



# Communiqué

A newsletter of the State Library of Louisiana

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September 2007

## E-Rate Funding Commitment Received

The State Library has received approval for their annual application for E-Rate, a program that provides discounts ranging from 20% to 90% towards the purchase of telecommunications services, Internet access and internal connections (wiring) for public libraries and schools.

The nearly \$1 million funding commitment will pay 79% of the cost of direct Internet connections for Louisiana public libraries and the State Library. This will help pay for monthly Internet and telecommunications access.

## State Librarian Rebecca Hamilton Speaks at Baton Rouge Press Club



State Librarian Rebecca Hamilton was invited to speak at a luncheon of the Baton Rouge Press Club on August 6. Her presentation was aired on Louisiana Public Broadcasting that night.

After briefly going over the history of the State Library and how it serves as a resource for Louisiana public libraries, Hamilton gave an overview of the State Library's role in serving citizens during and after the hurricanes. In addition to giving an overview of a few of the many services that the State Library offers, Hamilton took questions from the audience.



*NOPL Board Chair Irvin Mayfield and Mary Ellin Santiago, project manager for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's Gulf Coast Libraries Project*

## NOPL's Mid-City Branch Opens

The Mid-City Branch, the first of several New Orleans temporary branches funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's Gulf Coast Libraries Project, opened to the public on June 11, 2007, to serve a large population that extends from Lakeview to Hollygrove, as well as Mid-City. In addition to regular library services, the spacious 3500-square foot storefront offers Internet access and word processing to library card holders, fax and photocopying services.



*John and Jack Creevy check out books.*

The 5th Annual  
**LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL** 10<sup>AM</sup>-7:30<sup>PM</sup>  
**Saturday, November 3, 2007**

The Louisiana State Capitol and Nearby Locations - Downtown Baton Rouge



## Viewpoint

How we face catastrophic events in our lives speaks much to how we live our lives in general. Louisiana and Louisiana's libraries did indeed face catastrophic events two years ago. Yet, through the damage and destruction, our libraries continued to serve in any way they could. Our unaffected libraries did not hesitate to extend services and work the necessary hours to serve their new patrons. This says a lot about our librarians and our profession.

I recently read a quote by Salman Rushdie, by way of Irshad Manjee. "The purpose for which we live is more important than the number of years we live." I believe our pur-

pose as librarians is quite important.

But as keepers of a society's treasures, preserving what we were, what we are and that which we may become, librarians also serve a broader role. How we face a terrible storm is just as important as how we conduct our mission from day to day. As public libraries, we leave behind an indelible mark on society that cannot be washed away by storm or fire.

State Librarian



## Automated System Vendor Demos

In response to queries from several public libraries, the State Library has scheduled a series of automated library system demos. The schedule for these demos is as follows:

### Book Systems

Tuesday, September 18

### Autographics

Wednesday, September 19

### Sirsi\Dynix

Tuesday, October 2

### Polaris

Wednesday, October 3

### Innovative Interfaces

Thursday, November 6

### TLC

Wednesday, November 7

Demos will start at 10:00 a.m. each day and will end at 3:30 p.m. We will break for an hour for lunch which will be on your own.

If you are interested in attending, contact Sara Taffae at [staffae@state.lib.la.us](mailto:staffae@state.lib.la.us). All demos will take place in the State Library Seminar Center on the first floor.

## Public Screening of Award-winning documentary "Reconstructing Creole"

The St. Charles Parish Library will present two screenings of the award-winning documentary "Reconstructing Creole" during September. The documentary chronicles the rebuilding of the historic Laura Plantation and explores the history and culture of its 19th century Creole residents.

This is the first full-length documentary for New Orleans producer and director Jennifer John, who is the founder of Fresh Media, a New Orleans based production company. John is an instructor with Loyola University's School of Mass Com-

munication and a former reporter for WWL-TV in New Orleans.

"Reconstructing Creole" offers a view of the culture, race and history of one Louisiana Creole plantation. It explores the unique history of Louisiana Creoles through the memoir of 19th century matriarch Laura Locoul Gore and the eventual restoration of her plantation. The documentary weaves past and present with music by 19th century Creole composer Louis Moreau Gottschalk and original works from Louisiana musicians Bruce "Sunpie" Barnes, Mitch Caponetto and Adam Kennedy.

