



THE CONNECTOR

The Connecticut State Library Newsletter

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Save Time, Ask Us Kendall F. Wiggin, Connecticut State Librarian

My daughter Lindsey, a high school junior, and I recently did a couple of college tours. At one school's library I noted the sign over the reference desk. It read - "Save Time, Ask Us." Not long after we returned home, I read the just released survey, [Information Searches That Solve Problems: How People Use the Internet, Government Agencies, and Libraries When They Need Help](#) conducted by the Pew Internet & American Life Project and the University of Illinois with funding from the Institute of Museum and Library services. Not surprisingly, seven in ten library visitors received assistance from library staff. Of those who received help at the library, 88% say they found a lot or some of what they were seeking. By contrast, among those who did not seek help at the library, only 53% found a lot or some of what they were seeking. Nearly four in five visitors (79%) say they were very satisfied with the assistance they received from the library staff, and 19% say they were satisfied. The report also found that members of Gen Y (age 18-30) are the leading users of libraries for help solving problems and in more general patronage. According to the authors, the survey results challenge the assumption that libraries are losing relevance in the Internet age. Libraries drew visits by more than half of Americans (53%) in the past year for all kinds of purposes, not just the problems mentioned in this survey. And it was the young adults in tech-loving Generation Y who led the pack. Compared to their elders, Gen Y members were the most likely to use libraries for problem-solving information and in general patronage for any purpose.

Furthermore, it is young adults who are the most likely to say they will use libraries in the future when they encounter

problems: 40% of Gen Y said they would do that, compared with 20% of those above age 30 who say they would go to a library.

These revelations follow on the heels of [To Read or Not To Read: A Question of National Consequence](#), a new and comprehensive analysis of reading patterns in the United States issued by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Based on statistics from more than 40 studies on the reading habits and skills of children, teenagers, and adults, the study reveals recent declines in voluntary reading and test scores alike, exposing trends that in their opinion have severe consequences for American society. It should be noted that library circulation was not factored into the study's results. None-the-less, the report points to a growing problem and the challenge to encourage Americans to read more and to read better.

Connecticut's public library statistics bear out both reports. While public libraries here continue to be among the most heavily used in the nation with over 30.2 million circulations and 4,086,597 reference transactions, both of these measures were down from last year. Yet the number of library visits (over 21 million) and attendance at library programs (over 1.5 million) were both up from last year.

The Pew survey, the NEA report and our own public library statistics make it clear that, in spite of the growth of Internet use, libraries continue to play an important role in the community. But the data also points to opportunities for libraries to reach out to teenagers, improve online information offerings, provide electronic access to government information, and improve the experience for the library visitor. The State Library is committed to providing services, grants, and other funding opportunities to help libraries make the most of these opportunities. Here's to a great year in libraries!

Use It Up, Make Do, Do Without *Hilary T. Frye, Law & Legislative Reference Specialist.*



Photo, Denise Jernigan, Head of the Law & Legislative Unit

That was a motto used during World War II, when this reel of microfilm was boxed up in a recycled candy box. Obviously, the Connecticut State Library was committed to participating in the war effort and made do with this candy box from Jensen's, an old Pratt Street candy store in Hartford. During a recent inventory of microfilms, Mel Smith [CSL History & Genealogy reference librarian] and Stephen Slovasky [CSL Head of Bibliographic Services] discovered this frugal use of material not needed for the war effort and a sweet piece of nostalgia. A quick look through the [Historical Hartford Courant](#) revealed that Jensen's advertised in the Courant from the 1920's to the late 1960's, with a four-year hiatus during WWII. What was the microfilm? [The Sino-Japanese Hostilities and International Law by Henry Wei, Ph.D., University of Chicago, 1942](#). It is now housed in an acid-free microfilm container.

Go, Little Book...How Does Hawaii Sound?

In the high stakes world of real estate, space is at a premium, and in most libraries that space crunch is measured in shelf space. Mix that reality with the "desire to acquire", and you have a problem. Most booklovers would agree there is just never enough shelf space. Deselecting or weeding your collection is hard but essential. What do you do with the "selected" left-over treasures?

At the State Library, we have created an Offers List posted in virtual space. The Offers List can be viewed by visiting www.cslib.org/offers. Titles are categorized in five basic

collection areas: General, History & Genealogy, Law, Newspapers, and State Documents. Books are available to eligible Connecticut state agencies and institutions such as public libraries, academic and school libraries, special libraries, law libraries, historical societies, and genealogical societies on a first come, first served basis. Out-of-state libraries may submit requests 30 days after the Date Posted.

