

- Represented the Colorado Department of Education and State Library in a joint effort with the Colorado Humanities and Center for the Book at the National Book Festival in Washington, DC. Colorado materials including posters, bookmarks, coloring sheets by Colorado authors and/or illustrators, and literary magazines were distributed to the participants.
- A state-wide committee unanimously accepted the national “Standards for the 21st Century Learner” as part of an ongoing project to revise the Colorado school library standards. The standards committee continues to meet to develop the following:
 - Vision Statement and strategic plan
 - A Learners Bill of Rights
 - Tiered school library program standards

Institutional Library Service

- Purchased library materials to promote reading and improve literacy among Colorado’s incarcerated youth and support their success in the classroom. A Division of Youth Corrections teacher reported, “On the last [reading] test this month nearly every student’s reading level had increased over their prior scores! We have been doing a book club every Friday where students share about the books they are reading. The kids are reading more books, more challenging books, and scores are going up!”
- Purchased materials to support the reentry, education, and literacy goals of youth and adults incarcerated in the Department of Corrections. 91% of these offenders used their prison libraries, checking out more than 611,500 materials and visiting their libraries more than 456,000 times.
- Provided professional development workshops and training for 59 library staff in 34 state-operated youth and adult correctional facilities and mental health institutions.
- Partnered with Department of Corrections and public librarians to assist offenders in their efforts to succeed upon release into the community. Library materials in skill areas known to reduce recidivism were purchased for use by more than 13,000 offenders, and workshops were provided to more than 100 librarians so they could better serve those recently released from prison into their communities.
- Produced *Out for Life*, a DVD for offenders to learn about ways in which their prison library and librarian can help them plan for release, and ways in which libraries in the community can continue to assist post-release. One offender commented, “[The librarian] helped me find contacts in the area I’m paroling to and prepare resumes for my future employment.”
- Provided large print materials to residents in Colorado State Veterans Nursing Homes.

Internet contacts:

Colorado State Publications Library < www.cde.state.co.us/stateinfo/ >
 Colorado Talking Book Library < www.myctbl.org >
 CSL Staff/Contact Information < www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/staff.htm >
 < www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/slstaff.htm >
 Institutional Library Services < www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/slinstit.htm >
 Library Community Programs, Community Relations & Outreach
 < www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/sloutreach.htm >
 Library Development Services < www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/LibDev/index.htm >
 Library Research Service < www.lrs.org >
 Networking and Resource Sharing < www.coloradovirtuallibrary.org/ >
 Public Library Issues and Programs
 < www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/LibDev/PubLib/publibrary.htm >
 School Library Media Issues and Programs
 < www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/LibDev/SchoolLib/slschool.htm >

Libraries: Transforming Lives, Building Communities

There was a statement in last year’s Colorado State Library annual report: “libraries play a crucial role within their communities as the key provider of information in all formats, for all needs.”

A recent publication by OCLC however, suggests that libraries would be better off deemphasizing the information role and focusing ‘transformational’ services such as teen programs, computer training, and family or early literacy classes, which it says, go largely unnoticed by the general public.

The report notes that people rarely know how libraries are funded or how they struggle with cuts to funding, hours, staff, and services. While the study focuses on public libraries, all types experience the pressure of limited funding, reduced administrative support, and how to remain viable in a world seemingly obsessed with online innovations.

This study highlights what many library staff know: we have competitors—many of whom do a better job of providing information than libraries. Despite numerous marketing campaigns, libraries are still seen as book places.

While not a blueprint for how to change, it offers insight about “rebranding” the library role by addressing the challenges people face in their communities and how the library can help eliminate those challenges.

Rebranding is not something undertaken lightly, especially in the statute-driven environment of an agency such as the State Library. This past year has been spent absorbing a number of changing directions under the new leadership of Commissioner Jones. His *Forward Thinking* plan has been both a blessing and a challenge, and resulted in a number of internal changes that have yet to reach full resolution.

The CSL staff has bravely followed the many ebbs and floes of this plan while attempting to meld current and future responsibilities with the moving target of organizational change. I appreciate and am indebted to their efforts and cooperation.

Ultimately, the changes we are engaged in relate to the OCLC report’s conclusion: it’s important to make a difference in people’s lives. As you read this summary of last year’s State Library activities, remember our mission revolves around assuring that we make a difference in your lives so that you can transform the lives of those around you.

We will continue to build on this common ground in the coming year.

