

## STATE LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

May 21, 2012

This report is prepared bi-monthly in conjunction with the regular meetings of the Connecticut State Library Board. Items to be routinely covered include the following: the significant activities of the State Librarian and the staff, significant administrative decisions affecting the operation of the Library, status reports regarding in-progress activities, information regarding external events having an impact on the Library, media coverage of the Library, and information of general interest to the members of the Board.

The following report by the State Librarian, which will be included in the minutes of the May 21, 2012 meeting of the Board, covers the period of March 27, 2012, through May 20, 2012.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Attached to this report.

### **PERSONNEL REPORT**

#### **Vacancies (State Funded)**

*State Library Division Head*

*Library Specialist (Library Consultant) Dept. of Library Development)*

\*Fiscal Administrative Supervisor (Fiscal)

\*Fiscal Administrative Officer (Fiscal)

\*Fiscal Administrative Officer (Fiscal)

\*Fiscal Administrative Assistant (Fiscal)

\*Administrative Assistant (Human Resources)

\*Principal Human Resources Specialist (Human Resources)

*(7 full time vacancies: Library Specialist can be refilled w/OPM approval.*

*\*Fiscal and HR positions to be abolished (cannot abolish at this time, to keep authorized count correct)*

*Part time Library Technical Assistant (Law Leg Ref)*

#### **Vacancies (Federal Funds)**

None

#### **Vacancies (Other)**

None

### **POSITIONS FILLED SINCE LAST REPORT**

Part time Library Aide (30 hours p/w) in (Library for Blind) , Hired Rafal Warchol 5/4/12

### **Office of the State Librarian**

#### **Position Refill**

We received approval to refill the position of Director of Library Development. The vacancy was created by the retirement of Sharon Brettschneider in January. I spent considerable time

updating the 20 year old job specification for the position. I received valuable input from the Division of Library Development Staff as well as from my colleagues at other state libraries that had recently updated their job specs. The position was posted in April with a May 13<sup>th</sup> closing date. I intend to establish an interview panel representing the Board, library directors, DLD staff, CLA, ACLB and FOCL.

### **Governor's Summer Reading Challenge**

On Friday, May 11, Governor Dannel P. Malloy kicked-off the launch of the 2012 Governor's Summer Reading Challenge at the State Library in Hartford and honored the winners of the 2011 challenge. The Governor's Summer Reading Challenge is an annual program co-sponsored by the State Department of Education and the State Library to encourage reading among school students across the state.

### **Sale of Atlases and Maps**

The contract negotiations have been completed and a contract with Cohen & Taliaferro LLC has been signed and approved by the AG's office. The material has been turned over to Cohen & Taliaferro and they have begun making them ready for sale. Upon closer scrutiny, several of the atlases from the Goodwin Collection were found to be missing maps which has lowered their value somewhat. An extensive search was made of our collection to see if we could locate any of the missing maps. Notes on one of the records led staff to discover a newspaper article which included a picture of Mr. Goodwin's home showing maps pasted on the walls. It appears that these are the missing maps and they may be irretrievable. Several of our atlases were featured at Cohen & Taliaferro's booth at the New York Antiquarian Book Fair, April 12-15<sup>th</sup>.

### **National Library Legislative Day**

I was part of the delegation from the Connecticut Library Association (CLA) that visited our Congressional Delegation's offices in Washington on April 24<sup>th</sup> as part of the American Library Association's National Library Legislative Day. We met with staff from both Senators and all five Congressmen. Representing CLA were Betty Anne Reiter, President of CLA, Carl DeMilia, Vice President of CLA, Carl Antonucci, Legislative Committee Co-Chair, Jay Johnston, ALA Councilor and Legislative Committee Co-Chair and Mary Etter, Director of the South Windsor Public Library and a member of the Legislative Committee.

### **Professional Activities:**

Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) Spring Meeting April 25, Washington D.C.  
Lyrasis Board of Directors, April 30

### **Connecticut Library Association Conference ~ May 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>**

Staff from the State Library was very involved in this year's Conference.

