



The CONNector

CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 1999

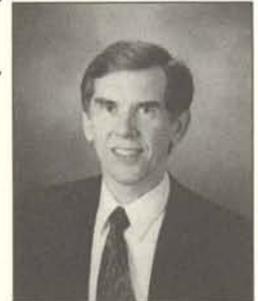
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IN THIS ISSUE:

<i>The State Librarian's Column</i>	1
<i>State Library Board Notes</i>	11
<i>Feature Article</i>	
Wally Lamb and Libraries	2
<i>Partnerships</i>	
Online State Library Catalog	3
Early Reading Success Initiatives	3
The Blind and Physically Handicapped	8
CSL Benchmarks	8
The Safety Library	9
<i>Honoring the Past</i>	
Public Records and Archives Timeline	5
CT Invention: the First Century	6
CT Freedom Quilts	9
George Seymour Godard	10
<i>Creating the Future</i>	
The Road to Abilene	4
The Education Network	4
Glastonbury Library Renovation	5
Middletown Technology Training Center	6
Legislative Proposals	7
Strategic Planning Process	8
Biennial Budget Proposal	11

The State Librarian's Column

Kendall F. Wiggin
Connecticut State Librarian



After receiving so many kind words and acts of welcome from the library community, it is my turn to say "welcome". Welcome to the first issue of The CONNector, a quarterly newsletter of the Connecticut State Library.

One of the many things that I have learned in my travels around the State meeting with various groups and organizations is the need for the State Library to improve its external communications. Several years have passed since we last issued a newsletter. The CONNector is just one of several ways I intend to address this need.

Each quarter we will bring you news and information about the State Library. We will report on significant happenings in the Connecticut library community. The CONNector will be a forum for discussing trends in library service, public records administration, archives and museum services. The newsletter will highlight State and Federal legislation we think you need to know about.

There are a few things that you will not find in The CONNector. Because of its quarterly nature we will not include job listings or a calendar of events or other time sensitive information. However we will be publishing an electronic version of The CONNector where we will

consider this type of information. The electronic version will also have hotlinks and more indepth reports. But first things first.

The newsletter is a team effort drawing on the many talented staff members of the State Library. I am particularly thankful to Bonnie Delaney who has taken on the responsibility of coordinating editor and to Mark Jones, Howard Miller, Bill Sullivan, Joanne Turschman, and Linda Williams who are serving on the editorial team.

I hope that you find The CONNector informative and useful. Please let us know what you think. Thanks and again WELCOME!



Friends of Connecticut Libraries Month

Mary Engels, Director,
Middletown Library Service Center

As most in the library community are aware each year we celebrate National Library Week in April. In conjunction with that event the Friends of Connecticut celebrate April as Friends of Libraries Month in Connecticut. This gives the over 145 local Friends groups throughout the state the opportunity to promote their support of their library with a statewide focus.

This year the Friends of Connecticut Libraries are pleased to announce that critically acclaimed Connecticut author of *She's Come Undone* and *I Know this Much is True* Wally Lamb has graciously agreed to serve as honorary chairperson of Friends of Libraries Month. Mr. Lamb is a lifelong lover of libraries and an exceptionally articulate advocate for them. The following statement expresses his enchantment with and appreciation of libraries and how they touch our lives.

"I vividly recall my first trip to the library. I was five. It was a wintry day—the kind where your mother declares hats and galoshes mandatory and your breath comes out of you like cigarette smoke. Hand in hand with my older sister, I clomped from our house through downtown Norwich, past the fire department and the courthouse, then up a steep hill, and then up the even-steeper front steps of the children's library. My sister parked me in front of the picture books and disappeared around the corner. I pulled from the shelf a Dr. Seuss and fell under the hypnotic spell of those singular odd-



balls that had been waiting for me between the covers. Next I cracked open Walter Farley's *The Black Stallion*, a book for older kids which, luckily for me, had been misshelved. A ship was up in flames! A panic-stricken horse lunged overboard and into the sea! Each indecipherable black letter on each of those pages was a magnet drawing me. Each unreadable string of words held the promise of a story I hungered to know. At the end of our visit, my sister handed a small salmon-colored card to the woman in charge and, miraculously, we walked out of the building with a pile of books. I was flabbergasted--lost to the library forever.