"Reconstructing Creole" won Best Documentary Feature Award at the Hollywood HD/DV Festival in April 2007, was chosen as an Official Selection of the Boston International Film Festival, and also received an Award of Merit from the Leadership in History Awards Committee.

The documentary will premiere in St. Charles Parish at West Regional Library in Luling September 6 at 6:30 p.m., with a second screening September 7 at 10:30 a.m. at East Regional Library in Destrehan. A representative from Laura Plantation will give a short introduction and answer audience questions.



## People & Places

Stephanie Antley Herrmann has been named as the new director of the Union Parish Library. Herrmann began her career in the research department of Louisiana Tech and later served as the director of a non-profit organization.

The East Baton Rouge Parish Library is pleased to announce the promotion of three employees. Amy Shaw has been promoted to Librarian I in Reference Services at the Bluebonnet Regional Branch Library, Bryce Tomlin has been promoted to Librarian I in Reference Services at the Zachary Branch Library, and Marianne McWilliams has been promoted to Librarian I in Teen/Young Adult Services at the Main Library.

The East Baton Rouge Parish Library also welcomes Emily Mauldin as a Librarian I in Youth Services at the Baker Branch Library and Jennifer Torkkola as a Librarian I in Youth Services at the Delmont Gardens Branch Library.

Evelyn L. Wilson was appointed to the Audubon Regional Library Board by the East Feliciana Police Jury. Dr. Wilson is an attorney, professor at Southern University Law Center, community volunteer and author.

Two new appointments have been made to the ILL Advisory Committee: Cindy Eastwood from East Baton Rouge Parish and Debbie Troclair from Jefferson Parish.

### Family Book and Culture Fest

The Evangeline Parish Library will hold its annual Family Book and Culture Fest on September 15 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the North Side Civic Center in Ville Platte. Admission is free, and everybody is invited.

The event will include a remote radio broadcast, a large used book sale, local vendor sales, refreshments for sale, and outstanding professional performances. Performers include Steve Smith, pianist, storytellers, Calliope Puppets, Tamizey Drum & Dance Group, and Charlo and the Southern Traditions Band.

This event is partly funded through Decentralized Arts Funding as administered by the Acadiana Arts Council, with additional support from the Friends of the Library.

## Now Offering Online Resources for Early Childhood Service Providers

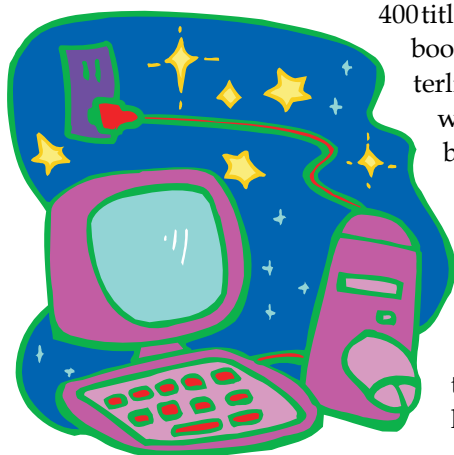
The State Library of Louisiana's Early Childhood Services web pages located at [http://www.state.lib.la.us/la\\_dyn\\_tmpl.cfm?doc\\_id=152](http://www.state.lib.la.us/la_dyn_tmpl.cfm?doc_id=152) were created with the needs of many people in mind: Public library staff, early care and education staff and teachers, parents, and caregivers. This resource provides access to information pertinent to those who work with children ages birth - 5 years.

Users will find instructions for accessing the State Library's new Big Book Collection of over 400 titles of oversized children's books available through Interlibrary Loan. For those who wish to purchase big books, there are links to big book publishers and distributors.

Those who work with children under age three will find use for the book selection guidelines in *Louisiana's Early*

*Learning Guidelines and Program Standards: Birth through Three* published by the Louisiana Department of Social Services. A section on the importance of brain development in young children includes a short Power Point presentation entitled "What's Going On Up There?" Another presentation explains what early literacy is and why it's important. For read aloud programs for preschool children, the State Library presents "LET'S READ! Story Programs for Groups Ages 3 - 5," read aloud guidelines and books recommended by 995 contributors to a statewide survey. In the Nursery Rhyme Resources section users can download printable mini books, recently created by the State Library, for children to color and keep.