Steve Cauffman, a member of the iCONN team was Conference Co-Chair along with Amy Terlaga from Bibliomation.

Mary Engels coordinated and spoke at the following programs:

- **CLA Publicity Award Winners** – Outstanding PR in both print and electronic categories were showcased at the program.
- **Whose Responsibility Is It? FOCL, ACLB, CLA** and the **State Library** have revised their joint publication *Working Together* and presented a panel discussion at the CLA Conference on using the document to help work through issues that arise among Friends, trustees and library staff in the course of their endeavors.

- **How do they do it?** – Hali Keeler director of The Bill Memorial Library in Groton, winner of the 2012 Excellence in Public Library Service Awards talked about the outstanding services her library provides to the city of Groton and which can be utilized by other libraries to provide the same service to their communities.

Doug Lord presented:

- ***Finding Funding for Teens***

Kendall Wiggin presented:

- **Whose Responsibility is It?** co-sponsored by ACLB. The program, developed by State Data Coordinator Tom Newman, demonstrated how to use the State Library Statistical Profile to advocate for library support.
- **From People of the Book to People of the Screen: the generational challenge for libraries** – the presentation explored the impact generational differences are having on libraries with a view toward reshaping staff and services to remain relevant.

Gail Hurley and Jane Cullinane Co-presented with staff from Yale:

- **Digitization Projects at Yale and the State Library**

Eric Hansen was a member of the panel:

- **How Did I Get There?** - a panel about library career paths.

Jane Cullinane co-presented with Lizette Pelletier:

- **After Irene: Helping the Library, Helping the Town after a Disaster.** They spoke about ways that libraries should be prepared for emergencies such as leaks or floods and ways that libraries can help their communities in a town-wide disaster such as an extended power outage.

### **Division of Library Development**

#### **Connecticard Program (reimbursement for non-resident loans)**

Reimbursement payments for Connecticard (Ccard) loans went out to public libraries in April. Payments were less than last year because of the 22% cut in the Ccard budget. Ccard loans were just over 4.9 million, which is about the same as the previous two years and 20% higher than they were 10 years ago.

#### **Construction Grants**

New Fairfield Public Library notified the State Library that they would be forfeiting the grant for \$1 million that was approved in 2008, and Madison's Scranton Library notified the State Library that they would be forfeiting the grant for \$500,000 approved in 2005. Neither library acquired the local funding necessary to proceed with their projects.

#### **LSTA**

Douglas Lord coordinated receipt of twenty-nine Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) program grant applications requesting a total of \$313,855 in funding. Eighteen of those applications, totaling \$54,000, were for Every Child Ready to Read directed grants.

Seventeen grant applications for a total of \$143,455 are being recommended to the State Library Board for funding. Five of those are Program grants totaling \$107,455; twelve are for Every Child Ready to Read directed grants totaling \$36,000.

## iCONN

Based on LSTA-related focus group meetings with public, school and academic librarians conducted in 2010 and 2011, iCONN, including the statewide library catalog, consistently ranks in the top tier of State Library services most important to libraries. In the most recent survey, a large percentage of respondents gave high scores (and many testimonials) to iCONN for:

- the degree to which the program has had a positive impact on library services in their library
- the degree to which the program has had a positive impact on library services statewide

In the 2010 focus groups, when asked to state which three Connecticut State Library services were the most important to them, public, school and academic librarians designated iCONN, reQuest and the Connecticutar delivery service as the top three.

The Connecticut Digital Library Advisory Board (CDLAB) approved a revision to its bylaws at its April 4, 2012 meeting. The revised bylaws are located at <http://www.cslib.org/iconnsitemap/documents/CDLAB%20Bylaws-2012.pdf>.

