



**ARIZONA STATE
LIBRARY, ARCHIVES AND PUBLIC RECORDS**

GladysAnn Wells, Director



May 1, 2007

Dear Legislative Member,

We would like to share some news with you from Library, Archives and Public Records.

Persistent Digital Archives and Library System

The Library of Congress announced that we are one of only four nationwide projects who will receive support from the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program to implement a multistate collaborative project to develop an automated curation and storage system for digital collections (funding available). A pilot of the system, built with federal funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, should be in operation later this year.

Library Staff Awarded for Work in Information Technology

Richard Pearce-Moses, our Deputy Director for Technology and Information Resources, was named the recipient of the American Library Association's Frederick G. Kilgour Award for Research in Library and Information Technology. The award, sponsored by the Library Information Technology Association and OCLC, celebrates innovative research that shows promise of a positive and substantive impact on the field. The award specifically recognizes Pearce-Moses' approaches to curating collections of government information published on the web, work that has been recognized internationally as the "Arizona Model."

Susan K. Martin, chair of the awards committee, made this announcement regarding the award, "The Kilgour Award Committee takes great pleasure in acknowledging the work contributions of Richard Pearce-Moses, whose work in the area of preservation of Web information resources, together with the blending of professional practices and new technologies, provides a conceptual shift in the thinking of the organization of large-scale collections of digital information." This work was funded by grants from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

State Survey Reveals Public Attitudes about Libraries

Last fall, the Social Research Laboratory at Northern Arizona University conducted a statewide telephone survey for the Library and Archives. Under a federal grant, a random sample of 1,202 adult residents of the state participated in the survey. The survey's executive summary states, "There is nearly unanimous understanding of the importance of public libraries." Other information from the survey revealed:

- 98% agree that "public libraries are needed because they provide free information."
- 93% agree that "public libraries are essential for maintaining a productive community."
- 65% have a library card for an Arizona Public Library
- Respondents averaged 10 in-person visits per year
- Respondents averaged 3 on-line visits per year

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Best Practices Exchange

May 2–4, we are hosting a national conference of state libraries and others working in the field of digital preservation, with special concern for state government information. The conference will provide those on the leading edge a chance to share lessons learned and exchange best practices. More than 125 participants representing 61 organizations from 32 states and Canada have registered. Participants include members of federal and state government, universities, historical societies and the private sector.

Talking Book Library Going Digital

The Arizona State Braille and Talking Book Library is going digital, the cassette player is being replaced by computer and software. The device delivering the technology will be about the size of a clock radio. The recorded material will be on a card similar to entry cards now used on door locks. Each year, over 11,000 talking-book cassettes are distributed – free of charge – to blind and visually impaired Arizona residents. The program is still in the development stage but production will start soon. For more information, please note the *Arizona Capitol Times* article, Talking Book Library Going Digital For The Blind, April 20,2007.

The Braille and Talking Book Division is hosting the NLS Western/Midlands Joint Biennial Conference of Talking Book Librarians May 15-18. The theme is "Mission Possible: Going Digital. Staff from the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress will unveil the new digital talking book player for use with audio books on flash cards that they will begin distributing in 2008. Conference participants will discuss issues relating to the transition to the new format and also other types of digital media available to users with disabilities.

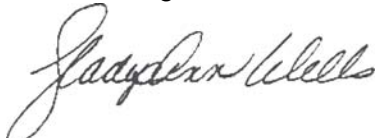
Library Development Division Hosts International Conference

Thinking Outside the Borders: Library Leadership in a World Community was the theme for an international conference funded through an Institute of Museum and Library Services grant and hosted by Library and Archives Library Development Division on February 18-20, 2007. Topics included *Leadership in an International World*, delivered by Bob Martin, professor at Texas Woman's University; *Leadership Characteristics*, delivered by Mary Ann Mavrinac, Chief Librarian at the University of Toronto; and *Today and Tomorrow*, delivered by Joan Clark from the Library Development Division.

State Legislature Hosts National History Day

Finally, we owe all the members of the State Legislature a big *Thank You!* for hosting National History Day. There were 330 students who participated, 100 judges, 30 teachers and at least 500 family members - almost 1,000 in total attendance! From a program which had a total of 45 students six years ago, this has grown tremendously in both quality and in numbers.

With warm regards,



GladysAnn Wells
State Librarian