Today I go to the library to work, to learn, and to dream up fiction. Most of my first novel, *She's Come Undone*, was written in longhand at a library study carrel. In the course of writing my second book, *I Know This Much Is True*, I went to the library to learn about subject matter ranging from

schizophrenia to volcanic eruptions to the way stained glass windows are made. I like the smell of a library's collection, the genuineness of its staff, and the reflected glow on the faces of young people seated before backlit computer screens. I like the telltale evidence—dog-eared pages, coffee stains, notes penciled in margins, forgotten grocery lists—that other borrowers have been at these same books before I have. I like the fact that the library offers, simultaneously, solitude and community. Over at the mall, it's the wealthy who have access to all those dazzling goods; at the library, rich and poor are irrelevant.

When I go to the library, I like to wander the stacks, fingering the spines of books--making physical contact with all those promises to take me past the confines of personal experience, beyond the limits of my own life, and into realms unknown."

-----Wally Lamb

Information on Friends Month which includes this statement and other promotional materials will be sent to all local Friends so that they may take advantage of the April events which focus on libraries and their importance in their communities.

This is just one of the activities of the Friends of Connecticut Libraries which support local Friends and promote library enrichment. If you would like more information on the Friends of Connecticut Libraries please visit www.cslib.org/lsc09a.htm or call Mary Engels at 860-344-2972 or in CT 1-800-437-2313.

The CONNector Editorial Board

Kendall F. Wiggin, State Librarian

Editor	Bonnie Delaney
State Archivist	Mark Jones
Curator, The Museum of Connecticut History	Howard Miller
Administrator, Connecticut Library Network	William Sullivan
Director, Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped	Carol Taylor
Library Specialist	Joanne Turschman
Newsletter Design	Linda Williams

Public Library Early Reading Success Initiative

Susan Cormier, Director,
Willimantic Library Service Center

In 1998, the legislature passed Public Act No. 98-243: An Act Concerning Early Reading Success directs all school districts in the state to "develop and implement a three year plan to improve the reading skills of students in grades kindergarten to three, inclusive." Many people from the library community lobbied long and hard to ensure that the public library role in early literacy was acknowledged and empowered in this bill. Among other things, the plan requires "the establishment of school and public library partnerships to improve pre-reading and reading skills." In preparation of the FY 2000/01 biennial budget submission, the Connecticut State Library proposed a budget initiative for a public library grant program to comprehensively fulfill the requirements of 98-243 and provide early literacy programs and materials for young children. The State Library requested \$3 million for each year of the Biennium budget for this grant program. The goal of this initiative is to provide public libraries with the resources to fully support:



- ❑ school district Early Reading Success Plans.
- ❑ early literacy initiatives developed by local School Readiness Councils.
- ❑ the school and public library partnership requirement of the Early Reading Success Plan.

This initiative will fund critical emergent literacy projects. Examples of these projects include:

- ❑ library book collections and story hour programs at child care centers
- ❑ workshops for parents and caregivers emphasizing the importance of beginning to read to children in infancy.
- ❑ purchasing multiple copies of books to support local early childhood curriculums
- ❑ infant / toddler programs that model reading, singing and nursery rhymes for parents
- ❑ incorporating key school readiness elements into public library preschool programming.
- ❑ town wide summer reading programs to promote free voluntary reading
- ❑ training early childhood staff to select and use developmentally appropriate books
- ❑ joint collection planning between school and public libraries
- ❑ sharing staff development workshops for school, public library and early childhood staff
- ❑ purchasing a core collection of early childhood education books and journals for use by parents and caregivers
- ❑ delivering books and literacy information to young families through partnerships with local health care providers

The Connecticut State Library's Division of Library Development would administer this project. Grants would be awarded to principal public libraries on a per capita basis for projects that fulfill the *Early Reading Success Initiative* goals. A weighted per capita formula will be used to direct additional resources to towns where children are at the greatest risk for failing to learn to read.

The Governor's Budget did not include this initiative. However, the Connecticut Library Association is working with the legislature to add this funding to the State Library appropriation.

State Library Catalog Now Online

Lynne Newell, Director,
Division of Information Services

The first proposal to create an online catalog for the State Library was drafted twenty years ago in 1977. A major milestone was achieved in 1997 when the State Library joined CONSULS, the consortium of Connecticut State University libraries and became the 'fifth' campus using their shared Innovative Interfaces system. The catalog is now available at each of the campuses - Central Connecticut State University, Eastern Connecticut State University, Southern Connecticut State University, and Western Connecticut State University - at the State Library in Hartford, and on the Internet at <http://csulib.ctstateu.edu/search-blo1cl1plrlal/>.

Today the Library's online catalog contains all Connecticut state publications held by the Library, all of the Law collection except foreign law, all of the general collection on public policy subjects, the Connecticut newspaper collection, and all federal document titles cataloged since 1976. Retrospective conversion work continues on the History & Genealogy collection, foreign law, and on various Special Collections.