Our treasures have been making their way out to other Connecticut libraries and beyond. De-acquisitioned international law books are now enjoying sunnier days in Florida and New Orleans. Other books will be reborn in digital format by the Law Library Microfilm Consortia (LLMC) in... Hawaii.

So visit this space often. You may find something that your library is looking for.

More details about the Offers List can be found at <http://www.cslib.org/offers/OffersListInstruct.htm>

For more information contact: Diane Pizzo in Collection Management at (860)757-6561 or via email dpizzo@cslib.org

Shared Productivity - Interns and the Connecticut State Library *Paul Baran, Government Archivist*



Henry Arneth



Zachary King

The State Archives hosted two interns during the spring and early summer of 2007. Each worked on their own processing projects. Under staff supervision, they identified the types of records present in their collections, determined the appropriate arrangement, completed any necessary sorting, housed the records in archival folders and boxes, and completed a finding aid to the records.

Trinity College student Henry Arneth's project fulfilled a requirement for a course entitled Hartford on Film that used documentary footage to study social issues relevant to the city. Henry processed the records of the 1951 investigation of the Hartford Housing Authority by Judge William Maltbie acting as a one-man grand jury. The records include

interviews, summonses, police material, correspondence, financial records, and newspaper clippings. A little overwhelmed at first because of the disarranged state of the records, Henry remarked at the end of the project that, "with the help of the staff, the project was completed on schedule."

Zachary King's project fulfilled a requirement for the B.A. degree in History, Society, and Culture at Colby-Sawyer College in New Hampshire. Zachary processed the Administrative Files of the Select Committee of Inquiry that investigated whether sufficient grounds existed to impeach former Governor John G. Rowland. The Administrative Files document the impeachment process and include standards and procedures, reports, meeting minutes, correspondence, summonses, and depositions, among other material. Reflecting on his experience, Zachary remarked that his internship, "allowed me to become totally immersed in history in a way I never was before."

The finding aid for the Hartford Housing Authority Investigation can be found online at:

http://www.cslib.org/archives/Finding_Aids/RG003_HHA.html

The finding aid for the Select Committee of Inquiry is forthcoming.

To inquire about internship and volunteer opportunities in the State Archives, contact State Archivist Mark Jones at mjones@cslib.org.

Expanding Construction Grant Program

Kendall F. Wiggin, Connecticut State Librarian

Thanks to Governor M. Jodi Rell and the General Assembly, the Connecticut State Library received an additional \$5 million for public library construction grants in FY08 and an additional \$5 million for FY09. The new funds are targeted for distressed municipalities. There are currently 25 cities and towns eligible for the new funds. In addition, the maximum grant has been increased to \$1 million dollars as long as the grant does not exceed one third the total cost of the project. These new dollars will help communities meet the growing demand for new and renovated space. State Librarian Kendal Wiggin noted that Connecticut's low ranking in the number of public access computers in libraries is partially a matter of space and sufficient electrical service. "We are no longer just building libraries to house books," stated Wiggin. "Instead communities are building exciting spaces for children and adults to encounter information in all its forms - including the vast information found on the

Internet." The need for new library space was made clear in a two recent surveys by the New Jersey State Library done in collaboration with the Legislative Committee of the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA). Wiggin chairs that committee and said he was not surprised by the results which showed that:

- The majority of the existing library buildings reported on in the survey are from 25-50 years old.
- 40% of the existing library buildings are reported to be in fair or poor condition.
- One-third of the public libraries reported plans to build in the next five years. A total of 43% had plans to build in the next ten years.
- 25% of the public libraries reported plans to renovate in the next five years.
- Approximately sixteen million square feet of new space is projected in library construction.
- Approximately nine million total square feet of library space is projected to be renovated.

While Connecticut has a very modest public library construction program, some states have no public library construction program. Wiggin said that COSLA is working with the American Library Association to secure some federal funds, particularly to help libraries with the planning and design work. He said that this would be a big help for Connecticut libraries, since the State Library has no funding for this phase of a building project. - Kendall F. Wiggin, Connecticut State Librarian

State Public Library Construction Grants Awarded - *Mary Louise Jensen, Building Consultant*

On November 26, 2007, the State Library Board approved seven construction grants for a total of \$5,060,204 from state bonding funds. These construction grants are pending State Bond Commission approval. This year the maximum grant was increased from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000. The following are descriptions of the projects:

- Bethel Public Library will renovate an unfinished second floor as well as the rest of the library to allow full usage of their 28,604 square feet. The second floor will house the adult and young adult materials. Total project cost: \$3,445,298. Grant: \$898,432.

