffers are running dry and library trustees are looking closely at hours of operation. Here at DOL we will lose one

longtime employee this month and are waiting to hear the fate of three other positions. As a result, on May 1st we will close the Midstate Regional Library to the general public and will redirect those patrons to their local public libraries. But it's not all bad news. Though we are forced to make painful decisions, we are also getting glimmers of good hope.

And what is the good news? The "extra mile" efforts of Michael Roche (DOL) and Steve Sanzo (NELINET) paid off when they were able to increase the number of public libraries eligible to receive Online Opportunity Hardware Grants from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. And, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) holds promise for some Vermont libraries. In particular, I am working with a team that includes The Snelling Center, The Department of Public Services, Vermont State Colleges, the Vermont Small Business Development Center, and the Vermont Council on Rural Development on a proposal that will expand broadband to rural, underserved parts of the state, including libraries. I know that many of you are also working on ARRA grant and loan programs for your libraries. The ALA Washington Office says that ARRA funding is a "once-in-a-career opportunity" for librarians. Though it will probably not be the sum of money that I hoped for in the beginning, ARRA should be a boon to those areas of the state struggling with poor internet connectivity.

Vermont libraries serve a large – and appreciative - community of students and faculty, parents and children, readers, computer users, learners of English, business men and women, struggling job-seekers, senior citizens, and teens – all with different abilities and different needs. I am writing this piece during National Library Week, a time when America celebrates our public, school, academic and special libraries. It is a time to take stock of both our challenges and our opportunities. Here at DOL we are struggling with the results of a "winter of despair" but this week we can celebrate what happens in libraries across the state as a "spring of hope." Thanks to all of you for the work that you do, no matter what the season. Let's hear it for libraries!

Martha Reid

Midstate Regional Library Ending Service to General Public

Martha Reid, State Librarian

The budget rescission of FY09 has forced DOL to eliminate one full-time position at Midstate Regional Library and to close the library to the general public. The last day of interlibrary loan service for individuals was April 6 and the last day for other services to the general public will be May 1. Individuals will be directed to their local public libraries for materials, interlibrary loan, and internet access. The Special Services Unit and Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped will remain open to the public. We deeply regret the loss of our longtime employee; to honor her wishes we are not publishing her name.

As a result of this position cut, school and public libraries who wish to borrow materials from Midstate Library will be able to do so *by appointment only* after May 1. Midstate Library will begin scheduling appointments on April 20 for the months of May and June. To schedule an appointment, call Midstate Library at 828-2320, beginning April 20.

Celebrating National Library Week, April 12-18

Amy Howlett, Southeastern Regional Consultant

“Worlds connect @ your library,” at least according to the American Library Association. Visit www.ala.org/nlw for free public service announcements and inspiring ideas on celebrating National Library Week in April 2009. *New York Times* best-selling author and actress Jamie Lee Curtis is the Honorary Chair of National Library Week. Other ALA reasons to celebrate: ALA-APA's National Library Workers Day (Tuesday, April 14) and YALSA's Support Teen Literature Day (Thursday, April 16.)

“Across the Fence” on channel 3/ WCAX, begins National Library Week in Vermont with booktalking. Montgomery librarian Debbie Landauer and Regional Consultant Amy Howlett talked about some popular public library titles after the noon news on Monday, April 13. Libraries can download the list at: libraries.vermont.gov/sites/libraries/files/misc/natlibwk09.pdf. Feel free to use this list any way you like—for bookmarks, local articles, handouts, etc.

The Government Relations Committee of the Vermont Library Association is hosting “Helping Vermonters Stay Afloat,” on Wednesday, April 15, from 8:30 to noon at the State House in Montpelier. Join them to remind legislators of how public libraries create a safe harbor during economic storms.

Vermont Public Libraries by the Numbers

Rob Geiszler, Southwestern Regional Consultant

It is thanks to the continuing effort of local public librarians and their staffs that we are able to publish *Vermont Public Library Statistics: 2009 Annual Report*. This Report includes most of the statistics submitted by the state's 182 public libraries and is arranged alphabetically by town and by population served. Data is for individual library fiscal years ending between December 31, 2007, and June 30, 2008.

