NOLA Notes

NOLA and Libraries: Finding Solutions Together

Annual Membership Planning Meeting

NOLA Regional Library System is a strong, diverse community of libraries linked through cooperation and shared resources, constantly striving to meet the educational and informational needs of its members and the people they serve.

Today, NOLA member libraries are faced with more and more challenges, from economic issues to the rapid changes in technology. NOLA can help, but we need **YOU**.   Together, we will make decisions concerning our preferred future and develop strategies to move us in that direction.

Please join us on February 18, 2003, at the Avalon Inn and Resort as we plan our future **TOGETHER**. Come prepared to join the dialogue and bring your needs, ideas, and challenges for the future of NOLA and the communities we serve.

When: February 18, 2003
             12:00 noon—3:30 p.m.
             (registration begins at 11:30 a.m.)

Where: The Avalon Inn and Resort
             9519 East Market Street
             Warren, Ohio 44484

Cost: One member per library FREE.
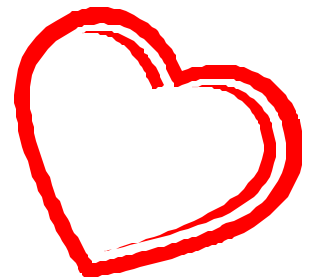   Additional members $10.00 each.

To register, visit www.nolanet.org by Thursday, February 13, 2003.

NOLA...preserving the past...enriching the present...reaching to the future

Special points of interest:

- Hidden Treasures of NOLA
- Mock Caldecott Anniversary

From the Director's Desk
Paul Pormen

Looking Forward - Looking Back

It is a cold January day as I write this column. I am reminded of the Roman god Janus for whom this month is named. Janus is described as the god of change, transitions, and new beginnings. He is often depicted with two faces -- one looking forward, the other backward. Symbolically, it signaled the need to balance our hopes for tomorrow with a keen awareness of what happened yesterday.

I thought of Janus because I believe that the NOLA Regional Library System is very much like Janus in that NOLA is in a time of "change, transitions, and new beginnings." This is particularly the case as we begin 2003 with the state budget cuts that now seem to come on a regular basis.

Looking Back – We had a good year. The NOLA Staff has emerged into a "lean team machine". We worked together, we worked harder, we worked with less financial resources and I believe that we served the NOLA membership better than ever. Here are a few of our many accomplishments:

- Grew the membership to 93 libraries
- NOLAVision – Installed Video Conferencing Equipment - First Regional to video conference with SLO at Board Meetings – First Regional to use video conferencing in CE programs – First Regional to Stream video instruction to membership – first Regional to produce streaming video programs – Developed the Performers Showcase video project
- Received the OPLIN Award for Innovation for the LISTENOhio program that now has over 1500 title.
- Held Legislative Forums and a Legislative Brunch to build a strong relationship with the legislators serving the NOLA community.
- Developed and proposed the Regional Wholesale/Retail agreement between Regionals.
- Expanded AskUsQuestions to 21 libraries.
- Implemented and completed the LSTA Grant *Mother Goose Early Literacy Outreach Project.*
- Implemented the NOLA Poster Printer Service.
- Held the largest ever Youth Services Symposium with 128 attendees.
- Worked with SLO, OLC and the Regional Library Systems to coordinate CE and a statewide CE Calendar.
- Saved the NOLA membership over $ 108,500.00 by implementing a group purchase of electronic databases.
- Completed the 2002 Salary Survey with 153 libraries participating.
- Renewed the NOLA Health Insurance Program for 2003.
- Created the NOLA Listserv and email hosting service.

We were able to do these things because you the membership identified need, supported innovation, encouraged creativity and actively participated in NOLA activities. The NOLA Board of Trustee supported *Team NOLA* by providing resources, encouraging new ideas and taking risks.

Looking Forward – 2003 already appears to be a year of *change, transitions, and new beginnings.* Many will see the budget issues as the biggest challenge. Certainly we cannot operate with out money, but I believe the greater challenge will be to continue to be the productive *lean team machine* we are. This means that we may have to change our way of thinking, reorganize our way of operating and transition to new ways of providing services so that NOLA continues to be the vibrant organization we are.
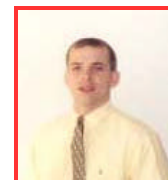
Think positive. When the fiscal crisis ends, and it will end, we want to emerge a stronger organization ready to meet the demands of a new time. We cannot let the emotions of the moment deter our mission of providing the best services to our members. Good planning now will build a foundation upon which NOLA will be able to construct a bright future for member libraries. The time to begin this process is now.

