



# The CONNector

CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

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## *The State Librarian's Column*

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Kendall F. Wigin  
Connecticut State Librarian

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“‘Business as usual’ cannot be an option.” Sobering words from the Office of Policy and Management to state agency heads in a recent communiqué.

When I arrived in Connecticut four and a half years ago our state government was (like states across America) riding a wave of budget surpluses. Some of that aided library development— notably the establishment of iCONN, the Connecticut Digital Library. The State Library also saw an increase in service hours and staffing.

Surpluses have now turned to deficits here and elsewhere. Budgets at the state and local level are shrinking, constricting government services.

The Governor’s proposed budget for FY03-FY05 contains some good news for libraries. He has proposed a significant increase in funding sufficient to continue iCONN for the next two years at current levels. But the State Library is also looking at major staff reductions. The layoffs announced in December reduced our workforce by 13%. The recently passed Early Retirement Incentive Program (ERIP) will probably increase that number to close to 20%. Libraries with their graying workforce are particularly vulnerable to early retirement initiatives and the State Library is no exception. With staff reductions of the magnitude we are experiencing, it certainly cannot be “business as usual”.

The Governor’s budget proposal also calls for transferring the Commission on the Arts from the State Library to a new Commission on the Arts, Culture and Tourism. I am encouraged that while many state library agencies are being merged into other agencies or eliminated altogether, our Governor and legislators value the wide range of services the State Library provides and have chosen to maintain the State Library as an agency.

*continued*

## The State Librarian's Column

The budget also proposes a very disappointing level of funding for the Cooperative Library Service Units (CLSUs). The new Cooperative Library Consortium (CLC) should be in place by the end of June. To make it effective it will need more funding than is currently provided for in the budget proposal. Throughout the planning process it has been clear that this is an area where it cannot be business as usual. Core functions are being determined. Priorities are being set. But there will be changes.

While the budget situation presents great challenges there are of course opportunities. Unfortunately, there is little time for a thoughtful planning process to insure that we make the most of these opportunities. As we move forward in these difficult budget times, we will try to avoid any knee jerk reactions. It is clear, however, that what we do and how we do it will be changing. Libraries have managed to evolve with the times and I am confident we will continue to do so.

To get through these tough times, the State Library, the CLC, and libraries of all types will need to focus services. It is hard not to be all things to all people, but as one librarian recently chided us, do fewer things, but do them well.

We will certainly try.



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## ***Library Open House Planned***

*Carol Taylor, Director, Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped*



*Staff and Volunteers inspect tapes at LBPH*

Mark your calendars for Saturday, July 12, 2003, 9:00AM –12:00 PM! You are invited to attend an open house at Connecticut State Library's Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (LBPH), 198 West Street, Rocky Hill. It will be an opportunity to tour the library, meet the staff and volunteers and check out the new Sensory Garden. You will also be helping to celebrate the library's 35<sup>th</sup> year of serving eligible residents of the State of Connecticut.

LBPH is a network library of the Library of Congress' National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS). This service lends books and magazines in Braille or audiocassettes along with the necessary playback equipment, **FREE**, for anyone who is unable to read regular print due to a visual or physical disability.

A program of presentations and awards is planned for 10:00 AM. Special guests from NLS and the network will be in attendance. Invitations are being sent to regional authors whose works have been produced by NLS or our own local recording program, Connecticut Volunteer Services for Blind and Handicapped.

Please plan to join us for this special event and learn more about the vital services provided by this program.

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## ***Negotiating Online Service Contracts SNELLA Spring 2003 Program***

Negotiation of contracts for online resources is a core skill in this time when library materials are often licensed rather than purchased. The Southern New England Law Libraries Association (SNELLA) will address this issue in its spring program, to be held April 14, 2003 at Quinnipiac University in Hamden. Each individual negotiation carries its own unique and complex series of dynamics. There are similar issues in all libraries, as well as different issues that pertain only to certain types of libraries.