A small number of printed copies will be available at the Department of Libraries, but due to economic constraints this will not be widely distributed, as in the past. The web version is available at the Department of Libraries Website:

libraries.vermont.gov/libraries/stats

Some interesting figures:

- Annual circulation: 5.6% increase.
- Local tax support was up by 5.0% and other sources of income increased by 12.3%.
- 161 libraries now report high-speed internet access.
- Nearly 15,000 (14, 981) people use public library computers each week. That accounts for nearly 21% of all visits to public libraries each week.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and Libraries

Martha Reid, State Librarian

Even before the “stimulus bill” was signed into law in February, librarians in Vermont and across the country were hard at work trying to make sure that some of this money gets to libraries. There are still many unanswered questions about this funding package and new information trickles in each week. DOL is in regular contact with State officials and also with the ALA Washington Office, and I will pass along news as it comes our way. We welcome information from all of you as well. If you are working on a grant or loan project, we want to know!

Some of the biggest money will come to the State of Vermont, in the “Stabilization Funds.” Libraries may see some of this money via Broadband programs and funds channeled through the Department of Education.

1. Sources for information about ARRA

Text of ARRA: frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_bills&docid=f:h1enr.pdf

State of Vermont

Vermont Office of Economic Stimulus & Recovery: recovery.vermont.gov/

Blog, Tom Evslin, Vermont Chief Recovery Officer: blog.tomevslin.com/

Council of State Governments: www.staterecovery.org/vermont

American Library Association: www.ala.org/knowyourstimulus/

Washington Office announcements: www.wo.ala.org/districtdispatch/

Vermont Department of Libraries: libraries.vermont.gov/

Watch for announcements and updates. The State Librarian participates in conference calls with ALA twice each month, and is also working with the state Recovery Office and with other state agencies.

2. Tips for Success for Funding

You’ve all heard the “buzz” words and there are factors that you may want to keep in mind when applying for grants or loans. ARRA is designed to stimulate the economy, so projects that create JOBS have a high priority. Other success factors that may play a part: BIG projects; COLLABORATIVE projects; SUSTAINABLE projects; projects that build on INFRASTRUCTURE in your COMMUNITY and help your LOCAL ECONOMY; projects that are ENERGY efficient and “green” and projects which serve the underserved and those hit hard by the economy. If your project has one or more of these factors, you may a better chance and getting funds. Remember that these programs require matching money; the match percentage varies from program to program.

If you have a project in mind, ask yourself: Can I partner with another agency?
Another library? How does this project help the economy?

3. Where's the Money?

Broadband

The State Librarian is working with the VT Recovery Office and a team of several agencies in a collaborative effort to secure NTIA broadband money for underserved areas in our state. This money is to be used: (1) for broadband education, awareness, training, access, and support to libraries, educational institutions and other organizations to facilitate greater use of broadband, including more use by low-income, unemployed, aged, and otherwise vulnerable populations, and (2) by libraries and other organizations for projects consistent with the above purposes. More specifically, funding can be used for equipment, networking capability, hardware/software, and digital network technology.

www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/wo/woissues/washfunding/fedfund/arra101pgs/broadband.cfm

Public Libraries

USDA Rural Community Facilities Program (grants and loans for construction)

www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/wo/woissues/washfunding/fedfund/arra101pgs/rural.cfm

Senior Community Service Employment Program www.doleta.gov/seniors/

School Libraries:

Enhancing Education Through Technology

www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/wo/woissues/washfunding/fedfund/arra101pgs/educationtech.cfm

Senior Community Service Employment Program www.doleta.gov/seniors/

Title I

www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/wo/woissues/washfunding/fedfund/arra101pgs/title1.cfm

There are other opportunities for funds in this bill, including:

