

## Colorado State Library

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### **Colorado Libraries Move in New Direction**

Colorado's libraries have a history of statewide collaboration to address planning and development. One way this collaboration is demonstrated is through advisory groups to the Colorado State Library, Colorado Department of Education. In 2002, the Colorado Library Advisory Board was formed, which merged two previous boards with wide-ranging representation from libraries and citizens.

At the November 30, 2006, meeting of the Colorado Library Advisory Board, after open discussion, the Colorado Library Advisory Board (CoLAB) voted to dissolve as an advisory board.

Board members felt a reallocation of time, energy and resources to other activities will be more effective than the present structure.

An ad hoc committee was formed to find meaningful mechanisms for citizen and library involvement to set goals and identify desirable projects. Eugene Hainer, Director of the Colorado State Library, said, "The ad hoc committee and I agree these voices from libraries and citizens are important. We will seek ways to build this into post-CoLAB structures, whether by formal means as before, or informal through the library community."

There is no state or federal mandate for an advisory board, he said. However, planning will be underway to facilitate the flow of communication with library representatives, essential for the state agency to respond to Colorado's needs.

"A new five-year plan required in 2007 by the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services presents an ideal time to reexamine how the Colorado State Library gathers input from and addresses the needs of the library community," he said.

The Colorado State Library, Colorado Department of Education, is a service agency providing professional development, continuing education, distribution of federal and state library funds, and Internet-based services to residents and libraries.

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