

# Colorado Association of Libraries (CAL) Newsletter



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President's Message:

## ***The Instructional Role of Librarians***

*by Jody K. Howard, CAL President*



Recently, I was asked to do a presentation on the instructional role of the school librarian and the impact this has on public librarians. The audience included MLIS students and the program faculty at a state university. It was a great experience and I really enjoyed it.

My first question to the group was, "What is the instructional role of the public librarian?" There was complete silence in the room and I could tell that the students were thinking, "Don't call on me---don't call on me!" Finally, a few hands went up and I received comments such as: Providing books to our patrons; working with children and YA's to get the right person matched with the right book, helping school age kids find what they need when it isn't at their school library.

Finally, one person said that she thought it was really important to make certain the people using databases and other library resources, or accessing library materials were able to find those materials again even if the librarian wasn't present. BINGO! That's what we all need to do – we need to make certain that as information professionals, we provide "instruction" or help and assistance so that our clients can function independently as learners.

The school librarian's role is similar but the new AASL Guidelines developed by school library information professionals include a different focus. The goal, as public librarians, of helping patrons become independent learners, is the same, but for the school librarian, the factors of the standards and the teacher come into play. The school librarians must work closely with the teachers to develop inquiry lessons that address the content standards and the standards for the 21st Century learner. Together they must create lessons with higher level questioning that will provide an opportunity for the students to share what they know, ask intriguing questions about

what they don't know, investigate the answers to those questions, construct new meanings, create new knowledge, and communicate this new knowledge and their new understanding to others.

This is not easy but as instructional leaders in the school, librarians will be able to accomplish this daunting task. The trick is convincing the teachers and other members of the learning community that this is what needs to be accomplished in order to help the students achieve their academic potential.

As this discussion was taking place, I noticed that one MLIS student was sitting there and mumbling something under his breath. I asked him what he was saying and he replied, "Well it would be nice if the school librarians would let us know what the teachers' assignments are." KABOOM! That was like an elephant in the middle of the room and brings up a good point. We must work together in helping our students and our patrons become independent learners – School librarians need to talk to their public librarians and public librarians need to talk with their school librarians – Maybe they could even meet with each other for coffee, lunch, or dinner, and discuss the school curriculum, the order of school assignments that the students have, and how the two organizations can work together. This will lay the ground work for continued collaboration throughout the year.

As discussions go when there are different types of librarians in the room, we shared information about our two state associations. This state had an organization for the school people and one for the public librarians. They didn't mention the special or academic librarians, which was interesting. Their model was similar to what we had in Colorado with CLA and CEMA. The audience was extremely interested in our model having all types of librarians, and asked me how it worked.

I was proud to share with them the great organization we have in Colorado and how we all collaborate and work together. One of their concerns was that they have two different conferences and basically have a hard time knowing what each organization is doing. I told them about our upcoming conference, the keynote speakers including Camila Alire, ALA President, and Ann  
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## President's Message

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Martin, outgoing president from AASL. I explained Governor Ritter would be coming to receive a legislative award and would be speaking to all of us as a group at our business meeting. Although they were quite excited for us, I'm sure they won't be able to hop on a plane and join us, although I did invite them. They are sending us positive thoughts for a dynamic conference, with excellent keynote sessions, and numerous opportunities to network. They wistfully expressed that it would be wonderful to have all of the information professionals in their state at one conference so that they could actually communicate with each other.

So take advantage of what we are truly fortunate to have....a professional opportunity to join the other information professionals in Colorado by attending our annual conference. I encourage you to take advantage of this great time we have to talk, share, communicate, and network with each other at our upcoming conference. If you haven't registered yet, please do and join us as we explore how we continue to "Power On" into the 21st Century.

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## CASL Members. . .

Did you recently receive a complimentary issue of *Library Media Connection* (LMC) magazine, the October 2009 issue?

LMC's editors want to support the work of school librarians in Colorado with this free copy and a special subscription offer.

LMC and Colorado's school library leaders developed a special subscription offer to help you stretch your limited budget during this especially challenging time. To subscribe at the discounted rate, use the postage-paid business reply card in the issue, your renewal letter, or a new purchase order. Be sure to write Special Offer Code 9CO0509 on the order to claim this special price arranged by your state leadership. The offer is available through November 15, 2009 for new or renewal subscribers. It cannot be combined with other offers. If you prefer, fax your order to 937-890-0221 or call 1-800-607-4410. To mail your subscription, use *Library Media Connection*; PO Box 204; Vandalia, OH 45377.