Eugene Hainer, Executive Director
 Colorado State Library
 Colorado Department of Education

*From Awareness to Funding [.] A study of library support in America. 2008, Dublin, OH. www.oclc.org/us/en/reports/funding/default.htm

FUNDING INFORMATION FY 2006–2007 Colorado State Library Budget Expenses

State: Library Program Support	
Personnel Services and Operating	\$ 142,734
Consulting Services to Libraries	\$ 289,926
Colorado Virtual Library (ACLIN)	\$ 359,796
Total	\$ 792,456
Federal Library Services and Technology Act: Library Program Support	
Personnel Services and Operating	\$1,360,436
Consulting Services to Libraries	\$ 316,939
Technology and Automation	\$ 393,427
Total	\$2,070,802
Colorado Talking Book Library	
State	\$ 349,009
Federal	\$ 235,952
Other Funds (Trust, Donations)	\$ 162,517
Total	\$ 747,478
Colorado State Publications Library	
State	\$ 175,906
Federal	\$ 88,577
Total	\$ 271,994
Distribution and Pass-Through Programs: State	
Audio Information Network of Colorado	\$ 150,000
National Federation for the Blind	\$ 50,000
Colorado Library Consortium	\$1,000,000
Total	\$1,200,000
Grants to Libraries: Federal Library Services and Technology Act	
Local Projects	\$ 204,807
Statewide Projects	\$ 50,075
Total	\$ 254,882

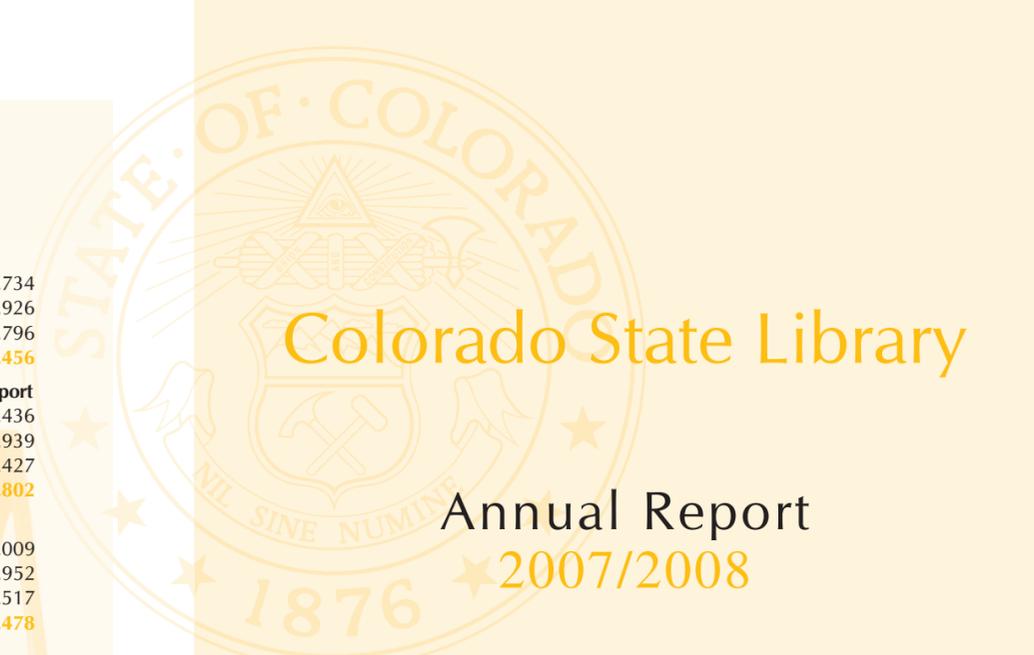


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Colorado State Library

Annual Report
 2007/2008

LIBRARIES:
 TRANSFORMING
 LIVES, BUILDING
 COMMUNITIES

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Colorado State Publications Library

- Provided permanent public access to state agency publications for Colorado residents through the library in Denver and the depository system throughout the state. In this regard, received 5,508 new publications from state agencies.
- Answered many reference questions on topics such as horned lizard, mining, hunting, oversight for the Department of Corrections, and state labor law.
- Received 27,257 searches on the Online Public Access Catalog for the library and 52,967 site visits on the State Publications website.
- Digital documents are becoming popular and the number accessed during the year was 15,693.
- The Colorado State Publications Library had a total of 89,732 patron services contacts and 6,970 by the depositories.
- The Colorado State Publications Library Blog, created to share information on timely topics and links to state publications, continues to be popular with 7,660 visits during the year. Visit at www.cospl.blogspot.com/

Colorado Talking Book Library

- Provided free library service to 13,238 print-disabled Coloradans with 707 additional institutional accounts across the state, representing an 8% increase for both patron types.
- Circulated over 327,000 audio books, 12,000 large print books and 3,000 Braille books through its free mailing service of library materials.
- Welcomed the assistance of over 190 volunteers, who donated 17,000 hours of time to the library, the equivalent of 8 full-time employees.
- Received 8,276 hits on the Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) for the library, resulting in 29,111 searches.
- Hosted a 9Health Fair on April 15 at the library that focused on people with visual impairments and doubled the number of participants from the previous year.
- CTBL was represented at 50 outreach and vision support groups during the year, including seven 9Health Fairs throughout the metro area and Pueblo.

