A bi-monthly newsletter for members of **NOLA** Regional Library System

NOLA NOTES

The Ohio Senate Now Considering Budget Bill

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NOLA Notes is a publication of: NOLA Regional Library System, 4445 Mahoning Avenue, NW, Warren, Ohio 44483

For more information, call (330) 847-7744 or visit our website at: http://www.nolanet.org

The Ohio House of Representatives passed a budget (Substitute Bill 283) on May 6, 1999, that includes $1,871,151 in funding for the seven Regional Library Systems (RLS) in Ohio for FY 2000 and $1,926,769 for FY2001.

This amount was recommended to the House Finance Committee by the Primary and Secondary Education Subcommittee that is chaired by Kerry Metzger, Representative of the 97th District (New Philadelphia). This level of funding represents 90% of the combined state and federal (Library Services and Technology Act) dollars distributed to the seven Regionals during FY1999.

Beginning July 1, 1999 LSTA funding is only to be used as seed money for special library projects in Ohio. Therefore the Regional Library Systems requested increased state funding for basic administrative costs and to provide various services to member libraries.

Some of these services include the following:

➢ library development continuing education;
➢ technology continuing education;
➢ technology assistance;
➢ cooperative activities.

NOLA libraries have written letters of support to their legislators and members of both the House Finance Committee and the Senate Finance Committees.

On May 18, 1999, the Senate Finance Committee, Chaired by Senator Roy Ray from the 27th District (Akron), will hear testimony from Michael Lucas pertaining to the State Library of Ohio's budget.

Stephen Hedges, the Director of the Nelsonville Public Library, will speak on behalf of increased state funding for RLS. His library is a member of the Ohio Valley Area Libraries (OVAL), located in Wellston. He will ask the Committee to support the same level of funding for Regional Li-

brary Systems in its budget as found in the House budget: **$1,871,151 for FY2000.**

It is expected that the full Senate will pass a budget by mid-June. Any differences between the House and Senate budgets will be resolved by a joint conference committee. Then the Governor will sign a budget bill no later than June 30, 1999.

As soon as NOLA receives information about the Senate Finance Committee's recommendations, we will notify members. The July/ August issue of NOLA Notes will contain information about the budget signed into law by the Governor and the funding that is included for NOLA Regional Library System and the other six RLS.

We want to thank all member libraries for their continued support. If you have any questions regarding the upcoming budget passage or the future of NOLA funding, please don't hesi-

Millie Fry,
Executive Director

RefLinks...Turning Frustration into Solutions!

By: Carol Shantz,
Marketing Consultant

Reference librarians have a reputation. When they tackle a problem they come up with a solution.

That was the springboard for NOLA's exciting RefLinks project, begun by a handful of reference librarians who sought the same quality reference service on the internet as they found in traditional reference sources in their libraries.

Of course, there were readily available search engines or indexes where they could get thousands of hits on any given subject. As Karen Mateer (Kinsman) says, "Quantity was never a problem on the internet." What they needed was an organized quality computerized library for librarians.

That's when Karen, Sara Eklund Payne (Painesville Morley) and Jeanne Wisneiwski (McKinley Memorial) met and devised a plan. What resulted from their frustration was the Ohio RefLinks Project. Joining them in their quest for ultimate internet reference service are Bethany Peltz (Tuscarawus Public) and Leslie Pallotta (McKinley Memorial).

First thing on the agenda was setting criteria for judging a web site. Adopting the same basic principles used for selecting materials for their collections, the group added 10 additional values: authority, audience, accuracy, currency, scope, uniqueness, format/appearance, searchability, and help for visitors.

With selection guidelines accomplished, the next decision involved how to arrange the sites. The Dewey Decimal System was the easiest and most logical choice for public librarians. And, so they set out to catalog the web...as far as the Dewey 100's!

The site was designed so that the library patrons see the broad Dewey subject headings on the home page. Once leaving the home page, the Dewey categories are the given numbers all reference librarians use in addition to the subject headings. Sites deemed worthy of inclusion may be assigned multiple subject headings as well as multiple Dewey classification. Librarians can go straight to the number or search the site's intuitive search engine to locate information.

The 1500-plus "links" that make up the RefLinks site are checked on a regular basis to assure that quality is maintained. The RefLinks team meets monthly at NOLA headquarters to add sites, exchange information, and continue charting their course to accurate information for all.