The guest speaker for the program is Duncan Alford, Law and Politics Librarian, Princeton University Library, and author of a recent article in *Law Library Journal* on **negotiating and analyzing electronic license agreements**.

The panel will include librarians from several types of law libraries. One of the panel speakers will be Denise Jernigan, Law /Legislative Reference Unit Head, Connecticut State Library who, in consultation with Serials Librarian Carol Trinchitella, will describe the State Library's experiences negotiating for legal resources through its consortium partner, the New England Library Consortium (NELLCO), and as an independent government library.

For more information contact Christopher Roy at: Phone - (860) 896-4955 E-Mail -[Christopher.roy@jud.state.ct.us](mailto:Christopher.roy@jud.state.ct.us)

## *From the State Archives: Yeoman Third Class Marjorie Kay*

*Mark H. Jones, State Archivist*

On July 27, 1949, Marjorie Kay was buried with full military honors in Soldiers' Field at Northwood Cemetery in Wilson, Connecticut. Before that, mourners had assembled at the Molloy Funeral Home. One can only imagine the stories about Kay that her friends and admirers shared. An obituary in the June 27 newspaper, *The Hartford Times*, commented that she had led "an unusually colorful life." Those who gathered undoubtedly knew that she was a fearless Navy nurse in World War I, a model for a famous war poster, a soprano who sang at New York's Metropolitan Opera, an entertainer, and in Hartford, a dance instructor and talent agency director.



*Portrait of Marjorie Kay as Red Cross Nurse*

We know little about her family except that at the time of her death, her father, Richard Day Kay, a retired jeweler, lived in Hartford. Obituaries mentioned that she was from Detroit. A press release in 1922 stated that she was a "former Detroit Society Girl. When she was young, she and many other countrywomen launched themselves into the first industrial supplied war, so vast and destructive that people referred to it as the "Great War." Both the Navy and Army had created auxiliary nurses corps before the nation had entered the war. Kay joined the Naval Nurse Corps and at the age of 17 achieved the rank of Yeoman First Class. Yeoman Kay served on the Western Front from May to September, 1916, first at an American Ambulance Hospital at Nevilly – sur – Seine, France and thereafter in base hospitals with Mrs. William K. Vanderbuilt.

There were two stories about her bravery. The first contended that she was one of the first American women to drive an ambulance behind enemy lines to pick up wounded. Another said that she was the first woman on the Western Front to fly across enemy lines, most likely with other medics. In the folder about her in the State Archives, there is a photograph of her assisting a doctor in an operation and a medal showing a nurse giving aid to a fallen soldier.

Another story relates that when she returned stateside, she was chosen as the model for a Red Cross fund raising poster. She was dressed in nurse's garb and her hands and arms were outstretched. The only word on the poster was "Give." She was proud of it, and kept a copy of the poster on the walls of her apartment that her third husband and she shared on Mulberry St. in Hartford.

*continued*

She became a dancer and studied as coloratura soprano. Friends stated that she had sung with Enrico Caruso at the Met. By the mid – 1920’s, she settled in Hartford, that had been a stop along the Keith – Albee Circuit. She opened a dancing school and later directed a successful talent agency. *The Hartford Times* noted that she was “one of Hartford’s best known entertainers.” The Courant observed that on the walls of the apartment that her husband and she shared hung “pictures of Miss Kay in costume taken when she was on the stage.”

The Times emphasized her beauty: “Tall, stately, slim and blond, Miss Kay never lost the beauty that helped bring her success in the entertainment field.”

She received a life - long pension from the Federal government for her military service. Among keepsakes from the war, she kept a belt to which were attached “fifty four buttons, collar ornaments, shoulder badges, hat badges and Belt Buckles” from Allied armies and even those of Germany and Austria. Unfortunately we do not know the fate of her copy of the Red Cross poster or the decorative World War I belt.

The file on her comes from the War Records Department that operated in the State Library from 1917 to the 1950’s. A man from Florida, one of her two former husband’s or a close supporter, mailed the contents to the State Library in 1952. From the State Archives’ “attic,” we present her for your interest and amusement.



