



# THE CONNECTOR

The Connecticut State Library Newsletter  
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January 2009, Volume 11, No. 1

## FROM THE STATE LIBRARIAN

Dear Mr. President-Elect Obama

I was there when you addressed the American Library Association in Chicago, June 27, 2005.

- You said that *“More than a building that houses books and data, the library has always been a window to a larger world - a place where we've always come to discover big ideas and profound concepts that help move the American story forward.”*
- You said that you want to work with librarians to *“insure that libraries continue to be sanctuaries for learning, where we are free to read and consider what we please, without the fear of Big Brother peering menacingly over our shoulders.”*
- You said that we have to have *“a Patriot Act that helps us track down terrorists without trampling on our civil liberties.”*
- You said that it isn't a question of *“whether we protect our people from terror or we protect our most cherished principles.”*
- You said, *“This kind of choice asks too little of us and assumes too little about America. We can harness new technologies and a new toughness to find terrorists before they strike while still protecting the very freedoms we're fighting for in the first place.”*
- You said you *“believe that if we want to give our children the best possible chance in life; if we want to open doors of opportunity while they're young and teach them the skills they'll need to succeed later on, then one of our greatest responsibilities as citizens, as educators, and as parents is to ensure that every American child can read and read well.”*
- You said, *“Reading is the gateway skill that makes all other learning possible, from complex word problems and the meaning of our history to scientific discovery and technological proficiency.”*
- You asked, *“In a knowledge economy where this kind of learning is necessary for survival, how can we send our kids out into the world if they're only reading at a fourth grade level?”*
- You asked, *“What if it was as easy to get a book as it is to rent a DVD or pick up McDonalds? What if, instead of a toy in every Happy Meal, there was a book? What if there were portable libraries that rolled through parks and playgrounds like ice cream trucks? Or kiosks in stores where you could borrow books? What if, during the summer, when kids often lose much of the reading progress they've made during the year, every child had a list of books they had to read and talk about and an invitation to a summer reading club at the local library?”*
- You said, *“Libraries have a special role to play in our knowledge economy.”*
- You said that libraries *“have been and should be the place where parents and kids come to read together and learn together. We should take our kids here more, and we should make sure politicians aren't closing libraries down because they had to spend a few extra bucks on tax cuts instead.”*

- You said, *“Education is still the foundation of this opportunity. And the most basic building block that holds that foundation together is still reading. At the dawn of the 21st century, in a world where knowledge truly is power and literacy is the skill that unlocks the gates of opportunity and success, we all have a responsibility as parents and librarians, educators and citizens, to instill in our children a love of reading so that we can give them the chance to fulfill their dreams.”*

Your words were not lost on me or the thousands of librarians in attendance that day. I was encouraged by your understanding of the problems and challenges facing libraries.

I was encouraged by your understanding of the fundamental role of literacy and education in a 21st Century Economy.

I hope that your administration will embrace your words and your vision for a country in which hope and change are possible when reading, libraries, and a free flow of ideas and information thrive.

Sincerely,

Kendall F. Wiggin, Connecticut State Library



## Going Green

### Library Journal's Design Center East: Going Green

By Sharon Brettschneider, Director of Division of Library Development

The fourth **Library Journal (LJ) Design Institute** moved to Connecticut for a one-day think tank on green design. Leading architects, designers, librarians, and vendors gathered on December 4, 2008, to discuss the challenges in making libraries sustainable. The Connecticut State Library (CSL) and the Connecticut Library Consortium (CLC) partnered with **LJ** to bring this event to Connecticut.

Over 120 people from across New England and as far away as Florida attended the event which was held at the Legislative Office Building across Capitol Avenue from Connecticut State Library. The day-long event included a series of green-themed presentations, panels, and breakout sessions where librarians learned the latest developments, options, costs and strategies being adopted. Attendees had a lunch break at the State Capitol and a post-Institute reception at the State Library. Special thanks go to Kris Abery, Continuing Education Consultant at the State Library, for coordinating events locally. Click [here](#) for an automated photomontage of the day.

Louise Berry and Alan Kirk Gray gave a special presentation about the design and construction of the new \$28 million Darien Library. Berry and Gray are the Director and Assistant Director of Operations, respectively, of the Darien Library. The new building opens in January 2009 and has been awarded a Gold Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. Click [here](#) for *LJ's* video interview of Louise Berry.

**Kendall Wiggin**, State Librarian, moderated a panel of librarians and architects on *Sustainable Design for Your Library and Community*; and Christine Bradley, Director of CLC, moderated a second panel on Green with (or without) LEED. As previous Green Design Institutes have shown, there is much more to sustainability than making our libraries green. With every Green Design Institute, we've taken a leap forward in knowledge and understanding, but there is much more we can learn from these experts and each other.

