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News Release

Plinkit Receives National Award

The Plinkit Collaborative, a national cooperative organization behind the Plinkit Web site hosting system, has received an achievement award from the Center for Digital Government, a national research and advisory institute on information technology policies and best practices in state and local government. The Colorado State Library, part of the Colorado Department of Education, is one of four founding members of the Plinkit Collaborative.

These annual Digital Government Achievement Awards showcase progressive and innovative Web sites and digital applications by government entities worldwide. The awards are judged by a panel of experts on a wide range of categories, including site accessibility, innovation, cost-savings, ease of use and exceptional service to the public.

"To the Colorado State Library, Plinkit represents a sustainable, cost-effective means for serving libraries that lack the resources to manage their own Web sites," said Jim Duncan, chair of Plinkit Collaborative's national steering committee and administrative director for Colorado's Plinkit service. "Plinkit is a service that helps us partner directly with Colorado libraries. This award says as much about the can-do spirit of libraries in our state as it does the accomplishments of the Plinkit Collaborative."

"We congratulate the winners of this year's awards," said Cathilea Robinett, executive director of the Center for Digital Government. "They are terrific examples of first-rate ideas and collaboration on digital solutions which ultimately benefit citizens."

Libraries in Colorado hosted on the system in turn serve more than 150,000 residents of all ages. Plinkit system software lets libraries maintain rich Web sites without any technical expertise. Libraries that previously had no Web presence or that offered only a basic, static Web page can now connect with customers online, letting them search library catalogs and databases, view slide shows and videos, peruse event calendars and much more. Plinkit is especially valuable in rural areas where long distances and limited hours and staff time make it difficult for patrons to go to the library in person.

While Colorado's Plinkit service has focused primarily on public libraries, the service is beginning to diversify and grow strategically to include other types of libraries. In 2009, the team will begin to reach out to selected school libraries on a pilot-project basis.

Please contact Christine Kreger (kreger_c@cde.state.co.us) at the Colorado State Library for more information on Plinkit services or visit www.colibraries.org.

For more information, contact Mark Stevens, 303-866-3898, or Megan McDermott, 303-866-2334, in the CDE Office of Communications. To sign up for the CDE e-mail news service, please visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/index.html>.

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