### *AASL Certificate of Commendation*

*William Sullivan, Administrator, Connecticut Digital Library*

The Connecticut Digital Library received a Certificate of Commendation from the Affiliate Assembly of the American Association of School Librarians, a division of the American Library Association. The Certificate was awarded “in recognition of valuable contributions to the field of school librarianship.” The accompanying letter further stated: “By providing an online database of reference materials and journals free to every school and home in the state, you are giving everyone equal access to a wealth of materials. With school districts struggling with budget constraints, this service means that no matter the socioeconomic status of a locality, quality information is available to all.”

In addition, **iCONN** made [ctnow.com](http://ctnow.com)’s list of the top 100 websites in Connecticut. It is listed in both the Education and Government categories. To increase the visibility of this listing, we posted a link to the list at the main **iCONN** home page. For information about how this list is compiled, see [www.ctnow.com/news/custom/web100/hc-web100.htmlstory](http://www.ctnow.com/news/custom/web100/hc-web100.htmlstory) (select “About the Web 100”)

## *Kids InfoBits Now Available on iCONN*

iCONN has been upgraded to include Kid's InfoBits, a new K-5 database from the Gale Group that will replace InfoTrac Kid's Edition on July 1, 2003. Until then, both the new and previous versions of this resource for K-5 students will be available. Kids InfoBits targets the research needs of students in Kindergarten through Grade 5. It features a developmentally appropriate and visual graphic interface, a subject-based topic tree search and full-text, age-appropriate, curriculum-related magazine and reference content.

Kids InfoBits features:

- § A drilldown subject topic tree for users who need help identifying a particular topic
- § A simple and visually appealing graphic interface on the GaleNet platform
- § Full-text proprietary reference content from Blackbirch Press that supports the K-5 curriculum
- § Approximately 75 full-text, age appropriate magazines
- § Over 3,000 searchable, indexed images
- § A 5-year backfile that offers relevant and manageable results lists

Reference content in Kids InfoBits includes:

- § Kidbits, 2nd Ed. (Blackbirch Press)
- § The Blackbirch Encyclopedia of Science and Invention
- § The Blackbirch Kid's Almanac of Geography
- § The Blackbirch Kid's Visual Reference of the World
- § The Blackbirch Kid's Visual Reference of the States
- § The Columbia Encyclopedia, 6th Edition
- § Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary



## *Business & Company Resource Center*

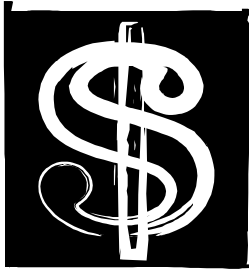
The Business & Company Resource Center from Gale at [www.icomm.org](http://www.icomm.org) provides access to comprehensive profiles of more than 450,000 companies, over 3,200 popular and scholarly full-text business periodicals, and the business sections of over 70 newspapers, including *The New York Times*. You can search by company name, product name, brand name, industry, SIC code or NAIC code, geographical location, or keyword with Boolean operators. You can also search for articles in specific journals for a specific time period. Search results are returned and categorized by source type:

- Company Profile — containing detailed contact and company information
- News/Magazines — featuring relevant periodical articles
- Histories — providing a detailed history and chronology of the company
- Investment Reports — offering Investext® Select records
- Financials — providing in-depth detail on the company's financial standing and earning estimates
- Rankings — showing various company rankings within their industry and market share
- Suits and Claims — featuring civil claims filed against the company in the area of human resources
- Products — offering a complete listing of products and/or brands that a company owns or sells
- Industry Overview — detailed essays from Gale's Encyclopedia of American Industries, Encyclopedia of Global Industries and Encyclopedia of Emerging Industries. Additional market research reports on most industries from Datamonitor International
- Associations — featuring contact information on relevant associations within the company's industry

Newsletters ASAP provides instant access to 400 business and industry newsletters. InfoMarks is a persistent "bookmark" that allows you to periodically track a particular company. In addition, search results can also be easily shared with e-mail and print functions.



