



THE CONNECTOR

The Connecticut State Library Newsletter
www.cslib.org

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The CONNector has an electronic format designed to make it easier to look at our articles. Please use your backspace button to return the original document after you have hit the more button for any article. We hope you enjoy it and will share any suggestions you have for future issues with me at bdelaney@cslib.org. Visit our web site at <http://www.cslib.org>.

From the State Librarian

Historically, downturns in the economy have meant a boost in library use. Anecdotally, that again appears to be the case. What is different this time is the historically high price of fuel and the long term outlook for continued high fuel prices. This raises the question – will rising gas prices change the way people use libraries? Of course high energy prices impact building operations, budgets, and staffing.

The impact on library use in a state where so many people rely on their personal vehicles to get around could be significant. It is going to take some time to understand if and how the public are going to change their driving behavior and how those changes will impact libraries. The number of library visits per family, for example, may decline, but the number of materials per visit may stay the same or increase. What about program attendance? Clearly there are strategies the library community could start considering. The expansion of online services is one approach. Document delivery and books by mail is yet another. Providing the means for online community forums as an alternative to the library's community room may be another. Or how about online book discussion groups? Energy use is another long term operational concern for libraries. The State Library Board recently approved construction guidelines encouraging new library construction in Connecticut to meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System™ certification. The State Library, in cooperation with the Connecticut Library Consortium, will be sponsoring the Library Journal Design Institute's "Going Green" day-long program December 4 at the Legislative Office Building. Webjunction has many articles on ways libraries can save energy

[Library Hours](#)

[Directions/Parking](#)

[Ask a Reference Question](#)

now. Governor Rell's OneThing campaign <http://www.onethingct.com/> has many energy saving tips for home and work.

The impact of rising energy costs on libraries will be the subject of a forum that I will host on WebjunctionCT in July. Watch for it, and share your thoughts on how libraries can thrive in this changing economy.

Kendall Wiggin, Connecticut State Librarian

Recent Additions to the Collections of the Museum of Connecticut History

Lunch box and Thermos, 1969-1972

The American Thermos Bottle Company of Norwich manufactured several lunch boxes featuring the characters from the *Peanuts* comic strip. This yellow, steel, dome-shaped box features Snoopy eating a sandwich and proclaiming, "Have Lunch With Snoopy." The accompanying thermos bottle is decorated with the *Peanuts* characters practicing for one of their ill-fated baseball games.



Water color "W.J. Squire's Gill Net Manufactory, East Haddam, Conn.," c1880

In the early 1870s, Wilbur J. Squire (1837-1890), built his factory for the manufacture of gill nets in East Haddam. The factory was located in the part of East Haddam known as Goodspeed's Landing, and was a few hundred yards east of the present site of the Goodspeed Opera House. Mesh gill nets had openings of various sizes, depending upon the type of fish being caught. Such nets were usually set up parallel to the shore and fish would swim into the head-size openings in the net and attempt to swim through the openings. Unable to do so, they would attempt to back out and would be trapped by their gills.



On May 21, 1878, Squire received a patent for what apparently were the first machines specifically designed to manufacture gill nets. Squire stated that the object of his machines was "the successful manufacture of nets by machinery" and he had, in essence, mechanized all the knot-tying operations used in making gill nets. Squire's factory, consisting of two small buildings, appeared in F.W. Beers' 1874 County Atlas of Middlesex, Connecticut, but it is unclear if he equipped it with his new machines. This water color may have been commissioned to commemorate the building of the larger factory that appears in it.

Squire died of consumption on February 6, 1890, at his sister's in Colchester. His condition may have stemmed from his four years' Civil War service as a Private in Co. G, 1st CT Heavy Artillery. In addition to his net-making machinery, Squire also patented a wrench in March 1876 and a wooden hoop fastener in July of that year.

Political T-shirt, 2008



Shortly before U.S. Senator Chris Dodd withdrew from the race for the Democratic nomination for President, museum staff contacted Dodd headquarters in downtown Hartford and collected a variety of Dodd campaign materials, including this t-shirt, lawn signs, buttons, and bumper stickers. In addition to campaign materials generated by candidates for state-wide offices, the museum collects items created by Connecticut politicians on the national scene as well.