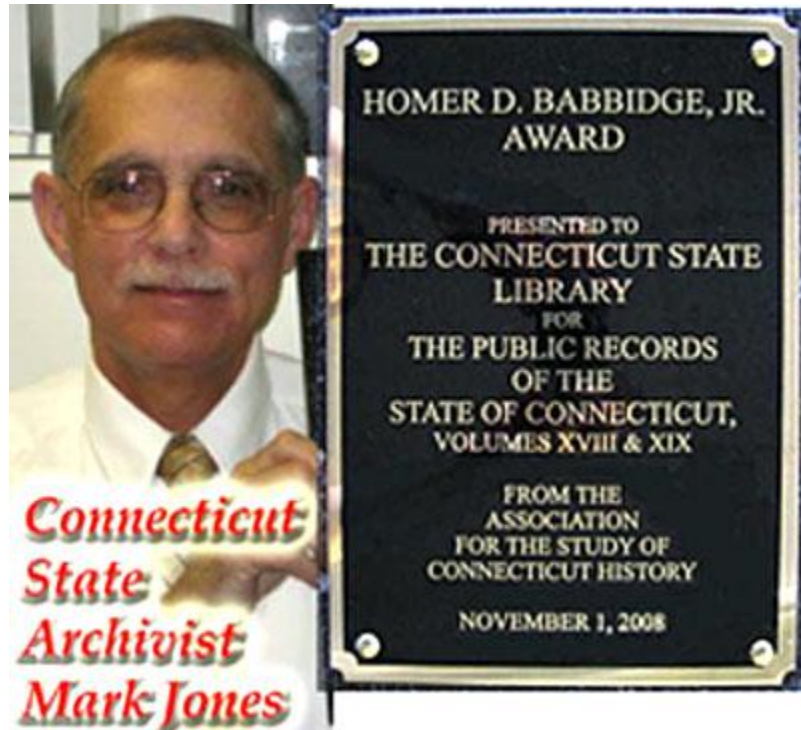
In the afternoon, six libraries from Rhode Island, Virginia, Tennessee, New York, Georgia and Granby, Connecticut had their building design challenges discussed in breakout sessions led by leading architects. Each librarian attendee had a chance to have their design challenge be the focus of one of the six architect-led breakout sessions. The design challenges did not have to focus solely on going green, but the breakout session did incorporate green solutions into the design.

The seminar was for those considering a building project or renovation, in the fundraising or pre-bond stage, or in the early building process and admission was free.

Throughout the day architects, lighting vendors and furniture dealers staffed displays along the concourse at the Legislative Office Building. Watch for **Library Journal's** special supplement on the Institute coming out in January.

Click here for *LJ's* article "[LJ's Green Institute Strikes a Chord in Connecticut](#)"

## CSL Wins Best Book Award



*by Paul E. Baran, Government Records Archivist*

On November 1, 2008, the Connecticut State Library accepted the Homer Babbidge, Jr. Award from the Association for the Study of Connecticut History (ASCH) for the publication of volumes eighteen and nineteen in the series, *The Public Records of the State of Connecticut*.

Established in 1985, the Babbidge Award is given to the scholar judged to have published the best work on a significant aspect of Connecticut's history in the prior calendar year. Representing the State Library at ASCH's fall conference and accepting the plaque was Paul Baran, Government Records Archivist at the Connecticut State Library. Dr. Douglas M. Arnold, the editor of the two volumes, was also present and received a plaque. Dr. Mark H. Jones, State Archivist, provided the administrative support for the State Library.

Volume eighteen covers the last years of Connecticut's charter government. Volume nineteen includes the journal of the 1818 Constitutional Convention as well as legislative debates drawn from contemporary Federalist and Republican-Tolerant newspapers, printed side-by-side. Dr. Arnold's introductions and annotations to the two volumes provide important historical context for researchers examining the records.

According to Nancy Steenburg, chair of the awards committee, four books were nominated and *The Public Records* was the unanimous selection by the panel of judges. One judge stated that the volumes represented a substantial contribution to the scholarship on the State's history. Another said that the volumes are an important addition to the history of early Connecticut, making the materials much more accessible to countless researchers.



## State Librarian Speaks at the Guilford Free Library Dedication

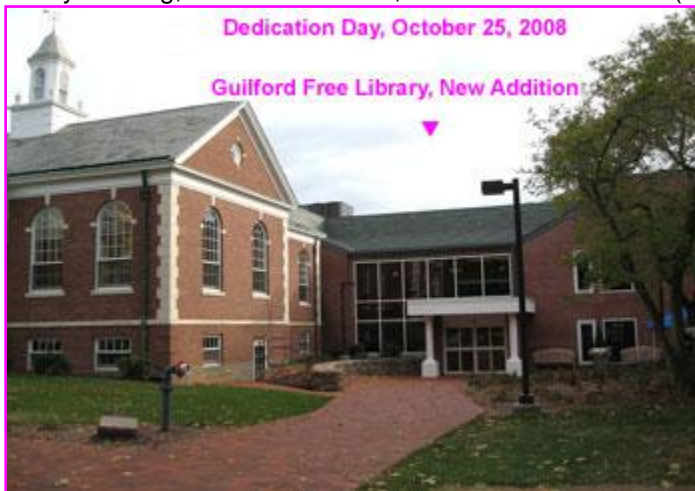


### State Library Construction Grant Helped Finance the Renovation and Expansion

*by Mary Louise Jensen, Building Consultant*

On October 25, 2008, the renovated and expanded Guilford Free Library building was dedicated. Guilford is located in New Haven County and has an estimated population of 22,376. This shore town with its historic homes exemplifies an historic New England town, and the library building faces a large, picturesque town green.

The library building is now 33,034 square feet. This includes the original 1933 library building, the 1977 addition, and the 2008 addition (13,790 square feet).