- Brooklyn Town Library will construct a new, 14,859 square foot building and vacate their existing, 2,300 square foot building which is 186 years old and not handicapped accessible. The new building will give them room for their books and non-print materials as well as reading areas, a young adult area, and meeting rooms. Total project cost: \$5,420,000. Grant: \$1,000,000.
- Barney Library, a branch of the Farmington Library, will provide accessibility to the lower and upper levels with a new elevator, while adding a needed children's program room on the second level of a new addition, and fire-rated stairs. Total project cost: \$3,000,000. Grant \$1,000,000.
- Albany Branch Library, a branch of the Hartford Public Library, will build a new, 7,750 square foot building. Key program spaces include a family place for literacy, a homework center for students, a technology center, and a gallery for African-American Culture. Total project cost: \$4,500,000. Grant: \$1,000,000.
- Atwater Memorial Library in North Branford will add a 9,025 square foot addition to the existing 6,100 square foot building. The project will include an elevator, meeting room, children's program room, space for teens, and other library space. Total project cost: \$5,070,328. Grant: \$1,000,000.
- Terryville Public Library in Plymouth will be correcting fire code violations. Total project cost: \$50,319. Grant: \$16,773.
- The Ferguson Library in Stamford will be replacing their existing HVAC system with an energy-efficient unit. Total project cost: \$440,400. Grant: \$145,000.



North Branford Atwater Memorial Library

Winners of the 2008 Connecticut

Excellence in Public Library Architecture

Mary Louise Jensen, Building Consultant

The Connecticut Excellence in Public Library Architecture Awards are given every three years to encourage excellence in the architectural design and functional planning of public library buildings in the state. Awards are given in two categories, libraries under 18,000 square feet and libraries 18,000 square feet and over.

This year a jury panel consisting of two librarians and two architects, all from out of state, reviewed and evaluated 16 construction projects completed between 2001 and 2006 that were submitted for consideration. These projects covered a broad spectrum of building styles and design solutions which made choosing winners a challenge for the jurors.

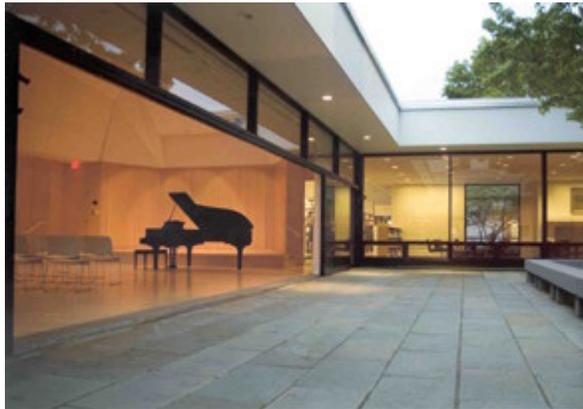


The 2008 winner for public libraries under 18,000 square feet is the Scotland Public Library, a 7,000 square foot new building. Scotland is a small, rural New England town in the northeast corner of the state with a population of 1,699. The library's architect was Angela D. Cahill, Schoenhardt Architecture + Interior Design. Local businessman Andrew D'Elia donated two million dollars for the purchase of land and construction of the building, making the Scotland Public Library a public/private partnership in the true Carnegie tradition. The building also contains a 1,000 square foot museum featuring Mr. D'Elia's collection of antique tools. The cost of this project (\$1,688,709) represents a good value for the community.

The jurors commented that the architect made excellent use of a challenging site including the design of a nature walk with raised boardwalks through the existing wetlands. The interior layout with clear sight lines enables good control by a small staff. The building was designed with high quality, attractive finishes that will stand up to public use for many years to come. The building has well proportioned interior

spaces with interesting detailing such as the tall casement windows, stained glass, and coffered ceilings. To supplement the natural lighting, the architect has employed a thoughtful use of artificial lighting that is efficient and glare free. A mural in the children's room adds color and vitality to the space. The design appears to be adaptable to the changing needs of the community and to future technological innovations. The covered drive-up book drop provides convenience for patrons, especially in snowy or wet weather.

The 2008 winner for public libraries over 18,000 square feet is the Wilton Library, a 50,000 square foot addition and renovation project. Wilton, with a population 17,633, is nestled in the Norwalk River Valley in western Connecticut (Fairfield County), north of the City of Norwalk. The architect was Tao Soo Kim, Tao Soo Kim Partners. The cost of this project (\$11,400,000), while not inexpensive, represents exceptional value for the community.



Jurors commented that the architect enhanced the original design while maintaining the clean elegance of the original and modern Bauhaus inspired style. The result is an addition that complements the original architectural design. The majority of the exterior walls in the public areas are windows which provide a close connection to the outside and an abundance of light. The neutral color palette inside enhances the distribution of natural light. The building has two open-air courtyards where customers can sit and read books or use their laptop computers during good weather or look out to enjoy the beauty of falling snow in winter. The main meeting room is a beautiful and flexible space that expands into to an inspirational outdoor courtyard area. The design of this space to accommodate concerts is exquisite! The lighting, both artificial and natural, was well conceived and is particularly attractive at night when it creates a warm and welcoming oasis. The building design approaches a green standard through the use of natural light.

