

The CONNector

CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

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This newsletter is published quarterly in January, April, July, November. Your contribution and comments are welcome. The deadline for contributions is the 20th of the month prior to publication. Please send them to Editor, CSL, 231 Capitol Avenue, Hartford CT 06106-1537 or email [Bonnie Delaney](#).

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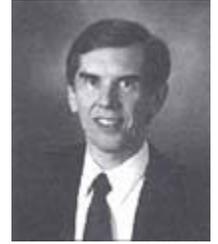
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The State Librarian's Column

Kendall F. Wiggin
Connecticut State Librarian



The library community, like the rest of the nation, has been affected by the tragic events of September 11th.

The Connecticut library community was deeply saddened by the death of Margaret Quinn Orloske of Windsor who worked on the 96th floor of World Trade Center I . Before becoming a Vice-President for Marsh & McLennan Companies, Margaret had been a librarian for Travelers Insurance in Hartford. She was very active in the library community, including serving on the board of the Capitol Regional Library Council.

A few weeks after the horrific events of September 11th, the State Library hosted a reception for *Fleet Cheers for Reading II* in Memorial Hall. This is the second year that Fleet Bank has sponsored this community service program aimed at kindling a lifelong passion for reading in preschool children. That afternoon a reporter asked me about the importance of reading to children at times like these. I explained that reading, especially adults reading to children, provided children and adults a chance to distance themselves, if only momentarily, from the great events that were forever changing our lives. It was also an opportunity for children to hear from adults that it is ok to find a little escape from overwhelming situations through books and conversation. But the question also made me consider the importance of institutions like libraries at times of volatility in both our personal and national life.

Libraries have the informational resources that can help individuals gain a better understanding of the issues, cope with loss, locate job prospects or find solace. There are books in our libraries to help us explain to our children those things which we often have trouble conveying in a way that they can understand. The American Library Association, organizations such as OCLC and libraries throughout the state and nation have produced wonderful lists of resources that can help adults and children better cope with terrorism and disaster. Employees who have lost jobs will find help in library job resource centers. Supplementing library collections are the timely resources of iCONN.org, the Connecticut Digital Library.

These are also difficult times for librarians caught between their love of country and the protection of the freedoms we cherish. We are no less patriotic when we urge our elected officials to consider carefully abridgements to our fundamental freedoms in the name of fighting terrorism or obeying the law when assisting law enforcement officials. In these times when the domestic tranquility is broken and the economy is faltering, it is important that librarians get the message out that libraries matter and that librarians can do much to assist our fellow citizens.

Libraries are, after all, about community. All of us at the State Library offer our condolences and deepest sympathies to the families and friends of those affected by the tragedies of September 11th and most especially, to Connecticut families.

State Library Board Notes

The State Library Board held their regular meeting on July 23, at the David M. Hunt Library in Falls Village. Vice-Chairperson Ed Sullivan conducted the meeting in the absence of Chairperson Ann Clark. Mr. Woods Sinclair, Chair of the Hunt Library Board gave some history of the library, offered a tour after the meeting, and thanked Board member Fred Petersen for helping Doris Longaven and Cookie Kubarek, the Hunt Library's Director coordinate the meeting.



David M. Hunt Library, Falls Village

Mr. Wiggin reported that the State Police have completed their investigation of the Indians papers and the matter is now with the Attorney General's office. He also reported that the State Library has received a \$77,500 grant from the William Caspar Graustein Memorial Foundation to continue the GreatkidsCT project.

Fred Petersen reported that the Corporate Partners Breakfast hosted by the Connecticut Heritage Foundation resulted in an AT&T Broadband offer of in-kind support to help get the *History on the Move* program going.

Mr. Wiggin reported that in the biennial budget that was finally passed, the State Library's book budget is \$80,000 less than the previous year. This reduction will need to be addressed in the next legislative session. Also of concern; iCONN is funded for only one year. Since the databases that make up the iCONN are subscriptions, continued funding is needed.

In Board action, public library construction grant extensions were approved for:

- The Bentley Memorial Library (Bolton)
- The Norwalk Public Library (Norwalk)
- Oxford Public Library (Oxford)
- The Granby Public Library (Granby)
- The Willoughby Wallace Memorial Library (Branford)
- Silas Bronson Library (Waterbury)

The Board tabled the Hagan Memorial Library (East Haven) grant extension request.