Recognition of RefLink's uniqueness has come in several ways. While there are some other collaborative websites, no other is currently based on the Dewey system. That's why the founding group has been asked to present programs on their creation at OVAL, OLC, and Mount Union College. Now a possibility exists for an appearance at the national convention of the Public Library Association next year.

What began in the Fall of 1997 as a problem, has grown into a marvelous solution for librarians and internet users, thanks to this very special NOLA group. As Sara Payne remarked, "There's alot of garbage out there on the internet, and librarians must be careful where their information is coming from." The strict RefLinks emphasis on validated quality assures the reliability librarians seek. Try the RefLinks site and see for yourself!

RefLinks committee members:
Jeanne Wisniewski, (seated),
Sara Eklund Payne and Bethany Peltz (both standing)

The Future of Video Conferencing at NOLA

By: Brad Stephens,
Technology Coordinator

Many of you have seen and/or experienced the delivery of low quality video via the Internet. This video tends to be grainy, slow, and generally of poor quality. While this low quality video is relatively easy to configure and inexpensive, it lacks the quality needed to be useful for most professional environments.

The delivery of broadcast quality video via the Internet has for years offered a great deal of possibility, but has not been widely implemented due to high cost, complexity and a lack of reliability. During the past six to twelve months, the costs have dropped, more advanced and easier to use systems have been developed and transmission reliability has been greatly improved. Based upon these changes, NOLA has begun investigating the development and implementation of a high-speed broadcast-quality video conferencing system that can provide an exceptional learning experience for all participants.

The video conferencing system that NOLA is planning to implement will make use of multiple video cameras, a number of 32" or larger displays, instructor and participant microphones, overhead projectors and much more. This system will be part of a collaborative effort between all of Ohio's Regional Library Systems that will provide an eight-site system with sites throughout Ohio, to include sites in: Cleveland, Columbus andCincinnati. Once this network of sites is completed, NOLA will be able to provide members with broadcast-quality remote access to meetings and programs presented at locations throughout the state and beyond. Additionally, due to the availability of high-speed connections in most member libraries and because this system is portable and is based on open standards, (TCP/IP and H.323) NOLA will be able to make this resource available for use in member libraries.

Be sure to watch the NOLA Desktop for more information this summer and be ready for NOLA's first video conferencing opportunities coming early next year!

Babies, Brains, & Libraries

By: Sue McCleaf Nespeca,
Youth Services Consultant

In the last two years, there has been much information released on new brain research that stresses the importance of a baby's first three years. Babies' intelligence is not just genetically determined - the brain is also affected by environment. The kind of nourishment, care, surroundings, and stimulation that a baby receives is crucial to his/her brain development.

Connections between neurons (brain cells) which are called synapses are vital for healthy brain development. The first three years of life are when the vast majority of synapses are produced. Both positive and negative experiences have a decisive impact on how the brain is wired in these first three years.

What types of positive stimulation causes synapses to form? Sharing language and music with babies are just two examples - but two very positive experiences! Thus, parents of newborns should be encouraged to share language through nursery rhymes or books and also music with their infant daily.

Libraries can play an important role in modeling to parents the sharing of language and music with babies through lapsits or babytime programs.

NOLA Hits a Grand Slam!

The crowd roared to a rousing rendition of "Take Me Out To The Ballgame" to jump start this year's NOLA Planning Retreat, held Thursday, May 6th at McMenamy's Banquet Center in Niles.

Millie Fry,
Team Captain, welcomed over 50 people in attendance and introduced the starting lineup for the day:

Nancy Simpson,
3rd Baseman, reported on 1999 Personnel issues.

Melissa Lattanzi,
Shortstop, reported on the success of the Spring, 1999 Continuing Education programs, and gave an update on contract training programs.

Brad Stephens,
1st Baseman, discussed the AccessOhio continuation, the status of the Remote Access program, the Digital Collection Service Center usage, and gave an update on NOLA's Y2K compliance and the new Regional Library Systems' Video Conferencing project.

Sara Payne,
Right Fielder, discussed the success of the RefLinks project. With 1,600 sites now evaluated, progress continues throughout 1999.

Phyllis Cettomai,
Pinch Hitter from Reed Memorial Library, informed everyone of the advantages of using the Digitization Center and discussed how it has played an important role in her library's involvement in their Bicentennial.