The overall design exceeds the stated objectives in the long range plan. The expanded library is adaptable to the changing needs of the community and future technological innovations. The layout is very customer and staff friendly, because the

majority of public services are on the first floor. The placement of the children's library is convenient for parents and children while being acoustically separate from the rest of the library.

The jurors also appreciated the inclusion of a full service drive-up window. This submission benefited from the high quality plans and photos, and the easy to read graphics. The inclusion of a model photo clarified the nature of the design.



Jurors also awarded an honorable mention to Fairfield Public Library. Herbert S. Newman, Herbert S. Newman and Partners P.C. Architect, has created an attractive composition with new building elements complementing and enhancing older historic architecture with imaginatively designed modern elements. This is a complex design where architects faced many challenges, especially unifying multiple levels from several previous additions. The building has a variety of interesting and colorful spaces in a mix of styles. The new interior and casework elements are clean and well designed.

Michael Joyce, Argyle Design, Inc., designed an innovative children's space that invites exploration, discovery, and learning. To make children feel comfortable, welcome, and secure, he has broken up the area into smaller "neighborhoods". The neighborhoods are based on several familiar historic landmarks in the Town of Fairfield: a Gazebo, a Lighthouse, a Town Green, a Country Store, a Farm yard, a Book Shop, a Train Station, and a Town Hall.

The two architect jurors were Stephen Hale, AIA, (Boston, MA), and Jay J. Litman, AIA (Barrington, RI). The two librarian jurors were Karen Mellor, Construction Grants, Office of Library & Information Services, Rhode Island; and Douglas A. Pearce, Director of Warwick (RI) Public Library and a Library Building Consultant. Mary Louise Jensen, Building Consultant for the Connecticut State Library, was the non-voting facilitator.

Connecticut Excellence in Public Library Architecture Awards are sponsored by

- The Connecticut State Library
- The Connecticut Library Association
- The Association of Connecticut Library Boards

(ACLB).

- The AIA Connecticut (AIA/CT)
- The Friends of Connecticut Libraries (FOCL)

The next awards will be given in 2011.

Jay Cassano Photography did the pictures for the Scotland Public Library. Woodruff & Brown Photography did the pictures for the Wilton Library. This article will also appear in the Connecticut State Library CONNector and on Webjunction.

Reopening of the Renovated Rowayton Library

Mary Louise Jensen, Building Consultant

On December 9, 2007, the renovated Rowayton Library in Norwalk had a reopening ceremony. The building, which originally included a horse stable, was last renovated in the 1960's. Rowayton Library moved into this building in 1966.

Some of the key items enhanced in this renovation are the following improvements and changes undertaken by the Rowayton Library.

- Improving the layout of the collection and traffic flow for the patrons
- Installing new furniture and fixtures to improve display of materials and comfort for patrons
- Opening up the space by removing some walls and using more light
- Constructing an accessible bathroom
- Installing of energy-efficient and more effective lighting
- Improving the HVAC system
- Installing audio visual equipment
- Restoring a mural done by George Avison as a Federal Art Project of the WPA



Rowayton Library funded this \$550,000 project through fundraising and funding from the Sixth Taxing District of Norwalk. This project also received a \$143,833 State Public Library Construction Grant from state bonding funds administered by Connecticut State Library.

Ground Breaking Ceremony for the Black Rock Branch Library *Mary Louise Jensen, Building Consultant*



On October 29, 2007, Black Rock Branch Library in Bridgeport had a groundbreaking ceremony for their \$2,630,000 million addition and renovation project. The original 7,698 square foot building built in 1932 has not had any renovation done until now. The new addition will be

4,956 square feet. This project will maintain the historic value of the building while making it accessible with an elevator and accessible restrooms, bringing the building up to code, replacing the HVAC, and providing more space for collections and seating. The currently unusable lower level will be renovated to provide two public meeting rooms. This project received a \$375,000 State Public Library Construction Grant from state bonding funds administered by the Connecticut State Library. Kendall Wiggin, State Librarian, was one of the speakers at the groundbreaking ceremony.

All Staff Day 2007

The seventh All Staff Day was held at the Officers' Club at the Connecticut State Armory on October 31. Program topics included Fire Prevention in Public Buildings, Avoiding Identity Theft, Creating and Producing by Thinking Outside the Box and Connecting Through Teams. Below is a picture of the library staff.



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