The building is bright with natural light streaming through large windows. Upon

entering the building, you can see the main and second floors with an open staircase and a mezzanine with glass railings. The main floor has an expanded children's area with a colonial playhouse/puppet theater and story hour room, a 150-seat meeting room, and a bright and cheerful staff area.

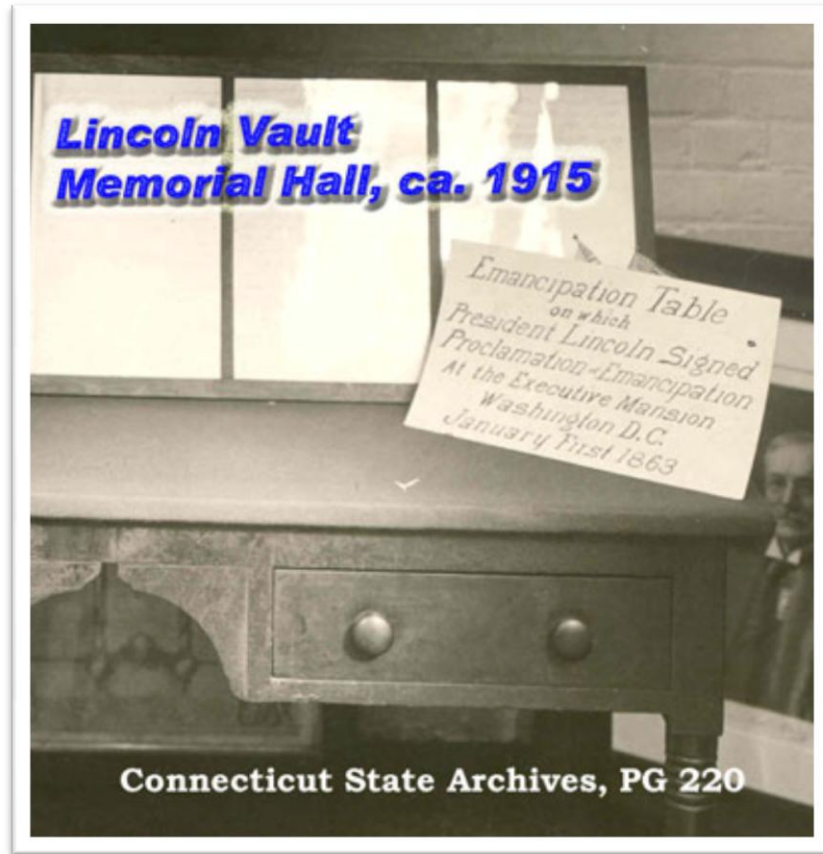


On the second floor are the adult collection and cozy seating areas. A new business area offers scanning, faxing, and black-and-white and color copying. There is a delightful teen area next to the DVDs and CDs. Library users can read magazines in a pleasant area that leads into the beautifully restored Edith B. Nettleton Historical Room, which is located in the original 1933 building.

The renovations and expansion cost approximately \$8 million. The Town of Guilford bonded \$6.9 million for the project, and \$1.1 million came from private donations.

The State Library awarded the Town of Guilford a \$500,000 Public Library Construction Grant from state bond funds administered by the Connecticut State Library. Kendall Wiggin, State Librarian, was one of the speakers at the dedication. For more information about this library, go to <http://www.guilfordfreelibrary.org/>

## Lincoln Signed the Emancipation Proclamation on this Table?



This February marks the bicentennial of Lincoln's birth, and it's time to recall that Connecticut once basked in the glory of owning what was believed to be the desk upon which the 16th President signed the Emancipation Proclamation. Longtime residents may recall visiting the Connecticut State Library (CSL) Memorial Hall [former name of *The Museum of Connecticut History*] and viewing the Lincoln Vault where the Emancipation Proclamation Table/Desk was kept behind glass.

For decades it was proudly displayed in Memorial Hall, but today that modest desk is tucked away in the recesses of the CSL storage area. The authenticity of the desk came into question in 1964. That was the year Connecticut Governor John Dempsey offered to lend the desk to President Lyndon Johnson for the signing of the Civil Rights Act.<sup>1</sup> To the surprise of many, the Concord Public Library in Massachusetts also offered President Johnson their Emancipation Proclamation table!<sup>2</sup> President Johnson did not accept either the Connecticut desk or the Massachusetts table.

<sup>1</sup> "Table Offered to LBJ For Rights Bill Signing", by Charles F. J. Morse. Hartford Courant (June 21, 1964): pages 1A and 6A.

<sup>2</sup> "Bay State Challenges Connecticut on Lincoln Table's Authenticity", by Charles F. J. Morse. Hartford Courant (Saturday, June 27, 1964): p. 23.

Despite the clouded provenance of the “Emancipation Desk”, Governor Ella Grasso signed the Martin Luther King Day Holiday Act upon it. On May 4, 1976, she had the desk carried across the street to her office at the State Capitol where she signed the bill establishing January 15 as a legal state holiday<sup>3</sup>.