*Connecticut State Library Legislative Update  
Governor Rowland's Proposed Budget*



Governor Rowland released his proposed FY2003-2005 Biennial budget on March 4<sup>th</sup>. For the State Library the big news is the funding for iCONN and the move of the Commission on the Arts into a new agency.

The Governor has recommended funding **iCONN** at \$1,897,200 for FY 04 and \$ 1,894,322 for FY 05. This is excellent news. The amounts should be enough to keep the current database offerings. There is only \$500,000 for **iCONN** in our current year budget so this represents a major increase in new dollars.

The Governor has proposed the creation of a new Commission on Arts, Culture and Tourism. This would relieve the State Library of our current administrative responsibilities for the Commission on the Arts. The transfer of staff and program dollars represents much of the reduction you will see in our overall budget.

The Interlibrary Loan Delivery Service; State-wide Data Base Program (this is reQuest, the statewide catalog which is now part of **iCONN**); Grants to Public Libraries; and Connecticut Payments were all level funded. Considering the budget situation, this is positive news.

On the negative side, the State Library's book budget is only \$500,000 and of that \$250,000 will be from bonding. This year we have \$500,000 in general funds and \$250,000 in bonding. Thus the Governor's proposed budget reduces us by \$250,000 from our current year funding. This puts us in the same difficult situation we were in at the beginning of the current fiscal year before we received the addition funding through bond funds.

The other big reduction is in the funding for the Cooperative Library Service Units (CLSU's). Their funding is being reduced to just \$150,000. The State Library is working with the CLSU directors to determine the effect this reduction will have on their reorganization plans.

The Governor did not recommend any bond funds for the public library construction program. The State Library is aware of 35 communities that are prospective grant applicants. It is likely that without any funds for this program over the next two years, many of these projects will probably not move forward.

The 14 positions that were eliminated were not added back in the proposed budget. In addition, an early retirement incentive program was included in the HB 6495. We are expecting that a number of staff will take advantage of this program. It is not clear yet how many retirees we will be able to replace.



## *Connecticut Award for Excellence in Public Library Architecture 2003*

*Mary Louise Jensen, Building Consultant*

The Connecticut State Library, Connecticut Library Association, AIA Connecticut, Friends of Connecticut Libraries, and Association of Connecticut Library Boards announce that the Westport Public Library is the winner of the Connecticut Award for Excellence in Public Library Architecture 2003 for public libraries over 18,000 square feet, and the Mansfield Public Library is the winner for public libraries under 18,000 square feet. There are also two honorable mentions, one for detailing of the Mark Twain Library in Redding, and another for Chaplin Public Library in recognition of the significant transformation of an existing school into the renovated public library in spite of limited means.

These awards and honorable mentions are acknowledging excellence in the architectural design and functional planning of Connecticut public library buildings.



*Westport Public Library*



*Westport Public Library's  
Children's Room*

Westport Public Library's project consisted of alterations to its existing building and an addition of 16,000 square feet. The jurors were impressed with the improved exterior and interior of the building, the new, bright and welcoming entrance, and the large windows in the reading and children's rooms in the addition that take advantage of the river views of the Saugatuck River. The library has high quality finishes and millwork, an appealing palette of colors, legible and attractive signage, good natural and artificial lighting and a charming children's room. Even though the library is busier, moving AV service one level down, and seating and layout modifications to the stacks and reading rooms have produced a quieter and welcoming reading environment. The architect for the Westport Public Library is Herbert S. Newman and Partners. The photographer is Benson Photography.

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*Mansfield Public Library*

Mansfield Public Library’s project consisted of an addition to and renovation of a one-story library building that was originally a 1942 elementary school. An attractive exterior sign was installed, and a main entrance was created leading to a new focal point and the heart of operations, a round trellised circulation desk set within a carpeted compass pattern. Due to a logical lay-out, the library is easily supervised from the circulation desk. The library possesses excellent natural lighting, an appealing

color palette, and a very successful integration of slatwall for materials display purposes. With the creation of a new program room children’s attendance has almost doubled, and young adults even use this room as a library café on Saturday afternoons. The architect for the Mansfield Public Library is Schoenhardt Architects and Interior Design. Photographer is John Woodruff, Woodruff and Brown



*Mark Twain Library’s Circulation Desk*

Photography.