World War I Helmet, c1918



During World War I, many Connecticut members of the famous 26th Yankee Division of the 102nd Regiment went into battle with an image of the Charter Oak painted on the back of their helmets. Since known examples differ slightly, it appears that each image was painted free-hand rather than with the use of a stencil.



"Perfect Handle" hatchet, c1910

In the early 1900s, The H.D. Smith and Company of Plantsville began the manufacture of a line of "Perfect Handle" hand tools. The name derived from the smooth, contoured wooden handles that were riveted to the steel shank sandwiched between them. The handle was based upon three patents issued to two of its employees, Amos Shepard and William S. Ward between 1900 and 1901. However, there is no record of the company registering the "Perfect Handle" name as a trademark. H.D. Smith & Co. manufactured a line of "Perfect Handle" tools that included wrenches, hammers, screwdrivers, and specialized automotive tools.

David J. Corrigan, Museum Curator

How Refreshing!

If you've visited the Connecticut State Library website (<http://www.cslib.org/>) recently, you've seen a change in its appearance. Three thousand two hundred plus pages in the site were refreshed to improve their look, feel, and functionality.

Several techniques, including the incorporation of persistent navigation menus at the top of the pages and the use of a so-called "liquid layout" (which expands and shrinks pages to accommodate many types of devices and user settings) were leveraged to increase the site's visual appeal, usability, and accessibility based on current web standards and best practices.

Since the "go live", the library has received resoundingly positive feedback. Members of the general public, other webmasters, librarians, and representatives from other state agencies have visited the website, resulting in a 10% increase in visits and a 13.6% increase in the number of page views in the month following the go-live.

Future plans for www.cslib.org include a larger redesign that will improve on the refreshed site and involve content restructuring. The implementation of new tools will help site contributors to collaborate and aid in managing an ever-increasing amount of web content.

Web development today is an iterative process. For any website there is no one final redesign; only continual refinements to improve a site and the services it offers, while keeping pace with evolving technologies and user expectations. We welcome your feedback and suggestions for refinements. Contact us at <http://www.cslibwebmaster.org/>.



Connecticut State Library Website Before Refresh



Connecticut State Library Website After Refresh

Reaching Out to State Agencies: The Case of Missing State Documents

Connecticut General Statutes, Sec. 11-9d.

“Duties of state agencies re tangible and intangible publications. (b) Every state agency shall, upon publication, deposit a sufficient number of copies of each of its tangible publications with the State Library to meet the needs of the depository library system.(c) Every state agency shall, upon publication, supply the State Library with, or notify the State Library of the existence, availability and location of its intangible publications.”

Despite the statute, tracking down state publications is a tricky task. Despite the statute, tracking down state publications is a tricky task. Librarians become detectives, using every means at their command to trace these elusive items. Even after continuous stakeouts, mailings, phone calls, emails, and combing through Web sites, the number of publications acquired is much lower than the number of documents published. These tried and true strategies will always be key ways of capturing state documents. We decided to add face-to-face contact with state agencies. We have

started a four step outreach approach to educate agencies about complying with the statute. Step 1. We present an overview of the State Documents Depository Program and the Connecticut Digital Archive to the agency management team or administrative staff. The presentation emphasizes the many value-added services the Library provides (cataloging, distribution, access, and preservation) and stresses the importance of sending copies or notifying the Library of publications. In many cases managers make immediate efforts to improve internal procedures.

Step 2. We make a presentation to a larger group of agency staff about library services, specifically tailored to that agency's research needs. This offers another opportunity to discuss the need for their documents.

Step 3. Library staff offer hands-on training for smaller groups in our computer lab. They learn about using the Catalog and other databases related specifically to their areas of expertise. The group is introduced to the Library catalog, the statewide union catalog and WorldCat. They discover their agency's publications (and maybe their own name) in all three catalogs.

Step 4. There is a targeted effort by our acquisitions unit to acquire/claim specific titles and issues. A list of missing items is shared with the agency's management team, once again putting state documents on their "front burner".

Librarians continue to be creative about new ways to reach out. In preparation for a visit by agency staff, a special exhibit was put together featuring that agency's documents. (See *There's Something Fishy Going On* in this issue.) Our resident documents detectives will be on the lookout for clues showing how many documents are hauled in thanks to these new efforts.