Other sections include links to: Early literacy activities online, grant possibilities, Louisiana's state-subsidized early care and education programs and their standards, statistics, and printable tip sheets for parents and caregivers. For more information, please contact: Rose Anne St. Romain, Early Childhood Services Consultant, State Library of Louisiana; e-mail [rstromai@state.lib.la.us](mailto:rstromai@state.lib.la.us); phone (225) 219 - 9502.







## Job Openings

Announcements are edited for space. For further information see <http://www.state.lib.la.us/Library/Employment/index.cfm>

### West Baton Rouge Parish Library Port Allen

Library Director, position available: January 1, 2008, Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience. Required: Master of Library and Information Science Degree from ALA accredited library science program, professional certification (or current eligibility for certification) by the Louisiana State Board of Library Examiners, administrative and supervisory experience (minimum 5 years library experience, public library preferred), experience in budgeting and financial administration, ability to work and communicate effectively in writing and speech with board members, employees, and the public, proven organizational and human resource management skills. Desirable: strong technological background, experience with grant writing. Application deadline: September 15, 2007. Send a letter of application, resume, and names and addresses of a minimum of three professional references to: Director's Search Committee, West Baton Rouge Parish Library, 830 North Alexander Avenue, Port Allen, LA 70767

### Concordia Parish Plans Ahead for Emergencies

When Louisiana suffers another hurricane, the state's public libraries will find safe haven for their vehicles thanks to the efforts of Amanda Taylor, director of the Concordia Parish Library. Taylor worked out an agreement with the Concordia Parish Sheriff's Department, where they will provide space for any public library to park and store vehicles in the event of a storm. The space will be secured so that vehicles will be safe.

Contact information for Concordia Parish Sheriff's Department can be found at <http://www.concordiasherriff.org/>.

## Eden Park Branch Library Receives Rose Award



The Baton Rouge chapter of the American Institute of Architects has awarded the Rose Award, its highest design award, to the Eden Park Branch Library. Opened to the public on January 11, 2007, the newly developed Eden Park Branch Library includes a covered drive-through at the entrance and a beautifully landscaped courtyard with covered seating area. The 14,026 square foot library houses more than 55,000 books, 70 magazine titles, 10 newspaper subscriptions, and 3,500 videos, DVDs, audiobooks and CDs.

A lovely feature of the new library is its remarkable stained glass at the entrance window, designed by Steven Wilson. The artist used reflecting images of "flying books" as well as the lamp of learning, which reference the architectural frieze of the original East Baton Rouge Library building on Laurel Street. This new branch also includes state-of-the-art raised modular flooring to provide flexibility and facilitate wiring and other future technology needs of the structure, as well as state-of-the-art shelving with attached lighting, a new design feature for the East Baton Rouge Parish Library system, making the library branch among one of a handful in the country and the first local public facility of its kind.

## SLOL Upgrades KLAS

The State Library upgraded the Keystone Library Automation System computer system for Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. The system, known as KLAS, was upgraded to Version 7 in August 2007.

KLAS is designed specifically for the unique needs of libraries serving blind and disabled patrons. It is used at more than 20 such libraries nationwide. These libraries need to be able to keep extensive lists of patron requests, track multiple copies of the same book, and send out new books as soon as old ones are returned through the mail.

The SBPH library staff spent three days with a trainer learning the new system and its many upgraded features. The upgraded computer system, which uses a GUI (Graphic User Interface), allows staff to use many Windows features that were previously unavailable. Version 7 has improved the speed of many processes. Being able to have several functions available at once allows library staff to work more efficiently and effectively. In addition, record keeping is improved with KLAS 7, as there are many useful reports built in that allow the library to pull statistical data with ease.

For information about services that the State Library offers for people with visual or physical disabilities, please call 342-4943.



## Whole Foods Market to Host "5% Day"

Whole Foods Market and its Team Members believe in supporting the communities in which they work and live. On September 18, Whole Foods Market will proudly contribute 5% of its net sales to support the 2007 Louisiana Book Festival, which is produced by the Center for the Book in the State Library of Louisiana.

### Volunteers Make It Happen!

Louisiana's world-class celebration of Readers, Writers & Their Books will return to Baton Rouge from 10 a.m. – 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, November 3, 2007. And guess what: Volunteers Make It Happen!