Previous Memorial Hall directors tried to establish the provenance of the table. White House curatorial staff was unable to provide any conclusive assistance. The section of the White House where Lincoln once had an office had undergone too many undocumented renovations.<sup>4</sup>

The Connecticut State Library acquired the desk in 1912<sup>5</sup> from a former U.S. Treasurer, Daniel Nash Morgan. Morgan had obtained the table from a Treasury employee who had once worked in the Lincoln White House as a steward and a messenger. According to affidavits signed in 1895, this employee, Louis Burgdorf, actually held the table steady<sup>6</sup> as Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863. Burgdorf said that Lincoln then gave him the pen with which he had signed the proclamation, and about a week later Lincoln also gave Burgdorf the table upon which he had signed the proclamation.

President Herbert Hoover’s wife, Lou, became interested in acquiring Lincoln

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<sup>3</sup> "Despite Its Name Memorial Hall Can Captivate [sic] Young and Old", Hartford Courant (September 18, 1977): p. 4H.

<sup>4</sup> *White House curators conceded that 'since the Emancipation Proclamation was signed after the New Year's Day reception, it would seem unlikely that Burgdorf would be out of the White House on a delivery mission for the President; thus it would seem probable that he would have been part of the group which assembled. Perhaps he then was the person who delivered the document to the State Department.' Their research showed that there was "no special convocation of the Cabinet or of prominent officials; those who were in the house came to the executive office merely from the personal impulse of curiosity joined to momentary convenience. Lincoln's signature was attached to one of the greatest and most beneficent military decrees of history in the presence of less than a dozen persons; after which it was carried to the Department of State to be attested by the great seal and deposited among the archives of the Government."* Letter from William G. Allman, Office of the Curator, The White House, to Director, Memorial Hall, Connecticut State Library, 231 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Conn., dated March 30, 1989.

<sup>5</sup> Report of the State Librarian for the two years ended September 30, 1912.

<sup>6</sup> *Interestingly, an article in the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) Prologue Magazine reports that as Lincoln took up the pen to sign the Emancipation Proclamation, his hand shook so violently that he could not write.—“The Emancipation Proclamation: An Act of Justice”, by John Hope Franklin. Prologue Magazine, Vol. 25, No. 2 (Summer 1993).*



furniture. President Hoover himself told her that the Emancipation Table was in Connecticut. She enlisted the aid of her friend, Gertrude Hanna,<sup>7</sup> as emissary, and in 1931, Hanna began a correspondence with the Connecticut State Librarian about returning the table to the White House. But the original donor, Daniel Nash Morgan, was still alive and he declined to transfer the table to the White House.<sup>8</sup>

There is a famous painting of Lincoln *reading* the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation to his Cabinet who are seated at a conference table which looks nothing like the writing table/desk which Nash donated to CSL. Most people assume that this portrait represents the January 1863 signing of the final Emancipation Proclamation, but it is actually a recreation of the reading of the preliminary proclamation in July of 1862. Photographs and depictions of Lincoln's office from this time period show *two* writing desks in *addition* to a conference table.<sup>9 10</sup>

The record remains silent as to which of the three writing surfaces was actually used to sign the Emancipation Proclamation.

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<sup>7</sup> She actually wrote to the Wadsworth Atheneum first, assuming that the Atheneum was the State Museum which housed the Emancipation Table. "... While visiting the President and Mrs. Hoover at the White House last week-end, the President was showing me through his study, which I believe has been handed down since the days of John Quincy Adams. While in the room, the President showed me a picture on the wall of President Lincoln and his cabinet, remarking that Mrs. Hoover had found somewhere in the White House four of the Lincoln chairs, which were restored to the Lincoln room. The President then remarked, "I have always felt that this room should be furnished as nearly like it was when President Lincoln lived here." He further remarked that the Lincoln table was in the State Museum in Hartford...." Letter, Mrs. Carl Hanna, 1364 Hanna Building, Cleveland, Ohio to Mr. William Goodwin, Aetna Life Insurance Co., 670 Main Street, Hartford, Conn. dated January 16, 1931. [Goodwin was actually the Secretary of The World Fire and Marine Insurance Company and the Curator of the Wadsworth Atheneum]

<sup>8</sup> Letter, dated January 23, 1931 from Daniel Nash Morgan to George Godard.

<sup>9</sup> "Stellwagen sketch of Lincoln's office" in *Lincoln* by David Herbert Donald. New York, Simon & Schuster, c1995. Unnumbered illustrations inserted between pages 224 and 225.

<sup>10</sup> Ostendorf Collection O-102, reproduced on page 195 of *Lincoln in Photographs*, by Hamilton and Ostendorf, University of Oklahoma Press, c1963.

## Rhymes with Noisy

by Debra Pond, Law Reference Librarian

Laura Klojzy (rhymes with noisy) was chosen as **Volunteer of the Year** by My Sisters' Place in North Hartford in October of 2008.

By day, she works at Connecticut State Library and helps people who have questions about the latest actions of the Connecticut General Assembly\*. By night, she works with children aged three to twelve in a support program for families in transition.

Klojzy used her knowledge of libraries to produce an innovative program for the children at My Sisters' Place. She introduced the children to **Story Hour Kits**. In the past, on a typical evening, the older kids would have played board games while their younger siblings played with blocks.

This year Klojzy contacted Linda Williams, Children's Librarian at the Willimantic Service Center, to ask about borrowing book props. Williams recommended **Story Hour Kits** which tell the story in a children's book by using felt figures which stick onto a backdrop.

