

## Arizona Reading Program

The Arizona Reading Program (ARP) provides resources that help 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-



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school times, the program has expanded and now also helps families prepare children for reading through a Baby Reading Program and Read to Me programs for preschoolers. 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 2009 theme was creativity: “Be Creative @ Your Library” (children); “Express Yourself @ Your Library” (teens); and “Master the Art of Reading” (adults).

The Arizona State Library participates in the Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP), a consortium of 49 states and the District of Columbia working together to create summer reading program materials. During summer 2009, 250,227 adults, children and teens received CSLP reading program materials and attended a total of 2,132 programs organized by their local libraries. The State Library also made *Summer Reader* software available for libraries to offer their summer reading programs online.

As soon as summer reading 2009 concluded, a how-to manual and the ordering materials were distributed to the 161 participating Arizona sites for summer 2010. In January and February 2010, professional development workshops held in Phoenix, Holbrook, Prescott Valley, Tucson, and Yuma assisted library staff members statewide in preparing for summer reading. In addition, a showcase was held at the Carnegie Center to give librarians the opportunity to meet with artists and performers who offer programs for libraries to promote reading in their communities. A total of 256 library staff members attended these six networking and professional development opportunities.