Although many of the Library's collections are non-circulating, the federal document collection, second copies of Connecticut documents, newspapers on microfilm, the general public policy collection, and study guides for state job examinations are loaned. Law titles and most history and genealogy titles do not circulate.

The Library is open to the public from 9:00 to 5:00, Monday through Friday. Additional information about collections and services is available on the Library's website, www.cslib.org.

The Road To Abilene

William Sullivan, Connecticut Library Network

The Internet, which is now used by over 100 million people worldwide and is doubling in traffic every 100 days, is driving the next revolution in communications technology: *broadband*. Broadband means a quantum jump in information-handling capacity, sufficient to handle such media-rich applications as real-time voice, videoconferencing (room to room, or desktop to desktop), streaming audio/video, telemedicine, and entertainment. The applications fueling consumer demand for this technology are already here. What is not here (yet) is the ability of the network¹ to deliver these services reliably, efficiently, securely and universally. (Regarding universal access, proposed low-earth-orbit satellites (see www.teledesic.com/) and floating communication platforms (see www.skystation.com/) may play an important role in ensuring access to broadband services from rural areas and from less developed countries.)

The needed improvements to existing networks are already being developed: small capacity lines are being upgraded to large capacity lines, which eventually will reach all the way to where you are (at home, at school, at work, or while traveling); circuit-switched technology (of today's telephone network) will give way to packet-switched technology (of the Internet); one-way, broadcast service (such as cable TV) will become two-way and interactive; and finally, as all forms of communication change from analog to digital, historically separate networks set up to handle different services (data, voice and video) will converge onto a single digital "pipe" that will connect your computer (or information appliance), TV and even home appliances, and will enable new services that integrate voice, video and data. IP (Internet Protocol), which itself will be augmented to support these new services, is the unifying element of this 21st century network of networks. Abilene (www.ucaid.edu/abilene/) is an early testbed.

Libraries of all types have – or should have – a vital role to play on the road to Abilene: as centers of lifelong learning, as access points and navigators to network information resources, and as new electronic tributaries of the emerging Connecticut Education Network, helping to bring distance education closer to where it is needed. Libraries are the local "connectors" that make this ever-expanding network of knowledge and information coherent and accessible. The road to Abilene is a necessary process of continuous improvement, of building up and building out the technical infrastructure to better support the people who will plan and deliver the next generation of library services, and the people who will use these services.

¹ "Network" here and elsewhere includes the publicly-accessible Internet as well as various privately-accessible "intranets," including intranets that span an entire state, which are compatible with and connected to the Internet.

Governor Rowland Proposes Education Network

Kendall Wiggan, State Librarian

In his 1999 Biennial Budget, Governor Rowland has proposed creating the Connecticut Education Network, a state-wide "intranet" that will provide high-speed, reliable Internet access and link every institution of higher education, public or private, every school district, every public library in the state, and other institutions. The state is supporting this technology endeavor with \$11.5 million dollars over the biennium. Increasingly, preparing learners to be competitive in the emerging global marketplace requires them to be able to access and effectively use the

information resources and global demands. One of the many benefits of the Connecticut Education Network is that it will permit students and faculty at every educational institution in the state to share Connecticut's educational resources – including data, full-text books and journals, graphics and interactive full-motion video – over a secure, stable, and reliable high-speed "intranet." In consultation with the Department of Information Technology, a consortium of higher education constituent units and institutions will develop standards and guidelines for connectivity, governance policies and organizational structure which will support a continuum of educational partnerships. Over a five-year period, the goal is to initially create the Connecticut Education Network for all public and independent institutions of higher education. It will then be scaled up to provide access to each of the school districts in the state, and in the final year expanded to provide services to every public library in Connecticut. In the future, the Connecticut Education Network may also be extended to other organizations.

Welles Turner Memorial Library, Glastonbury

Mary Louise Jensen, Building Consultant

On January 9, 1999, the Welles Turner Memorial Library had the grand opening for its expansion and renovation project. Glastonbury, a suburb of Hartford is primarily a residential community with a population of 29,000. It now has a 34,054 square foot library building (18,565 sq. ft. addition and 15,489 sq. ft. renovation).

This expanded library was planned to meet the needs of the residents for the next twenty years (a projected population of 30,700 for the year 2020). After two failed referendums over a ten-year period and the awards of a \$350,000 State Public Library Construction Grant and a \$100,000 Federal Public Library Construction grant, the referendum finally passed in 1997 and the groundbreaking ceremony was on September 4, 1997.