*Mark Twain’s Library Meeting Room*

At the Mark Twain Library in Redding the jurors were impressed with the quality of detailing such as excellent millwork, the restored historic meeting room in the original library, and stenciled Mark Twain quotes on the walls throughout the library. The new addition was built onto a circular building. This siting of this addition was a good solution to a challenging problem. The architect for the Mark Twain Library is Centerbrook Architects and Planners. Photographer is Esto Photographics Inc.

significant transformation of a vacant school building into the public library in spite of limited means. This 6,300 square foot library has an open floor plan with a warm and airy feeling. The architect for the Chaplin Public Library is Kenneth Boroson Architects. Photographer is Steve Lakatos Photography.

Four out-of state jurors (two architects and two librarians) commented on the spectrum of building styles and design solutions presented in fifteen new, renovated, or addition and renovated public library projects that were completed from 1997 to 2002. The two architect jurors were J. Stewart Roberts, J. Stewart Roberts Associate Architects (MA), and Elisabeth Martin, Director of Planning and Design, and Facilities, Brooklyn Public Library (NY). The two librarian jurors were Sunny Vandermark, Vandermark Consulting (MA) and Marjorie Judd, Director, Middleborough Public Library (MA).



*Entrance to Chaplin Public Library*

# ***THE MAJOR GENERAL THOMAS GUYER COLLECTION***

*David J. Corrigan, Museum Curator*



*Detail of the shoulder and knuckle guards of Major General Guyer's Presentation sword*

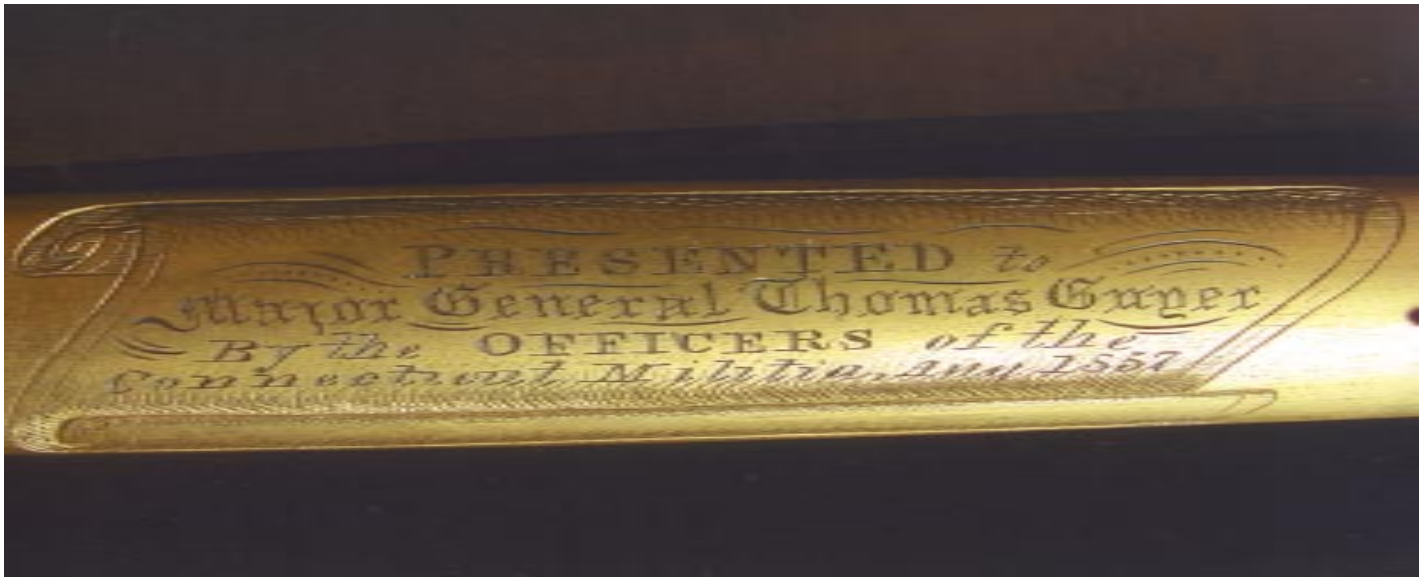
Once in a great while, the Museum of Connecticut History hits the trifecta—by acquiring an artifact or collection that, either directly or by association, embraces all three aspects of its long-standing mission to collect the state's military, industrial and political history. Such is the case with the December 2002 donation of a collection of military items originally owned by Major General Thomas Guyer (1809-1899) who, in addition to his role as commander of the Connecticut Militia, was also a manufacturer and state representative.