Library Community Programs/Outreach

- Expanded on the work done with the Special Populations Committee in 2007–2008 by developing a website with resources for libraries and staff, and holding a summit: *Diversity Connects*. The summit gathered together 105 participants from 40 different libraries to attend workshops, share ideas about serving and communicating with diverse populations, network, recruit and work with diverse staff. The program offered the opportunity to discover new statewide promising practices and assess where services are needed.
- Strengthened the statewide support group for libraries and their advocates, Library People—Friends of Colorado Libraries, which provided unrestricted grants to several small/rural libraries, hosted a silent auction, provided technical assistance to libraries.
- The Communications Consultant for the Colorado State Library worked with various literacy organizations throughout the year to provide online and in person information. The Colorado State Library helped organize a committee called Colorado Libraries for Early Literacy (CLEL) which includes public library youth services staff from throughout Colorado. CLEL provides training, mentoring, support and advocacy for Every Child Ready to Read programs throughout Colorado. A study and Fast Facts “Colorado Public Libraries Help Children Get Ready to Read” was published in May 2008.

Library Research Service

- Provided support and development of LibraryJobline.org as it moves into its second year of operation. This online job listing service allows the Colorado library community to post and search for jobs 24/7. As of June 2008, Library Jobline had 770 listings that comprised 968 jobs. In addition, over 300 users registered as employers and more than 750 job seekers had registered for MyJobline, benefiting from the customized profiles to set-up searches and receive email notification of new job postings. Features added to the service this year include “Hot Posts” (most viewed jobs), map of open job postings, RSS feed, and the immensely popular wage calculator. LibraryJobline.org received 313,000 annual visits by nearly 7,000 unique visitors each month. Statistics mined from the Library Jobline data can be found in the LRS Fast Facts, “LibraryJobline.org—The First Year.”
- Continued to provide statistics and data analysis tools to help library leaders and advocates evaluate their library, frame the discussion about the role of the library in their community, and talk about their library in quantifiable terms. Online resources for analyzing library data include the LRS Interactive (LRS-i) tools: the Public Library Peer Comparison, the School Library Peer Comparison, and the Academic Library Historical Analysis.
- Collected and analyzed statistics for the Public Library Annual Report and the School Library Survey, reporting them online in various formats including LRS-i, Input-Output Measures, Benchmarks, Total and Averages, and School Library Profiles.
- Developed content and tools for LRS.org, including six online tutorials—from “Getting Started” to “Data Use & Reporting”—to assist public library directors in completing their annual reports. Introduced in 2004, the LRS blog continues to be a popular resource for information about library research and receives nearly 500 page views per month. LRS.org had more than 218,000 annual visits by almost 14,000 unique visitors each month.
- During the third year of the research project, “What’s It Worth to You? A Return-on-Investment Study of Selected Colorado Public Libraries,” published individual library reports, developed a patron and a library ROI calculator, and presented research findings to various library groups. To date, the patron ROI calculator has received over 1,800 uses. The ROI study showed an average return on investment for the eight participating libraries of five to one, meaning that for every \$1 tax payers invested in those libraries they received an average of \$5.00 in value.
- Published eight editions of Fast Facts with topics ranging from “CSAP Scores Higher in Schools with Staffed Libraries” to “Public Libraries Respond Positively to Changing Information Needs.” Also evaluated the statewide 24/7 online reference service and published selected findings in the Fast Facts “AskColorado Customer Satisfaction High as Usage Continues to Increase.”