Donna Wall, Catcher, gave a "Year in Review" report of NOLA Board activities and the "reinvention of NOLA".

The majority of the day was spent on planning for the future of NOLA.
Mary Merrill, Umpire, broke the participants into small groups to discuss the status of our current NOLA goals and to provide updated objectives for the coming year.

Knowing that funding may still be in jeopardy for the coming years, it was decided that the first priority is to establish three contingency plans- 1. If we receive full funding; 2. Partial funding; or 3. No funding.

Groups also brainstormed on three places to focus our dollars and two ways

Trumbull County Libraries "On the Air"

If you live in Trumbull County, have TCI Cable, and turned on your television in April, you surely saw one of two library commercials with the lead-in line: "Libraries...your ticket to the world."

Cooperatively produced, the 30-second television spots were run at the rate of 40 per day, and, over the course of the month of April, appeared on 25 different channels!
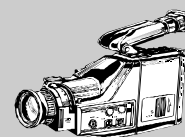
The two commercials—one featuring adult services and the other, with a children's theme—were a cooperative effort of the seven Trumbull County libraries: Bristol, Girard, Hubbard, Kinsman, Newton Falls, Niles, and Warren/Trumbull County.

Hubbard Public Library had chalked up success with an earlier National Library Week spot and was interested in doing an overall promotion. Ruth Mizik, Director, envisioned a cooperative effort, and all seven Trumbull County libraries were soon united in a joint effort with Ruth, Jan Vaughn of Warren/Trumbull County, and Pat Finan of Niles McKinley, as the production committee.

All three came up with a list of suggested visuals. Jan wrote the scripts, and TCI Media Services did the rest. Filming was done in one day at different library locations, and the edited tape, script, and voiceovers were combined into the two spots. There were no production costs incurred by the seven libraries, but airtime costs were shared on a pro-rated basis.
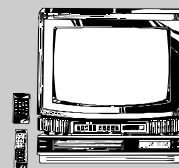**Congratulations to all of the libraries on a job well done!**

By: Carol Shantz,
NOLA Marketing Consultant

Prescription Drug Changes

When NOLA renewed its contract with Anthem, there were some prescription drug changes that are very important to note. A brochure for the addition of a Formulary Drug Component has been provided to our members, but you may not have noticed some distinct changes.

Due to the increasing costs of prescription drugs, Anthem revised all of the prescription drug components. The plan encourages the most effective prescription and use of medications by your employees.

The employees will pay a lower co-payment when the prescribed medication is in the formulary. The formulary changes daily and therefore will not show up in print.

Please advise your employees to speak with their doctors. Mark Nolan of the Herbruck, Alder & Company informed me that the doctors have access to the Anthem formulary and can prescribe a lower cost medication, but the employee needs to bring the formulary component to their doctors attention.

If you or an employee has any questions or need additional brochures on the formulary program, feel free to contact me at the NOLA office.

By Anne Hoerig, Clerk-Treasurer

Tech connections
A Technology Conference for Ohio's Libraries

Ohio's libraries spend million of dollars on technology every year. Librarians struggle daily with technology-related decisions and with planning for the development of information delivery systems to their local patrons.

This program, sponsored by Ohio's seven Regional Library Systems, OPLIN, and the State Library of Ohio, will meet the needs among our libraries for the latest, up-to-date information on technology trends, latest products, planning, administering, and funding all of the technologies that await us in the next millenium.

Some of the presentations, geared to Directors and Managers, include:
➢ The Magic of Technology Marketing
➢ Legal Issues Related to Technology
➢ Measuring Electronic Resources
➢ Managing Technology
➢ Do you need an On-Staff Technology Person?
➢ Creating a Technology Plan...How Does it Happen?
➢ Fundraising for Technology

Some of the presentations, geared to Technology Staff, include:
➢ Windows 2000, presented by Microsoft Corporation
➢ New Techno Toys
➢ Remote Server Management
➢ Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity
➢ Back Office
➢ Implementing Netware 5, presented by Novell
➢ Web Site Management
➢ XML
➢ Thin Client Computing

> **For additional information on Tech Connections, check out their website at: http://www.oval.lib.oh.us/ce/ce_061499.html**

*By: Lori D. Putt
CE Consultant*

FREE Fun with Plug-ins
Wednesday, May 19, 1999.
Registration begins 8:30AM
Training 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. at NOLA Training Center.
Be the envy of every librarian in your building! Bring the power of multimedia alive on your workstations! Participants will actually download and install a variety of plug-ins. This class will give attendees an understanding of the plug-ins that are available on the Internet and their uses.