The original library built in 1952 looks like a house with a gambrel roof. In 1965 a square flat roof addition with an aluminum

curtain wall was added to the back of the original building, and in 1999 a new addition was added to the 1965 addition. The community wanted to keep the 1965 addition, but wanted to improve the appearance and correct the problems of the flat roof. Trying to unify all three sections of the building,

the architect, Glenn Arbonies, designed a new exterior of concrete blocks that look like white painted bricks for the 1965 addition. That part of the building now matches the new addition and the original building. The new addition also has the same general appearance as the original building with a recessed entrance with projected

wings and a slate roof. This building will have two entrances. One from the street level that leads into the reference department (original building) and one from the back parking lot (new addition) that leads into the circulation department. If you are interested in seeing more pictures and the floor plans, go to the Welles Turner Memorial Library Construction Zone webpage (http://www.wtmlib.com/new_add.htm) on the Internet or for more information about the library contact James G. Johnston, Library Director



FEATURED LIBRARY: Welles Turner Memorial Library, 2407 Main Street, Glastonbury, CT 06033 (Telephone: 860-652-7719)

Important Dates in the History of Connecticut's Public Records and State Archives Programs

This year marks the one hundredth anniversary of the General Assembly's resolution setting up the first Commission on Public Records which was charged with assessing the condition of local public records and making recommendations for their preservation. The Commission was an important step along the way toward the Office of the Public Records Administration and State Archives that currently operate in the Connecticut State Library. These dates are part of a publication to be issued shortly by the Office entitled, Time-Line of Important Dates in the History of Connecticut's Public Records and State Archives Programs.

1741: The Colonial Assembly directs the Secretary of the Colony to "sort, date and file in proper order, all the ancient papers that now lye in disorder and unfiled in his office" before the next sessions beginning in October. The resolution provides five pound "as a reward for his service."

August 16, 1774: Writing to Governor Jonathan Trumble, Sr. from Wethersfield, Silas Deane reports that the "greater part" of correspondence of past governors and Journals of the House "have been long since used for wrappers." Citing the lack of records to document claims of the colony, especially land claims, Deane urges the Governor and Assembly to preserve public records. "We have," he argues, "a property in them, being written by persons in our employ, and on our account."

May 1779: Noting that Journals of the House have "not in time past been secured and kept," thus resulting in loss of "many important transactions," the General Assembly directs the clerks of the lower chamber to close, label, and hand over journals to the Secretary "to be kept with the archives and public writings of the State."

Technology Training Center Opens

Mary Engels, Director, Middletown Library Service Center

The State Library has recently opened a Technology Training Center at the Middletown Library Service Center in response to the need in the library community for a facility to provide hands on computer training. The Center is available to nonprofit organizations which provide training for library staff as well as libraries themselves which need to provide staff development on software, the Internet and many other technological issues.

The Center has been open since December and is extremely popular. Training sessions on a variety of topics have been scheduled through July already. From computer application training like Windows 95 or Microsoft Powerpoint to research areas like Genealogical Resources on the Internet or Searching Pubmed, classes address the many topics which librarians need to learn in order to provide their patrons with current information and resources.



Technology has enhanced our ability to provide information to our patrons but has also infinitely increased the need for training to keep up with these resources. The intent of the training center is to address that need.

The center consists of workstations for twelve students plus an instructor. One of the features of the center which instructors and students alike appreciate is the use of a third training monitor between two workstations which shows what is happening on the instructor's

workstation. This is an alternative to projecting the images from the instructor's workstation on to a screen at the front of the room. One advantage to this is that the room can be fully lighted during the class. Another is an ergonomic advantage. Students do not have to be constantly moving their heads from looking at their computer screen or keyboard to looking up at the front screen.

Software currently available on the workstations includes Internet Explorer, Netscape, Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, Publisher and Adobe Pagemaker. Organizations using the center may install their own software for training purposes. The center has a T-1 connection to the Internet.

If you would like more information on how to reserve the training center for your organization or would like to visit the center call Mary Engels at MLSC, 1-800-437-2313.

Connecticut Invention: The First Century

Howard Miller, Curator,
The Museum of Connecticut History

The Museum of Connecticut History has created a transportable special event exhibit which highlights Connecticut's industrial and technological

achievements during the years 1790-1890. The exhibit opened at the annual dinners of "Connecticut Innovations" and the Manufacturers Alliance of Connecticut, with artifacts made in Connecticut, patent records and 19th century illustrations. A full range of

patented objects relating to industry, agriculture, home life and warfare illustrate the innovative character of the state and its people.