After making a series of adjustments in consultation with the iCONN Database Committee, including eliminating Gale's *Books & Authors* (readers advisory service) and eliminating all cover art and professional reviews in the statewide library catalog, the FY 2013 budget is still \$30K in the red based on the 5% budget cut proposed by the Governor. If the \$30K can't be made up with federal funds, then we may have to drop another licensed database.

To partially compensate for the previous loss of *AP Images* (Associated Press photo archive) and the anticipated loss of *Books & Authors* on July 1, we worked with the iCONN Database Committee to develop two substantial directories of freely accessible resources:

- Images—searchable libraries of images and photos with an emphasis on “kid safe” and copyright-free resources - available at <http://www.cslib.org/iconnsitemap/staff/FreelImages.htm>.
- Reader's advisory services—matching readers to what they want to read – available at <http://www.cslib.org/iconnsitemap/staff/ReadersAdvisory.htm>.

The Discovery Systems Task Force is surveying library staff throughout the Connecticut State University, Community Colleges, and the State Library in preparation for issuing an RFI (Request for Information) to suppliers of Discovery Systems on or about June 1. The survey is located at <http://surveys.southernct.edu/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=86K3n18>. The Task Force plans to meet with library consultant Marshall Breeding to review the RFI responses following the annual meeting of the ConnSCU on July 16, where Marshall will be giving the keynote presentation. Bill Sullivan serves on the Task Force.

Pursuant to a recommendation from the Database Committee, we plan to issue a bid in FY 2013 for a modified version of the entire package of resources that Gale is currently supplying. In addition, the Database Committee is formulating a request for high-priority resources to be added in FY 2014: a business directory database; a pro-con issues database; streaming audio service; The Hartford Courant (1923-1984); and a children's encyclopedia.

Our current contract with Auto-Graphics is due to expire at the end of FY2013. Accordingly, we will be issuing an RFP as soon as possible after the start of FY2013.

A web page that consolidates links to the privacy and accessibility policies of all the vendors we work with was created by iCONN staff member, Eric Hansen, at

<http://www.cslib.org/iconnsitemap/staff/AccessibilityAndPrivacyPolicies.htm>

The **Treasures of Connecticut Libraries** grant period came to a close April 30 after 3 years. Approximately 50 libraries and their partnering organizations were able to take advantage of this grant program to digitize up to 100 items from each of their collections. These libraries can continue to send items to digitize until they reach their maximum. Other libraries can still participate in the project, but their fee will not be covered as it was under the grant. There are more than 1,300 items in the collection to date.

A survey was distributed to libraries, historical societies, cultural and history organizations on May 3 to determine where master microfilm negatives are held for local newspapers in Connecticut and to determine which local papers may have been digitized. This is being done to aid in title selection should we receive a National Endowment for the Humanities ( NEH) grant submitted this January, and also to put together a database of CT digitized newspapers that can be shared with the greater community.

### **Statewide Continuing Education**

DLD, through the efforts of CE Coordinator Kris Abrey provided numerous webinars, workshops, and other training opportunities for library staff at all levels. Topics ranged from Basic Book Repair: Tools & Techniques to Cataloging Electronic Resources to Creating and Redesigning Newsletters in Publisher. Kris is also responsible for the State Library's Facebook page and Twitter Page.

### **Outreach**

On April 23, Doug Lord was honored to represent the state librarian at the ribbon cutting for the new wing of the Hartford Public Library featuring The American Place, Center for Contemporary Culture, and the Living Room.

Mr. Lord coordinated two Services to Older Adults Roundtable meetings at the Otis Library in Norwich (April) and at the Ferguson Library in Stamford (May).

Steve Cauffman exhibited iCONN alongside the Connecticut Association of School Librarians (CASL) at the Connecticut Education Association's New Teacher's Conference, Saturday, March 31 at the Mohegan Sun

Mr. Cauffman also conducted reQuest ILL training for new participants Bethlehem Public Library, Wolcott Public Library and Portland Library

Eric Hansen presented iCONN resources, especially OneClickdigital audio books, to the Region 6 school librarians' roundtable at Ledyard High School on March 22.