Julie Schwartz, Unit Head, Government Information and Reference Services

A Web Junction Connecticut Makeover



Often Connecticut librarians don't have the time or patience to make use of all the resources on WebJunction Connecticut, but this may be the time to give the website another try. On July 20 the WebJunction Connecticut website will undergo a major transformation. Besides having a completely different look, the new site will offer Web 2.0 features that will allow for more collaboration and discussion. Online course offerings will triple in both size and variety. And all the content should be easier to navigate and Connecticut-specific topics easier to find.

The WebJunction project began in 2003 with seed money from the Gates Foundation. The initial website began as a means of supporting public access computing in public libraries, but the current mission, now taken up by OCLC, is to serve the information and continuing education requirements of all types of library staff.

In 2004 the Connecticut State Library joined the WebJunction project as a community partner, and the Division of Library Development added web content and funding for free online courses to create a website specifically for Connecticut library staff. Library staff are now familiar with the WebJunction Connecticut website as a resource for both local and

national content on a wide range of library management, library service, and continuing education topics. The new website should make it easier to find Connecticut content and to join discussions with other interested Connecticut library staff.

Connecticut staff will have an opportunity to contribute articles and make comments on national library issues. During 2007, with an additional grant from the Gates Foundation, OCLC started planning for an expansion of WebJunction to include a new technology platform, a new design, and further improvements to all aspects of the community and learning experiences that members and partner communities have come to depend on. WebJunction hopes to “take advantage of many developments in learning, community, and social technologies from the past few years to create the premier online learning community site for library staff.”

Here are a few of the highlights:

- Improved design and navigation including a Connecticut-specific portal.
- Over 500 online courses, most free to Connecticut library staff. Those courses that aren't free may be purchased.
- New self-paced online courses on specific library continuing education topics.
- Opportunities for blended learning, merging collaborative learning with web conferencing.
- Powerful new social features to find and connect with colleagues from across the library community to share ideas, insights, recommendations, and common interests.
- More personalization to make WebJunction more relevant to your personal interests.
- Ability for members to create common interest groups on the topics that interest them, and invite their friends and colleagues to collaborate.

Find a topic area on the new WebJunction site that interests you and you will have access to articles, discussions, and groups that have developed around that topic. Some of the material may be Connecticut-specific and some may be national. To visit WebJunction Connecticut, go to <http://ct.webjunction.org/>. Current members should log-in to take advantage of the courses and discussions available to Connecticut library staff. If you are new to WebJunction, be sure to register as a member.

Tom Newman, Librarian 2

"History Detectives" Visit the State Library

The upcoming segment involves a case in which “A resident of East Haddam, Connecticut owns an old home that he believes has a story to tell. Twelve different people lived in the house between 1890 and 1910, and the names of the residents appear to be mostly Russian. The late 1800s marked the beginning of a mass emigration of Eastern European Jews to the United States. The majority of refugees came from Russia, after the assassination of Alexander II in 1881 set off riots across the country. By 1893, about a million immigrants had entered the U.S. through major East Coast ports, especially New York. But why did so many newcomers end up in this particular Connecticut home, and what accounted for the high turnover?” As part of an exploration of “the efforts of Jewish American relief societies to support the Jewish agricultural community as it struggled to take root in a

new land", *History Detectives* host Elyse Luray and Briann G. Greenfield, Associate Professor of History at Central Connecticut State University, visit the Connecticut State Library in search of information on a Jewish agricultural community in East Haddam, Connecticut.

Three separate scenes, each involving numerous takes and re-takes, were filmed: Elyse Luray and Briann Greenfield going up the Library's front steps; a shot of a box of materials being pulled from the State Archives, and a conversation between Luray and Greenfield in the Library's main Reading Room. A scrapbook containing newspaper clippings, especially a 1924 Hartford Courant article, *Alien Invasion of Connecticut Farms*, and an 1892 Connecticut State Board of Agriculture publication, *Descriptive Catalogue of Farms in Connecticut for Sale*, are central to that discussion. Additional State Library materials, including photographs of early twentieth century farms and postcards of the East Haddam area, may also find their way into the production.



The film crew shared their excitement for the State Library's "ambiance". They appreciated the opportunity to be in an historic building with many interesting architectural features and enough space to create wide shots and close-ups.