For researchers, the exhibit offers a library of loose

leaf binders containing 100 years of patent records along with a lap-top computer which can be used to search out specific patents via the computerized Connecticut patent database.

The Connecticut Invention exhibit includes a wide range of artifacts including a Weed sewing machine, manufactured in Hartford, a Hartford-made Colt Model 1851 Navy revolving pistol, metal working tools, clocks, hardware, an early folding chair made in New Haven and a patented butter churn.

The exhibit was produced by the museum staff. It has been shown at the Connecticut Social Studies Teachers Conference held in the State Armory and the University of Hartford's Annual Technology Conference.



Connecticut Legislative Session

As the Connecticut General Assembly moves into high gear, dozens of Education Bills affecting Libraries and other Educational Institutions have already had a Public Hearing, and are now being considered for either a Favorable or Unfavorable Report by their respective Committees to continue on for passage.

Legislative Bills and their status can be searched on The Connecticut General Assembly's web page at <http://www.cga.state.ct.us/GeneralInfo.htm>.

The bills below are being followed closely by Educators and the Library Community.

H.B. No. 5513

Title: An Act Concerning Libraries and the Early Reading Success Grant Program.

Introducer(s): Representative Konstantinos Diamantis, 79th District
Statement of Purpose: To allow public libraries to apply for grants from the Department of Education as a resource for the Early Reading Success Grant Program.

H.B. No. 5529

Title: An Act Concerning Educational Technology Grants.

Introducer(s): Representative Joseph Serra, 33rd District
Statement of Purpose: To allow greater discretion and flexibility for meeting the technology needs of individual school districts.

H.B. No. 5592

Title: An Act Concerning Funding for the Connecticut Education Network, the Virtual Library and Online CSU.

Introducer(s): Representative Brian Flaherty, 68th District
Statement of Purpose: To enrich the learning experience of Connecticut's students by bringing them the resources of educational libraries and institutions.

H.B. No. 6209

Title: An Act Designating 1999 the Year of the State Library.

Introducer(s): Representative James Amann, 118th District, Representative Emil Altobello, 82nd District, Representative Nancy Beals, 88th District, Representative Antonietta Boucher, 143rd District, Representative Elizabeth Boukus, 22nd District, Senator Thomas Bozek, 6th District, Representative Michael Cardin, 53rd District, Senator Joseph Crisco, 17th District, Representative Paul Doyle, 28th District, Representative Mary Eberle, 15th District, Representative Louis Esposito, 116th District, Representative Brian Flaherty, 68th District, Representative Steve Fontana, 87th District, Senator Gary LeBeau, 3rd District, Representative Peter Metz, 101st District, Representative David Pudlin, 24th District, Representative Andrew Roraback, 64th District, Representative Richard Roy, 119th District, Representative Robert Simmons, 43rd District, Representative Andrea Stillman, 38th District, Representative John Thompson, 13th District, Representative Patricia Widlitz, 98th District

Statement of Purpose: To promote and to focus on the needs of the Connecticut State Library as well as the needs of local municipal libraries.

H.B. No. 6888

Title: An Act Concerning the Connecticut State Library and Museum Foundation, Inc.

Introducer(s): Government Administration and Elections
Statement of Purpose: To apply to the Connecticut State Library and Museum Foundation, Inc. the same statutory provisions that apply to foundations established for the principal purpose of supporting or improving state agencies, thereby granting said foundation the same flexibility that the other foundations have.

S.B. No. 652

Title: An Act Requiring State Documents to be Printed Only in English.

Introducer(s): Senator Thomas Bozek, 6th District
Statement of Purpose: To require state documents to be printed only in English.

H.B. No. 5511

Title: An Act Concerning Funding for State Library Networking Services.

Introducer(s): Representative Konstantinos Diamantis, 79th District
Statement of Purpose: To enhance the State Library networking system to meet technological demands. And that the sum of four hundred thousand dollars be appropriated to the State Library for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2000.

S.B. No. 268

Title: An Act Concerning an Increased Appropriation to the State Library for the Museum of Connecticut History.

Introducer(s): Senator Toni Harp, 10th District
Statement of Purpose: To increase the hours of operation of the museum in order to provide better access to the public.

H.B. No. 6762

Title: An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2001, and Making Appropriations Therefore.

Introducer(s): Representative Ward, 86th District, Senator Eads, 30th District
Statement of Purpose: To implement the Governor's budget recommendations.

H.B. No. 5330

Title: An Act Concerning Damages for Unauthorized Publication of a Person's Likeness on a Computer Network.