The first time Klojzy brought a kit with her, she was pleased at how much the younger kids enjoyed it. The big surprise, however, was the reaction of the older kids. When they heard the laughter and excitement from the other end of the room, the middle-schoolers drifted over and asked her to start again!

*"I thought it would be too babyish for the older kids, but they asked me to read it through again and again. They all wanted to take a piece of felt.*

*'Me too! I want to put a piece on the board', they all said. Not just the three-year-olds, but the ten year-olds too," Klojzy reported. "One child actually followed me out to my car one night saying, 'Please bring another book next time'."*

*Klojzy said "These kids are really hungry for reading".*

When Klojzy carries in the blue plastic bin, eyes light up. The children know that Laura has brought something special: another story kit to share with them. Klojzy's group now looks for the blue plastic bin and is learning that reading can be fun, not just something they make you do in school. With the help of their local librarians and the treasures from the State Library's Service Centers, other volunteers can do the same.

*These kids  
are really  
hungry  
for reading.*



**My Sisters' Place**, located in Hartford's North End, provides emergency and transitional housing for women and their children who need help due to domestic violence, unemployment, or mental disabilities. Women in the transitional program with whose kids Klojzy works, spend two years in safe affordable apartments; receive counseling and support; and learn parenting, financial, and job skills to prepare them to be self-supporting.

The State Library Service Centers in Middletown and

Willimantic do not lend directly to individuals, but local libraries may borrow items from them for their local users. And the Service Centers have much more to offer than the 54 different book props listed in the Service Center online catalog. There are puppets (view the puppet gallery at <http://ct.webjunction.org/ct/centers/articles/content/40785663>), book discussion sets for children and young adults, over 17,000 large print titles and Bi-Folkal Remembering Kits. These are multi-media kits packaged around a particular theme such as African-American lives, county fairs, or the Depression, which can help the elderly or others with memory problems recall earlier times in their lives. The Service Center catalog can be searched online at <http://mwsc.sirsi.net/>

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\*Klojzy works in the [Connecticut State Library Bill Room](#) with a team of dedicated employees who track legislative bills and collect, organize, index, film and bind the official verbatim transcripts of the legislature.

## State Library Board Approves \$8.88 Million for Public Library Construction Projects in 2008-2009

--by *Mary Louise Jensen, Building Consultant*

On November 24, 2008, the State Library Board approved 16 construction grants totaling \$8,883,615 in state bonding funds. The money will go to libraries in the towns of Avon, Branford, Canterbury, Cromwell, East Hartford, East Haven, Haddam, Hamden, Meriden, Naugatuck, New Fairfield, New Haven, New London, Sharon, Sherman and West Hartford. These construction grants are pending State Bond Commission approval.



**Avon Free Public Library** received a \$1 million grant to help build a 22,052 square foot addition that will more than double the size of the existing 18,000 square foot building. Key elements of this expansion project include provisions for small meeting rooms, additional space for book collections, tables, and an increased seating capacity.

- **Project cost: \$9,498,646.**
- **Grant: \$1,000,000**

**The James Blackstone Memorial Library in Branford** also received a \$1 million grant to assist in the construction of an addition that will unite the adult collection, children's area, teen area, circulation desk, and reference desk on the lower level. Once the 6,697 square foot addition to the existing 21,371 square foot building is built, the first floor will house a technology area, reading room, and 170-seat auditorium. The second floor will have library offices.

- **Project cost: \$9,922,797.**
- **Grant: \$1,000,000.**

**Canterbury Public Library** was granted \$793,666 to help pay for building an addition that will triple their size from the existing 3,040 square feet to 9,330 square feet. The library will stay in the building they share with the Senior Center and Town Hall but will move to a different part of the building which will be enlarged.

- **Project cost: \$2,381,000.**
- **Grant: \$793,666.**

**Cromwell Belden Public Library** had funds of \$1 million approved toward the cost of changes which will increase the children's space, provide a dedicated program room and bring the library into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The building project will add 4,670 square feet to the existing 16,551 square feet.

- **Project cost: \$3,617,590.**
- **Grant: \$1,000,000.**

A \$1 million grant was approved for the **Raymond Library in East Hartford**. This will pay for part of a building project which will create an archive room, increase the adult book collection space and enlarge the size of the children's room. The library will add 14,062 square feet to the existing 27,033 square feet.

- **Project cost: \$6,137,450.**
- **Grant: \$1,000,000.**

**Hagaman Memorial Library (East Haven)** will receive a grant of \$184,000 to help defray the expenses of replacing windows and upgrading the HVAC system to an energy-efficient unit.

- **Project cost: \$552,000.**
- **Grant: \$184,000.**

**Brainerd Memorial Library's (Haddam)** received a grant that will pay for about a third of the construction of a new entryway, ramp, patio, and new book drop.

- **Project cost: \$295,000.**
- **Grant: \$98,333.**

**Miller Central Library (Hamden)** was granted funds which will cover a third of the price to remodel their young adult and non-print areas.

- **Project cost: \$39,000.**
- **Grant: \$13,000.**

**Meriden Public Library** has purchased two properties. The grant will help offset the cost of razing the existing structures and replacing them with a well-lit parking lot.

- **Project cost: \$432,615.**
- **Grant: \$144,205.**



**Howard Whittemore Memorial Library (Naugatuck)**, an historic building, will receive a grant to help fund the restoration of their rotunda which includes the replacement of the existing skylight.