We will begin that process at the Annual Membership Planning Meeting on February 18, 2003. I would like to see every member represented as we face the challenges ahead. Please register your attendance at http://www.nolanet.org/eventdetail.cfm?ID=246

As Janus would say, this will be an opportunity for us to "balance our hopes for tomorrow with a keen awareness of what happened yesterday." Like Janus, I *look back* to each of you to help NOLA *look forward* to a bright future in 2003 and 2004 of renewed *change, transitions, and new beginnings.*

Technology News
Brad Stephens

Looking Under the Hood of Performer's Showcase

By the time that many of you read this you'll be receiving email and other promotional materials announcing one of NOLA's newest projects – The Performer's Showcase. I thought many of you out there in techie-land might find it useful and interesting to know how Showcase works, and to know a bit about some of the technologies behind the project.

Showcase centers around the delivery of streaming video clips showing performers from across the state demonstrating their skills and providing libraries with a chance to view a performer before making a decision whether to book them for a show. We looked at a number of streaming video technologies such as Real, Windows Media, and Quicktime Streaming before deciding on the use of the MPEG4 format.

The question of format
In the end we felt that MPEG4 provided us with a standards-based format, the ability to produce a large, good-quality video image with a reasonable use of bandwidth and the existence of an Active-X control that would allow us to embed the content within a webpage so that users wouldn't have to launch an external application to view the video clips. Our only reservation about the use of MPEG4 was that the format is currently supported by a limited number of video players and that users will need to have Quicktime 6.0 or higher loaded to access the content.

Speed and quality
Since our target audience is library staff members who will be accessing the system through fast network links we had a good deal of flexibility, thus the videos in showcase are all 320x240 pixels, 24 frames per second, and are designed to stream on a connection of 384K or faster. If we were designing this project for home use we'd have to cut down the size of clips (160x120 would be likely), reduce frame rate and degrade the quality of the video image to create a clip that could stream over a 56K dialup connection.

Delivery
Once we selected format, the next element of the project to examine was the delivery of the video content to the end user. Two major options exist for delivering streaming video – TCP based delivery using HTTP and UDP based delivery using a protocol like RTSP. Both delivery systems have advantages and drawbacks, delivery via HTTP will work in nearly any environment; however it isn't as robust and doesn't degrade well due to network congestion. RTSP delivery can be affected by very restrictive firewall configurations, but it provides better overall performance and works much better over congested or slower speed networks. In the end we selected RTSP as our delivery method.

The server
The final piece of the puzzle was creating the streaming video server that would be used to deliver our MPEG4 content via RTSP. There are a number of quality products in today's marketplace, but in the end we selected an open-source product produced as part of Apple's Darwin initiative. The Apple streaming server provides a great set of features, strong performance and best of all it's FREE!

Wrap-up
As you can see quite a bit of effort and planning went into the development of the technical elements of Showcase. However, don't forget that like any project it takes more than just technology to be successful, the Showcase team at NOLA also had to develop a marketing plan, website, promotional materials, coordinate performers, investigate legal issues and much, much more.

If you're a member library and would be interested in providing streaming video content to your patrons contact us and we'll be happy provide you with the advice and assistance to help make your project a success.

Continuing Education
Melissa Lattanzi

Don't forget to signup for the following workshops:

Young Adult Summer Reading Workshop, March 3, 2003 at NOLA. NOLA will host the **first-time ever-statewide** videoconferencing workshop. This workshop will be for Young Adult Librarians for preparation for their summer reading programs. Come hear an update on YA literature, partnering with schools, YA programming, adding a Tweens program to your summer reading agenda and so much more.

Attention Support Staff
Staying Motivated in Difficult Times, March 4 or 6, 2003 at the Avalon Inn. Support Staff workshop for all presented by **Scott Shepherd**. This is a workshop designed to help people stay motivated and enthusiastic even during difficult times. It will explore the relationship between thinking, feeling, and behaving. It will give people ideas on what they must do in their thinking process to avoid negative traps and what they can do if others around them are trying to pull their motivation down. The entire issue of what stress is and isn't will be discussed and tied into the real world of day-to-day work. This is a humorous, down to earth practical workshop that gives specific strategies for accepting responsibility for one's behaviors and feelings, as well as what to do when dealing with negative situations and what not to do to make things worse.