The collection consists of the General's double-breasted frock coat (with brass buttons backmarked "Scovill Manufacturing Co./Waterbury"), officer's sash, three pairs of epaulettes, his presentation sword and scabbard, two sword hangers, a pair of leather gauntlet gloves and his saddle blanket, all in excellent condition. Also included is a copy photograph of a daguerreotype of the General wearing a frock coat. The collection was maintained through several generations of Guyer's descendants and was donated by great-grandson Robert G. Porter of Wenham, MA. In conversation with museum staff, Mr. Porter expressed the opinion that it was "totally appropriate" to place the collection in the Museum of Connecticut History in light of General Guyer's 90-year residency in the state, his military service to it, and the museum's mission to collect and preserve Connecticut military history.

Thomas Guyer was born in Westport on 23 February 1809. His date of enlistment in the militia is not currently known but, in 1834, he was appointed 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Company, headquartered in Norwalk, where he resided for most of his life. In 1851 Guyer was appointed Brigadier General of the militia's 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade and, in 1853, had risen to the rank of Major General, in command of the Connecticut militia. Guyer apparently never saw action in either the Mexican or Civil Wars but, as his obituary stated "He rendered valuable assistance in selecting the officers of Connecticut's quota of soldiers" in the latter war, no doubt due to his familiarity with the state's militiamen.

Guyer's obituary also noted that he was employed for many years "as superintendent of the old Union Knob Works" in South Norwalk. The 1867 Atlas of Fairfield County lists him as a "manufacturer of mineral (porcelain) door knobs and all sizes of furniture knobs" at his factory on Water St. in South Norwalk. From 1872 to 1876, General Guyer represented Norwalk in the Connecticut House of Representatives, also serving as a town councilman and assessor.

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*Detail of the inscription on the scabbard of Major General Guyer's presentation sword*

The centerpiece of the Guyer Collection is a magnificent sword and scabbard, made by the Ames Mfg. Co. in Chicopee, MA (alas, not everything was made in CT), and presented to him in 1857. The most striking elements of the sword, whose blade is etched with period patriotic devices, are the counter guard, in the form of an American eagle with its wings fully spread, clutching the head of a snake that forms the knuckle guard. The tail of the snake is wrapped around the base of the pommel, a multi-faceted geometric form topped by an inverted acorn. The eagle and snake symbolism is most often associated with the United States' defeat of Mexico in 1847. The elaborate counter and knuckle guards of the Guyer sword are unique among Ames' presentation swords of the period.

The scabbard bears the inscription "PRESENTED to/Major General Thomas Guyer/By the OFFICERS of the/Connecticut Militia Aug. 1857." As reported by the *Hartford Courant*, between 4 and 8 August 1857, officers of the Connecticut militia, those in rank of 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant and above, went into camp for an Officers' Drill. Camp Sherman, with a Col. Tompkins of New York in charge of the drill, was located in the North Meadows. The drills were open to the public for several hours each day. Cavalry, artillery and rifle companies were drilled both with the infantry and separately. Evenings featured lectures and readings from the *Book of Tactics*. The drill apparently was highly successful. On 10 August 1857, the *Hartford Courant* reported the following:

Camp Sherman—On Thursday [6 August] the officers desiring to express in a tangible shape the appreciation of and their friendly feeling towards their commanding officer, Major Gen. Guyer, raised the sum of \$100 by subscription, and commissioned Col. Cooley [of the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment] to purchase of the Ames Manufacturing Company, a sword, suitable for the occasion. A beautiful sword was procured, which was presented on Friday afternoon [7 August] by Lieut. A.H. Terry of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment, with remarks appropriate and complimentary to Gen. Guyer, who expressed his acknowledgements with much feeling, being visibly affected by the unexpected but deserving compliment.