Introducer(s): Representative Arthur O'Neill, 69th District
Statement of Purpose: To provide an individual whose likeness is posted on the Internet without the individual's consent with a remedy for damages suffered.

Connecticut State Library Hosts Northern Conference of Librarians Serving the Blind and Physically Handicapped

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

The Connecticut State Library's Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped will host the Northern Conference of Librarians Serving the Blind and Physically Handicapped, April 28 - 30, 1999. This biennial regional conference gives librarians and their staff an opportunity to receive updates from the Library of Congress' National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS), attend presentations about programs related to the patrons they serve and share program ideas that may be working well in their state. Network libraries of the national "talking book" program will be representing: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, and District of Columbia.

Tours are planned for the New Britain Museum of American Art where they are continuing to develop materials for blind patrons that visit the museum and the United States Postal Service in Hartford for a better understanding of how the program books and magazines are sent through the system as "Free Matter for the Blind and Handicapped." NLS will be presenting a half day reader advisor workshop.

Division of Library Development Strategic Planning Process

Sharon Brettschneider, Director,
Division of Library Development

In the Fall of 1998, the State Library's Division of Library Development began a long range strategic planning process. We undertook this process for the same reasons that we advise public libraries to do so. There are multiple demands on our very limited resources, the environment in which we provide services to libraries has changed dramatically in recent years, we needed to assess how effective our operations are and we needed a method to focus our attention, energy and dollars on goals that would be most beneficial to the library community we serve.

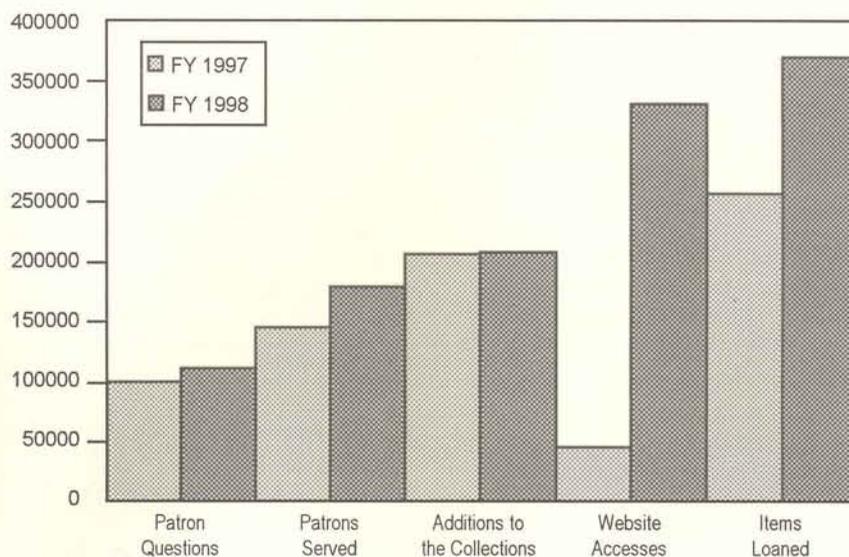
The Division contracted with Leslie Burger of Library Development Solutions to guide us in this process. She held several focus groups around the state in late 1998 with library staff, trustees and friends. These sessions gave us an understanding of the issues libraries were facing and provided a framework for our deliberations. Information gathered from the groups about challenges libraries face fell into

the following categories: technology, funding and advocacy, changing populations, personnel and training, and facilities.

In November 1998 the staff of the Division took the results of the focus groups and held a two day planning retreat with Leslie to examine our current services, develop vision and mission statements and decide on goals and objectives for the next three years. These have been refined in two follow-up planning sessions and will be completed in March of 1999. The Division of Library Development is using this opportunity to examine our current operation and reassign resources that will best meet the needs of Connecticut's libraries.

The plan will be presented to the Advisory Council on Library Planning and Development at their April 21 meeting. Following this meeting the plan will also be presented to the library community in a variety of venues, including on our homepage. We will welcome feedback from

CSL Benchmarks



Safety Library

Lynne Newell, Director,
Division of Information Services

State Agency personnel eager to educate, train and protect themselves or their staff against unsafe work conditions are taking advantage of a unique collection of materials called **The Safety Library**.

The Government Information Services Division of the Connecticut State Library is responsible for the cataloging, maintenance and storage of

this collection of subjects ranging from Carpal Tunnel Syndrome to Preventing Back Injuries. The Safety Library is a joint program sponsored by the **Department of Administrative Services, Workers' Compensation Office, and The Connecticut State Library**.