<u>Date Change</u>: **Update on Cataloging Electronic Resources: Carol Bradsher, March 12, 2003.**

Overview of basic MARC structure and recent changes to AACR2 Chapter 9 Focusing on creating MARC records for these types of "formats":

- Individual web sites

- Online databases (such as those on OPLIN)

- CD-ROMs

- MP3 files

Coaching For Superior Performance with Patrick Donadio, March 20, 2003 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Twinsburg
Managing and leading by control is not practical and does not lead to superior performance. In this program you will learn a coaching system you can use right away to take people to a level of success they can't achieve on their own.

Effective coaches see themselves not as the expert but as a resource; combining their experience with their knowledge and information to help people do their jobs better and be more successful.

Patrick places special emphasis for this program on trainee involvement, using group discussions, role-playing, exercises, real-life examples, and planning time to put these principles into action.

Finding Medical Resources on the Internet: Diane Kovacs, March 27, 2003
This course will review and explore on-line medical information sources for personal information. Emphasis will be placed on the evaluation of resources for currency, accuracy, and authoritativeness.

You may receive one credit hour towards Belmont Technical College's Information Services: Library Paraprofessional Associate degree. The comparable course at Belmont is INF224 Information Services Special Topic Course: Medical Resources on the Internet. If you choose the one credit hour you will be required to participate in an additional 16 hours of web-based activities.

The Buck Starts Here: Fundraising for Friends and Trustees: Kathryn L. Lima, March 29, 2003 As government funds continue to dwindle, obtaining necessary financial resources becomes more challenging, and perhaps never so vital to the future of libraries. This CAMLS – NOLA, half-day work-shop will provide an overview of many proven fundraising techniques. Both traditional and unorthodox methods will be examined, and fundraising and development professional Kathryn Lima will clarify the roles that directors, trustees, and friends groups can play in raising new dollars.

A spirited, team approach has never been more crucial, so bring the representatives from your Board of Trustees and Friends group. Everyone will leave with a better understanding of how to make the team more effective with new ideas for fundraising and a renewed commitment to success.

Kathryn L. Lima, although trained as a teacher, left the classroom after six years and since has worked in all aspects of marketing, sales, media and fundraising for both for business and nonprofit organiza-tions.

Performers Showcase

The Performers Showcase has been an exciting project to coordinate at NOLA. NOLA has taken the State Library's list of performers and created a database that is searchable and has video clips of many different performers. We have sent letters to over 120 performers and have received over 35 responses including performers that have sent us videos and others who have come to NOLA to have their performances captured.

This project was started so that no one needs to travel to Columbus to the Performers Showcase. Instead of a trip south you can simply turn your computer on and go to www.showcaseohio.org and view at your leisure a storyteller, magician, and many other performers.

NOLA will roll out the first website for performers in Ohio with video clips of their programs. Starting February 3, 2003 - watch your email for details.
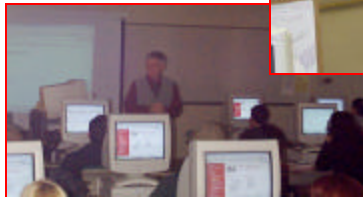
Hidden Treasures of NOLA

Youngstown State University, Wilcox CRC

The Wilcox Curriculum Resource Center, named in honor of the first Dean of the College of Education, Dr. George M. Wilcox, is dedicated to providing means of access to information, equipment, texts, and software to support the research and curriculum of Youngstown State University's Beeghly College of Education. The Wilcox CRC has a diverse range of materials to serve the instructional and research needs of the college's faculty and students, both on and off campus. The Wilcox CRC's collection includes textbooks, children's literature titles, testing instruments, research titles, and a broad range of educational multimedia that range from educational software to puppets. The entire Wilcox CRC collection is cataloged on the main campus library's online catalog, Maagnet. The Wilcox CRC also has an extensive web site, with links to many online resources relating to education, as well as an extensive database for storytelling that has been developed around the activities of the *Penguin Story Tellers' Club*.