Although the words of Lieutenant Alfred H. Terry (who went on to serve as Colonel of Connecticut's 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment in the Civil War) have been lost to posterity, the sword that he presented to Major General Thomas Guyer on behalf of the militia officers has been admirably preserved by the General's descendants. Thanks to the generosity of his great-grandson, the sword and the other elements of the Guyer Collection have returned to Connecticut after a nearly 150-year absence.

## ***Connecticut Libraries...It's Never Too Early***

*Susan D. Cormier, Children's Services Consultant*



One of the most sobering facts to emerge from the many recent reports and commissions on early reading success is that:

**“Children who fall behind in first grade have a one in eight chance of ever catching up to grade level without extraordinary efforts. Juel, 1994; Clay, 1979.**

This finding has fueled nation wide early literacy efforts to provide children with essential pre-reading skills before they enter school. Building on programs developed by the Public Library Association and the Maryland State Library, the Division of Library Development (DLD) is mounting an initiative called “Connecticut Libraries... It’s Never Too Early.” The initiative will provide research-based training, program support, statewide publicity, and grant opportunities for early literacy work.

DLD launched this initiative with research-based training for Children’s Services librarians. Designed by Dr. Anne Fowler, Senior Scientist at Haskins Laboratory, the workshop, *A research-based approach to supporting preschool language and literacy in public libraries*, has the following goals:

- To identify what preschoolers need to know to become successful readers
- To develop and monitor research-based strategies for story hour
- To model early literacy strategies to parents and care-givers
- To communicate the value of library preschool programs to administrators, town officials and educators

Four sessions of this workshop were held during February and March. One hundred and thirty five librarians from ninety-two libraries received training. At least one more session will be offered to accommodate everyone who wants to attend. Once the workshops are over, efforts will focus on encouraging librarians to explicitly include the six preschool skills that prepare children for reading in their story hour programs. A database of story hour programs on these skills is in development. Librarians have been encouraged to use the statewide listserv (goodnightmoon) to share their experiences and the resources they develop. Follow-up sessions will be held in the fall so that participants can discuss the challenges they have encountered and share their success stories.

The next step in this project will be the creation of publicity materials that draw attention to the emergent literacy resources and programs that public libraries provide for young families.



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Willimantic Library Service Center (860) 456-1717

#### **Web Site [www.cslib.org](http://www.cslib.org)**

This newsletter is published quarterly in January, April, July, November. The deadline for contributions is the 10th of the month prior to publication. Please send them to Editor, CSL, 231 Capitol Avenue, Hartford CT 06106-1537 ([bdelaney@cslib.org](mailto:bdelaney@cslib.org))

**The Connecticut State Library is an Equal Opportunity Employer.**

The CONNector is up and running electronically. The list serve has been created based on our hard copy mailing lists and your subscriptions.

Please note that the correct method for subscribing to a list is as follows:

To: [imailsrv@list.state.ct.us](mailto:imailsrv@list.state.ct.us)  
CC;  
BCC:  
Subject:

The body of the e-mail should have the following: Subscribe listname; person's name, first and last name- (this is the person subscribing to the list)

To Unsubscribe follow the above example. The only difference would be in the body of the e-mail. It would look as follows:

Unsubscribe listname; person's name, first and last name. This should be done from the same e-mail address the Subscribe was done from.

The CONNector will continue to be offered through the Connecticut State Library website. Go to [www.cslib.org/connector](http://www.cslib.org/connector).