Energy Conservation projects

Community Block Grants

National Endowment for the Arts grants

Another Round of Winnie Belle Learned Grants

Grace Greene, Children's Services Consultant

Thanks to the generosity of our benefactor, Dr. Burnett Rawson of Essex, there will be another round of Winnie Belle Learned (WBLF) grants through the Vermont Public Library Foundation this spring. This time Dr. Rawson is particularly interested in projects focusing on early childhood or new immigrant populations, but you may apply to do any project for

children's or young adult services. The deadline for submission is May 29, 2009. For more information and application materials, go to: libraries.vermont.gov/libraries/vplf

Dr. Rawson has been a generous benefactor of libraries over the years. In memory of his daughter, he donated much of the money for the Deborah Rawson Library in Underhill, and now is interested in making a difference in many libraries throughout the state. Rawson created the WBLF in honor of Winnie Belle Learned, a Vermonter, educator, and his benefactress, to help the public libraries of Vermont foster literacy, love of learning, critical analysis, and intellectual exploration in their communities among children and teenagers. With Winnie Belle Learned grants, libraries have, among many successful projects, enhanced their collections; purchased new formats; started Teen Advisory boards and programming; introduced math and science programs; conducted family programs on the arts and created kits for outreach. In a time of shrinking budgets and more demands on libraries, a Winnie Belle Learned grant may be just what your library needs.

Lake Champlain Bibliography Available for the Quadricentennial

Lorraine Lanius, Technical Services

The Department of Libraries has compiled a [Lake Champlain Bibliography](#), listing resources available in the Department of Libraries' collections. We hope libraries will use this during 2009 as we celebrate the Lake Champlain Quadricentennial. Among the items included in the Lake Champlain Bibliography are works about: Samuel de Champlain and his explorations; underwater archaeology sites, geology, geography, history, environmental studies and concerns, transportation, Champ, the Lake Champlain monster, and fiction.

The bibliography is also available on the DOL website.

State Parks Pass Program for Vermont Public Libraries

Amy Howlett, Southeastern Regional Consultant

The Vermont Department of Libraries is teaming up with Vermont State Parks to encourage library users to head outdoors this summer! Regional Librarian Amy Howlett and Craig Whipple, Director of Vermont State Parks, worked together on the State Parks pass program. DOL will mail every Vermont public library one free day-use laminated pass, good for one vehicle carrying up to eight people. Libraries will decide how to circulate the passes, perhaps based on their experiences with the ECHO museum pass. Libraries may elect to purchase additional passes available at the usual price, \$80.00 each. The 2009 pass is valid from Memorial Day through the end of the season.

Vermont has day-use areas in every corner of the state—there will be a list of parks on the back of the pass for borrowers who aren't sure where to start. For more information on state parks and the opportunities they offer for picnics, boating, photography, and hiking, check out: www.vtstateparks.com

This collaborative parks and libraries effort reflects even wider state and national cooperation. Vermont Public Television is working with a number of partners, including public libraries and state parks, to build interest in Ken Burns' new film, a six-part series on America's National Parks. The film is a documentary history, using the amazing national parks across the country as a backdrop to the story of how presidents, artists, prospectors and ordinary people created the park system. Public librarians will recall the story-collecting activities related to Burns' film on World War II, which this project will duplicate. Look for more information from Amy Howlett as the September show date for the series comes closer.

DCF & GMBA Book Award News

Grace Greene, Children's Services Consultant

The Dorothy Canfield Fisher Book Award: Vermont's statewide child-selected book award for grades 4-8

The list of the books nominated for the 2009-2010 school year is posted on both the DCF website www.dcfaward.org and the Department of Libraries' website libraries.vermont.gov/libraries/cbec/DCF. Also included is the checklist for students to use to keep track of the books as they read them.

Don't forget! Have kids vote and then send in the numbers by April 17! To vote, go to the DCF website: www.dcfaward.org and enter your votes online. All children in grades 4-8 are welcome to vote, provided they have read at least 5 books on the list. We will try to get the winning author to come to Vermont for a ceremony. If that person cannot come, we will invite an author on the new list to speak.