The Board also approved twenty-four FY02 LSTA and Technology Act Grants totaling \$229,042. Division of Library Development staff reviewed thirty-six grant applications requesting a total of \$327,436. *See page 11 for a complete list of the LSTA grant awards.* In further action, the Board authorized the State Librarian to close all CSL facilities on Tuesday, October 30, 2001 for an All-Staff Development day. A resolution honoring the life of Phillip G. James was passed unanimously.

The resolution that Ann Clark and Ed Sullivan continue in their roles as Chair and Vice Chair of the State Library Board for another term was passed unanimously. The Board thanked Judge Hennessy and Mollie Keller for their work on the Nominations Committee.

The State Library Board held their regular meeting on September 24, 2001 at the State Capitol. Chairperson Ann Clark thanked the State Library Board for re-electing her for another term. The State Library Board Approved:

- A Grant Extension for the Oakville Branch Library (Watertown)
- The Collection Development policy for the Division of Library Development's Service Centers
- Appointments to the Advisory Council for Library Planning and Development (ACLPD) for a term beginning October 1, 2001 and ending September 30, 2003: Richard B. Schreiber (Library User Region 5), Nancy Wood (Small Public Library), Barbara Williams (Institutional Library), Dennis Barrow (Special Library), Karen Roesler (CLA), and Judith Markiewicz

Mr. Wiggin stated that the Connecticut Heritage Foundation and AT & T Broadband sponsored an event marking the National Book Festival at the Noah Webster School, Hartford. Lt. Governor Rell and Geno Auriemma, Coach of the UConn Women's basketball team addressed almost 100 fourth graders and CSL staff member Kevin Johnson portrayed the civil war soldier, William Webb.

In other action the Board passed resolutions for following retiring State Library personnel:

Nancy L. Blount after 34 years of service; Joseph E. Starkowski after 37 years of service; Beverly L. Naylor after 37 years of service.



The State Library and Museum of Connecticut History was showcased September 17-21, in the Connecticut Building at the Eastern States Exposition. The Museum staff produced an exhibit featuring Art Deco appliances from its collection of Connecticut manufactured items. The State Library Image Committee organized the production of brochures and bookmarks that provided information about the different resources the Library offers.

Connecticut Public Records Administration Past and Present

Eunice G. DiBella, Public Records Administrator

On August 7, 2001 the Public Records Administrator and the State Librarian hosted a reception in Memorial Hall of the Connecticut State Library celebrating the first awards from the Historic Document Preservation Account established by Public Act 00-146. The State Library received one hundred five applications in the first grant cycle, and awarded \$322,384 back to the towns for paper preservation, preservation planning and disaster recovery

The passage of this legislation has been a defining moment for the public records program. The revenues generated by this fund enable CSL to make a real difference in preserving local government records by providing municipalities with much needed funds to support these activities.

The Connecticut State Library, Office of the Public Records Administrator has been the Public Records Office for the State of Connecticut for slightly over 100 years. In 1899 the Connecticut General Assembly created a Temporary Commission on Public Records to survey town clerks, probate judges and churches on the condition of historical records. In 1911 State Librarian George Godard appointed Lucius B. Barbour as Examiner of Public Records.

The primary goal of the first two examiners of public records was to preserve municipal records. Lucius Barbour was an avid genealogist. *The Barbour Collection of Vital Records*, which he funded, is a monumental piece of work that has contributed to research in family and local history. Mr. Harold Burt succeeded Mr. Barbour, and devoted much of his time surveying the towns and rescuing records in the localities. He did this by bringing town records to the State Library for safekeeping. It is in large part due to his efforts that the State Library acquired the vast collection of early local records in its collections.

Mr. Rockwell Harmon Potter became Examiner of Public Record in the 1950's. Mr. Potter greatly expanded the scope and direction of the Public Records program. After World War 2, records management began to emerge as a profession. The emphasis shifted to managing documents during the entire "life cycle" of the record.