The segment about the Jewish agricultural community is not expected to be aired until September or October. For more information as it becomes available, check local public television listings, http://www.pbs.org/cgi-registry/golocal_stations?station=KDIN&site=http://www.pbs.org/historydetectives, and the "What's New" section of the State Library Web page, <http://www.cslib.org/>.

Richard C. Roberts, Unit Head, History and Genealogy

Flared Cornerposts, Beaded Boards, Pilasters and Side Lights: the WPA -Architectural Survey Digital Collection

In the 1930s, as part of the WPA Writers' Project, researchers conducted a detailed survey of old Connecticut buildings, capturing images and descriptions of many houses no longer standing. Many of those that survived the next seventy years have changed substantially. Current owners, architectural researchers, and local historians have long used the WPA materials housed in the Connecticut State Archives to learn more about the old buildings,

mostly houses, and the details surviving in the 1930s.

A project to make this valuable collection more accessible is underway, and a handful of towns can already be searched through our “Digital Collections” at <http://cslib.cdmhost.com/index.php>. This is one of the first State Library digital collections, and the process of creating it has been an adventure in creative problem-solving. Lessons learned are guiding plans for future digital projects.

Connecticut had a head start on employment for writers when the Federal Writers’ Project of the WPA began. As a project of the Civil Works Administration of Connecticut, a guidebook of tours, *Connecticut Guide, What to See and Where to Find It*, compiled by Edgar L. Heermance, was published in 1935. By August the first printing of the Connecticut Guide (10,000 copies) was out of print and a second printing was underway. At about the same time, the WPA Federal Writer’s Project began to compile materials for a national guidebook, employing over 6,000 writers, researchers, and photographers across the country. It was hoped that the massive amount of research material produced on a state and local level, much of which would not be used in the five-volume American Guide, would be the catalyst for state and community guidebooks produced by local sponsors.

Although considerable descriptive matter was already in place for the first Connecticut Guide, researchers and writers began gathering material for the larger project. Elmer D. Keith, Rhodes Scholar and expert in colonial architecture and antiques, was asked to “look after the architectural end” of the expanded research in Connecticut. Although several works on Connecticut architecture were already available, most were selective. This represented an opportunity to thoroughly canvas the state and record the early buildings that remained. Keith described the process in *Some Notes on Early Connecticut Architecture*, 1938:

A dozen or more of us covered the 169 towns as best we could in the six months at our disposal, and tried to list at least every available house that dated from before 1800. Some of our group were professionally trained, some not; but all were enthusiastic and ready to share what they knew. For many towns we had but a single day. And in consequence, there were many houses where we could not stop to view the interior or glean any history. But in the end we found we had descriptions, brief or complete, and exterior photographs of close to 5,000 buildings.



**Reverend Richard Mansfield House,
Ansonia Connecticut**

The results form a valuable resource for researchers, although the content varies from town

to town. The use of standardized forms provided some continuity, but writers still created varied responses. Some forms are brief, or have no photo. Buildings in many towns, however, are described in great detail, with skillful sketches of architectural details and photos.

The individual personality of the surveyors shows in the descriptive style and attention to detail. While most photos are notably devoid of people or animals, the photographer in one town took care to include a man with a trench coat and hat (presumably the researcher) in most of his shots. In another town, a modest building already beginning to collapse seems to have captured the imagination of the photographer, and the set includes shots from every conceivable angle. Interesting stories abound on the survey forms. Farmington #012 has a door that leads nowhere; Farmington #060 was "originally a clock shop, then a Catholic Church – now used as a grocery store." Other houses were associated with famous individuals. While Elmer Keith did not write up most of the forms, he reviewed them, occasionally adding comments about the dating. He used the information in his commentary to forward to the American Guide project.

By January 1936, the survey forms were being organized and duplicated by typing carbon copies. Some work continued, however. In cases where houses were lost to fire or demolition, notes were inserted like "burned July 1937." A few were photographed after the 1938 hurricane to show damage.