Book-loving volunteers are essential to the festival's success. Whether it's escorting one of the festival's authors, guiding visitors in the Capitol, working with children in the Young Readers Pavilion, or other rewarding assignments, your time and talents are needed.

Learn more about volunteering at the 2007 Louisiana Book Festival by visiting [www.louisianabookfestival.org/volunteers](http://www.louisianabookfestival.org/volunteers); or by contacting Shedonna Martin-Mason at 225-219-0946 or [smartin2@state.lib.la.us](mailto:smartin2@state.lib.la.us). If you've already made up your mind to volunteer, go directly to <http://www.louisianabookfestival.org/volunteers/volform.php3>, fill out the form and click Sign Me Up!

## Book Relief's 5 Millionth Book Celebration



State Librarian Rebecca Hamilton, Associate State Librarian Dorothy White and Consultant Rose Anne St. Romain attended "Book Relief's 5 Millionth Book Celebration" at the New Orleans Public Library to celebrate First Book's promise to deliver 5 million free children's books to the gulf coastal areas impacted by the 2005 hurricanes. The State Library of Louisiana partnered with First Book in October 2005 to facilitate communication about Book Relief and to

assist applicant organizations with the registration process. In less than two years, Louisiana received over 2 million books from Book Relief. Program speakers included Ray Simon, Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education, and Peter Gold, Chairman of the First Book Board of Directors. They also read aloud to students from the Martin Behrman Charter School from St. Martin Parish and assisted in distributing new books to the children.

# Calcasieu Librarians Contribute to Art Exhibit



*Pictured is exhibit coordinator Carol Anne Gayle (center) overseeing Lake Charles Mayor Randy Roach (left) read to a group of children, with Library Director Jeffrey Rippel as Winnie the Pooh looking on (right).*

The Calcasieu Parish Public Library is coordinating weekly readings by librarians and local celebrities to school and day care groups for the "This is Our Land" art exhibit at Historic City Hall Arts and Cultural Center in Lake Charles.

The exhibit, on display August 18 through October 6, features 80 original artworks by well-known illustrators of children's books from around the world. Readings of the featured books will be at 2:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Wednesdays and 10:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Saturdays.

Jason Barnes, director of marketing and cultural affairs for the City of Lake Charles, said the display and readings are intended to target child audiences and show them the power of books. The exhibit features a book illustration from each of the 50 states. Each of the books is based on a theme related to that state. The Louisiana entry is from the book "Feliciana

Feydra LeRoux: A Cajun Tall Tale," written by Tynia Thomassie and illustrated by Cat Bowman Smith.

Youth Services Facilitators from the DeQuincy, Moss Bluff, Carnegie Memorial, Central, Westlake, Iowa and Sulphur Regional Libraries will read at the exhibit.

Sponsors are Historic City Hall Arts & Cultural Center, Meridian International Center, and Calcasieu Parish Public Library.

*Communiqué* is a monthly publication of the State Library of Louisiana to provide information to Louisiana libraries and people with an interest in libraries. Inquiries, subscription information or requests on obtaining large print or audiocassette versions should be directed to the Communications Section.

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The State Library of Louisiana is one of our state's greatest resources for research information, government documents, genealogical data, books in Braille, audiobooks and more.

The State Library's mission is to build an informed, literate and democratic society by ensuring access to informational, cultural and recreational resources, especially those resources unique to Louisiana.

## LSDDP And SLOL Work Together to Reach Goal

The Louisiana State Documents Depository Program and the State Library accomplished an important goal in early August 2007. Every Louisiana state document received and shipped out in July had a full bibliographic record available in the State Library catalog. This means that the other 40 depository libraries do not need to do their own cataloging to have the documents quickly available to their users. This is the

first time in the history of the LSDDP that all of the newly received documents had full cataloging immediately available.

These are OCLC MARC records with LC subject headings and authority headings. Libraries can derive the records from the State Library catalog using Z39.50 protocol at no charge or download them from OCLC, if they are OCLC members.

The July state documents shipment had 270 titles of which 86 (32%) were new to the depository program. The shipment had 2,456 items, including all of the bills, resolutions and daily journals from the 2007 regular legislative session; 738 items were not from that session. The July shipment was a little above the 2007 monthly average for Louisiana documents.





