

Pinal County Library District Newsletter

Director's Column

These are exciting times to be in the library business in Arizona. So much is happening, and there are limitless prospects ahead of us. I am speaking specifically of the strong leadership provided by GladysAnn Wells at the State Library. Last year's *ACTivate* Conference initiated a long-overdue conversation between libraries and museums to explore our common interests and learn to appreciate our differences. At a time when we are all challenged to make the most of tight budgets, this is an opportunity to share resources and skills in the common effort to preserve Arizona's cultural history.

The most recent development in this ongoing conversation occurred in Sierra Vista February 26-27 and again in Prescott on May 14-15. The Arizona Convocations were intended to bring together administrators, curators, librarians, archivists, and historians from all over the state to identify ways to collaborate for the acquisition, preservation, and improved access to unique Arizona research materials.

May/June 1999

The first step was the creation of the Arizona Cultural Inventory Project. At present, this consists of a spiral bound volume of the collection development policies and collection concentrations from libraries and museums around Arizona. It is a useful tool to identify what types of collections exist and where. This represents a major step toward our goal of cooperative resource sharing, and will help to make this information available to the public and other institutions in Arizona and outside our state.

At the Convocation held in Prescott, the keynote speaker was Milton Wolf, Senior Vice President of Collection Programs at the Center for Research Libraries. His speech, "*The Whole is Greater Than the Sum of Its Parts*" addressed the issue of institutions participating in cooperative collection development. Shrinking budgets and rising prices will make it impractical for each institution to try to collect all things. Rather, he stressed the importance of preserving and sharing that which is unique to our collections.

The breakout sessions offered participants an opportunity to pursue specific interests, such as cataloging and indexing, grant

opportunities, or preservation, etc. The Computerization/Networking/Digitization session sparked a lively discussion about the challenges of technology. We quickly discovered that libraries and museums have very different ideas about what "cataloging" is, and realized that there is a need to standardize.

There was much discussion over the issue of how to devise a cataloging system acceptable to both institutions, and many questions about how to access the collections. We also had much to debate between describing an item vs. a collection of items; i.e. a single photo or a collection of photos. Clearly, there are many issues to be resolved before the next steps can occur.

In the Resource Sharing breakout session, future tasks were identified including negotiation of copyright guidelines for magazines and newspapers so that digitized versions are accessible; digitization of our cultural inventory; and a skills bank/ resource directory.

Please be thinking about possible projects with your local museum or historical society. The possibilities are endless!

**REFERENCE &
OUTREACH
SERVICES**

The Pinal County Library District hosted a "Reference Triage" workshop on April 16. We had a great turnout, with attendees from our own county as well as from the Scottsdale and Phoenix areas. Barbara Robinson, Management Consultant for Robinson & Associates, Washington DC, spoke on the topic of "The Fine Art of Question Handling." She provided a conceptual framework for the Reference transaction, designed to help us "see" where we are within the question handling process. She also emphasized investing time upfront in understanding the patron's perceptions and expectations about the question and answer, in order to save time in the long run. Overall--a very informative and helpful workshop!

We are taking registration for another workshop in June, sponsored by the Arizona Department of Library, Archives, and Public Records. "Casting the Net: Internet Basics for Libraries" will be presented at the Central Arizona College Library on Friday, June 11, from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. The one-day course will give the complete novice a good conceptual grasp of the Internet, its tools, its resources and its users. The course is taught through the hands-on method in a computer lab situation. The attendees will come away with a good understanding of where the Internet has been, where it is today and its potential impact on computing and the information systems of the future. Space is limited, so register ASAP! Contact Antoinette at PCLD: 868-6457.

Ellen Fallon and myself attended a particularly helpful meeting of the Area Reference Librarians Association (ARLA) in Phoenix on May 13. We met at the Maricopa County Superior Court Law Library in Phoenix; discussion was centered around legal resources available on the Internet. I will be sending copies of the handouts to all our affiliates.

*Linda Shaw
Reference/Outreach Services*

WEB SITE OF THE MONTH

DeskRef: Sources for Quick Answers -

<http://www.rcls.org/deskref/>

A great index to reference resources on the Web, organized alphabetically by subject, from "Biography" to "Writing." Check it out!

CATALOGING CORNER

As most of you are now aware, we have a new computer technician. Frank McCue has joined our staff and will be around to meet all of you in the near future. I think he is doing a marvelous job so far, having managed to get my computer back to a point where I can again load bib records, after the disaster of trying to put Windows 98 on it.