Soon we will have DCF bookmarks with the list of the 30 books nominated for 2009-2010. The bookmarks will be available at the DCF conference, the Vermont Library Conference and the DCF ceremony. If you cannot attend any of these events, please request copies from April Kelley at 828-3261 or cbec@mail.dol.state.vt.us. DOL also has plenty of posters and stickers for the winning books. All materials are free for the asking, printed with funds from the Friends of DCF.

Green Mountain Book Award: Vermont's high school book award

The Green Mountain Book Award committee has selected their new masterlist of 15 great books for teens for the 2009-2010 school year. It is posted at: libraries.vermont.gov/libraries/gmba. Voting for this year is due on Friday, May 1. The forms are on the DOL website at the URL listed above.

There will be two openings on the GMBA committee for the upcoming year. If you are interested, please send a letter of interest, a resume and two reviews of young adult books of your choice, one positive and one negative, to Grace Greene (grace.greene@mail.dol.state.vt.us) by June 1, 2009. Email applications are encouraged.

Sharing Ideas for Summer Programming

Amy Howlett, Southeastern Regional Consultant

Many Vermont public librarians are ready for summer! Are you? Use the Collaborative Summer Library Program theme (“Be Creative”) and the new DOL Summer Reading Program website at: <http://libraries.vermont.gov/libraries/srp/adult> to get started.

Vermont librarians developed CREATIVE VERMONT bookmarks to show off library materials collections, and they are free for download from the DOL website. Chose from:

Crafts and Cooking in Vermont (Amy Howlett)

Vermont in Movies (Jeremiah Kellogg)

Vermont in Music (Robert Resnik)

Vermont in Photography (Paul Donovan)

Vermont in Poetry (Grace Greene)

Bookmark Template (Word document for libraries to create unique lists)

The summer reading program website includes suggested titles for book groups, movie suggestions from “Talking about Books”; poetry suggestions, and links for other programs. (Altered Books, anyone?)

If you’re considering a really great adult summer reading program, here’s some advice from DOL’s March 5 workshop:

- Keep it simple and don’t overload adults with requirements
- Try a weekly drawing for coffee, a bagel, an overdue fine reprieve or book sale choice
- Involve businesses with a sign at the business. How about this? “Heat up your summer by joining the Reading Club at the XXX Library. Your participation could win you an electric fan donated by the XXX Hardware Store.”
- Register adult readers and ask for e-mail addresses; next year you can ask them to join again
- Keep statistics so you know whether you made a difference
- Make sure staff “talk up” the idea
- Plan creative programs that draw in targeted audiences: stone wall building? Truck painting? Knitting? Writing your memoirs?
- Take advantage of local speakers and community partners to build your audience
- Have fun—and again, keep it simple!

Libraries Can Apply to Host New Harry Potter Exhibit

Grace Greene, Childrens Services Consultant

Libraries may apply to host a new exhibit, "Harry Potter's World: Renaissance Science, Magic, and Medicine." Applications must be received by May 1. The exhibit is sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA) Public Programs Office, in cooperation with the National Library of Medicine (NLM).

Information on the exhibit and how to apply is featured on Thinkfinity.org, a collection of resources featuring librarian specific content from ALA. [Thinkfinity @ your library](#) is the Verizon Foundation's comprehensive program and online portal to 55,000 standards-based, grade-specific, K-12 lesson plans and other educational resources provided in partnership with many of the nation's leading educational and literacy organizations.

Using materials from the NLM's History of Medicine collections, the exhibition explores Harry Potter's world, its roots in Renaissance science and the ethical questions that affected not only the wizards in J.K. Rowling's books, but also the historical thinkers featured in the series. Exhibition panels feature the works of 15th- and 16th-century alchemists, naturalists and occultists, and explore the intersection between the Harry Potter novels and Renaissance thinkers, lore and practices.

Following the application process, 12 libraries will be selected to host the exhibition for a four-week display period between September 2009 and November 2010.

Vermont Associates Training Program in Libraries

Martha Reid, State Librarian

Vermont Associates (VA) for Training and Development, Inc., is a non-profit company funded by the U.S. Department of Labor. They recruit and place low income Vermonters who are +55 years of age into other non-profit and public organizations where they can upgrade or learn new skills as preparation for acquiring unsubsidized employment.