- **Project cost: \$310,000.**
- **Grant: \$103,333.**

**New Fairfield Public Library** was approved for a \$1 million grant which will pay for a renovation and part of an addition which will add 3,100 square feet to their 10,918 square foot building. This addition and renovation will improve the layout and bring the building into compliance with building codes, fire codes and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

- **Project cost: \$4,574,931.**
- **Grant: \$1,000,000.**

**New Haven Free Public Library** is slated to receive a \$382,379 grant to help build a 1,500 square foot addition which will be used as the 50-Plus Transition Area and for a remodeling project. The library is currently 103,320 square feet in size. The grant will also help offset the costs of a remodeling plan which will redesign the public access computer area to include 50 computer workstations and a flexible classroom, improve the Patron's Board Meeting Room, and install ADA upgrades to the public toilets.

- **Project cost: \$1,147,138.**
- **Grant: \$382,379.**

**The Public Library of New London** will purchase ergonomic chairs and furniture for the library.

- **Project cost: \$34,100.**
- **Grant: \$11,366.**

**Hotchkiss Library of Sharon** was approved for a grant of \$1 million for an extensive project which will more than double their size. A new addition will add 5,294 square feet to the library which now measure 4,658 square feet. The new space will enable the library to improve program areas, comply with codes and provide accessibility for the disabled.

- **Project cost: \$1,147,138.**
- **Grant: \$382,379.**

**Sherman Library** will add 7,300 square feet to the existing 4,691 square foot building. This expansion will create the only community meeting room in Sherman and will improve the adult and children's areas.

- **Project cost: \$3,204,000.**
- **Grant: \$1,000,000.**

**The Bishops Corner Branch Library (West Hartford)** plans to improve energy conservation and increase the accessibility of interior spaces with a remodeling project.

- *Project cost: \$460,000.*
- *Grant: \$153,333.*

*For more information, contact Mary Louise Jensen at 860 456-1717, Ext. 306 or by e-mail at [MJensen@cslib.org](mailto:MJensen@cslib.org)*

## You CAN Get There from Here!



### **CSL Creates Interactive Maps**

*By Steve Rice, Government Information Reference Librarian*

How do you travel back to 1965 or 1934? With a map, of course!

If you are looking for aerial photographs in the State Library's collection of 1934 or 1965 images, just click, click, click your mouse on our interactive maps and be whisked back to an image of a location as it appeared then!

The State Library has digitized three collections of historic aerial photographs that are now available online, along with interactive maps of Connecticut towns which serve as the indexes to the collections. The aerial photograph collection has been one of the most popular collections in the State Archives. In 2002 the State Library decided to preserve this collection by digitizing it.

Finding maps online has become very easy with the advent of MapQuest® and Google.maps®. But providing access to the CSL digital collection proved to be a challenge. In fact, access didn't begin with maps at all but with the compilation of tables from massive amount of numbers and facts. This compiled information was then projected onto a digital map of Connecticut, but it still needed a computer application to become fully interactive.

***The mapping started with the 1934 aerial survey photographs of the state. State Library project staffers, Steve Rice and John Lenehan, found and recorded the latitude and longitude coordinates for each of the 8,600 images.***

***They compared the photos with topographic maps to get the exact center point of the image. They created an electronic database of coordinates which were listed along with the photograph number, town and other facts.***

***Mr. Steve Rice took the database information and converted it to points on a digital globe using a computer program called ArcView®. He projected the points onto a digital map of Connecticut with datasets from the Department of Environmental Protection. (You can find DEP map data at <http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2698&q=322898>.)***

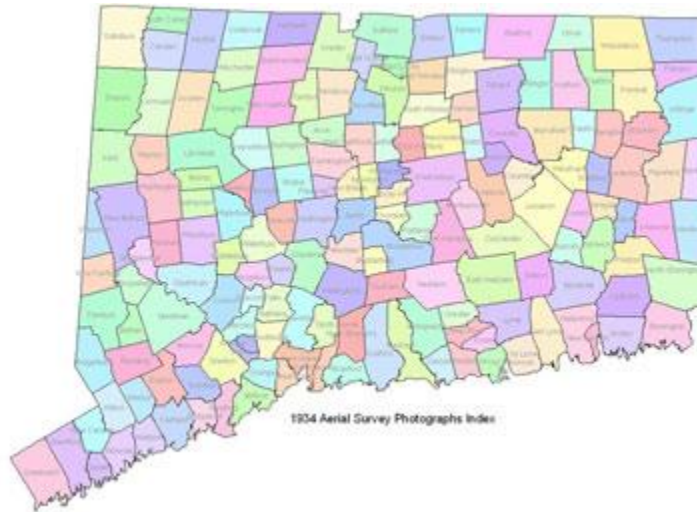
***He then had a map of the state with 8,600 red dots with numbers in the middle but no way to connect them to the images now available online.***

***That is when Mr. Sandy Prisloe of the Center for Land Use Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR) came through with a small computer application widget. That was the key that brought images, maps and web pages together. The images can now be searched online and accessed with a few clicks on your mouse.***