As expected, numerous publications resulted from the varied research by Writers' Project workers. A new guide, the more familiar *Connecticut: a Guide to its Roads, Lore and People*, was published in 1938, noting its predecessor, Heermance's *Connecticut Guide*. In late 1940, Mrs. Louise Crampton, State Supervisor, prepared a *Report of Progress*, which described the status of a number of publishing projects begun or proposed. She was especially interesting in seeing *Connecticut Architecture* be produced for researchers and residents in general. "We have photographs that are good and we have complete architectural descriptions I think the work itself should be salvaged."

With a good introductory text, rewritten from the material done on project time by Mr. Keith, the rest of the book (photographs and descriptions) could stand by itself." World War II halted this and many other plans. In December 1941, Writers' Projects were redirected to concentrate on organizing and packing materials for deposit so that at some future date projects could be picked up where they were left off. In the meantime, resources could be available to the public for research. By April 1942, boxes of the Architectural Survey were arriving at the Connecticut State Library.

Now the census forms have been transcribed into a searchable format to join the scanned photos and sketches as a resource for all. There is substantial preparatory work involved for each town that goes online, but the remaining towns will gradually appear over the next few months. Several aids will be added later, such as a glossary of the architectural terms used and a key to the date sources. Mrs. Crampton could not have imagined the form her project would take, but she probably would be pleased.

Carol Ganz, History and Genealogy

There's Something Fishy Going on at the State Library



Gone Fishing is a new exhibit in the Main Reading Room of the Connecticut State Library. Reference Librarian Nancy Lieffort has caught a nice collection of state and federal publications on fishing in Connecticut. Documents from the old State Board of Fisheries and Game (now part of the Department of Environmental Protection) chronicle details such as the peak year of the shad catch (1903 at 176,085). It's been downhill (downstream?) since then. Odell Shepard, a Connecticut Lieutenant Governor from 1941-43 under Governor Robert A. Hurley, wrote: "The charm of angling, and the strong hold it takes upon many of us, have never been exactly explained. This is not because angling is mysterious in its nature, like poetry, but because its fascination is so inclusive, woven of so many strands." Come in and discover how our documents delineate the fascination of fishing.

[1] Odell Shepard, *Thy Rod and Thy Creel* (Hartford: Edwin Valentine Mitchell, 1931), 29.

Julie Schwartz, Unit Head, Government Information and Reference Services

iCONN's New E-Journal Finder

Does iCONN have articles from Consumer Reports? Can I get an article from Sky and Telescope from 1993? What years of the Boston Globe are in iCONN? These are some of the questions that iCONN's E-Journal Finder can help answer.

The E-Journal Finder (licensed from Serials Solutions) tells one whether iCONN has a magazine, journal, or newspaper in full text. The E-Journal Finder is split between two audiences of users. One finds articles for the general public and K12 students/teachers/staff and the other finds articles for college students/faculty/staff.

The E-Journal Finder is found on a tab at the top of every iCONN search screen. When a user clicks on the tab, a screen will display where selection can be made on the appropriate audience level, and then the user can either type in a specific magazine, journal, or newspaper title or browse titles by subject category.

No authentication is required to access the E-Journal Finder or to search for a title. Authentication is needed, however to access the contents of the title. In-library users will be able to access the content without authentication. At-home users can access the content by

entering their Connecticut library card number. College students and faculty may need to access the content through their library's server. Since rolling out this service in February 2008 we have had very positive comments. We hope to expand the contents of the E-Journal Finder in the months ahead.



"Awesome!! The E-Journal Finder is wonderful. I have been trying to "train" my patrons to look up specific titles and it hasn't been easy."

"This is so great... Thank you!"

"We love the E-Journal Finder."

Gail Hurley, Statewide Library Catalog Coordinator, iCONN

WPA Art Inventory Project Rescues Painting



Winchester Church by George Harris, 1937

Recently, State Librarian Kendall Wiggin announced that staff of the WPA Art Inventory Project had rescued a 20 X 24 watercolor titled *Winchester Church* from certain destruction. Moving crews are prepared to empty Barnard/Brown School in Hartford. In its place will be a magnet school. State Archivist Mark Jones who is coordinating the project arranged a visit to the school through Principal Lynne Estey. Damon Munz and Nolan Pelletier of the State

Library accompanied Jones. Since the Barnard and Brown schools had been separate schools during the WPA's Federal Art Project (FAP), he hoped that the easel art given to the two schools had been brought together at the Barnard/Brown school.