Mr. Hansen presented iCONN OneClickdigital audio books for senior citizens at UCONN-Waterbury on March 27.

Gail Hurley coordinated the planned placement of a 60 foot iCONN banner in front of the State Office building during the weeks of 4/9-4/16 and 5/28-6/1

### **Liaison Activities**

Mary Engels is the State Library Liaison to the Association of Connecticut Library Boards (ACLB) and the Friends of Connecticut Libraries (FOCL) and has been working closely with them on a number of projects.

### **Publications**

Doug Lord

- *Library Journal's Books for Dudes* collection development column, 3/22: [Killer Thrillers, Memoirs, and Performing Arts Biographies](#).
- *Library Journal's Books for Dudes* collection development column, 5/1: [An Unholy Triumvirate—Time Travel, Car Theft & Bike Riding](#).

The April 2012 issue of the *iCONN Times* is available in pdf format at <http://www.cslib.org/iconnsitemap/staff/iConnTimes.aspx>.

### **Access Services Space/Collections**

- The Connecticut Historical Society donated material related to the Connecticut Constitutional Convention in 1965.

### **Patron Services**

- We continue to address the challenge of finding the best ways to compile and present Connecticut legislative history material in a digital format.
- Brianna Tabil, a MCC student hoping to go to Library School, spent a day with us to fulfill public service requirements and worked on several projects.
- Rep. Christie M. Carpino, from the 32<sup>nd</sup> district (Cromwell, Middletown and Portland) brought 8 paralegal students to CSL. Working with Debra Pond and Nancy Lieffort, they learned about our legal resources.
- The Weston, Connecticut Senior Genealogy Seminar group visited us. Carol Ganz gave a tour and Jeannie Sherman, Jerry Seagrave, and Mel Smith followed-up with answers about their individual research topics.
- Instructor Polly Gunther from the Osher Life Long Institute (OLLI), Waterbury branch of the University of Connecticut brought in a group of nine genealogy students for a full day of research. Jeannie Sherman and Mel Smith helped them find records of their ancestors.

### **Outreach**

- Our Law Librarians visited UCONN Law School to tour their collections and to discuss ways to increase collaboration.

- Nancy Peluso met with federal documents coordinators from Rhode Island and Connecticut to discuss the State Forecasts and State Action Plans that the Government Printing Office is requiring of all depository libraries.

### **Collection Management** **Library Materials Budget**

As of May 8<sup>th</sup>, the library materials budget allocation of \$358,992 was expended in full. An appropriation adjustment of \$419,000 was made to the account for a total FY12 budget of \$777,992 of which 70% is already expended.

End of the year purchases of LexisNexis legal treatises and West's Reporters series volumes that we cancelled earlier in the year allowed us to reinstate essential legal research materials for the collection. Considerable discounts were negotiated by Carol Trinchitella on these purchases.

### **Collections**

Collection and Bibliographic Services implemented a more efficient workflow for West's Reporter series volumes. As new volumes are received, Collection Services staff will create item records upon receipt. Volumes are then reviewed before labeling. This new workflow allows materials to go from receipt to shelf more efficiently and quickly.

### **Aerial photos to Department of Energy and Environmental Protection**

A copy of the State Library's 1934 Aerial Photographs of Connecticut- TIF Files, were released to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

- 8883 files; about 1.2TB of data

Intended Use:

- DEEP & UCONN are intending to make a new mosaic map of the state.
- DEEP & UCONN are intending to geo-rectify images (pinning each photograph to the map in three places, we only found one point on each photograph).

Rights:

- Licensed to the public under Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported License.