**Have a change of address? Let us know!**

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## Are You a Volunteer?

**By Erica MacCreagh, CAL Conference Volunteer Coordinator 2009**



The Colorado Association of Libraries' 2009 Power On annual conference is just a month away and we are looking for volunteers to help make this our best conference yet!

To help those of you who may still be wondering if you're the person we're looking for, consider the following:

If you get a charge out of working in a fun, friendly environment...you might be a CAL volunteer.

If answering questions and solving problems gives you a warm fuzzy feeling inside ...you might be a CAL volunteer.

If your day is made by making computers bend to your will ...you might be a CAL volunteer.

If greeting people and pointing them in the right direction brings a smile to your face...you might be a CAL volunteer.

Anyone registered for the CAL conference can be a CAL volunteer. After you've registered, just click on the volunteer link in your confirmation email, and tell us what you'd like to do and when you're available to help.

There are volunteer opportunities at the registration desk, cyber café, ticketed events, exhibits hall, preconferences, and workshops. You can even ask to be scheduled with a friend.

All CAL volunteers will receive a \$10 refund off their conference registration fee. (Refunds will be issued at the conference.) Sign up today - we look forward to seeing you!

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## News From Around CLiC

**By Lisa Priebe**

### I'm An Online Learner

The Colorado State Library and CLiC are pleased to announce the development of a new online learning opportunity through a program called I'm An Online Learner, [www.clicweb.org/Learner](http://www.clicweb.org/Learner). You have access to hundreds of online classes through WebJunction for the amazing subsidized cost of \$10 each. Classes were developed by SkillSoft, LE@D, and University of Illinois. Consider becoming an Online Learner today!

## Visit the Tech Petting Zoo at conference!



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## Paralibrarian Update

*Submitted by Lynda Hoffmann and Jennifer Luper*

The CAL Conference 2009: Power On! Avenues for the Future will soon be upon us with amazing opportunities for continuing education, professional development, and networking. The CAL Paralibrarian Division Board endorses the following sessions that are sure to be of special interest and benefit to Colorado's paralibrarians:

- Friday, Nov. 20th, 10:15 AM - Planning, Implementing, and Re-Designing Projects in Libraries
- Friday, Nov. 20th, 1:45 PM - Web 2.0 Tools, Diversity, and YOUR Library
- Friday, Nov. 20th, 1:45 PM - Innovative Library Strategies for Immigrant and Refugee Integration
- Friday, Nov. 20th, 3:15 PM - Top Twelve Innovations in Colorado Libraries
- Friday, Nov. 20th, 3:15 PM - Rural connections : Get 'er done in a 2.0 world.
- Saturday, Nov. 21st, 10:45 AM - Make Big Money In Your Pajamas? How E-Learning and Distance Education Can Really Help You and Your Library, Even If Small, Rural, Understaffed Or Strapped for Money and Time.
- Saturday, Nov. 21st, 2:00 PM - Putting Information Into Health Literacy

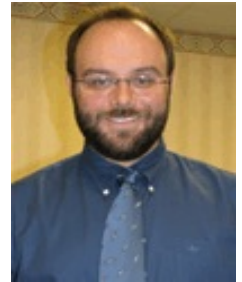
If you will be going to the CAL conference, please attend the Paralibrarian Division business meeting on Friday, 11:30-12:15. (Room number to be announced.) New officers will be inducted at the meeting and we are giving away a CAL membership as a door prize! We hope to see you there!

Mark your calendars now for the Paralibrarian Division's Spring Workshop and "Come to the LUAU" (Libraries Using Advocacy for Understanding) which will be held March 31st at the Community College of Aurora.. More information to come!

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## CoASL Update

*By Stephen Sweeney, CoASL President*



As the Colorado Association of Special Libraries (CoASL) will be going into its third year in existence with a change in leadership at the annual CAL conference, let's look back at what we've accomplished in the past year.

