

# The CONNector

CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

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## *The State Librarian's Column*

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Kendall F. Wiggin  
Connecticut State Librarian

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Along with our homes and schools, libraries and museums provide the strongest foundation for learning in our communities. Museum directors and librarians educate and inform the public, and by doing so, strengthen our great democracy.” — Laura Bush



White House photo by Susan Sterner

in announcing the President's proposed increases in Museum and Library funding. This statement should be a rallying cry for all library and museum professionals, patrons, and trustees during these tough budget times. Whether you are in a library, museum or archive, it is easy to get caught up in day-to-day budget battles and lose sight of why we do what we do. I know at the State Library we have been very much consumed by the state budget situation and the layoffs that have hit us so hard.

In the struggle to retain funding we often find ourselves pitted against the many other worthwhile programs and services that are facing the same budget realities. I am no Pollyanna. I realize that the months ahead are going to be difficult. The Legislature will have to make some really tough budget decisions.

But consider this:

- **Every day** 58,000 people visit a public library in Connecticut (ranked 1st nationally)
- Patrons borrow 80,000 books, audio and videotapes (ranked 12<sup>th</sup> nationally)
- 3,400 people attend programs in libraries
- More that 12,000 searches are conducted on iCONN

Doesn't it seem reasonable that the state not retreat from its financial support of library programs (currently ranked only 35<sup>th</sup> in the nation)?

The Library community has been effective in advocating for library funding. It is now more important than ever that the 60% of Connecticut's citizens that use libraries voice their support. Together we can keep Connecticut's Libraries and cultural heritage institutions some of the best and most used in the nation.



## ***President Bush's 2004 Budget Recommends Record-Level Funding for Nation's Libraries and Museums***

The President's 2004 proposed budget that was sent to Congress on February 3, 2003 included a proposal for increased funding for the nation's libraries and museums. On January 23, 2003, First Lady Laura Bush announced that "[a]long with our homes and schools, libraries and museums provide the strongest foundation for learning in our communities. Museum directors and librarians educate and inform the public, and by doing so, strengthen our great democracy."

Over the next 16 years, America's libraries are projected to lose 58 percent of their professional librarians. The President's budget proposal addresses this loss with a special focus on recruiting and training the next generation of librarians. Last year, the President's budget included \$10 million for this initiative. This year, the budget requests \$20 million for this initiative.

Dr. Robert Martin, IMLS Director noted, "In preparing to make the first grants for this initiative, we heard compelling stories about the need for librarians and a wealth of ideas for creative solutions. The library community is grateful to the President and Mrs. Bush for their commitment to learning and to libraries."

The 2004 budget request includes a total of approximately \$242 million for museums and libraries, which is a 15 percent increase over last year's request. Federal funding for the 122,000 libraries and 15,000 museums in the United States is administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). If the President's proposal prevails, Connecticut would see a significant increase in funding under the Library Services and Technology Act (LSCA) according to State Librarian Kendall F. Wiggin. "During these difficult budget times, this is certainly good news."

### **The CONNector Editorial Board Kendall F. Wiggin, State Librarian**

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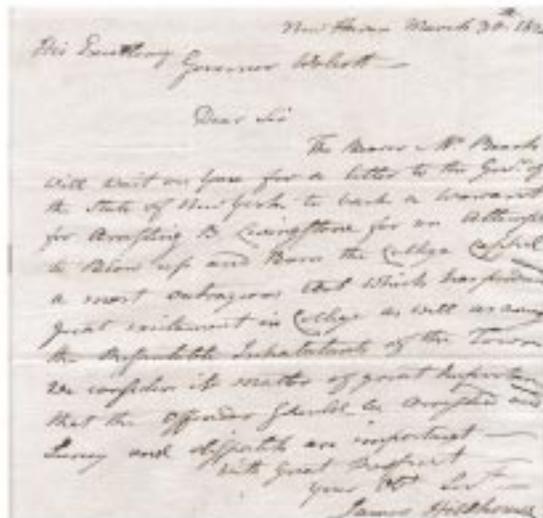
## *State Archives Issue New Guide*