This concept combined preservation and administration of archival collections with the management of active records and the disposition of outdated files. Legislation that was introduced by Mr. Potter in the 1960's and was passed by the legislature created the position of the Public Records Administrator. The Administrator directed the newly created Department of Archives and Public Records in the State Library. The legislation gave the State Records program legal status and introduced records management concepts in state statutes.

In 1982 Dominic Persempere succeeded Rockwell Potter. Sadly, Mr. Persempere passed away in late July of this year. Mr. Persempere worked tirelessly with the municipalities to improve the condition of their records and was responsible for achieving an excellent relationship between the State Library and the Connecticut town clerks.



Kendall Wiggin, State Librarian; Tanya Lane, Town Clerk Westbrook, Eunice G. DiBella, Public Records Administrator, Sen. Eileen M. Dailey, (D-33d District); Rep. Brian O'Connor, (D-35th District)

In 1989 I assumed the post of Public Records Administrator. Each individual who has served in this position has brought their unique perspective on what this job should be, but we have all shared the goal of historic preservation. In the coming years, this office will work with the towns to increase the scope of funding priorities and provide municipalities with assistance and training to enhance the preservation of the historic documents of the State of Connecticut for its citizens.

Luncheon Celebrates Collaboration Between Two Government Branches

Steve Mirsky, Supervisor of the Bill Room

On September 26, the Bill Room at CSL hosted its annual Legislative Staff Luncheon in Memorial Hall at the Connecticut State Library. This event was organized to commemorate the collaboration between two branches of government (the Legislative and Executive - CSL is part of the executive branch) and also to foster and celebrate the important working relationships that the Bill Room and the State Library has with key legislative staff in the General Assembly. The two branches work together to inform and educate the public about the legislative process and to improve access to the legislative process.



Among the attendees at the luncheon were Ann Clark, Permanent Assistant House Clerk and State Library Board Chairperson; Vita Hardy, Permanent Assistant Senate Clerk; and Lawrence Furbish, Director of the Office of Legislative Research. Staff members were also invited from the offices of Legislative Information Technology, Legislative Management, and each of the Joint Standing Committees of the General Assembly. The luncheon provided the opportunity for everyone attending to see some new faces as well as reaffirm longstanding friendships.

The event began with a greeting by Kendall Wiggin, State Librarian who gave an introduction to the State Library's current objectives and key resources that make our agency's mission unique and useful to other state agencies and the general public. Next, Steve Mirsky, Bill Room Supervisor, thanked everyone for attending and announced plans to begin working on a project with the CT General Assembly's Information Technology Services. One key objective mentioned was the posting of official copies of legislative transcripts online on the CGA website. Starting with the 2002 legislative session, these electronic transcripts would be complete with citations and page numbers that court personnel and the general public frequently request.

Finally, Steve Mirsky introduced Neeru Ohri, guest speaker and member of Toastmaster's of Hartford, and she proceeded with a humorous speech on the 10 steps that need to be followed to prepare a good speech. As guests dined on lasagna and salad, Neeru drew chuckles and occasional bursts of laughter. Mirth and good conversation was had by all and marked the luncheon's success.

The Bill Room at CSL has a long history of working closely with the Legislature. The Office of Legislative Management has sponsored the Bill Room Legislative Intern every year since 1981. Each session Cheryl Fox, librarian/indexer at CSL, works from one of the original copies of the bills (which are hand delivered to her several times a day as they become available) and creates the on-line subject index for the legislative website. The Legislature publishes this annually in paper as *The Legislative Record Index*. She works very closely with Lois Sullivan of the Legislative Commissioner's Office and Paul Alderucci of the Legislative IT Department.

Jean Kincaid-Ross and Richard Scholz, Bill Room staff who index the transcripts, provide much valuable feedback to the legislative staff by catching typographical errors and other mistakes. They interact daily with Sandra Forte of the Legislative Management Office, Tim Kehoe of the Senate Clerk's Office, Anita DeLorenzo of the House Clerk's Office and Vicky Beauregard of the Legislative IT Department.

Mario Colagiovanni and Beth Barrett, IT professionals at CSL, also attended the luncheon. Together with Roger Schyns and Tim Putnam of the Legislative IT Department, they keep the computers in the Bill Room at CSL connected to the Legislative Intranet.

The attendees had a good time, renewed working relationships and are looking forward to next year's luncheon.