Advanced Search
Thursday, May 20, 1999.
Registration begins 8:30 AM
Training 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM. at NOLA Training Center.
This workshop will focus on using a variety of techniques for better search results on the Internet. A search engine comparison will be explored. Hints on Boolean, truncation, and phrase searching. Exercises in refining a search string and viewing options. Knowing when NOT to use a search engine. Knowing the difference between an index and a search engine.

Integrated Reference Resources
Tuesday, May 25, 1999.
Registration begins 8:30 AM
Training 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM. at NOLA Training Center.
This workshop is designed to prepare staff in all departments to approach reference work with a technologically integrated approach. How often have you been called over by a patron in the middle of a Yahoo search on your OPLIN terminal for assistance? Within moments, you recognize that what he is searching for is readily available in the World Almanac or some other traditional print resource. How do we, as librarians and staff, approach our patrons to provide the best resources available in this multi-media world?

Microsoft Word Intermediate
Wednesday, June 2, 1999.
Registration begins at 8:30 AM
Training 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM. at NOLA Training Center.
Participants will be able to create form letters, and import graphics for their documents, and customize Word for their own use.

Activity Based Programming
Thursday, June 3, 1999.
Registration begins at 8:30 AM
Training 9:00 A.M. – 4:00 PM. at Reed Memorial Library.
This program will identify a variety of Activity Based Programming for adult, children and young adult. Presenters include: Kathy East, who will present numerous literature-based activities, including book starters; Allen and Mary Anne Nichols, who will discuss programming for youth and young adults; and Carol Shantz, who will help you plot a course to successful adult programming.

Book Look
Friday and Monday, June 4, & 7, 1999.
Begins 9:00AM – 4:30 PM. at NOLA Training Center
View the new books for the year. Join us for lunch and bring your favorite book for discussion.

Readers' Advisory Interest Group
Wednesday, June 9, 1999, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM.
Kinsman Free Library
What's the difference between historical fiction, period romance, and romantic historicals? Are westerns historical fiction—and are you aware that James Fenimore Cooper really wrote westerns? Come learn the good and bad of historical fiction with the Reader's Advisory Interest Group.

Reference Interest Group
Wednesday, June 9, 1999, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM.
Kinsman Free Library
　　REFERENCE LIBRARIAN SEEKS LIKE-MINDED
　　　　INDIVIDUALS FOR FUN TIME.!!
Knowledge of reference books a Plus. Bring hot items to share with others. What's new in hard copy reference materials? Bring the latest additions to your collection and share with the group. Paperbacks, pamphlets, anything non-electronic. The good, the bad, and the "don't waste your money!" are what we're after.

FREE Public Workstation Maintenance
Thursday, June 10, 1999.
Registration begins 8:30AM.
Training 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM. at NOLA Training Center.
Are you tired of paying tech support fees when you could do it yourself? Would you like to identify the parts inside your computer? Would you like to be able to add and remove hardware without having a really bad day? Then this program is for you. Come and learn the answers to your hardware problems!

T e c h ■ o n n e c t i o n s
A Technology Conference for Ohio's Libraries
Monday, June 14, 1999 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Tuesday, June 15, 1999 8:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.
Hyatt Regency, Columbus, Ohio
Joint effort of Ohio's Regional Libraries, OPLIN, & State Library of Ohio. Presentations on various issues related to technology (geared to Directors, Technology and CE Staff)

Technology Training Callbacks: MS Word and Excel
Monday, June 21, 1999.
Need some personalized help with Microsoft Excel or Microsoft Word. Have a particular project that you need a little "refresher" for? Then sign up for our latest addition to our Microsoft Office products training!

Continuing Education,
Continued...

Designing Flyers with Microsoft Publisher
Tuesday, June 22, 1999
Registration begins 8:30AM.
Training 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM. at NOLA Training Center.
Tired of your library materials having that "same old look?" If your creative juices need an overhaul, sign up for this course and get a jump start on an interesting, eye-catching new look for your promotional flyers, newsletters, press releases, and fund raising materials!

Microsoft Access
Wednesday, June 23, 1999
Registration begins 8:30AM.
Training 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM. at NOLA Training Center.
This training session will be an introduction to Microsoft Access 97, which will include creating data tables, forms, queries, and reports. The session will also give participants an understanding of relationships between databases and the terminology that is used.

Excel Basic
Wednesday, July 14, 1999
Registration begins at 8:30 A.M.
Training 9:00 A.M. – 4:00 PM. at NOLA Training Center.
Participants will be able to create and format spreadsheets, create graphs, and link files.

Microsoft Word Basic
Tuesday, July 20, 1999
Registration begins 8:30 A.M.
Training 9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. at NOLA Training Center.
Participants will have a full understanding of Microsoft Word and will be confident working with this software.

Windows NT Administration
Monday, July 26, and August 2, 1999
Registration begins at 8:30 A.M.
Training 9:00 A.M. – 4:00 PM. at NOLA Training Center.
Learn the basics of configuring, administering and managing a Windows NT 4 server.

WATCH FOR THE SUMMER/FALL, 1999 CONTINUING EDUCATION CALENDAR...
IT WILL ARRIVE IN YOUR LIBRARIES IN MID-JULY!

New In The Professional Collection

1.   *The ABC's of Collaborative Change...*
      The Manager's Guide to Library Renewal
Takes you through the steps for moving from traditional to renewed library, including planning, implementing, and surviving change. Offers a clear road map to implementing change through positive initiatives that involve all staff. The ABC's are: **Achieving** the renewal; **Building** the foundation for renewal; and **Cementing** the renewal.

2.   *Delivering Web Reference Services to Young People*
Whether you serve 8 or 18 year olds in a school or public library setting, you face the curse and blessing of superabundant Web resources. Provides helpful advice on what the Web does well for young people and what it does poorly; when to use search engines and when to use subject directories; how to evaluate the sites you find on the Web; how to develop a "webliography" for student, teacher, or library use.

3.   *The Female Advantage: Women's Ways of Leadership*
Addresses the leadership of women "on the ground", far away from obstructions, through close observation of how four successful women leaders actually behave in their workplace.

4.   *The Leader of the Future:*
      New Visions, Strategies, and Practices for the Next Era
A compendium of new thought. A book about the future quality of our lives, our businesses, our organizations, our society—and the leadership required to move us into the exciting unknown. Written together by a selection of leaders, best-selling authors, world-renowned consultants, and respected executives, they share a vision of the future of leadership.

5. *Leading Change: The Argument for Values-Based Leadership*
A provocative new vision of leadership in the business world—a vision of leadership rooted in moral values and a consistent display of respect for all followers. Values-based leadership is not only fair and just, it is also highly effective in today's complex organizations.

6.   *Learning Environments for Young Children:*
      Rethinking Library Spaces and Services
Presents a community vision where the public library plays an important role in the process of learning. Makes you re-think the role of librarians, where they can serve as educators, coaches, and facilitators of lifelong learning and assist in providing access for children to enriching, satisfying, and developmentally appropriate resources within the local community.

May/June, 1999

Name:_____ Library:_____

I would like to reserve the following items:

    1   2   3   4   5   6

Please circle the number which corresponds to your requested title. If the requested title is in use, it will be reserved for you and sent as soon as it becomes available.

Fax your request to: (330) 847-7704 or mail to:
NOLA Regional Library System
4445 Mahoning Ave., NW, Warren, Ohio 44483

Calendar of Upcoming Events

For a listing of all NOLA events, workshops and continuing education, see our full calendar on the desktop at:

http://www.nolanet.org/ calendar.htm

To receive a copy of NOLA's Summer/Fall, 1999 Continuing Education Catalog, call Melissa Lattanzi, CE Coordinator (330) 847-7744 Ext. 12

MAY, 1999

Tuesday,
May 18, 1999
NOLA Board Meeting

Tuesday,
May 18, 1999
NOLA Personnel Committee

Monday,
May 31, 1999
Memorial Day
NOLA Office Closed

JUNE, 1999

Wednesday,
June 2, 1999
NOLA Finance Committee

Monday-Tuesday,
June 14-15, 1999
Tech Connections

Thursday,
June 17, 1999
NOLA Board Meeting

JULY, 1999

Monday,
July 5, 1999
NOLA Office Closed

Tuesday,
July 20, 1999
NOLA Board Orientation

Tuesday,
July 20, 1999
NOLA Board Meeting