*Mark H. Jones, State Archivist*

The State Archives is delighted to announce that it has issued *Guide to the Archives in the Connecticut State Library*. This is the fourth version and is the first one in twenty - one years. The State Archives has changed since 1981. The total quantity of records in 1981 was 19,000. Today it is 32,000 cubic feet. The *Guide* gives the name and number of approximately 181 record groups in the State Archives. Quantity of records in each group, a summary administrative history and description of the records in each group follow. An index at the end allows the reader record group access for names of agencies and subject terms, such as "Civil War." The pages are illustrated with images drawn from the State Archives vast pictorial collections. Copies of the *Guide* were sent to all public libraries and academic libraries in the state. Staff intends to mount it on the State Library's website at [www.cslib.org](http://www.cslib.org). To receive a free copy, contact the State Archivist Mark Jones at (860) 757-6511, [mjones@cslib.org](mailto:mjones@cslib.org), or by FAX at (860) 757-6542.

### **Guide to the Archives in the Connecticut State Library**

**Fourth Edition**



Office of the Public Records Administrator  
and  
State Archives



Connecticut State Library  
Hartford, Connecticut  
August 1, 2002

## ***TAPE INSPECTION: More Than Just A Glance***

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



*Chuck Dotts, volunteer, tape inspection*



*Luis Paiva, tape repair*

For such a small item, a cassette can have many things go wrong. At a recent tape repair workshop for libraries, many participants decided that it was not always worth the time and effort required to repair cassette tapes. Purchasing replacement tapes might be more cost effective in the long run. But even before that is deemed necessary, **inspection** must take place.

At the Connecticut State Library's Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (LBPH) the majority of the collection is made up of audiocassette books and magazines. Patrons have come to expect that each book that they receive from the program is "listenable" just like local public library patrons expect the book they check out to be "readable" (i.e. covers intact; no pages missing or defaced).

At LBPH we have a full inspection/repair program made up of dedicated staff and volunteers. Every cassette book is inspected extensively when it is returned. Are the right cassettes in the right box? Are there any cassettes missing? Are the tapes rewound? (*High-speed rewinders are used in this program.*) Is there any damage to the mailing container or the cassette shell/casing? (*Guide dogs and family pets have been known chew on them. Sitting on radiators or left in cars has melted some.*) Are the labels intact? What is the condition of the pressure pad? Does the cassette rewind and fast forward? Did the patron include a note or mark the mailing label indicating a problem? Is the tape loose inside or outside of the casing? These are just some of the criteria for inspection.

Many of our volunteers are visually impaired or blind. They have developed methods of inspecting the books all their own. The books and cassettes are labeled with Braille for identification and also indicate how many cassettes should be in the box. The recorded announcements on the beginning and ending of each side of the cassettes give assistance to those inspectors who do not use Braille. Many problems can be detected by sound. Twisted or misaligned tapes sound garbled, like a foreign language or have the sound drop off.

Because the library maintains a master collection, often a replacement can be duplicated for a missing tape. Loose tapes that come back to the library are filed in old card catalog files, perfect for tape storage. Often a copy of the missing tape is discovered there.

A staff member performs repairs on damaged tapes. Pressure pads are replaced. Broken shells can be replaced. Tapes can be untwisted or realigned. Broken tape can be spliced. When rewinding or fast forwarding is tough sometimes holding the cassette in your palm and rapping it on the tabletop several times can loosen it. Some repairs are simple. For a list of tape inspection/repair criteria and tips visit: [www.cslib.org/inspect.htm](http://www.cslib.org/inspect.htm).

Tape inspection and repair programs are not high tech but they make for happy "listeners."

## *Connecticut History Online*

*Mark H. Jones, State Archivist*

Connecticut History Online, an online collection of approximately 14,000 photographs, drawings, and prints documenting Connecticut life in the 19th and 20th centuries, has received a National Leadership Grant for Library-Museum Collaborations of \$498,770 to support a two-year expansion. The grant, made available by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, will help the New Haven Colony Historical Society and the Connecticut State Library join the partnership. In addition the funding will allow CHO to expand its online collection to include nearly 25,000 items including manuscripts, audio clips, oral history transcripts, artifacts, maps, diaries, and publications, making it one of the larger collections of digital materials available over the Web and the largest single state collection in New England.

The Connecticut History Online web site, located at [www.cthistoryonline.org](http://www.cthistoryonline.org), was launched in summer 2001 by a consortium including the Connecticut Historical Society, Mystic Seaport, and the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center at the University of Connecticut. The CHO website currently contains about 14,000 images of photographs, drawings and prints which may be searched or browsed in a variety of ways, including by keyword, subject, creator, title and date. Geographical sites may be searched using a Digital Geographic Locator developed by the University of Connecticut's Map and Geographic Information Center (MAGIC). Descriptions of the images are provided in detailed catalog records. Online learning tools created especially for middle and high school students provide suggestions for interpreting and exploring the database.

The Connecticut State Library will create, catalog, and contribute the entire Mills Photograph Collection, which consists of 500 photographs of historic Connecticut taken by teacher and principal Lewis Mills, who lived from 1895-1955. Also scheduled for inclusion is a portion of the Connecticut State Library's World War I military service questionnaires and photographs prepared by the War Records Department in 1919. Some 400 questionnaires returned by World War I Connecticut veterans, with accompanying photos uniform or sometimes civilian dress. Staff from the State Archives and the Division of Information Services are involved in the project.

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### *Hartford Public Schools Honor Black Civil War Regiment*



*Webster Brooks, Program Co-ordinator and  
Descendants of the 29th*

The 1989 movie "Glory" brought national attention to the crucial role African Americans played in the Civil War. However, the 54<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Massachusetts was not the only Black regiment to defend the North's cause.

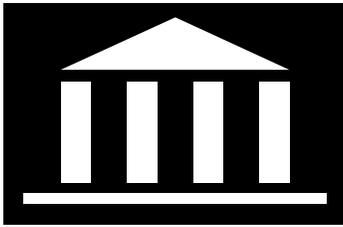
In observance of Black History Month, Superintendent Robert Henry and Councilman Kenneth Kennedy, Jr. joined descendants of the 29<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Volunteer Infantry Regiment (Colored) for a recognition ceremony. The event was held at the Connecticut State Library.

The event launched the 29<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Civil War Project, a district program that will seek to form a commemorative unit of the 29<sup>th</sup> Connecticut that will increase awareness of the role the regiment played in the War. The project also involves Civil War organizations and historical societies who continue the documentation of the 29<sup>th</sup> Connecticut's history.

The program included the descendants of the 29<sup>th</sup> and 54<sup>th</sup> regiments, as well as Hartford Public Schools students, who re-enacted significant events of the 29<sup>th</sup>'s history. Representatives from the Connecticut Historical Society and the Connecticut Historical Commission also provided remarks.

The 29<sup>th</sup> Connecticut was comprised of former slaves, free blacks and Native Americans from Connecticut and other states. Their participation contributed to the victory of the Union Army, and hastened the advent of freedom for millions of slaves.

For more information on the 29th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry regiment (Colored), visit [quicksitebuilder.cnet.com/mrben129thregtconn/](http://quicksitebuilder.cnet.com/mrben129thregtconn/)



**2002-2003 STATE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
CONSTRUCTION GRANT AWARDS**

TOWN	PROJECT	AMOUNT OF PROJECT	AMOUNT OF CONSTRUCTION GRANTS AWARDED
<i>CATEGORY #1 PROJECTS</i>			
Wilton	Expansion and renovation	\$ 7,000,000	\$ 500,000
Southbury	New library	\$ 7,353,080	\$ 500,000
Franklin	Renovation of existing building	\$ 192,389	\$ 64,129
<i>CATEGORY #2 PROJECTS</i>			
Greenwich	Handicapped access and remodeling	\$ 116,202	\$ 38,734
Fairfield	Code, handicapped access, and remodeling	\$ 2,572,511	\$ 332,129
New Britain	Remodeling, handicapped access, and code	\$ 474,224	\$ 158,074
Fairfield	Remodeling	\$ 519,685	\$ 107,854
<b>TOTAL FOR CATEGORIES 1 &amp; 2</b>		<b>\$ 18,228,091</b>	<b>\$ 1,700,920</b>

Public library construction grants are funded by state bond funds and administered by the Connecticut State Library as authorized by Connecticut General Statutes Section 11-24c. The Connecticut State Library Board approved the above State Public Library Construction Grants on November 25, 2002. They are now waiting for State Bond Commission approval.

Since 1998 this program has received level funding until this fiscal year. Senate Bill 702, passed during 2002 legislative session, repealed the \$2.5 million that was allocated for the State Public Library Construction Grant Program for the current 2003 fiscal year. This was part of a repeal of approximately \$500 million in state bonding that resulted from Connecticut's budget situation. The funding for the grants listed above would come from previously awarded grants which were returned to the State Library. The State Library and the Connecticut Library Association have requested \$2.5 million per year for FY04 and FY05 for the construction grant program.

State Public Library Construction grant awards may fund one-third (1/3) of the total cost of a project, with a maximum grant of \$500,000. Funding for the grant program is divided into two categories. Category #1 projects create additional usable space (new buildings, additions, and renovations). Category #2 projects improve existing space. In priority order category 2 projects are (1) making buildings handicapped accessible (including projects for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990), (2) correcting building and fire code violations (including installation of fireproof bookdrops), (3) remodeling to accommodate new technologies or to improve the design of existing space, and (4) energy conservation measures.

Next year's grant applications are due on August 29, 2003. If you would like more information about this grant program, contact Mary Louise Jensen, Building Consultant, Connecticut State Library, 231 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT 06106, phone: 860-566-2712 or e-mail: [mjensen@cslib.org](mailto:mjensen@cslib.org).

## *Cragin Memorial Library*

*Mary Louise Jensen, Building Consultant*



*New main entrance off of parking*



*Original Building connecting to addition*

On September 12, 2002, the renovated and expanded Cragin Memorial Library in Colchester was dedicated. Bruce Tuthill of Tuthill & Wells was the architect.



*Quiet reading room (original building)*

Colchester, a fast growing suburban town in southeast Connecticut, was settled in 1695. It covers 49.8 square miles and has a population of 14,551. The original 4,080 square foot library building built in 1905 was changed very little until this 16,614 square foot addition and renovation project. So that the parking lot would be near the new main entrance, the roads were moved creating a campus affect with an historic building, the library, and the parking lot. The major design objectives for the 20,694



*Adult Area*

square foot library building were to emphasize the original historical building and to create an addition that compliments the original building and fits with the existing buildings in the center of town. The style of the windows, the new entrance, and the yellow color and brick design reflect the style of the original building. An interesting architectural feature is the vaulted ceiling in the adult area that echoes the traffic pattern. This adult area has an open floorplan which allows for flexibility of design in the future.

The original building was converted into a reading room, an historic materials room, Director's office, and technical services. The new building contains the following:

- § Bright cheerful children's area with a children's program room
- § New meeting room with a kitchen and a conference room
- § Comfortable periodical area
- § Young adult area
- § Additional adult bookstacks, a variety of seating (table, casual, and carrels)
- § Adequate staff areas

The funding for this project came from town bonding, a \$500,000 State Public Library Construction Grant, \$200,000 bequest by the Zagray brothers, and \$90,000 in donations. The total cost of the project was approximately \$4,000,000. This project was completed on time and on budget.

Come see this library at the Libratects meeting on Thursday, April 3, 2003 at 10 a.m. People involved in the design and construction of the library will be available to answer questions. For more information about the construction of the library, check Cragin Memorial Library website [colchesterct.net/cragin.shtml](http://colchesterct.net/cragin.shtml).



*Children's area*



Connecticut State Library  
231 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-1537  
***Return Service Requested***

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Middletown Library Service Center (860) 344-2972  
Museum of Connecticut History (860) 757-6535  
Preservation Services (860) 757-6525  
Willimantic Library Service Center (860) 456-1717

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

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

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