Vermont Associates is seeking to increase the number of training opportunities for program participants in library settings. At present Vermont libraries are training 19 VA participants as administrative clerks and receptionists, library assistants or library aides. VA trainees are assigned to a host training site for 20 hours per week and are provided a stipend based on Vermont's minimum wage. If a specific skill cannot be learned in the assignment setting, a trainee can be referred to an offsite resource (such as an adult or technical education program) in the local area for a few hours each week. A trainee's progress is evaluated at three month intervals; some continue for several evaluative periods of time, depending on the skills needed and the trainee's progress.

The host training site agrees to provide training supervision and collaborate with a local Training and Employment Coordinator (TEC) in evaluating the trainee's progress. In addition, supervisors are expected to establish a weekly supervisory appointment

schedule when the trainee and supervisor meet to review, plan assignments and ask/answer questions.

Vermont Associates administers 10 offices which are strategically located in Vermont communities. A list of office locations can be seen at the company's web site: www.vermontassociates.org. For more information about this program, call Vermont Associates at 1-800-439-3307, ext. 22 or 1-802-524-3200 Ext. 22.

Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act: Do You Need to Worry about Lead in Library Books?

Grace Greene, Children's Services Consultant

Do you need to throw away all books printed before 1986? Should you ban children under 12 from the library? Should you just wait it out? There has been a lot of concern in libraries about how they are affected by the new Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act, the federal law designed to protect children from lead and phthalates in materials. The first thing to know is that there is a reprieve of one year (until February 10, 2010), and the library community is working to get an exemption for books.

Here is the history of the situation (from ALA): In August 2008, Congress passed CPSIA, a law to protect children from the real dangers of toys made with lead-based paint; however, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) misinterpreted the law to apply to ordinary books for children 12 years of age or younger.

The law was set to go into effect on February 10, 2009, but in late January 2009, the CPSC issued a one-year stay of implementation for enforcement of the new lead limits in children's products, stating that the Commission will not impose penalties against anyone making, importing, distributing or selling a children's product made of certain natural materials, including ordinary children's books printed after 1985.

Recently U.S. Rep. Jeff Fortenberry (R-Neb.) introduced a bill to amend the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA) to exempt ordinary books from the lead limit specified in the Act. This is a welcome step toward ensuring that libraries will not be adversely affected by the law. Fortenberry's bill, H.R. 1692, would remove the pre-1985 provision and states that CPSIA was not intended to apply to ordinary books – those books that are published on paper or cardboard, printed by conventional publishing methods, intended to be read, and lacking inherent play value. H.R. 1692 also states that testing has shown that finished books and their component materials contain total lead content at levels considered to be non-detectable. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has determined that there is little risk to children from lead in ordinary books.

Everything is on track to exempt books from this law, but there has been no final determination. DOL will keep you informed as we learn more, but meanwhile you can check this site for more information:

www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/wo/woissues/governmentinfo/cpsia/cpsia.cfm .

New Trustee Listserv Established

Jeremiah Kellogg, Midstate Regional Consultant

DOL is now hosting a listserv where public library trustees can share their knowledge and experience with other trustees in the state of Vermont. Learn how other boards make policies, write job descriptions, fundraise, deal with legal issues, plan, promote library services, and interact with their local governments. Subscribers are encouraged to post questions pertaining to trustee issues for discussion. This useful forum also serves as a direct line for news from DOL. To join, please contact Jeremiah Kellogg (jeremiah.kellogg@mail.dol.state.vt.us).

New Vermont Youth Services Listserv Established

Grace Greene, Childrens Services Consultant

Vermont finally has its very own listserv for librarians who work with children and young adults. Modeled after the national PUBYAC, a fabulous listserv which has been in operation for more than a dozen years, VTYAC is designed for librarians to discuss issues relating to youth services in Vermont libraries. Need some suggestions for programs? Have a book stumper you can't solve? Wondering whether you need to update that policy on unattended children? Then, just ask your colleagues via VTYAC. If you would like to join, just send Grace (grace.greene@mail.dol.state.vt.us) an email saying just that.