We will be holding a contest to find a significant local name for our OPAC. Tentatively, the plan is to allow each library to hold a contest locally, starting in August,

and submit a finalist before Halloween. We will then take the finalists to AzLA on Nov. 1 and select a disinterested panel of judges to choose one. Local libraries are to provide local prizes with one large prize awarded by the county for the final winner. We are forming committees to handle the details. We currently have committees for Rules, Publicity, Judges, & the Prize. If you are interested in helping out please contact me and I will pass your name on to the appropriate committee.

*Ellen Fallon
Technical Services*

INNOPAC TIPS AND TRICKS

When adding your item record to a bib that has other attached item records you can select an already existing item record, then press + ADDITIONAL options, and select N> NEW ITEM using old info. Then you can modify the existing item record with your information and location code without having to re-enter much of the existing information.

NEWS AROUND THE COUNTY:

APACHE JUNCTION: This year's **Summer Reading Program** will begin May 25 and end July 17, 1999. "Blaze a trail with books...Read Arizona!" will be the theme for young readers and listeners. "Read Arizona under the stars!" will be the theme for young adults. Special events

will take place on Tuesdays as follows:

May 25 - **Read Arizona Kick-off celebration!** 4:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. - A Western Roundup of fun things to do when you come in to the library to register for the summer reading program. Visit different booths for a variety of activities, such as vest making, face painting and games. Sample Western foods and more!! At 6:30 p.m., **Tom Marcellino** will present a special program on snakes. He will bring his rattlesnake and king snake.

June 1 - **Arizona Yo-Yo Company**, 1:00 p.m. - Introductory program about yo-yos. This will cover the history, basic tricks, and safety. 2:30 p.m. - **Yo-yo competition** for those who are more skilled. Win prizes! Registration required.

June 8 - **Conrad Storad, AZ author of children's books**, 1:00 p.m. Puppet show for pre-schoolers through second graders, based on his two newest books, "Lizards for Lunch" and "Don't Call Me Pig." 3:00 p.m. - **"Fangs and stingers"** program about critters native to Arizona. For third graders and up.

June 15 - **Puppet Pizzazz** presents "Southwest Showdown - Arizona Pride" at 1:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. There will be two performances of this unique show, which includes marionettes, puppeteers, and ventriloquists.

June 22 - **"String Sounds,"** 1:00 p.m. An innovative combination of music and children's literature! After the presentation, there will be "hands-on" time with musical instruments for the audience.

June 29 - **Summerdog** will visit from Tucson at 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. Stories about a cow who knows how to give chocolate milk, ice cream and eggnog, a curious muse, and a bull who loves flowers! Stick around and learn how to design a cattle brand from your own initials on a life-sized erasable cow. Then make your own brand to take home.

Drop-in Storytimes will be held on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. from May 26 through July 14. No registration required.

Movies will be shown on Thursdays in the library program room. 10:00 a.m. for listeners and readers, 1:00 p.m. for young adults.

Teens - join the **Library Team!** Once again we need lots of help from students entering 7th grade and older to assist with the Summer Reading Program. Applications are available now. Come in and apply! Applications are due in the youth services department by Saturday, May 15, at noon. Interviews will be scheduled when applications are turned in.

Scholastic Book Fair will be here from May 25 through June 1. This will be a special "Buy one - get one free!" book fair.

Red Cross Babysitting Workshop: The Friends of the Library will sponsor this 2-day workshop on June 7 and 8 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. A certified Red Cross instructor will present the program. Students will be trained in CPR and First Aid. The course is designed for students 11 to 15 years of age. The \$30.00 fee is due upon registration at the Friends of the Library Book

Nook, located just inside the library doors.

ARIZONA CITY: We are still having our **GED classes** every Tuesday and Thursday evening. The last class will be May 13. One student has already received his GED diploma, one has taken parts of the test, and there are several that are almost ready to take the test in May. CAC has tentatively scheduled us for classes starting in August.

We are still writing grants to help support and keep the library open to the public.

Our **Summer Reading Program** will be in June this year on each Tuesday and Thursday morning. Amelia Alvarez will coordinate it again this year.

We are still working on getting our books into the computer. It is taking a long time to manually key 10,000 items into the computer accurately. But it will get done eventually.

We are planning to have an ice cream social or something like that in late May or June for the residents of Arizona City.