A Bibliography of the books, pamphlets and videos as well as instructions on borrowing is available at www.cslib.org/safebib.htm or call (860)566-4777.

Quote of the month

"Industry experts agree that electronic books will not replace printed books.

Just as radio survived TV, and film lived on after video, traditional and electronic books will coexist in the future."

(from CNET Technofile January 26 1999
<http://register.cnet.com/Content/Gadgets/Tecno/Ebooks/ss03.html>)

Connecticut Freedom Trail Quilts Displayed In Memorial Hall

Howard Miller, Curator,
The Museum of Connecticut History

Accompanied by, moving benedictions, gospel hymns and hors d'oeuvres, the Connecticut Freedom Trail Quilts were unveiled in Memorial Hall at a gala reception held on Friday evening, February 5. The quilts depict landmarks and historic sites associated with the African-American experience in Connecticut. In attendance were members of the Connecticut Freedom Trail Planning Committee and many of the volunteers who sewed blocks for the project.

An audience of over two hundred persons viewed the exhibit and listened to remarks by Connecticut Lieutenant-Governor M. Jodi Rell, State Senator Toni N. Harp, Hartford City Manager Sandra Kee-borges, and State Representative Demetrios Giannaros. Also participating in the program were Jack Shannah, Director of the Connecticut Historical Commission and State Librarian Kendall Wiggin who offered a warm welcome to the attendees.

Music was provided by soloist Cheryl Hill of Danbury and the Men's Choir of the Third Baptist Church of Suffield. An invocation and benediction were offered

by The Reverend Dr. Barbara Headley of Hartford's Faith Congregational Church.

Handsome wooden frames for the quilts were provided through the generosity of United Technologies Corporation and the quilt display was assembled by museum staff.

In 1995 the Connecticut General Assembly authorized the designation of twenty-three public and private historic properties to form a network which would convey the dramatic and impor-

tant story of Connecticut's African-American experience - the Connecticut Freedom Trail. Included are historic properties which have been deemed worthy for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places, National Register of Historic Landmarks and the Connecticut State Register of Historic Places. Among the gravesites, monuments, homes and other structures included are sites associated with the Underground Railroad, the Amistad Case, and such notable persons as Paul Robeson, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and Prudence Crandall.

In 1997 a group of interested volunteers from every corner of the State, came together to form the Freedom Trail Planning Committee. They dedicated their time and efforts to creating a lasting tribute to the Connecticut Freedom Trail through one of the most traditional of American art forms - quilting. Four quilts, representing each region of Connecticut were completed in 1998. The Freedom Trail Quilt project and the addition of the quilts in the Museum of Connecticut History's permanent collection, represent an acknowledgement by public and private groups of the great significance of the Freedom Trail story within the history of Connecticut and the nation.



George Seymour Godard (1865-1936)

Assistant Librarian, CSL, 1898-1900 Connecticut State Librarian, 1900-1936

Mark Jones, State Archivist

George Seymour Godard was born on June 17, 1865 in Granby to Harvey and Sabra Godard. Both sides of his family could trace their genealogies back to first settlers in Connecticut. The family had a record of public service. Moses Godard was a soldier in the Revolutionary War, and John Case was the first magistrate of Simsbury. Harvey Godard had served in the General Assembly.

George Godard graduated from Wilbraham Academy in Massachusetts and later, from Wesleyan University with a BA degree. He would remain an active alumnus of both schools. In the 1890's, he attended Northwestern University in Chicago. During the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition, he served as a guide and gained an appreciation of the Beaux Arts style of architecture, which he later advocated for the design of the State Library and Supreme Court Building. In 1895 he received a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Yale University.

Godard tried teaching but decided that he was not suited for the profession. He next helped to found and organize the Frederick H. Cossitt Memorial Library in Granby. He liked the work and had a keen interest in Connecticut's history. In 1898, one hundred and one years ago, the ailing State Librarian Charles J. Hoadly advertised for an assistant, Godard applied and interviewed, and Hoadly hired him. The State Library was in the current State Capitol occupying what is now the Senate Chambers. The collection was not organized and was dispersed in out-of-the-way rooms, attic niches, and closets in the Capitol. Godard later related that



Hoadly discouraged him from listing or cataloguing the Library's holdings. Hoadly was more interested in editing and publishing documentary sources than in managing the collections. Hoadly died in 1900, and the State Library Committee appointed Godard as State Librarian, a post he would hold until his death in 1936.

Prior to his promotion, the State Library had functioned primarily as a small law library and limited manuscripts repository. With a vision of a library "of the people, by the people, and for the people," Godard changed the institution's mission to specialize as he wrote, along two "lines:" whatever pertains to the science of government, and whatever illustrates the history, character, resources and development of the State."