### **Digitization**

Historypin is an online site that allows individual users and cultural institutions to upload historic photographs, which are "pinned" or geo-located on a map. Participating in Historypin will promote our collections and provide opportunity for learning more about our images. Visitors to the site will be able to add information and comment on images. Thanks to the work of Christine Pittsley we have three collections posted on Historypin: Colt Patent Fire Arms Manufacturing Company, Blizzard of 1888, and the WPA Architecture photographs. You can see our Historypin channel by visiting this website:

<http://www.historypin.com/channels/view/id/2662022/>

More evidence that our digital collections are being noticed occurred when the William H Thompson Photographs were highlighted in a blog called Sad City Hartford.

<http://sadcityhartford.blogspot.com/2012/04/william-h-thompson-photographs.html#more>

Another batch of the State Tercentenary Commission pamphlets are now online, as are library materials requested by staff and patrons. This includes such titles as: The Connecticut School Fund, the story of an historic \$1,200,000 which since 1797 has been invested chiefly in real estate first mortgages, an article from Freehold magazine, Oct. 1937, used with permission of the copyright holder <http://www.consuls.org:80/record=b3271615~S16> and: F.F.C. First Families of Connecticut, the society address book, elite family directory and club list, a selected list of 3,000 of the first families of Connecticut, 1900-1901 <http://www.consuls.org:80/record=b2622763~S16>

## **Presentations**

Christine Pittsley spoke to an Anthropology Research Methods class at CCSU on using Digital Collections as a research method. – April 24, 2012

Old hand bookbinding and conservation tools and supplies that were no longer needed at the State Library were transferred to Carole Dyal, Archives and Special Collections Conservator at the University of Connecticut. This includes book cover stamping tools used to decorate and add the title to hand-made leather book covers and rolls of buckram (book cloth).

On April 18<sup>th</sup>, Jane Cullinane, Glenn Sherman, Diane Pizzo and Allen Ramsey visited the University of Connecticut to view their Atiz book scanner. The scanner holds a book in a cradle at an 180 degree angle, keeping the spine from being stressed, which is important for older or fragile material. Two digital cameras, mounted on the sides at an angle, then take a picture of each page.

## **Archives**

### **Accessions:**

#### **Probate records:**

RG 004:024, Chaplin Probate Court record books, 1850-1950, 8 volumes.

RG 004:041, East Haddam Probate Court wills, 4 cubic feet,

RG 004:063, Hampton Probate Court record books, 1836-1988, 10 volumes.

RG 004:067, Hebron Probate Court probate files, 1848-1998, bulk 1898-1975,  
9 cubic feet.

RG 004:071, Lebanon Probate Court record books, 1826-1943, 17 volumes.

RG 004:113, Portland Probate Court probate files, 1824-1982, 29 cubic feet and  
wills, 2 cubic feet.

#### **Other:**

RG 074:071, Robert Hilands McKeon genealogical papers, circa 1990-1997, 1 cubic foot

### **Processing Completed:**

Volunteer Max Otte completed processing the Mathias Spiess Papers, 1892-1944, 1.25 cubic feet. The papers consist of material pertaining to Mathias Spiess who was an amateur historian with an interest in Connecticut Indians and the town of Manchester. Included in the papers are correspondence, subject files, writings, and maps.

### **Finding Aids Online:**

RG 001:001, Records of the Colony of Connecticut, 1636-1776  
RG 001:002, Records of the State of Connecticut, 1776-1933  
RG 001:003, Records of New Haven Colony, 1639-1649, 1653-1664  
RG 001:004, Connecticut Colonial Land Records, 1640-1846  
RG 001:005, Records of the Commissioners of the United Colonies of New England, 1643-1702  
RG 001:006, Records of the Particular Court and County Court, 1649-1677  
RG 001:007, Records of the Court of Assistants and Superior Courts, 1687-1749  
RG 001:008, Records of the Governor and Council, 1710-1728, 1770-1774, 1785-1818  
RG 001:009, Records of the Governor and Council of Safety, 1775-1783  
RG 001:010, Connecticut Archives, 1629-1856, bulk 1629-1820  
RG 069:100, Mathias Spiess Papers, 1892-1944

### **Digitization Completed:**

Central Connecticut State University intern Justin Stackhouse completed the digitization of the Blizzard of 1888 photographs (PG 448). Justin scanned the photographs and completed metadata for the collection. The collection consists of 34 individual photographs and an album of 37 photographs. Government Records Archivist Allen Ramsey oversaw the project. The Blizzard of 1888 digital collection went live on March 28, 2012.

### **Outreach:**

Central Connecticut State University intern Justin Stackhouse and Government Records Archivist Allen Ramsey installed the exhibit "*Iron Nutmegs: Connecticut Soldiers and Veterans of the Civil War*" in Memorial Hall. The exhibit documents Connecticut's role during and after the Civil War. Included in the exhibit are photographs, pamphlets, medals, ribbons, diaries, journals, and correspondence.

### **Training:**

Assistant State Archivist Paul Baran and Government Records Archivist Allen Ramsey attended a Digital Repositories workshop sponsored by the Society of American Archivists (SAA) on March 23 at Middletown. Government Records Archivist Allen Ramsey attended an Appraisal of Electronic Records workshop sponsored by SAA on May 5 at Hanover, N.H.

### **Other:**

Installation of mobile shelving is complete.

### **Office of the Public Records Administrator**

Jeff Collins left state service on April 19 to take a position as Library Director of the Larson Memorial Public Library in Pinetop-Lakeside, Arizona.

### **Records Retention Schedules**

Jeff Collins and Lizette Pelletier met with representatives of the Office of Policy and Management on March 15 to discuss the records retention schedule for the Intergovernmental Policy Division. Lizette had a follow-up meeting on April 23 to discuss additional records for the division.

Jeff and Lizette met with representatives of the Office of the State Comptroller on April 4 to discuss the records retention schedule for the Retirement Division.

Jeff met with a representative of the Department of Transportation on April 11 to discuss their records retention schedules.

Jeff, Mark Jones, and Paul Baran met with representatives of the Office of the Governor on April 13 to discuss their records retention schedule.

After completing reviews and revisions, the Office of the Public Records Administrator issued the following records retention schedules:

- 12-2-1 Department of Public Health – Public Health Initiatives Branch – Health Education, Management, and Surveillance Section – Cancer Program
- 12-2-2 Department of Public Health – Public Health Initiatives Branch – AIDS and Chronic Diseases Section
- 12-2-3 Department of Public Health – Regulatory Services Branch – Drinking Water Section
- 12-3-1 Department of Correction
- 12-4-1 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection – Division of State Police; Division of Fire Investigations and Statewide Emergency Telecommunications; & Division of Scientific Services
- 12-5-1 Bureau of Rehabilitative Services – Division of Rehabilitation Services – Vocational Rehabilitation Program
- 12-6-1 Department of Social Services – Medical Operations Division – Pharmacy Unit
- 12-7-1 Office of the Secretary of the State – Commercial Recording Division – Uniform Commercial Code Function
- 12-8-1 Office of the Governor
- 12-9-1 Board of Pardons and Parole – Pardons Unit

#### Public Records Policies, Standards and Publications

This office issued a revised Records Retention Schedule (Form RC-050) and Records Retention Schedule Worksheet (Form RC-050W).

#### Training, Outreach & Site Inspections

LeAnn testified on March 21 to the Joint Committee on Planning and Development regarding Senate Bill 439, An Act Concerning the Protection of Municipal Records.

LeAnn Power and Kathy Makover made a site visit to the Hartford Town Clerk's Office on March 29, to inspect the land records and records storage areas. The visit was scheduled in follow up to a previous inspection of the land records and to address additional issues regarding the records storage areas.

Lizette and Jeff presented a records management training session to about a dozen employees from the Town of Wethersfield at the Wethersfield Library on April 10.

LeAnn, Lizette and Kathy attended the spring conference of the Connecticut Town Clerks Association on April 12 and 13 in Norwalk. They staffed an information table on Thursday. LeAnn and Ken Wiggin spoke at a workshop for town clerks on electronic recording on Friday.