CASA GRANDE: May 27: Book selection for **"Writers of the Purple Sage"** will be Tularosa by Michael McGarrity. 11:00 p.m. - 12:30 p.m. in the library meeting room. Paperback copies of the book are available for purchase at the circulation desk. Readers should bring a lunch; beverage provided. From June through September, the books will be selected from a range of **"Oprah's Book Club"** titles; paperback copies of the

books will be available at the circulation desk.

The **1999 Summer Reading Club, "Read Arizona,"** for kids in grades Kindergarten through 5 begins on June 1 and will continue through the month; registration starts on May 24. Here are some of the activities to watch for:

"Teens Talk Books," a brown bag lunch and book discussion group for teens, Tuesdays from 12:00 p.m. -1:30 p.m. Book list and books available at the library beginning May 25.

Summer Stories for kids ages 3-6, Wednesdays from 2:00 p.m -2:40 p.m..

Books and Crafts for kids in grades K-2, Wednesdays (June 2, 9, and 16) from 3:30 p.m. -4:30 p.m.

Books and Crafts for kids in grades 3-5, Wednesdays (June 23 and 30) from 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Board Games and Puzzles. Kids are invited to come and play a variety of board games with their friends in the meeting room. Puzzles, too. Thursdays from 2:30 p.m. -4:30 p.m.

COOLIDGE: The month of April has been a very busy month. National Library Week was full of activities: the **Golden Book Hunt**, start up of the new system, **Library Skills Day**, **30th Anniversary Celebration**, and **Patron Appreciation Day**.

On Monday, April 12th the beginning of National Library Week we want to welcome Mike Lucie to our volunteer staff; Mike will be working in the library from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays.

Week, we started issuing the new cards and checking out on the new system. As staff gets more comfortable with the new system the process will be smoother and faster but so far our patrons have been understanding and even give words of encouragement.

Sandra and Lynette started a series of basic computer classes. These classes are very limited in space but so far have been a success. They are **Basic Microsoft Word**, **Basic Internet**, and **How to use Hotmail**.

During a two month period the library passed out a "How are we Doing" survey. As a result, we have had 117 replies with 34 request for extended hours. Therefore we have set up a trial period with the start date of May 17 for the hours to be as follows:

Monday & Wednesday: 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Tuesday & Thursday: 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Friday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Saturday: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

These new hours will be on a trial basis only. For these hours to stay permanent will depend upon how many citizens use the library during this time.

KEARNY: We had storyteller **Martin Rivera Jr.**, from Tucson, on Monday April 12 for National Library Week. With over 100 in

The library received a donation of hundreds of dollars of home improvement and woodworking books, along with

attendance, we had a standing room only crowd!

Also for National Library Week, we held a **poster contest** involving grades K-6 using the logo "Read, Learn, and Connect @ the Library. Books were given as prizes to winners in first, second, and third place for each grade level. Refreshments were served by the Friends of the Library, who also paid all other expenses for the evening. Plans are now underway for the **Summer Reading Program**, which will be held during the month of July.

MARICOPA: Linda Wilmeth attended the **"Cataloging Basics"** class held at Central Arizona College April 16 - 17. The class was a good refresher course and helpful for those who are unfamiliar with multi-volume editions of books such as Dewey Decimal and Library of Congress subject headings. The most fascinating part was the variety of libraries represented. Several were from public libraries: Maricopa, Casa Grande, Globe and Eloy; school library; two Botanical garden libraries; and 2-3 museums, one of which was an archeological library - they catalog rocks! Also attending were 3 students headed for their MLS degrees.

Our **Summer Reading Program** will be held from June 8th through July 1st, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to noon.

books on various computer programs and other worthwhile subjects. Kathleen and Pat Lacey also have donated a slide

projector and an overhead projector to the library. This is our season for mailing out donation request letters to our local businesses, and to date we have collected \$1500 from this source.

FY 99 Maricopa purchased a variety of resources for use in children's programming. Although these are listed as Reference, they are available to librarians, especially within the Pinal County Library District, by

ILL request. Several of these are published by Tot Line and are useful for those libraries who conduct pre-school programs.

Calendar of Events

May 24-28 – Paraprofessional Institute, University of Arizona, Tucson

May 25 – “What’s a Librarian To Do? The Filtering Dilemma,” 10:00 a.m. – Noon, Arizona State Courts Bldg., Phoenix

June 11 - "Casting the Net: Internet Basics for Libraries"
Central Arizona College Library, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

June 13-16 – MPLA Conference, Big Sky, Montana

June 18 - Systems Committee Meeting
Florence Community Library, 1:30 p.m.

June 24-July 1, ALA Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA