Oklahoma Library Association Conference - a Success in Ardmore!!

(Ardmore, OK) Over 500 library personnel from across the state attended the Oklahoma Library Association’s (OLA) Annual Conference April 2-5 at the Ardmore Convention Center. This is the first time Ardmore has been the host site for this event which also brings vendors, speakers and authors from around the U.S. According to Janet Bateman, Marketing Director, it was the largest conference the Ardmore Convention Center has held.

Be the Change was the conference theme and attendees had many opportunities to grow professionally while attending various workshops. They also embarked on shopping trips, dinner events and luncheons hosted by local arrangement committee members from the Chickasaw Regional (Public) Library System (CRLS), the Noble Foundation Library, Ardmore Public Library, and the University Center of Southern Oklahoma Library.

“We were excited to show off the Ardmore community to librarians from Oklahoma and speakers from out of state with fabulous places to dine, shop and visit during the conference,” said Lynn McIntosh, Executive Director of CRLS. “Guests attended a pub crawl one evening, a dine-around on another, and stayed to experience Ardmore’s wonderful, unique shops.”

Native American author Joy Harjo was the featured speaker at the opening banquet with local citizens from the community in attendance. Other speakers for the conference included Stephen Abram, Library Futurist, Jennifer Brown, Sequoyah Award Winner, (High School) and Ursula Vernon, Sequoyah Award Winner (Children’s) who educated and entertained students from area schools. Ursula loved Ardmore so much she and her guest hopped on the Trolley for the evening Pub Crawl on Wednesday.

Photos: Joy Harjo, banquet speaker, and Steve Abram, opening speaker, courtesy of OLA website.

(con’t)
Be the change that you wish to see in the world.  – Mahatma Gandhi

It’s amazing just how quickly the past year has flown by. I am on re-entry this week after taking all of last week off for the 2013 OLA Annual Conference in Ardmore, Oklahoma. If you weren’t there, you missed a terrific conference, and we hope to see you in Tulsa next year. If you were there, you know what a truly amazing conference we had this year. Many of the local businesses in Ardmore rolled out the red carpet for us by hosting events, providing outstanding catering for conference functions, entertaining us at the All Conference Event, buying ads for the conference program, and donating items for the end of conference raffle. Pat Weaver-Meyers, Lynn McIntosh and all of the Local Arrangements Committee outdid themselves making sure Ardmore shined for us. Hats off to you all for making the 2013 annual conference one to remember!

Ila Coffman and the Program Committee did a great job bringing the “Be the Change” conference theme to life. This year, conference attendees were encouraged to ride the train to Ardmore, to participate in master classes, to network with colleagues during all-conference lunches, and to attend the membership meeting early on Friday rather than at the end of the day. Overall, I think the changes were well-received, and I hope some of them continue in future conferences. I attended all three of the master classes, and I hope some of them continue in future conferences. I attended all three of the master classes, and they provided a useful forum for exchanging ideas and allowing us to contribute to and create the program, not merely consume it.

At conference, I had the pleasure of announcing the creation of the Connie Van Fleet Memorial Scholarship that will be awarded for the first time in 2014 to someone working in libraries who wants to return to graduate school to pursue a professional career in librarianship. The Endowment Committee has agreed to raise $10,000 this year to endow the scholarship, and as of the end of conference, they had already raised approximately $7,500 toward this goal. If you would like to contribute, you may do so from OLA’s website (http://oklibs.org > Give > Endowment). Not only did they raise a good portion of the funds needed to endow this scholarship, they also reached a significant milestone: we now have more than $200,000 in our OLA Endowment!! Hats off to all of the Endowment Committee for their foresight in making the commitment to raise the funds that contribute to the Association’s financial stability but also to all of you who have contributed to the endowment through the years!

I would also like to tip my hat to the OLA Legislative Committee, Vicky White Rankin, and the Oklahoma House of Representatives and Senate for HB 1511, which is currently awaiting Governor Fallin’s signature. HB 1511 closes a possible gap in the Open Records Act and protects the library information of minors from individuals who are not government officials or the minors’ legal guardians.

As always, I encourage you to look for ways you can “be the change” for the association and volunteer to serve. I know Lynda Reynolds is in the same place I was at this time last year—desperately looking for people to serve on the committees that keep OLA functional.

Sarah Robbins, President
Oklahoma Library Association
University of Oklahoma Libraries
Conference, Con’t.

Broadway Kids from The Brass Ring for the Performing Arts were showcased at the All-Conference event on Thursday, and local Ardmoreite Laurie Williams was master of ceremonies for the evening.

Local arrangement committee members were happy with the numerous compliments received from conference guests. From hotel accommodations to dining and shopping trips, visitors said they will definitely make a return trip to Ardmore, not just for work but for pleasure!

For more information on this year’s OLA conference or other library services, contact CRLS at 580-223-3164 or 888-520-8103 or visit us at 601 Railway Express in Ardmore.

Photo, right: Chickasaw Regional (Public) Library System (CRLS) Wins Best of Show in the Hat’s Off Competition during the All-Conference Event. Hat is modeled by CRLS staff member Rachana Sivastava. CRLS entered the Biggest Hat in the contest!

Photo: Students line up to have Ursula Vernon sign copies of her book Dragonbreath.

Gail Courrier Public Information/Marketing Coordinator
Chickasaw Regional (Public) Library System
601 Railway Express Ardmore, OK 73401
(580)223-3164 (888)520-8103
YALSA Summit on Teens Needs Volunteers

OKSL is looking for volunteers to help with the Oklahoma Edition of the YALSA Summit on Teens. Please contact cgilstrap@norman.k12.ok.us for more information!

What do we know about teens? How can we best serve teens? How do teens need libraries? These were questions discussed at the YALSA Summit on Teens and Libraries I attended in January in Seattle. The Summit, sponsored through a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, kicked off a year-long program to discuss library services to teens and how to better serve the population. The purpose of the Summit was to “bring together key stakeholders from the areas of libraries, education, technology, adolescent development and the for-profit and nonprofit sectors to explore the world of young adults and library services to this population, and ultimately produce a report which will provide direction on how libraries need to adapt and potentially change to better meet the needs of 21st century teens.” You can read more about the all the participants and the report to be published later this year at the forum website. http://www.ala.org/yaforum/

My experience with the summit was exhilarating and I came away from the sessions with a much better idea of how and what teens currently need. Discussions about library use, technology use, attitude, career readiness, and programming were all lively and gave me an avalanche of ideas on how to better meet the needs of my students. After each speaker or panel, participants had small group discussions over a list of questions related to the topic. These discussions were a wonderful opportunity to connect with other types of libraries and organizations that serve teens and brainstorm with how to best collaborate and partner with similar organizations in my own state.

The ability to connect to other librarians and teen services providers is essential but can be difficult to do. Often times librarians who work with teens are the only person in the building or district doing this job. Many ideas for how to create a network of librarians and community partners who provide teen services are being discussed throughout the year-long forum.

Providing a place for everyone to connect and discuss is one of the goals of the forum. YALSA is sponsoring virtual town halls via Adobe Connect throughout the year to facilitate conversation about teens and libraries. You do not have to be a member of YALSA to participate and can view the recorded sessions through the forum website if you aren’t able to attend. Two conversations have already taken place, the first on community partnerships and the second on teen learning environments. A town hall is scheduled for May 21 from 1-2pm to discuss the future of teens and libraries. You can also follow and participate in the discussion on twitter using the hashtag #yalsaforum. A formal white paper will be published in October discussing the questions posed at the Summit and through the Virtual Town Hall discussions.

(con’t.)
At the conclusion of the summit each discussion group made a wishlist of things each participant wanted to accomplish with what was learned at the Summit. Each group expressed a desire to replicate something similar to the Summit in their home state or library system. OKSL and OLA are working to offer a similar workshop for librarians and teen services in Oklahoma within the next year. If you are interested in finding out more about this opportunity contact:

You can listen to and read the discussion of the past Virtual Town Hall’s here:  http://www.ala.org/yaforum/virtual-town-hall

Amanda Kordeliski, a middle school librarian at Irving Middle School in Norman
akordelis2@norman.k12.ok.us

Oklahoma School Librarians Technology Education Award 2013 Winner!

Amy Lagers, Tulsa Public Schools Librarian from Chouteau Elementary School, is the proud recipient of the Oklahoma School Librarians Technology Education Award for 2013. Amy willingly and enthusiastically shares her Web 2.0 and collaboration expertise with all 75 librarians Tulsa Public Schools. Amy’s leadership extends beyond her school library. She has presented at district and state conferences and is a member of Oklahoma A+ Schools Faculty. Amy was selected to attend the OLA Gold Leadership Institute.

Carolyn McClure
Library Media
Wilson Teaching & Learning Academy
918-925-1150

Photo: Amy Lagers, by Ellen Duecker
Celebrate Older Americans Month through Oral History

May 2013 will be the fiftieth year of recognizing and honoring older adults during the month of May. Back in 1963 President Kennedy designated May as “Senior Citizens Month” and in 1980 President Jimmy Carter had the name changed to “Older Americans Month.” Each year the Administration on Aging chooses a theme for the month long celebration and this year the theme is *Unleash the Power*.

What better way to “unleash the power” than to spotlight older adults in your community through conducting oral history interviews with them, giving them the opportunity to share their memories of the community, or a particular event, or life lessons learned along the way. Additionally, by listening to their stories and experiences others may learn how to approach life as an older adult.

In 2010 Leona Carroll, a few days shy of celebrating her 100th birthday was interviewed as part of our *Spotlighting Oklahoma* series. A few of the remarkable things about Ms. Carroll were that she was a true Los Angeles Lakers fan, reluctantly gave up mowing her own yard at the age of 99, and visited with her neighbors on a regular basis. Being a Lakers fan meant staying up late to catch the games. Being active and as self-sufficient as possible speaks to her approach to a long life. And staying connected with people has been shown to contribute to life satisfaction at just about any age but especially late in life. Life lessons.

If your library is looking for a way to acknowledge Older Americans Month, consider an oral history project. Here are some questions to consider:

- Tell me about your philosophy of life.
- What is your life motto?
- How do you describe your approach to everyday living?
- What is it that keeps you going? How has this approach changed?
- As you started to progress from young child to young adult, tell me how you imagined your life would turn out when you were older.

You can view more about Older Americans Month at [www.olderamericansmonth.acl.gov/](http://www.olderamericansmonth.acl.gov/) and learn more about oral history at [www.okstate.library.edu/oralhistory](http://www.okstate.library.edu/oralhistory).

Again, if you ever need assistance, the Oklahoma Oral History Research Program at the OSU Library is available to answer questions. Feel free to give us a call at 405-744-7685 or e-mail liboh@okstate.edu.

—Tanya Finchum & Juliana Nykolaiszyn
Oklahoma Oral History Research Program
OSU Libraries
What a Conference we had in Ardmore! If you were unable to attend this year, you missed many good programs and all the networking and camaraderie that is the tradition of the Oklahoma Library Association’s conferences. The location was great, the facility was great, and everyone seemed to be having a good time. All of the planning for the Conference that went on in Technical Services Roundtable this year really paid off!

We began the Conference with a Table Talk/Business Meeting at 7:45 a.m. We had 16 attendees at that meeting, and even the most “morning weary” persons were among those attendees. Thanks to all of you for attending and beginning a discussion about activities for the upcoming year!

The next Thursday program was “Building Your Own ERM,” presented by two Tulsa City-County librarians, Ellen Cummings and Shona Koehn. They provided practical advice on choosing an electronic management system, discussed features they knew they wanted, told us why they didn’t choose certain systems, and told us how they came up with the one they now use.

Also on Thursday, Michele Seikel from Oklahoma State University and Cathy Blackman, Mandi Smith, and Erica Moore from Cameron University presented an interesting and fun program on the differences between “SkyRiver and OCLC”. They began a research study about a year ago on comparing the differences between the two bibliographic utilities. They came up with some different and more interesting results than they had anticipated when beginning the project.

TSRT activities began on Friday morning with a lively panel discussion on “Patron-Driven Acquisitions”. Panelists Rich Paustenbaugh from Oklahoma State University, Scott Freeman from Stillwater Public Library, and Cathy Blackman from Cameron University discussed their participation in some form of patron-driven acquisitions at each of their libraries. It was interesting to see how each had found a way to serve patrons in a more cost effective and efficient way. We came away with some good and new ideas to use in our own libraries.

During a Friday afternoon session, Pauline Rodriguez-Atkins from Metropolitan Library System and Sarah Simpson from Tulsa-County Library System gave an informative and practical presentation on “How to Talk to Public Services About RDA”. This was a timely presentation since most catalogers by now have attended some RDA training and have worked with RDA enough to have come up with questions, issues, and problems regarding RDA. Also, there is a lot of interest in this topic now since the Library of Congress completed its implementation of RDA on March 31, 2013, and that was reflected in the high attendance at this session.

It has been a great year for Technical Services Roundtable with the very well attended workshop on RDA that was held in October and the wonderful conference programs in Ardmore. We try very carefully to choose workshop and conference program topics that will be of interest and benefit to our Oklahoma technical services librarians. If there is a topic that you would like to see addressed, please us know! Also, if you would like to be on our planning committee for future programs, please let us know. We welcome your input!

Linda Pye  
TS RT Chair, Head of Technical Services  
The Al Harris Library  
Southwestern Oklahoma State University  
100 Campus Drive  
Weatherford, OK 73096  
580-774-7021  
linda.pye@swosu.edu
OKLAHOMA WEBPAGES: AGRICULTURE DATA FROM THE USDA

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is one of our nation’s 14 designated federal statistical agencies. NASS compiles and produces the most basic data about our nation’s agriculture at [http://www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov).


This is an important report for our state. It contains current planting, harvesting and production data by county for wheat, hay, sorghum, soybeans, peanuts, cotton, and corn; dollars by acre for cash rents by county; and an inventory by county of cattle, poultry, hogs and pigs, and sheep. Also contains an overview of agriculture in Oklahoma and it links to the 2007 Census of Agriculture for Oklahoma. When Oklahoma data from the 2012 Census of Agriculture is published it will be here.


Choose “Animals and Products,” “Crops,” or “Economics” to get data about such topics as dairy products, ice cream, feed grains and hay, the number of animals slaughtered and price paid for them, an inventory of milk cows, and prices paid for fertilizer. These web pages also contain data you might not expect, such as the number of bison slaughtered and sales of mushrooms.

For data about economic topics such as land values, farm employment, wages, and labor, the number of farms, agricultural prices; and also for charts and maps – [http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_Subject/Economics_and_Prices/index.asp](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_Subject/Economics_and_Prices/index.asp)

Examples of charts and maps: grazing fees per cow/calf by state, farm production spending, and the national price index for cheddar cheese.


Examples: the ownership and use of computers on farms, and agricultural safety.

When the 2012 Census of Agriculture appears it will be here (the latest data is 2007 Census) – [http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/index.php](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/index.php)

When the new Census appears in 2014 this will contain reports for each state as well as national trend reports for agricultural products.

The USDA Economic, Statistics, and Market Information System (ESMIS) is a cooperative program between the USDA and Cornell University that compiles and publishes
additional data that is historical or supplemental to NASS data at http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/homepage.do

For data about crops and commodities - http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewTaxonomy.do?taxonomyID=3
http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewTaxonomy.do?taxonomyID=2
In addition to historical data there are data about the cold storage of crops and also the capacity of refrigerated warehouses to store those crops by state, the important **Prospective Plantings** survey noted below, and world markets for trade in tobacco and wine.

For data about livestock – http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewTaxonomy.do?taxonomyID=5
Examples include an overview of the turkey industry, and the annual livestock, dairy, and poultry outlook, and estimates of the world agriculture supply and demand.

For data about economic topics such as use of fertilizer and the production of organic products - http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewTaxonomy.do?taxonomyID=4
Examples include agriculture related injuries, agricultural chemical use by product, and the percent of acres and number of farms that control crop pests and how they control them.

For data about “specialty agriculture” such as pecans and watermelons – http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewTaxonomy.do?taxonomyID=6
Examples include the “Fruit and Tree Nuts Yearbook: Dataset,” the world market and trade for stone fruits, and catfish and trout farming.

For data about world markets and international trade - http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewTaxonomy.do?taxonomyID=7
The outlook for exporting farm products to the world for dairy products, livestock and poultry, organic products, raisins, and more.

For forecasts of agriculture through 2022, national level data only - http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1192
Contains export and import data for each major agricultural commodity, such as “Beef Trade” and “U.S. Wheat”.

**Prospective Plantings** is an important annual title used for short-term forecasting – http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1136
This survey is important because the USDA asks farmers what they’re going to plant the coming year. National-level data only.

The USDA’s **Economic Research Service** compiles and publishes additional data at http://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products
Use the drilldown to select topics such as Adoption of Genetically Engineered Crops in the U.S., Aquaculture Data, the Atlas of Rural and Small Town America, the Feed Grains Database, Food Desert Locator, Food Price Outlook, and on through Wheat Data. As you look at the drilldown choices you’ll see that they’re identified by notes about what type of publications they are, such as “File,” “Chart,” “Map,” “Application,” or “Data” but they’re all data presented in one way or another. **There are data here that you will not find at the NASS or NASS/Cornell University websites.**
Affordable Learning Solutions and the Role Libraries Can Play—Great Preconference!

On April 3rd, the University and College Division held a preconference on the topic of online open access textbooks and other learning materials. We had twenty participants, and we all learned a lot to take back to our institutions about open access textbooks. Our speakers were Dr. Phil Moss, longtime instructional technology guru for the Oklahoma State Board of Regents, and his friend Dr. Gerard Hanley, California State University’s Senior Director of Academic Technology. Together, they were instrumental in establishing the MERLOT website (http://www.merlot.org/merlot/index.htm), which contains over a million free, open access curriculum titles. What follows is notes from the day’s talks.

Librarians, you have autonomy in your own field, but there are certain areas wherein you can reach out, be flexible, and collaborate to provide more service. You must tell your faculty who may not have heard of or understood open access how to provide affordable learning materials to their students. They can get affordability, accessibility, and empowerment to decide what choices to make for textbooks.

Librarians can offer workshops or labs for faculty to help them get used to the idea of finding curriculum materials online. You can tell them that they can enable their students to save half on the total cost of their textbooks every year (from $1000 down to $500). You can use the tutorials and templates found on MERLOT under “academic support services.”

MERLOT has been available since 1998, and is primarily driven by faculty on the CSU faculty, although it is used by faculty all over the world to find, create, and share affordable learning materials. It is free to join for anyone. Members can create their own personal, bookmarked sets of resources for classes. Each of their personal collections has its own unique URL, which can be added to Blackboard or other systems. Items with the “MERLOT classics” logo have been in the collection for a long time, with multiple citations and commentary. Comments can include how the materials are being used in classes. MERLOT has discipline-specific editorial boards, so that many of the materials are peer-reviewed. They are cataloged by users, and the structured metadata enable you to improve discovery, whereas Google searches alone would not bring a lot of these materials to light. Online materials can be instructionally powerful too, with illustrative materials that aren’t even possible in printed textbooks.

You can tell your faculty members that faculty who author content for MERLOT can receive letters from the peer review board which reviews the content, so that they can use this in their tenure/promotion bids. MERLOT currently has 23 peer review boards. Hippocampus is an alternative to MERLOT that is specifically for K-12 curriculum.

Open Educational Resources on the ALS (Affordable Learning Solutions) site has over 1,000,000 free online instructional materials, including over 2,300 free online textbooks, at http://als.csuprojects.org. The Oklahoma site is at: http://affordablelearningok.org. The ALS strategy: Leveraging content providers < Creating capabilities< Developing demand< Enabling ecosystems. The best possible scenario is for your institution’s Provost and other leaders to get this started on their campuses.

Contact campus bookstore personnel also. For instance, at San Jose State University, they took the course materials list from the bookstore and looked up the titles on eBrary. The campus bookstore can charge a small amount to get access to the textbook through eBrary. CSU has a rent digital program that allows students to save even more.
Other open access curriculum sites include CourseSmart, a concern that offers 20,000 online textbooks with an e-reader. It also has a “Studying from textbooks” video, a tutorial on how to study at the college level. CaféScribe is Follett’s online textbooks site, which also has an e-reader. The Courseload site’s accessibility is poor. VPAT (voluntary product accessibility template) has a site offering numerous accessible tests for the needs of disabled students. Purchasers should ask for the VPAT e-readers.

To create an affordable learning options plan for your campus, create a project brief using MERLOT’s project brief template. It should include use cases that illustrate both the students’ need and the services available. The template lets you plan and organize a team. Or, use the ALS Communications planning matrix. It helps you plan how to communicate with institutional leaders on the MERLOT Voices web page. Faculty, academic or instructional technology staff, and administrative personnel should all be involved. Check out the “Community conversations” tab. You can add and OER search widget to any web page, so that you can search the site from your own library web page. Type in the ISBN number of any textbook and search for comparable open access materials, including free textbooks.

What are the barriers to your library’s readiness to begin pushing open access on your campus? Go for a campus initiative—talk to faculty about what they want as well as what they need. Speak at meetings whenever possible. Take advantage of events at your campus. Campus ITLE organizations may be interested in digital literacy tutorials. Contact Academic Affors about the bookstore.

You can also contact associated student associations, student government, and campus newspapers. Co-sponsor an event to explain open access wherein you give faculty Starbucks or restaurant gift cards. The Higher Education Opportunity Act mandates cost transparency for all classes. Timely delivery of accessible content to students with disability is also required by Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act. Remind everyone you talk to that AFFORDABILITY KEEPS STUDENTS IN COLLEGE.

By Michele Seikel
2012/2013 Chair of the University and College Division
Associate Professor and Catalog Librarian
Oklahoma State University Libraries
Ruth Brown Would be Proud

The Social Responsibilities Round Table committee was pleased to receive 6 applications for the 2013 Ruth Brown Memorial Award. The competition was close, as all six programs were inventive using community partners and volunteers to fill the gap where funds were not readily available. Each applicant offered a unique way of reaching, serving and filling a need for a special population in their library or service area community. Each one was a winner in their own right.

The six applications included: Redeeming the Family’s Oklahoma Messages Project; Oklahoma City Family Literacy Program’s Live Theatre Performance; McLoud Library’s McLoud Breakfast Buddies and Dale Breakfast Buccaneers; McLoud Library’s Life Skills; The Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma Library’s Starting Points, and The Federated Church’s Positive Pathways.

The recipient chosen for the 2013 Ruth Brown Memorial Award is Starting Points, created by the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma’s library, Sandy Tharp, director. For the library, planning began in 2009 and took in its first GED students in January 2010. Since that time, 47 people have earned GED certificates in this ongoing program. However, the program offers much more to its participants. By utilizing several small community grants, Starting Points has helped their students improve reading skills by offering one-on-one tutoring for adults and children, secured their own certified GED teacher, as well as provided the funds for GED testing and retesting. According to library director, Sandy Tharp, the next step for participants is to find work and stay employed, which is where the Learning Express Job and Career Database for improving job and computer skills came in handy and was a necessary tool to advance, so necessary in fact that the database is shared with 5 public libraries and one school library in the vicinity. In addition to the literacy and career focus, Starting Points worked with the Tribe’s equine program to create an opportunity for special needs children to enjoy the therapy of riding horses.

Photo, Ruth Brown Winner Sandy Tharp with OLA President Sarah Robbins
Ruth Brown, con’t.

With the many facets supplying much needed assistance to those who would otherwise be without, these activities speak highly of the Iowa Tribe library’s adherence to their mission to meet students where they are. It is the students’ self esteem that shows the biggest improvement as evidenced by their comments in the video yearbooks (http://www.iowanation.org/page/home/government/library/starting-points). They express the incredible influence Starting Points has made for them. Their personal stories reveal the measurable impact Starting Points has made to improve their lives and consequently, the lives of their families.

Ruth Brown would be proud of all the applicants and especially Starting Points!

Kelley Riha, Community Outreach Coordinator
Metropolitan Library System of Oklahoma County
R.J. Norrick Downtown Library and Learning Center
300 Park Avenue, OkC, OK 73102
405-606-3836, 405-401-8564

photo: SRRT memrbs enjoying the conference: l to r: Kelley Riha, Metro Downtown; Linda Jordan, ODL; Shanelle Jackson, Metro@Village, and Patricia Jones, Oklahoma History Center.
Check out the New Mac-Arthur Elementary School Library in Tulsa!

It’s a 3800 square foot library, paid for with the 2010 School Library Bond. Macarthur serves approximately 450 students and the librarian is Debbie Barrick.
Territory Tellers to Host Tim Tingle for Annual Festival

Description: The Spirit of Oklahoma Storytelling Festival will feature noted author and storyteller Tim Tingle on June 7 and 8 in Seminole, OK. Registration and tickets are available at http://www.territorytellers.org/SpiritOfOklahoma/SpiritOfOklahoma.

Seminole, OK – June 7-8, 2013 – Looking for talent for your next storytelling program? Then look no further: the 7th Annual Spirit of Oklahoma Storytelling Festival has a line-up of Oklahoma tellers to please audiences of every age. With noted Choctaw storyteller and author, Tim Tingle as the featured performer, the Haney Center at Seminole State College will be the place for tellers and listeners on the second weekend in June.

Familiar to Oklahoma librarians as the author of Walking the Choctaw Road and Crossing Bok Chitto, Tim Tingle’s more recent Saltypie was recognized by the American Library Association as a Notable Book in 2011. In 2012, Tim was inducted into the Texas Institute of Letters.

Joining Tim will be dozens of regional tellers including Greg Rodgers, Teresa Black, Jeanette Harjo, Elizabeth Parker, Tony Hardman, Nancy Lenhart Matthews, Kathryn Thurman, and gifted Texas storyteller and emcee Tim Couch.

Besides the story concerts and workshops, there will be lots of opportunities to try your voice at story swaps or table tellings, or lurk and listen for the new or unknown voices of up and coming tellers.

Whether you enjoy stories or music or a creepy ghost tale or the best way to craft an image, the Spirit of Oklahoma Storytelling Festival has something for you. Visit the Territory Tellers web site at www.territorytellers.org for more information or to register for this festival.

Contact: Valerie Kimble,
Interim Manager, children’s Department, Norman Public Library
405-366-8915, kimblevalerie@yahoo.com
4001 Sparkle St., Norman, OK73072

Photo: Tim Tingle, Photo from Territory Tattler, Spring 2013
Cobell vs. Salazar/Indian Land Consolidation Program:
The Buy Back Program
Of interest to all libraries working with patrons accessing Dawes Rolls or Tribal Histories

Note: the following text uses “reservation” to mean all Indian lands, including Oklahoma Tribal Statistical Areas; “Buy Back” refers to the Buy Back Program of the Indian Trust Land Consolidation Program.

A major part of the Cobell Settlement in 2012 was the creation of the Indian Land Consolidation Program, which in turn created the Buy Back Program. Buy Back has $1,770,000,000 to buy lands owned by tribal members that the BIA will then return to the tribe of which the seller is a citizen. When the Dawes Act of 1887 gave allotments of lands that had formerly been held in common by all tribal members to individual owners it created the problem of “fractionated” lands. Fractionated lands are lands that were inherited by descendants of the original owner. These descendants became “tenants in common” of that land, which means that an allotment of what may have originally been 360 acres became an allotment of 2.5 acres or less after a hundred years. The more individuals there have been in a family, the greater the degree of fractionation exists. It’s hard to do anything with such a small piece of land to make money. Buy Back will return these lands to the tribe to be held in common, and it will then be possible for the tribe to generate income for its citizens through economic development, such as natural oil and gas extraction, and farming and ranching. Buy Back will bring millions of dollars into Oklahoma, and will affect many counties in our state. It may affect your library customers from now until the end of the program on November 24, 2022. You should know about it.

Definitions: a “land tract” is a parcel of land owned by an owner; a “fractionated tract” is a parcel of land owned by multiple owners, from a few to many.

The Buy Back Program is part of the Cobell Settlement that was approved by Congress on November 24, 2012. It puts $1.9 billion in a Trust Land Consolidation Fund for buying highly fractionated land—which means multiple to many owners of one piece of land—for tribes from individuals willing to sell their land to their tribes. This money must be expended by the end of the 10 year period that ends on November 24, 2022. The Initial Implementation Plan, based on tribal consultations that began in 2011 and initial planning, is underway. Find this plan at www.doi.gov/buybackprogram/upload/Initial-Implementation-Plan-508.pdf

History: the fractionation of Indian lands is a result of the General Allotment Act of 1887, the Dawes Act, which allowed tribal lands to be allotted to individual tribal members in 80- or 160-acre parcels. As lands were inherited over the generations they became fractionated. The number of fractional land interests grew by 12.5% just from 2007 to 2011. It had been hoped that the prior American Indian Probate Reform Act of 2004 would slow the growth of fractionation more than it did.

There are approximately 150 reservations with 2.9 million fractional land interests owned by 219,000+ individuals—the location of about 18% of the landowners is currently unknown—that will participate in the Buy Back Program. 90% of the purchasable fractional interests are located within 40 of the 150 reservations that have purchasable fractional interests. Buy Back will focus on these 40 reservations first, then second within the highest ranked reservations in that list, and then third on acquisitions that best reduce fractionation and promote economic development for their tribe. Oklahoma has 7,237 fractionated tracts with a total of 564,272 acres in BIA’s Southern Plains Region, and 5,088 fractionated tracts with a total of 320,593 acres in BIA’s Eastern Oklahoma Region. In this list of 40 top reservations there are 5 Oklahoma tribes—

From “Table 1 – For Illustrative Purposes – Subject to Change,” Initial Implementation Plan

National rankings:
#20 – Chickasaw Nation, tracts: 1,882, acres: 111,219
#22 – Cheyenne/Arapaho, tracts: 1,129, acres: 96,787
#31 – Seminole, tracts: 952, acres: 37,627
#34 – Ponca, tracts: 403, acres: 20,882
#36 – Muscogee (Creek), tracts: 780, acres: 45,130
#37 – Osage, tracts: 609, acres: 73,434

The amount of this $1.9 billion that will go to the top 40 ranked reservations is $1,770,000,000.
The amount of money that will go to reservations not in the top 40 list is $130,000,000.

After identifying the tracts to buy Buy Back will create pilot programs in a location for limited peri-
ods of time, buy lands, then move on to the next location. At each pilot location they will con-
duct initial land consolidation efforts in an attempt to get the most return on investment for the 
tribes. In the BIA’s words they will target fractionated tracts that are “amenable to cost-
efficient, mass valuation techniques” (p. 2 of Initial Implementation Plan). Some monies from 
these sales will go into scholarships to American Indian students.

Buy Back, working with tribes, is creating maps that show fractionated tract boundaries and ownership 
status. Most fractionated tracts, interests, and acres are in the Great Plains and Rocky Mountain regions. Buy Back claims that they will “actively consult with Indian Tribes to identify and accommodate acquisition priorities to the fullest extent possible” to target the tribe’s pri-
orities.

Buy Back will use flexible purchase ceilings to maximize the purchase of fractionated lands.
Buy Back hopes to be able to get most of this work done in the first four years of the program.
No more than $285,000,000 can be used for Buy Back administrative costs. This would be 15% of the $1.9 billion.
Buy Back isn’t sure how many of the 219,000 individual owners will want to sell since all sales are voluntary.

After the initial work on the 40 targeted reservations Buy Back will have about $130,000,000 left to buy fractional interests at other reservations. Buy Back doesn’t plan to target all less-
fractionated reservations, but the most promising in regard to return on investment to tribes 
while also trying to keeping their administrative costs low. Among the factors that Buy Back 
will consider at this stage will be: 1) the number of interested sellers in a tribe; if 50% + of the 
owners of fractional interests within a tribe are interested in selling, those lands get priority 
treatment; 2) fractional lands that have higher percentages of owners aged 65+ who identify 
themselves as interested sellers get priority treatment; and 3) fractional lands that are 10% or 
more of the area of a tract will get priority treatment.

In their Cooperative Agreements with tribes Buy Back will give preference to tribes that have 
demonstrated an ability for self-governance through their participation in such programs as the 
BIA’s Self-Governance program and the Indian Health Service’s Direct Services program. 
Tribes that use the TAAMS (Trust Asset and Accounting Management System) and have certi-
fied staff will also get preference. Tribes that meet these criteria will be given preference within 
the list of top 40 reservations, and then other tribes that meet the criteria will be given prefer-
ence for the additional $130,000,000 funding.

In their Cooperative Agreements with tribes Buy Back will meet with tribes to discuss tribal priori-
ties for acquisition, how to contact individuals on tribal lands who own fractionated tracts of 
land, and to determine a tribe’s ability to conduct the Buy Back program on their reservation.
The four stages of the program are:

- **Outreach** to contact landowners
- **Land research** to determine fair market value
- **Valuation** using “mass-valuation” techniques
- **Acquisition** sending Application Packets to landowners

Field operations will be conducted for Oklahoma out of the Albuquerque office. The other centers are in Billings, Montana and Aberdeen, South Dakota. They will be called **Acquisition Centers**.

WEBSITES AND ONLINE TOOLS –

**Where a tribal member can update their IIM (Individual Indian Money) account information?** Contact the Garden City Group (GCG), which is the claims administrator for the Cobell Settlement at 1-800-961-6109. GCG is handling only questions about payments, and updating IIM account information. For all other questions ask the Trust Beneficiary Call Center at 1-888-678-6836 or your nearest Fiduciary Trust Officer at [http://www.doi.gov/ost/fto/index.cfm](http://www.doi.gov/ost/fto/index.cfm)

Oklahoma [http://www.doi.gov/ost/fto/ftoRegions.cfm#1](http://www.doi.gov/ost/fto/ftoRegions.cfm#1)

The Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians (OST) of the BIA is trying to find the current addresses for IIM accounts holders. In this website you can search by a name or use an A-Z list of names that OST needs current addresses for – [http://www.doi.gov/ost/wau/index.cfm](http://www.doi.gov/ost/wau/index.cfm)


FAQs from IndianTrust.com - [http://www.indiantrust.com/faq](http://www.indiantrust.com/faq)

Cobell vs. Salazar Court Documents - [http://www.indiantrust.com/documents](http://www.indiantrust.com/documents)

- **BIA – FAQs about Cobell Settlement Payments** -
- **BIA - Indian Land Consolidation Program** - [http://www.bia.gov/WhoWeAre/BIA/ILCA/index.htm](http://www.bia.gov/WhoWeAre/BIA/ILCA/index.htm)

Includes information about how payments could adversely affect the seller’s benefits from these federal programs: General Assistance, TANF, Social Security benefits, SSI benefits, and VA benefits.


Includes the very important **Initial Implementation Plan; Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations** that outlines how Buy Back will operate for through the termination of the program. Also includes the transcripts of the Tribal Consultations, including the full 167p. transcript of the Oklahoma City consultation.


Commission meetings, including documents, presentations, summaries of comments, statements from Commissioners, etc. - [http://www.doi.gov/cobell/commission/itc2012.cfm](http://www.doi.gov/cobell/commission/itc2012.cfm)

Steve Beleu, April 18, 2013, Oklahoma Department of Libraries

Send questions about Buy Back to sbeleu@oltn.odl.state.ok.us
The DPLA and Copyright

The Digital Public Library of America project aims to “[bring] together the riches of America’s libraries, archives, and museums, and [make] them freely available to the world.” It provides a single access point for searching collected metadata that will lead to the item’s home site; it’s an aggregator, rather than a site where the item can actually be found. As yet, it’s still in its early phases and far from complete; for example, the digital holdings of the University of Oklahoma in History of Science and Western History are not yet included.

It thus avoids directly dealing with problems of copyright, because the items in the DPLA reside with their original holding institution and are accessible under the rules followed by that institution. Of course, this just places the problem for the user at one further remove: is the item I am accessing under copyright, and can I use it in the way I wish to? Users will have to dig around on the site they’ve been directed to in order to find local policies.

As has been discussed elsewhere, the launch of DPLA could (and should) be an impetus for discussion of an overhaul of copyright laws, so it will be worth watching for future developments. At the very least, it would be helpful for DPLA to use its influence to encourage its contributors to make their usage polices accessible in some standardized location and format.

Some useful sources:

Digital Public Library of America: http://dp.la/


Harvard Crimson: http://www.thecrimson.com/article/2012/12/7/dpla-copyright-slows-progress/?page=single

Janet Brennan Croft
Associate Professor
Head of Access Services
University of Oklahoma Libraries
Bizzell 106NW
Norman OK 73019
405-325-1918
Fax 405-325-7618
jbcroft@ou.edu
http://ou.academia.edu/JanetCroft
http://libraries.ou.edu/
Editor of Mythlore http://www.mythsoc.org/mythlore.html

“Almost as entertaining as the guy with a tank full of scorpions. But not quite.” OKC Mensa, after I lectured on Tolkien and war.
The OKLAHOMA LIBRARIAN is the official bulletin of the Oklahoma Library Association. It is published bi-monthly. The inclusion of an article or advertisement does not constitute official endorsement by the Association. It is published entirely online for members of the association.

**Editorial Office**
Barbara Miller, Oklahoma State University, 501 Edmon Low Library, Stillwater, OK 74078-1071, editor@oklibs.org.

**Book Review Editor:**
Janet Croft, University of Oklahoma, Bizzell 104NW, Norman, OK 73019

**Circulation and Advertising Office**
The Oklahoma Librarian, 300 Hardy Drive, Edmond, OK 73013. : Kay Boies (405) 525-5100, fax: (405) 525-5103, e-mail: kboies@sbcglobal.net