Networking and Resource Sharing

- Development of the Colorado Historic Newspaper Collection (CHNC) continued to grow. Contents expanded to include 120 newspapers published from 1859 to 1930, representing nearly 470,000 digitized pages. Users viewed more than 3.4 million historic articles, ads, and pictures. Work on migration to a new version of the system is underway, promising a cleaner user interface and improved functionality. Also underway this year: negotiations with Google. Once complete, CHNC would be included as one of the search targets for users of the Google News Archive service, promising greater visibility and increased use of the website among visitors worldwide.
- Established a robust production schedule for Plinkit, a template-based website toolkit that enables participating public libraries to produce an intuitive, dynamic website for free. To date, 20 public library websites have been produced and are hosted on the central Plinkit server, with an additional 16 libraries in line for future development. The web is a core technology for libraries to reach and serve their users; the Plinkit service levels the playing field for small public libraries that lack the resources to produce their own sophisticated websites. Plinkit provides this tool (and associated training) for libraries while requiring minimal effort or technical expertise for staff members at those libraries.
- Improved outreach for SWIFT—StateWide Interlibrary loan Fast Track—by establishing a new program of rotating town-hall-style meetings. SWIFT remains effective in making collections available for interlibrary loan and lowering costs for participating libraries. With 370 libraries profiled and trained, more than 90,000 interlibrary loan requests were processed. Lending rates for libraries continues to increase, meaning more library materials reach more library users.
- The AskColorado 24/7 virtual reference service enjoyed a fifth consecutive year of operation. More than 300 librarians from 67 libraries collaborated to provide this statewide service to Colorado’s residents. Librarians have answered more than 208,000 questions on-line since the inception of the site. Approximately 55% of the services’ questions came from K–12 students. The service currently is maxed out, requiring additional investment in order to evolve and grow.
- Led research and discussion about the viability of a statewide ILS (Integrated Library System) based on open-source software. Responding to widespread library interest and capitalizing on this emerging hot topic among libraries nationally, a transparent and inclusive process for studying the pros, cons and costs of such a system was developed. The result of the study was a whitepaper, which now serves as a resource and foundation for ongoing discussion among library stakeholders across Colorado.
- Participated in and facilitated the establishment of a new statewide “database package” through the AIRS (Acquisition of Information Resources Statewide) committee. The package is being subsidized by \$1M in newly-appropriated state funds and offers high-value content to users of participating school, public and academic libraries. Planning is underway to coordinate statewide marketing and training efforts, with an eye toward ensuring that visibility for these resources increases and that use among library patrons rises.

- Continued a planning process to inform the design of a “next generation” Colorado Virtual Library (CVL). The goal is to create integrated online services and resources that are better matched to the evolving needs of libraries and their users.
- Within the 2007 federal E-rate program, 164 Colorado libraries or library consortia received commitment for nearly \$610,000 in funds while schools and childcares received commitment for more than \$18,322,000 to subsidize basic phone service and Internet connectivity.

Public Libraries

- Provided access for public libraries to the 45-state Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) consortium. This service provides high-quality summer reading program materials for children at the lowest cost possible. Five summer reading workshops were conducted for youth services librarians throughout the state. 112 libraries and over 204,000 children and teens registered for summer reading programs in 2007. Mini-grants were awarded to 61 libraries, many small and rural, to expand and enhance of summer reading program participation.
- Continued partnership with Dominican University, Johns Hopkins University—Center for Summer Learning, and the Texas State Library and Archives in a National Leadership Grant from IMLS, investigating the topic “Do Public Library Summer Reading Programs Impact Student Achievement?” The study will publish results early in 2009.
- Trustee workshops and strategic planning session were conducted featuring basic trusteeship, ethics, rights and responsibilities, library law, the Open Meetings Law, and the policy governance model. Over 50 members of public library boards participated.
- Provided a specialized “Rural Roundup” workshop for directors and technology staff from 27 small and medium rural libraries. Participants received information and shared ideas on technology-based library services. Funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation grant for Rural Library Sustainability.

School Libraries

- Presented professional development workshops in more than 15 locations, offering, training, and conference presentations that reached more than 500 school librarians, teachers, specialists, and administrators. Presentation topics included library instruction using assessments, collection development, information literacy, integrating and transforming schools with the 21st century skills, collaboration, the Power Libraries Program, and the new Standards for the 21st Century Learner.
- Conference presentations included the Colorado Association of Libraries Conference, American Association of School Librarians Conference, Colorado Association of School Librarians Pre-Conference, Technology In Education Conference, Colorado Association of School Executives Conference, and the Southern Colorado Educator’s Conference.
- Developed and promoted quality school libraries through the Power Libraries Program, which provides coaching for, and recognizes the role that excellent school library programs play in student achievement. 48 High Performance School Libraries and 32 Developing School Libraries participated this year.
- Worked in conjunction with Deb Levitov (Lincoln, Nebraska) to develop extensive resources and training materials for the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) Advocacy Committee. Presented the Advocacy Institute at the national conference in Reno in October 2007. This national forum reaches thousands of librarians, and helps teach school librarians about advocacy.