Bringing our membership together has been a goal this year. To this end, the Association began a low-traffic listserv back in December 2008. While this is definitely a work in progress, most of our members have opted to subscribe to the list! Also, CoASL hosted a number of association-wide meetings this year, beginning with the CAL conference back in November 2008.

In February, we visited the Colorado Railroad Museum Library, and had the opportunity to explore the riches of the railroading history of our state. A (very successful!) Spring Workshop was held in April at the American Alpine Club Library facility. We were blessed with a nice enough day to hold some of our day's events outside! Bringing the year (almost) to a close, we held our most recent meeting at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science's Library.

Many, many thanks to all of the host libraries and to the CoASL membership for hosting our meetings, and attending them!

Be sure to vote before October 21st! We have a great slate of officers lined up for the 2009-10 year, with Jenny Stevens from the USGS Library coming in as our President, and Victoria West-Pawl from CSU-Global as our incoming President-Elect. We look forward to seeing you at the conference!

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**Register for  
the CAL  
Conference  
by  
November 1!**

# MPLA (Mountain Plains Library Association) Update

*Submitted by Mary Katherine Katzer, CAL Liaison to MPLA*

After nearly three years, the MPLA Leadership Institute will return April 25-30, 2010. Factors, such as lack of sponsorships, rising costs, changes in Institute personnel, and a desire to assess the program contributed to the break. Input from all 12 MPLA member states pointed overwhelmingly to reviving the Leadership Institute.

Many changes are being made with the intent of continuing the caring approach to nurturing library leadership in the Mountain Plains region. Some of the changes are big: 1) The Institute will move from Ghost Ranch in New Mexico to YMCA of the Rockies near Estes Park in Colorado. This will allow the costs to stay down and will provide easier access for participants. 2) The applicant criteria have changed dramatically to allow a greater mix of library leadership experience within the Institute, providing many more colleagues the chance to apply for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Many things have remained the same: renowned library trainer and consultant, Maureen Sullivan, will facilitate this Institute, as she has all previous ones; a group of experienced leaders will be serving as mentors, representing a variety of library organizations; the cost to participants will stay the same; and each state will have the opportunity to recommend at least 2 participants for the Institute.

Registration cost for MPLA members is \$450; non-MPLA members \$550. This includes room and all meals. Attendees pay for their own transportation costs. Individual libraries, state libraries, and state associations have assisted attendees with registration and/or transportation costs in the past. It is up to the individual attendees to pursue these or other sources of financial assistance. Thirty participants will be selected through a process involving state representatives and the MPLA Leadership Institute Committee. Notifications will be sent February 1, 2010.

For more information visit the MPLA Leadership Institute site <<http://www.mpla.us/leadership/index.html>> or take a look at the October 2009 <<http://www.mpla.us/documents/newsletter/october2009.pdf>> MPLA Newsletter.

The MPLA joint conference with the Oklahoma Library Association will be in Oklahoma City April 19-21, 2010. Conference sessions and poster sessions are currently being selected. Watch the MPLA Web site for information regarding the conference.

Look for MPLA at the CAL conference!

# CoLIG Update

*By Lyda Ellis, Chair*

The Colorado Library Instruction Interest Group held its August Brown Bag at the University of Denver's Penrose Library. The meeting began with lunch and a meet and greet with librarians from around the state.

Attendees were treated to a tour of Penrose Library; the tour highlighted the rare book collection and the Research Center. The August Brown Bag was another great opportunity for instruction librarians to come together and share best practices!

During the "cool tools show & tell" Carrie Forbes demonstrated the use of the SMART Board for library instruction, which she says is a great way to keep students interested during the sessions. Lynne Fox (UC Denver Anschutz Medical Campus) presented on Pan-Opto which is being used at Anschutz to record classes. Lyda Ellis (UNC) presented on the use of Jing and Screenjelly, two screen capture tools that are freely available on the web; she also showed Embedr, a free tool that allows a user to create video playlists from video sites on the web. Lorrie Evans (UC Denver) showed how UC Denver librarians are using Google Docs to create and embed surveys.

If you are interested in joining COLIG please visit our Web page (<http://www.cal-webs.org/interestg9.html>). The next meeting will be on Friday at the CAL Conference from 11:30-12:15. COLIG hosts two Brown Bags each year, one in May and one in August.

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