Patron Confidentiality Video Soon Available

Jeremiah Kellogg, Midstate Regional Consultant

The Department of Libraries has produced a DVD about patron confidentiality that documents the experience and courage of Kimball Library (Randolph) staff and trustees when confronted with law enforcement officers wanting to confiscate public computers without a court order. Included in the video are: an account of the situation by Library Director Amy Grasmick, an interview with attorney Maggie Gilmore about the legalities of the incident, and a segment on what libraries should do if they find themselves in a similar situation. DOL is making copies of the DVD which will be available soon for libraries.

'23 Things' Get You in the Know

Mara Siegel, Continuing Education

Does it seem like you are suddenly hearing about Facebook and Twitter everywhere? Are you ready to dip your toes into the social networking waters? Vermont's "23 Things" provides you the opportunity. Many Vermont librarians have participated in the program and you can read their blogs:

Fall 2008 Session: vermontlibrarieslearn.wordpress.com/participant-blogs-summer-session/

Summer 2008 Session: vermontlibrarieslearn.wordpress.com/participant-blogs-everyone/

The program will be revamped in the coming months. In the spirit of community-building, the prime motivation for creating Web 2.0 tools, DOL will be providing greater support. Other ideas for training now under consideration include: classes introducing fewer “Things”, an introduction to electronic face-to-face meetings, and conference calls using Skype.

Grant Opportunities Listed on the DOL Website

Grace Greene, Childrens Services Consultant

As you may imagine, one of the questions that we get most often is about grant opportunities. We always try to send out information about new grants or opportunities as we hear about them, but have now compiled the information in one place on our website: libraries.vermont.gov/grant_information. Here you can read about funding opportunities that happen annually (like the CLiF grant for children’s books), as well as one-time grant programs. The new webpage is a work in progress, so check back regularly to see what new information has been added. If you know about grant sources that we have missed, please contact April Kelley, who works in the Children’s Book Exhibit Center, at: cbec@mail.dol.state.vt.us.

Library of Congress Studies Bibliographic Records

Lorraine Lanius, Technical Services

The Library of Congress (LC) has enlisted R2 Consulting, LLC, a consulting firm in Contoocook, New Hampshire, to investigate the current practices in U.S. and Canadian libraries regarding the creation and distribution of bibliographic records using LC and other sources. According to a January 29 news release from the Library of Congress, the study has a “primary focus on the economics of current practices, including existing incentives and barriers to both contribution and availability.” The results of this study could have profound implications for all types of libraries. R2 Consulting has created a website at bibrecords.ning.com/ to give information and to provide a forum for members of the cataloging community. The project completion date is June 30, 2009 and the results of this fact-finding study on the “marketplace” will be available on the R2 website and on the Bibliographic Control Working Group website, www.r2consulting.org and www.loc.gov/bibliographic-future/.

Vermont 2-1-1 Turns Four, For Your Information

Amy Howlett, Southeastern Regional Consultant

Vermont 2-1-1, the free, confidential information and referral number, celebrated its fourth birthday on February 11, 2009, at the Vermont Statehouse with cake, an official proclamation and remarks from Governor Douglas and Lt. Governor Dubie. Staff, volunteers, and partners, including the Department of Libraries and United Ways of

Vermont, joined in with their congratulations. 2-1-1 is seeing record referrals during the economic downturn, primarily in Housing, Shelter, and Fuel services. January 2009 saw a twofold increase over January 2008.

Special Services Consultant Teresa Faust, a member of the Statewide Information, Referral & Assistance Coordinating Councils (SIRACC), helped create the report on streamlining access to Vermont's IR & A services. SIRACC has developed a comprehensive work plan for Vermont agencies, focusing on professionalism, efficiency, accountability and respect. For a copy of the report, please call MaryEllen Mendl of Vermont 2-1-1 at 861-7844.