Core Competency Survey

Linda Williams, Children's Services Librarian

In the fall of 2000, the Division of Library Development of the Connecticut State Library asked all library staff who serve children in Connecticut to complete a survey. The survey was directly based on the Core Competencies adopted by the Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association.

In June, at a meeting of the Children's Section of the Connecticut Library Association, highlights from the results of this survey were announced. The study found that at every staff level from library page to library director, providing help to children in answering all kinds of questions, conveying a nonjudgmental attitude, and preserving confidentiality were unanimously considered important aspects of library service to children.

Staff at every level expressed a need for training (those surveyed were asked whether they "felt confident," "needed training," or considered the skill not relevant to their job performance) in identifying clients with special needs and designing and implementing services following the ADA, developing policies and procedures applying to children's services, and working with library educators to meet the needs of library schools students and promoting professional association scholarships.

Children's librarians expressed the strongest need for training in the areas of Administrative and Management Skills, Advocacy, Public Relations, and Networking Skills.

Paraprofessionals found skills in the Knowledge of Client Group, Communication, Providing Customers with Appropriate Materials and Information, and Professional Development the most relevant to them in the performance of their jobs - and skills in the areas of Administrative and Management, Programming, Advocacy least relevant.

Libraries Receive LSTA Grants

Children in Poverty

City	Institution	Grant Award
Danbury	The Danbury Library	\$7,410
New Britain	New Britain Public Library	\$18,188
Total		\$25,598

Long Range Planning

City	Institution	Grant Award
Portland	Portland Library	\$10,000
Sprague	Sprague Public Library	\$9,700
Westbrook	Westbrook Public Library	\$10,000
Windsor	Windsor Public Library	\$10,000
Total		\$39,700

Outreach Programs for Children

City	Institution	Grant Award
New Britain	New Britain Public Library	\$19,950
Plainfield	Aldrich Free Public Library	\$12,141
Total		\$32,091

Outreach Programs for Non-English Speaking Populations

City	Institution	Grant Award
Danbury	Danbury Public Library	\$18,957
Derby	Derby Public Library	\$7,900
Hartford	Hartford Public Library	\$16,000
New Britain	New Britain Public Library	\$10,256
Waterbury	Silas Bronson Library	\$16,000
Total		\$69,113

Outreach Programs for Older Adults

City	Institution	Grant Award
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Granby	Granby Public Library	\$10,809
Norfolk	Norfolk Library	\$3,720
Total		\$14,529

Technology Grants Awarded
Adaptive Technology

City	Institution	Grant Award
Colchester	Cragin Memorial Library	\$3,216
East Hartford	East Hartford Public Library	\$7,200
East Haven	Hagaman Memorial Library	\$3,728
Easton	Samuel Staples Elementary	\$3,284
Fairfield	Fairfield Public Library	\$5,885
Shelton	Shelton Board of Education	\$3,266
Total		\$26,579

Resource Sharing

City	Institution	Grant Award
Canterbury	Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School	\$8,432
Orange	New Haven Hebrew Day School	\$10,000
Sprague	Sprague Public Library	\$3,000
Total		\$21,432

Climb Your Family Tree at the Connecticut State Library

Carol Ganz, Reference Librarian, History & Genealogy

"Who lived in our house?" "Who made this tool?" "What does history have to do with my family?" *Climb Your Family Tree at the Connecticut State Library*, the new exhibit in the Museum of Connecticut History, introduces viewers to the basics of genealogy and illustrates the fact that the study of family history is more than just constructing family trees. The display provides some suggestions for getting started and demonstrates examples of common resources to track down the facts. The exhibit, provided by the History and Genealogy Unit, will be in place until February.



Memorial Hall; the Genealogy display and a few of the many pictures of Connecticut's governors

Access to Newspapers Increased with 2000th Reel of Microfilm

Jane Cullinane, Preservation Librarian

The July-August 1897 issues of the *Morning News* of New Haven constitute the 2000th reel of microfilm produced by the Connecticut Newspaper Project (CNP). CNP began to survey, catalog, and inventory all American newspapers in every known Connecticut newspaper repository in 1989 and then began selecting and preparing some of these newspapers for preservation microfilming in 1995. Following the inspection and approval of our 2000th reel of film, CNP will have saved the content of 364 titles. The 2000th reel also marks

the filming of 980,256 pages of newspapers representing 79 towns in Connecticut. The goal is to film 1,094,362 pages by April 2002.

