

Arizona Reading Program 2009

The Arizona Reading Program (ARP) provides resources that help public, school, and tribal librarians plan, promote, and implement summer reading programs. Started in 1974 by the Arizona State Library to help maintain and increase the reading skills of students during out-of-school times, the program has expanded and now helps families prepare preschoolers for reading through “Read to Me” programs. In 2009, an adult component was added, so that all ages are now included. Programming coordinated with the summer reading theme promotes library use by bringing additional children and parents into libraries.

The Arizona State Library participates in the Collaborative Summer Library Program, a consortium of 48 states and the District of Columbia working together to create summer reading program materials. A how-to manual and the materials for conducting a summer reading program were distributed to over 120 Arizona libraries. In those libraries, 174,903 parents, children and teens received reading program materials and attended related programs. In 2009, the State Library also made *Summer Reader* software available for libraries to offer their summer reading programs online.

Professional development workshops held in Flagstaff, Tucson, and Yuma assisted more than 150 library staff members in preparing for summer reading. In addition, showcases were offered at the Carnegie Center to give librarians the opportunity to meet with artists and performers, such as the Singing Cowboy (pictured) to select programs to promote reading in their communities.