Public libraries use Vermont 2-1-1 to answer reference questions, particularly in the areas of health and human services and to refer library users who need assistance. The phone number, 2-1-1, works in Vermont and nationally to connect people in need to appropriate resources. Librarians also use the service database at <http://www.vermont211.org> to find services by category, keyword and locale. For more information on library relationships and Vermont 2-1-1, contact board member Amy Howlett.

Star Libraries Shine in Vermont

Lorraine Lanius, Technical Services

The February 15, 2009, issue of *Library Journal* (LJ) has identified America's "Star Libraries." This past summer LJ announced the development of the LJ Index of public library service output, a new public library assessment tool designed to measure library services. Stowe Free Library, Sherburne Memorial Library (Killington), Fairfax Community Library, Craftsbury Public Library, and Lincoln Library are the Vermont libraries that made the list of Star Libraries. The Index of public library service is determined by the following per capita output indicators: visits, circulation, program attendance, and public Internet computer use. Libraries were compared to peer libraries based on total operating expenditures, rather than community population. The data for the Vermont libraries came from 2006 reports by local libraries to DOL and the national ranking was compiled by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The Index of all 7,115 libraries included in the study is found at the following website: www.libraryjournal.com/LJindex2009. Congratulations to the stellar Vermont libraries!

DOL "Employee of the Year" Announced

Lorraine Lanius, Technical Services

Congratulations to Linda Bullard, who has been selected as the DOL Employee of the Year! Linda was nominated by her co-workers and will receive her award at a ceremony with the Governor in May. Linda works in Technical Services and in the State Librarian's Office in Montpelier. Among her many duties: preparing cataloging records for local libraries and handling the state distribution of the Vermont Statutes. Written nominations praised Linda as "outstanding" and "one of the most respected" employees in the

Department. "She is always willing to help, willingly tries new methods, and never complains that she has more than her share of the workload."

Vermont Library People

Let DOL know what's been happening in our state library community.

Nancy Bianchi, Lesley Boucher, Marianne Burke, Laura Haines, Tina Kussey, Colin McClung and Shiela Phillippe, all of UVM, and Alan Lampson of Fletcher Allen Health Care Library, presented posters at the 2008 Medical Library Association Annual Meeting.

Paul Donovan, DOL, was quoted in AALL Spectrum, the publication of the American Association of Law Libraries, on how the current economy changed the demands of his job. To read it, and see a picture of Paul, go to www.aallnet.org/products/pub_sp0903/pub_sp0903_Member.pdf.

Judith Flint, Amy Grasmick and Christine Lesinski of Kimball Public Library, Randolph, will be awarded the American Library Association's "Paul Howard Award for Courage" for insisting on a court order before police could take library computers. The \$1,000 bi-annual award and citation honors a librarian, library board, library group or an individual who has exhibited unusual courage for the benefit of library programs or services.

Jessamyn West, library consultant, will be the Keynote Speaker at the New England Library Association's CMS Day on June 12, 2009 at the Portsmouth (NH) Public Library. She has made presentations at scores of conferences and workshops and has more scheduled. For details, check her blog at: librarian.net.

CBEC Reference Collection

Grace Greene, Childrens Services Consultant

The Children's Book Exhibit Center (Montpelier) houses a large collection of professional books on topics such as programming for children and children's literature. Come visit, if you can, or borrow these books via interlibrary loan:

New books acquired in 2009:

Barr, Catherine. *Best New Media, K-12: A Guide to Movies, Subscription Web Sites, and Educational Software and Games*. Libraries Unlimited, 2008. ISBN 978-1-59158-467-4. CBEC REF 011

Barstow, Barbara, Judith Riggle & Leslie Molnar. *Beyond Picture Books: Subject Access to Best Books for Beginning Readers*. 3rd ed. Libraries Unlimited, 2008. ISBN 978-1-59158-545-9. CBEC REF 011.62

Behen, Linda D. *Using Pop Culture to Teach Information Literacy: Methods to Engage a New Generation*. Libraries Unlimited, 2006. ISBN 1-59158-301-2. CBEC REF 028.7

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