The two year Art Inventory Project is funded by an appropriation made by the General Assembly. One goal of the project is to compile automated databases of data found in the artist work cards, allocation cards, and on the reverse side of black and white prints. Another is to preserve and house a collection of black and white negatives at the New Haven Museum and Historical Society and to create another database. Staff has compiled biographical files of artists for future research. The project will also attempt to find art that was "allocated" to public and private institutions by the Connecticut Federal Art Project. Since the project was shut down suddenly in 1942, the State and Federal WPA's were not able to retrieve the art.

Jones, Munz, and Pelletiere were given access to rooms on all floors of the school. Jones showed the custodian, "Tony," a photocopy of a black and white print of one of the paintings given to the two schools. Tony immediately told him that he had seen the painting, and Munz and Tony went to get it. Unfortunately, the painting is not in its original frame, and a corner is broken off, but given the condition of its storage, *Winchester Church* is in remarkable condition.

WPA artist George Edgerly Harris painted it. Harris was born in 1898 in Delaware. His father was Charles X. Harris, who founded the Noank Art Colony. The younger Harris wanted to be a baseball player, but his father pointed him toward fine arts. In 1934 Harris came to Connecticut and became a dairy farmer but soon abandoned that vocation. He lived in Winchester. He attended the Art students League of New York City and, in 1927, the National Academy of Design and the Julian Academy in Paris. He had a reputation as a good portrait painter having painted such subjects as Warren G. Harding, Calvin Coolidge, Herbert Hoover, and society women of New York City. He liked to use color, and in 1934 Times critic Howard Devree wrote of a display of pastel portraiture by Harris at a city gallery that its worst "feature" was "the use and overuse of very strong color for the medium; color so strong that it might be characterized as violent."

Harris did not survive the WPA. In October 1937, around four months after he painted *Winchester Church*, he was hit by a car which broke his leg. He stayed in the Litchfield County Hospital in Winsted for eight months, succumbing to a heart attack on June 21, 1938. He was not married. He painted around 40 pieces of easel art for the WPA, and now one of them is at the Connecticut State Library.

It is not the intention of the WPA Art Inventory to bring art work to Hartford, but when a work is in imminent danger of destruction, staff will accept an offer to take it as a repository of last resort.

Mark Jones, Connecticut State Archivist

Public Library Dedications

Wallingford Public Library

On May 31, 2008, the renovated and expanded Wallingford Public Library building was dedicated. Wallingford is located in New Haven County and has an estimated population of 44,825. The library that was expanded was built in 1982. All of the public services remain on the main floor. The expanded area provides more seating, book and nonprint stacks, a teen area with public computers, and meeting room spaces. The children's room has tripled in size. It has a reading garden with an 18' tree. The preschool area has a picture book train and train station. The lower level has meeting rooms and technical services. These changes expanded the library by 33,000 square feet.



The renovations and expansion cost approximately \$12.6 million. The Town of Wallingford bonded approximately \$11.6 million for the project and received some private donations. The State Library awarded the Town of Wallingford a \$500,000 Public Library Construction Grant from state bond funds administered by the Connecticut State Library.



For more information about this library, check out Wallingford Public Library's webpage at <http://www.wallingford.lioninc.org/>.

Simsbury Public Library



On June 8, 2008, the renovated and expanded Simsbury Public Library building was dedicated. Simsbury is located in Hartford County and has an estimated population of 23,660. The library was built in 1985. The main floor has an expanded adult area with more seating, bookstacks for print and nonprint, computers, reading and study areas, and a computer lab for 20. There is also a teen area on the main floor that provides a large gathering space and an expanded area for collections with display. The lower level has four meeting rooms and the children's area that has doubled in space.

There is a baby room for just babies and caregivers with materials and toys and programming space. The Science Discovery Center meeting room for children's programs has a large 60" flat panel LCD screen. Another interesting feature of the building is an expanded business resource center which includes two work-study rooms where entrepreneurs can use their laptops and cell phones and a small conference room where they are able to meet clients and make presentations. The library also has four flat LCD screens that serve as electronic bulletin boards but also can be used for other functions, such as plugging in a computer, games or TV. The library expanded from 22,996 square feet to 42,600 square feet.