As with Maag Library, the Wilcox CRC is part of the OhioLINK consortium. All of the OhioLINK research databases can be accessed, and the Wilcox CRC's research titles are available to all Ohio academic libraries that form OhioLINK. The Wilcox CRC is also part of the NOLA Regional Library System. The Wilcox CRC Librarian, Paul Rohrbaugh, has served on the NOLA Board of Trustees since 1999, and participates in many cooperative educational and library projects. The Wilcox CRC, along with NOLA, has hosted the 2001 and 2002 School Library Symposiums. The Wilcox CRC Librarian, together with members of the *Penguin Story Tellers' Club*, have presented on story telling and children's literature at many local area daycare centers, libraries, schools, *NOLA Book Looks*, both NOLA *School Library Symposiums*, and at many civic organizations' events such as *Boardman Park's Haunted Hayrides*, *Hubbard Schools' Family Literacy Night*, and during Youth Day at the *Canfield Fair*.
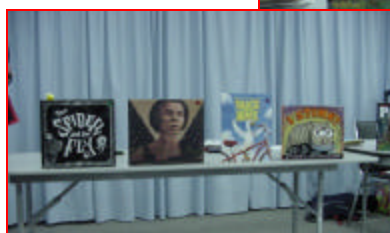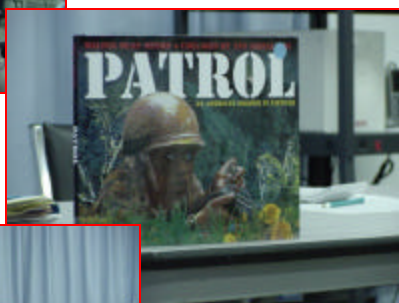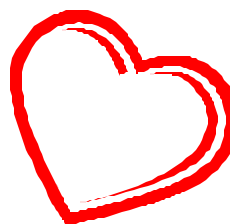
The Wilcox CRC Librarian has Masters degrees in Education (YSU, 1981), Library Science (KSU, 1990), and History (YSU, 2001). He received YSU's *Distinguished Service Award* in May, 2002. Besides storytelling and his work in the Wilcox CRC, Paul enjoys doing research on President William McKinley and Joseph G. Butler, as well as going on vacations and attending Pirates games with his wife, Lisa.
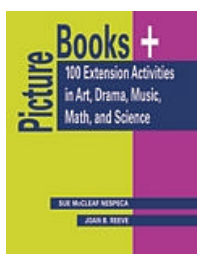
Wilcox CRC's web site URL:
http://www.maag.ysu.edu/crc/crcweb4.html

Penguin Story Tellers' Club web site URL:
http://www.maag.ysu.edu/crc/index2.html

Mock Caldecott 10 Year Anniversary

NOLA celebrated its 10th anniversary of the Mock Caldecott Election, Friday, January 10, 2003.

Picture Books Plus: 100 Extension Activities in Art, Drama, Music, Math, and Science

Authors Sue Nespeca and Joan Reeve outline twenty kid-tested activities for each of five disciplines that include materials lists, tips for success, do's and don'ts from their experiences, as well as alternative activities and additional resources. This book may be purchased at www.alastore.ala.org

Nespeca signing her latest book.

News around NOLA.....

NOLA Welcomes New Members

On Tuesday, December 17, 2002, the NOLA Board of Trustees approved the membership applications of Herrick Memorial Library and Minerva Public Library. On Tuesday, January 21, 2003, the NOLA Board of Trustees approved the membership application of Louisville Public Library.

Congratulations and welcome to the NOLA membership!

Girard Free Library's Circulation Hits 274,740

Congratulations to Rose Ann Lubert and the staff of the Girard Free Library.
Way to go!

Ohio Loves Libraries Week is February 10-16, 2003

Ohio Library Council is kicking off a special week of activities to help generate support for the OLC's Legislative Day 2003. For more information including activity ideas, logo, sample press releases, and more, go to http://www.olc.org/oll/index.html
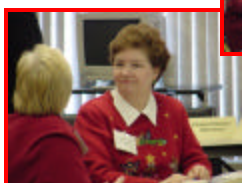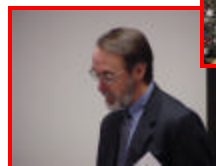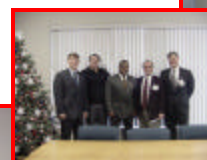
Legislators and Librarians: Partners in the Information Age

Officials from the NOLA Regional Library System, State Library of Ohio, Ohio Library Council and the Public Libraries of Ashtabula, Columbiana, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Mahoning, Portage, and Trumbull Counties met with area state legislators at the NOLA offices on December 9th. Representatives John Boccieri, Ken Carano, Kathleen Chandler, Daniel Sferra, and Sylvester Patton were in attendance.