LeAnn and Lizette presented a records management training session to approximately 45 employees from the Naugatuck Valley Community College in Waterbury on April 27.

LeAnn presented a records management training session to approximately 20 town employees from the Town of East Windsor on May 3.

Lizette presented a records management training session to approximately 45 administrative employees of the Greater Bridgeport Transit Authority in Bridgeport on May 10.

#### Historic Documents Preservation Program

The Historic Documents Preservation Advisory Committee met on March 21 at the Van Block facility.

The office has received over 110 applications from municipalities for FY13 Targeted Grants for Cycle 1 of the Historic Documents Preservation Program. Kathy is processing these applications as well as the final reports being submitted for the FY12 Targeted Grants.

#### State Records Center

Jeff provided a tour and overview of the State Records Center on March 20 for representatives of the Department of Public Health.

Doug Yaeger and Mike Soltesz accessioned 1,815 cubic feet of agency records; deaccessioned 2,411 cubic feet of agency records; processed 946 reference requests; and processed 603 re-files and inter-files.

#### Disaster Preparedness

Lizette attended a Coordinated State Emergency Preparedness [COSTEP] summit at Wesleyan University in Middletown on March 23 with Jane Cullinane. The summit was held in conjunction with the New England Archivists spring meeting. Other attendees included COSTEP-MA and FEMA representatives.

Lizette and LeAnn attended a joint meeting of COSTEP and State Historical Records Advisory Board [SHRAB] meeting on April 2 at the Middletown Library Service Center. This was a planning meeting for a series of workshops to be held in the five Emergency Management regions in June to encourage the creation of mutual aid groups among cultural heritage organizations and first responders in those areas. The mutual aid groups are part of a federal grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

#### Museum of Connecticut History

Outreach education programs continue across the state. Recently Museum Education Curator Patrick Smith has visited schools in Thompson, Madison, New Milford, Milford and Plainville. To date this school year, 80 programs have been presented, each one hour long. Topics include Connecticut inventions, the Charter Oak, Connecticut's 3 Branches of Government and Connecticut's role in the Revolutionary War.

The third grade teachers in Madison have asked Patrick to work with them in designing a local history program for their schools for next year. Patrick already visits all of the fourth grades in Madison (3 different schools) twice each year and next year will add visits for the third grades.

The Judicial Department is now working directly with the Navy to finalize a contract that will enable a Navy curator to oversee the move of the model of the USS Connecticut into Memorial

Hall. The guard station has been moved to the opposite side of the entrance to Memorial Hall to make room for the model.

### **Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped**

The Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped Advisory Committee met Friday April 13<sup>th</sup>. This group provides public advocacy for the library program by networking throughout the disability community. They come together quarterly to provide positive input into the operations of the library. By meeting in the building they offer a source of motivation to the staff that rarely sees their patrons because most of reader services work is over the phone or through the mail.

We decided to start up a book discussion group by testing the idea with the Advisory Committee. Those that wish to participate will bring a brown bag lunch and hold the meeting from 12:00 – 2:00 following the quarterly schedule committee meeting in July. Reader Advisor Paula McLean gave the group a choice of two titles. They chose to discuss *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*. If this new idea works we will try to increase membership by offering book discussion group by conference call or online.

On April 26 – 27, LBPH hosted a visit of our National Library Service Consultant Vickie Collins. This was an opportunity for us to detail the service we are providing for our patrons in light of the ALA/ASCLA Revised Standards 2011. It was also a chance for us to ask questions of her related to NLS operations. It was a very positive interaction.

Carol Taylor and Gordon Reddick worked their way through more than 200 applications for the vacant Library Aide position. Seven applicants were interviewed. The final selection was a very enthusiastic young man, Rafal Warchol, with a background that well suited the needs of the job. He began Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. On his first day he proved to be a wonderful asset to the library's circulation process.