## Building Louisiana: The Legacy of the Public Works Administration

Author: Robert D. Leighninger, Jr.  
Publisher: University Press of Mississippi  
Publication Date: May 2007  
ISBN: 1-57806-945-9  
Pages: 240  
Price: \$50.00

Many social, economic and geographical influences helped build Louisiana. In the 1930s, the Public Works Administration (PWA) was one of them. The PWA helped get people back to work after the Great Depression, and Louisiana was only one of the states to benefit.

The PWA constructed more than 228 buildings in Louisiana at an estimated cost of \$52,292,697.00. Many of these PWA constructed buildings are still in use. Projects ranged from university buildings, city halls, courthouses, schools and utility plants to streets, sidewalks and more.

Little is available in published form on the many Louisiana projects completed by the PWA - until now. In *Building Louisiana - The Legacy of the Public Works Administration*, sociologist and New Deal historian Robert D. Leighninger, Jr., considers PWA in Louisiana in detail.

The book offers a comprehensive account of the PWA program in Louisiana, from its beginnings in response to the Great Depression to the completed PWA structures located throughout the state. It is an interesting read and a wonderful resource.

Notable features include many black and white illustrations, tables of statistics and a complete inventory of non-federal PWA projects in Louisiana. The inventory is 81 pages, alphabetical by town, with a list of projects completed, including the project name, the engineer and contractor, the resident engineer inspector, the total cost and year completed.

For persons needing construction information on a particular Louisiana PWA project, this would be a great source to consult, as well as the individual chapters devoted to the Cultural and Physical Infrastructure. For persons interested in the history of the PWA in Louisiana, there are chapters on How to Respond to a Great Depression, Huey Long Versus the PWA, the Second Louisiana Purchase, Scandal and more. A nice index rounds out this valuable resource.

*Building Louisiana - The Legacy of the Public Works Administration* will enhance any library's collection on the Public Works Program in Louisiana or be a valuable reference resource for historical public works and infrastructure information.

*Charlene Bonnette is a Reference Librarian in the Louisiana Section of the State Library of Louisiana.*

## Celebrating Louisiana Writers 2007

*West Baton Rouge Parish Library and The Louisiana Center for the Book Partner*



What is it like to delve into the life of a giant of a figure in Louisiana history, a politician so powerful, so controversial and so charismatic that even

72 years after his death, his name can still evoke heated arguments?

Come find out when Dr. Richard D. White, author of "Kingfish, the Reign of Huey P. Long," will talk about writing the legendary Huey P. Long's biography. Dr. White's presentation is part of "Celebrating Louisiana Writers 2007", a program

sponsored by the West Baton Rouge Parish Library and The Louisiana Center for the Book, a department of the State Library of Louisiana.

Dr. White will appear at the West Baton Rouge Parish Library on Thursday, October 18 at 10:30 a.m. Afterwards, he will be available to sign books.



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*State Librarian Rebecca Hamilton welcomes youth participating in a UREC's scavenger hunt.*

## Scavenger Hunt

A youth development program of Urban Restoration Enhancement Corporation had a downtown scavenger hunt on Friday, July 27. The State Library welcomed 24 youth ranging in age from 12 to 14 years old.

UREC's Stephanie Hunter said that the most important value of the event was that it really brought out both teamwork and competition in positive way. The hunters had to go to each facility to find the clue for the location. The State Library the exercise taught the participants cooperation and how to locate a book, both through an online catalog and on the shelf.

## State Library Board of Commissioners Makes Appointments

On Thursday August 30, 2007 the State Library Board of Commissioners held its regular meeting. At that meeting they voted to renew the terms of State Board of Library Examiner members Mary Cosper Le-Boeuf, Director of the Terrebonne Parish Library and Lilly Smith, Director of the Beauregard Parish Library. They also voted to appoint Dorothy White, Associate State Librarian to the Board. Dorothy will serve as Secretary. Each member serves a 3 year term.

The Certification Examination administered by the Board will be held on Friday October 12 at the State Library.

To take the examination or if you have any questions please contact Dorothy White at the State Library at [dwhite@state.lib.la.us](mailto:dwhite@state.lib.la.us) or 225-342-4923.