During his term as State Librarian, Go-

ard transformed the State Library. The planning and construction of the Connecticut State Library and Supreme Court Building, which opened in 1910, was his most important achievement. Within this structure, he established a legislative reference service of indexes of bills and a law library for the State Supreme Court. He also obtained legislative action making the State Library the official state archives and creating the State's first records manager, known as the Examiner of Public Records. He actively acquired public archives from the state and local levels and manuscripts from private organizations and people to document Connecticut's long history. He began the collection of artifacts which formed the basis for the current State Museum and in building a renowned Connecticut genealogical collection, sponsored two abstracting projects that produced unique statewide surname indexes, the Barbour Collection of Vital Records and the Hale Headstone and Newspaper Death Notice Collection. He provided leadership for the Library and was effective at publicizing its value throughout Connecticut.

When he died in 1936, newspapers across the state eulogized him. His body lay in state in Memorial Hall, and a service was held that was attended by elected state officers, judges, and heads of state agencies as well as their predecessors, state employees, and friends. So much in the public's mind had the idea of the Library and its head become merged that one obituary noted that people referred to it as "Mr. Godard's library."

Connecticut State Library

Established 1854

State Library Board Notes

In January, the State Library Board welcomed three new members:

Larry Kibner of Meriden was appointed by Rep. Robert M. Ward, House Minority Leader to succeed Mary J. Etter. **Hazel McGuire** of Falls Village was appointed by Sen. Adela Eads, Senate Republican Leader to succeed Fred Petersen. **Judge John J. Ronan** of Milford, was appointed to succeed Judge Robert C. Leuba.

At their January Meeting, the State Library Board unanimously passed a resolution honoring Judge Robert C. Leuba for his many years of dedicated service on the Board. Judge Leuba

stepped down from the Board after being named the Chief Court Administrator.

In March, the State Library Board approved a revision of the Information Services Division circulation policy to allow for the direct circulation of materials to residents of Connecticut. Previously only federal documents could be loaned directly and all other material had to be borrowed through interlibrary loan. The Board also accepted the recommendation of the Connecticut State Library and Museum Foundation, Inc. and approved changing the name of the Foundation to the Connecticut Heritage

Foundation, Inc. This was one of the several recommendations that has come out of the Foundation's strategic planning process. Approval was also given to the proposed State Public Library Construction Grant Timetable and Guidelines for FY2000.

In other action the Board unanimously passed a resolution recognizing outgoing Board Member Mary J. Etter's many contributions to the library community and the Board and thanking her for her years of service on the Board.

Biennial Budget Proposed

Governor Rowland presented his biennial budget for Fiscal Years 2000 and 2001 on February 10, 1999. The budget proposes \$2 million dollars in surplus funds to begin addressing the space issues at the State Library. Of the various budget options submitted by the State Library Board, this was the only one to be included in the Governor's budget.

The State Library's Library & Educational Materials account, funding for the Cooperative Library Service Units, Grants to Public Libraries, and the Connecticut program all were recommended for 2% increases. For several of these programs this was the first funding increase in several years. Of concern was the fact that there was no recommended increase for the law material account, but this probably resulted from the fact that this account shows up in the budget as "equipment". Similarly, a \$100,000 reduction in the

Statewide Data Base Program appears to be a result of confusion over some one time funding that was added to this account in FY98 for a targeted one time project.

Budget Options that the State Library Board had sought include:

Increased Operating Hours Open To The Public

Increase public access to evenings and weekends.

Enhancing Collections, Preservation And Access

- ☒ Digitize collections to increase access and enhance preservation.
- ☒ Increase public access to Museum and newspaper collections.
- ☒ Restore the Library's ability to preserve and maintain the state's most valuable cultural resources and treasures.

Expanding the Connecticut Library Network

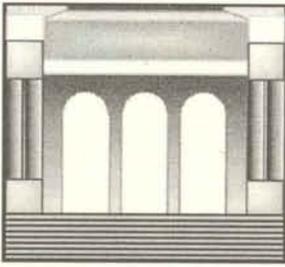
Develop an information and telecommunication network for all types of Connecticut's libraries.

Early Reading Success Initiative

Provide early literacy programs and materials to young children through their public libraries per P.A. 98-243, An Act Concerning Early Reading Success.

Increased Funding For Cooperating Library Service Units

Increase funding for the cooperative activities of CLSU's for Connecticut's libraries



Connecticut State Library

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Hartford, CT 06106-1537

Return Service Requested

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