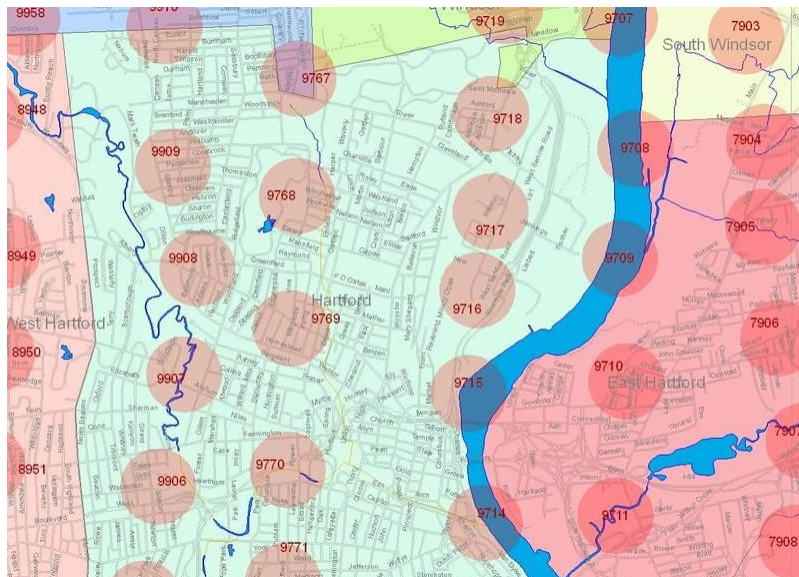
Go to: <http://www.cslib.org/aerials>

Click on “1934 Individual Photos.” From the “Connecticut Aerial Surveys” page, click on “1934 Town Map.”

Click on the town for your area to find a street map with numbers



A town map will come up with streets, lakes and rivers. Also on the town map are numbered dots. Click on the numbered dot closest to the area of the photograph. An image of the chosen area will come up.



Click on the dot closest to your area to view your image and metadata. Click the image further to zoom in

Click within the image to magnify an area.



The 1934 aerial survey of the state of Connecticut was the first government sponsored survey of a complete state. More than 8,600 individual photographs were taken from what we would think of now as primitive airplanes. The photographs were taken at vertical (90 degrees).

In 1935 a full set of numbered photographs was placed in the collection of the State Library for public access. The contracting company, Fairchild Aerial Surveys, also provided paper index maps to the Library to find individual pictures. Copy photographs are now available for viewing in the State Archives reading area, and the [digitized images](#) are available through the Library's web site.

The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) digitized a collection of aerial photographs of Connecticut from 1965. The DEP and CSL agreed to have the Library store the electronic image files and provide the same type of access to the 1965 aerial photographs that was available for the 1934 aerial photographs. There were fewer images in this collection, approximately 3,200.



A third collection was also digitized from photographs taken of the Connecticut/Rhode Island shorelines and river areas after the devastating 1938 Hurricane. Though there are only 132 photographs in the collection, the oblique views bring the extent of the destruction to life.

There are now approximately 12,000 aerial photograph images in the Connecticut State Library digital collections. Finding a single photograph or area of the state would be difficult without the new interactive map indexes.

## Just Google™ Search It!



Librarians use and enjoy Google™ search and many other search engines. The success and popularity of search engines have inspired librarians to rethink traditional library practices.

The easy, speedy Google™ search set a benchmark for librarians who are finding ways to meet that challenge while retaining two traditional library hallmarks: reliability and accuracy.

Search engines are elegant, but some of the web content displayed as a search result is of dubious quality. And despite the efforts of Google Scholar™, librarians know that there is still much “Deep Web” content that is not being reached by search engines.

During November and December of 2008, three separate groups gathered at Connecticut State Library (CSL) to attend workshops and presentations which addressed these concerns.

### ***Trustworthiness***

On November 10, 2008, law librarians from across southern New England met at the CSL Van Block Meeting Facility to attend a panel presentation on the trustworthiness of state-level primary legal resources on the web.

*Mary Alice Baish of the American Association of Law Librarians (AALL) Washington Bureau presented the key findings of the [2007 AALL 50-State Report on Authentication of Online Legal Resources](#). The purpose of the survey was to determine if state-level primary legal resources online can be trusted as authentic and official.*

- **Key Finding #1** is that states are discontinuing print official resources and substituting online sources. For several states, the online version of such legal resources as statutes and administrative codes is the only version available, but none of these web-only versions are authenticated.
- **Key finding #4** is that states have not been sufficiently deliberate in their policies and practices to protect the reliability of online legal sources. There is currently no way to determine if the sites have been tampered with or altered.

AALL is working with The Association of Reporters of Judicial Decisions (ARJD), the Government Printing Office (GPO), the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), and NCCUSL to design authentication standards which

include digital signatures, Public Key Infrastructure (PKI), and a “chain of custody” similar to that used by GPO.

[Darcy Kirk](#), Director of the University of Connecticut School of Law and Dean of Information Services, discussed the efforts of the Connecticut state government to make the official regulations available on the web.

Kirk is a member of the Connecticut Working Group for Electronic Access to Regulations. She reported on the activities to date of the working committee established to create Internet access to Connecticut agency regulations. Denise Jernigan, Law & Legislative Reference Unit Head at CSL, is also a member of the working group.

- The Commission on Official Legal Publications (COLP) reformats the regulations that are submitted to them by state agencies.
- Not all regulations are published by COLP.
- The Department of Consumer Protection is taking a leadership role in the push for free Internet access to Connecticut regulations.
- The Department of Information Technology (DOIT) is also involved.
- The committee is now working on a plan so that the project can move forward. The Working Group introduced [HB 5896](#) in 2008 but the bill did not pass.