Preservation microfilming is still considered the most reliable and cost effective method for preserving the content of newspapers. Current standards for preservation microfilming use very stringent benchmarks in order to ensure legibility. The camera negative, properly made and properly stored, is expected to survive 500 years. From it, a duplicate negative is made from which service copies for libraries are produced - and reproduced when wear and tear make the original service copies unusable.

Many of the original newspaper issues could still be used by researchers, but further handling may damage the fragile paper and precious text. Microfilm allows researchers to have access to the information without putting stress on the originals. Most lending libraries put their originals in storage and ask researchers to use the microfilm. The originals are saved for those rare occasions when the microfilm is inadequate. A few newspaper titles are in such poor condition that the filming process is considered the last use of the paper issues themselves. CNP returns all borrowed newspapers to the lending libraries who want them back and has in most cases been successful in finding new homes for those originals the lenders no longer want.

Perhaps a million pages of newspapers will still need to be microfilmed when the Connecticut Newspaper Project ends in April 2002. Many of these will be weekly newspapers that began in 1950. Even today, many local newspapers are not being preserved. Local libraries, historical societies, and other organizations interested in filming their town newspapers should contact [Karen Nadeski](#), Project Librarian, Connecticut Newspaper Project, by email or at 860-757-6527 for information on how to work with a microfilming vendor.



This fragile page will be preserved and will be more accessible after filming

The Connecticut Newspaper Project is a joint effort with funding provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Connecticut State Library. Many institutions have cooperated in the cataloging, inventory and microfilming phases. More information on the Newspaper Project can be found [online](#).

More information about Connecticut newspaper resources at the State Library can be found at [online](#). This includes a section on how to borrow State Library microfilm through Interlibrary Loan. Other libraries in the state may also own copies of the film. Holdings of Connecticut repositories can be discovered through the [statewide catalog](#) "reQuest".

Scanning Newspapers

Digital imaging, often called scanning can greatly enhance access but is not considered a method to provide long term preservation. Creating a library of digital images and providing the resources and expertise to make and keep them accessible is a big project. The Northeast Document Conservation Center provides a leaflet called "[Digital technology made simpler](#)" by Paul Conway that introduces these issues.

A weakness of digital images is in the uncertain availability of equipment and software to view the images. The computer industry continually introduces new hardware and software and a company may need to replace their equipment every three to five years. At this rate, digital images may be unreadable in a decade unless care is taken to make them compatible with the new technology. Margaret Hedstrom, professor at the Univ. of Michigan School of Library and Information Studies, reviews the challenges of preserving information in digital form in "[Digital Preservation: A Time Bomb for Digital Libraries](#)".

At the present time, microfilm is cheaper to store in the long run, takes up less space than the originals, is easily and cheaply duplicated, and lasts longer than any electronic storage system available today. For digital images, a microfilm back-up is still considered appropriate. In addition, projects to scan newspapers have so far found it preferable to work from the microfilm rather than the originals. An article by Alan Howell called "[Film Scanning of Newspaper Collections: International Initiatives](#)" in RLG DigiNews describes three such projects.

From the State Archives

At the recent Staff Development Day, the third State Librarian George Seymour Godard (in the person of State Archivist Mark Jones) told everyone that he was the first State Librarian to broadcast over the radio on station WTIC in 1930. The editors of this newsletter have caught the visiting spirit in an error. According to the first issue of the State Library *Echo*, Mr. Godard began his broadcasting career by delivering a talk entitled, "The Connecticut State Library - Its Functions and Collections," on February 17, 1925, the inaugural year of WTIC. We wish to note that the spirit's memory may be faulty, for SDD was the first public appearance Godard has made in more than 65 years. In the first issue of the *Echo*, there is a note about a spectacular astronomical event:

"January 24 [1925] - Total Eclipse of the Sun! The library was closed until 10:00 o'clock to enable us to view this wonderful scene which Dame Nature created for us. A goodly number of us witnessed it from the library roof to which we almost froze as we patiently waited for the moment of darkness. We thawed out, however, and were glad we had reserved seats."