As a follow-up to the several legislative forums held prior to the November election, this program, Legislators and Librarians: Partners in the Information Age, presented legislators with information from all levels of public library service in an effort to assist them in their upcoming legislative duties. Mike Lucas, State Librarian, and Lynda Murray, Government Relations and Public Information Director, Ohio Library Council introduced library services at their levels. A brief overview of library funding, the various leaders in the library community, organization of library agencies and library governance were also included.

2002-2003 NOLA Legislative Committee
Nancy Currie, Chair
Holly Carroll
Pat Finan
Pam Hickson-Stevenson
Melissa Lattanzi
Debbie O'Connor
Donna Wall

Congratulations to the NOLA Legislative Committee for planning such a successful event.

2003 Ohio Bicentennial Celebration
How are you celebrating Ohio's Birthday?

This year will be a special time in the history of our state! Ohio turns 200 on March 1st and kicks off an eight month celebration throughout the state. Counties all over Ohio will be offering hundreds of historical and cultural displays/programs, contests, and dedications. Some of the major Bicentennial events are:

Inventing Flight: The Centennial Celebration,

Celebration of Lake Erie Heritage: Ohio Bicentennial Tall Ships

Tall Stacks on the Ohio River

The Path to Statehood: Bicentennial Wagon Train

Columbus Celebrates Ohio's Bicentennial

For more information, visit:

http://www.ohiobicentennial.com/main.htm

http://www.oplin.lib.oh.us/index.cfm?id=3-29

http://www.ohio200.org/default.asp

National Library Week
@Your Library

Get rid of that cabin fever by planning some "spring" events for National Library Week. This year's special week is April 6-12 with a continuation of the @Your Library theme. Check out www.ala.org/events/promoevents for more information.

One Book, Two Counties

On January 13th, the Trumbull and Ashtabula Libraries have launched their One Book, Two Counties project. This project runs until Friday, March 21st. The title, chosen in light of Ohio's bicentennial, *The Light in the Forest*, by Conrad Richter tells the story of John Butler, captured at age four by the Delaware Indian tribe. To learn more about discussion groups or scheduled programs, visit www.wtcpl.lib.oh.us/onebooktwocounties/home.htm

The 2003 Ohio Reading Program

The 2003 Ohio Reading Program online version of the manual is now available at <http://winslo.state.oh.us/services/LPD/orp.html>

In collaboration with OhioReads, they have a new name. They are now the 2003 Ohio Reading Program With The Governor's Summer Reading Challenge. The online manual includes resources related to the theme "Celebrate Ohio," Ohio's Bicentennial. A link to the 2003 artwork includes a reading record and a reading certificate. Statistical and other forms can now be found online along with planning information, program ideas, web sites, bibliographies, etc.

Calendar of Events

For a listing of all NOLA events, workshops, and continuing education, see our full calendar on the website at www.nolanet.org

February, 2003

Microsoft Excel Basic	02/05/2003
Using Technology to Market your Library	02/06/2003
Public Relations Interest Group	02/11/2003
Photography in the Library	02/13/2003
WEEDING WITH THE CREW METHOD	02/14/2003
Mastering Access: Reporting	02/19/2003
Let's Celebrate Literacy	02/22/2003
Clerk Treasures Interest Group	02/28/2003

March, 2003

Young Adult Summer Reading Program	03/03/2003
Staying Motivated in Difficult Times	03/04/2003
Staying Motivated in Difficult Times	03/06/2003
Microsoft Word Intermediate	03/11/2003
Update on Cataloging Electronic Resources	03/12/2003
Virtual Private Networks	03/13/2003
Microsoft Publisher-Basic	03/19/2003
Creating Posters using NOLA's Poster Printer	03/19/2003
Coaching for Superior Performance	03/20/2003
Childrens Summer Reading Program	03/21/2003
Medical Resources on the Internet	03/27/2003
The Buck Starts Here: Fundraising	03/29/2003

www.nolanet.org