### **Usability**

On December 11, 2008, all CSL staff who create web content gathered at the Van Block Facility Conference Room for a Web Usability Workshop.

[Stephanie Willen Brown](#), a reference librarian at UCONN-Storrs, faculty member at Simmons Graduate School of Library Science and web usability guru, volunteered to lead the workshop and share strategies to improve web site usability.

Brown has presented on this topic for the Connecticut Library Association (CLA), CSL’s Division of Library Development’s Continuing Education workshops, and at DevCamp.

Brown explained that a library’s website can be considered a branch library. She researched CSL use statistics and discovered that the CSL website has about 700,000 visitors a year compared to nearly 40,000 walk-in visitors.

She described the usability study just completed at the Homer Babbidge Library at the University of Connecticut, Storrs.

- Babbidge librarians found that user studies were much more reliable than focus groups for eliciting usability information. With the information gathered from user surveys, UConn Babbidge redesigned the web site to better serve the needs of the web community.
- They eliminated jargon, tweaked the text and removed the search box since they could not afford the programming costs necessary for a federated search function [see "[Accessibility to the Deep Web](#)"] below for more information about federated searching]. Click here to see the newly designed [UConn Babbidge web site](#) .

Brown examined CSL web use statistics and listed the most frequent hits. At UConn, this information was used to make those constantly visited portions of the

website more visible on the first page.

She also showed examples of state library websites from around the nation and explained what did and did not work well with those sites. To underscore the issues in enhancing usability, Brown gave volunteers three seconds to find simple information on some of the example websites. The volunteer described the experience, and an observer also recorded what the volunteer was doing. This is the technique employed in the UConn usability study.

The CSL Web Presence Committee has been working with the Web Resources Librarian and IT Support to evolve the CSL web presence.

This evolution has included the improvement of the network/server infrastructure to better support our web work, the publication of web development and style guidelines, the implementation of a web request ticket system, and the first stylistic "refresh" of our website in many years.

The Committee is working toward the future and is trying to address the following issues immediately: improving the usability of our overall web presence, and training web content creators.

### ***Accessibility To The Deep Web***

On December 12, 2008, reference librarians who are members of the New England Law Library Consortium ([NELLCO](#)) convened at CSL's Van Block Facility Conference Room.

They received a progress report on the new search tool being developed by NELLCO. When fully functional, this tool will simultaneously search all the subscription databases that a library provides on their website, as well as the library's on-line catalog (OPAC), and any digital content the library may have created and posted on their website. [In other words, web content that search engines can't reach!]

NELLCO calls this tool the **Universal Search Solution (USS)**. Denise Jernigan, [Law & Legislative Reference Unit](#) Head at CSL, is a member of the USS Committee.

NELLCO has received an [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#) (IMLS) grant for the development of this "open source discovery tool." The **USS** is an alternative approach to discovery that has evolved in response to the shortcomings of the federated search paradigm. The grant runs through November of 2009, and there are 30 law libraries participating in the pilot project.

NELLCO's approach uses an index for the discovery of resources, and provides the library user with a single search box to discover **ALL** of a library's content including: subscription-based content, OPAC content, selected topical free web resources, and local content.

The search is seamless to the user and aims at providing a Google® search experience (although advanced search functionality will be supported).

**USS** is geared toward a user population of legal researchers, but will be an open source tool that could be employed in other disciplines as well.



## ALL STAFF DAY 2008

The eighth annual All Staff Day was held on Thursday, October 29 at one of the Connecticut State Library's own facilities: the

Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (LBPH) in Rocky Hill.

The speakers were Bill Webb from the Board of Education and Services for the Blind (BESB) who discussed "What To Do When You Meet A Person Who is Blind", Jan Adams from Fidelco who described the fostering of guide dogs and how not to distract a "working" dog, and Linda Pulford from Connecticut Valley Organizing who spoke on "Your Organizing Style".

Tours and overviews of both LBPH and the State Library Records Center [located on the same campus] provided an opportunity to *"let the left hand know what the right hand is doing"* and improve communication within the organization.

Mollie Keller, Chair of the Connecticut State Library Board, presided over Staff Recognition Awards. Twenty staff members were recognized, four of whom had each served **35 years**: Hilary Frye, Denise Jernigan, Lynne Newell, and Cheryl Schutt; **30 years**: Gary Conway and Nancy Peluso; **25 years**: Mary Engels and Sheila Mosman; **20 years**: Lynnette Baisden, Richard Gagne, Nilda Martinez, Marcia Matika, Dean Nelson, Carolyn Picciano, and Gordon Reddick; **10 years**: Griselle Colon, Claudia Joseph, Steve Mirsky, Kendall Wiggin, and Linda Williams.

Don Seneti of Mystic Seaport finished the day with a talk about whales and the whaling industry in Connecticut. He also described the history of sea shanty songs and sang a few for the audience. Seneti is the cousin of Tom Gross, LBPH volunteer and patron.

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*We hope you enjoy this issue and will share any suggestions you have for future issues with me at [hfrye@cslib.org](mailto:hfrye@cslib.org). Visit our web site at <http://www.cslib.org/>.*

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