The renovations and expansion cost approximately \$7.5 million. The Town of Simsbury bonded \$6.1 million for the project, and \$1.5 million came from private donations and grants. The State Library awarded the Town of Simsbury a \$500,000 Public Library Construction Grant from state bond funds administered by the Connecticut State Library.

For more information about this library, check out Simsbury Public Library's webpage at at <http://www.simsburylibrary.info/>.

Mary Louise Jensen, Building Consultant



Milestone: Joanne Turschman

Joanne Turschman, the Connecticut State Library Data Coordinator, retired on June 30th after 31 years of service to the Connecticut State Library. Every public library director came to know Joanne as the expert in all matters statistical. She guided and cajoled library directors through their annual survey making sure each "locked in" their data before the deadline in order to maintain their eligibility for the state aid grant. In return, she provided them with the specialized statistical information they needed to gain support for excellent public library service.

Known for her kindness and professionalism, she provided personal service to librarians and board members across Connecticut. If anyone needed particular information from the state survey at budget time or when advocating for a new service, all they needed to do was talk to Joanne. A spreadsheet containing the information they needed would be in their email by the end of the day.

Last year Joanne was recognized by the National Center for Education Statistics and the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science with the Helen M. Eckard Award for Exemplary Use of Public Library Data. This award recognized the many innovative ways she has made public library data accessible on the WebJunction website. Joanne also

administered the Connecticard program, gently urging libraries to submit their data and having the pleasure of calculating the reimbursements that libraries receive.

Before her tenure as the data coordinator she served as a law librarian at the State Library, for which she was awarded two Governor's Service Awards for the enthusiasm, interest, dedication, and patience she gave to each patron request. We at the State Library and around Connecticut wish her well in retirement.

Sharon Brettschneider, Director, Division of Library Development

Information Technology Unit at the Connecticut State Library

Calendar year 2007 was a very busy one for the Division of Administrative Service's Information Technology (IT) Support Unit. The IT Support Unit is responsible for the day to day operation of all State Library network and user systems. Not only does this unit support the 125 person staff of the State Library, it is also responsible for the provision of IT services to library patrons at the State Library's Capitol Avenue location in Hartford. In addition, they support three computer training labs located in different parts of the state which are used to provide training to public and school library staff from towns and cities in Connecticut.

As you can imagine, making sure that all systems operate smoothly is quite a task. But the day-to-day operation is only one facet of the responsibilities that IT Support is charged with. In addition to making sure that our internal library systems run smoothly, this unit is constantly exploring ways in which to improve the State Library's digital footprint.

Just last year the State Library joined the Connecticut Education Network's fiber backboned network. This change allowed us to increase our speed of communication which greatly assisted an older system which was becoming more and more taxed as the use of our IT resources continued to expand. In addition to installing a fiber backbone network, the IT Support Unit installed a state of the art firewall adding a new level of security to State Library operations.

In 2007 a new backup storage system was also implemented. This system allows the Library to backup up its critical data from all seven of its locations to one centrally administered location. The IT Support Unit also worked with the Information Services Division to upgrade the software which allows library patrons to access myriad sources of information while giving the State Library the ability to control access to a limited number of computers so that those wishing to use the machines may do so in a fair and impartial manner.

The IT Support Unit worked with the agency's webmaster to implement a new Web process that allows for the required security while permitting agency content to be posted in the most effective manner.

IT Support is right in the middle of its calendar year 2008 initiatives to improve the experiences of staff and patrons at the State Library. Look for a report similar to this one next year, and you will see how the IT Support Unit continues to enhance the experiences of all digital visitors to the State Library's abundance of on-line resources and services.

Rich Kingston, Director of Administrative Services

Milestone: Beth Barrett

Beth Barrett retired from State Service on June 1, 2008. She served the State of Connecticut since 1974, working at the University of Connecticut Health Care Center as well as teaching classes at Manchester and Middlesex Community Colleges and Eastern Connecticut State University. During her service at the State Library she worked for the IT Support Unit for more than ten years. We wish her many fulfilling, pleasurable, and healthy retirement years.

Farewell

Thank you for the opportunity to share the *CONNector* with you since its inception. After twenty-two years in Connecticut State Service, August, 2008 is a time to move on to other interests.

Best wishes. May you all fare well.

Bonnie Delaney, Editor

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