Pre-Conference - Wednesday, September 27
Conference - Thursday, September 28 &
    Friday, September 29
Post-Conference - Saturday, September 30
CAM-PLEX - Gillette, Wyoming

Host Hotel: Clarion Inn
2009 S. Douglas Hwy - Gillette
Room Rate: $64.99, plus tax
Single, double, triple, quad
BLOCK ENDS AUGUST 26th
RESERVE YOUR ROOM TODAY: (307) 686-3000

The registration form is new this year! The WLA Executive Board approved an option
that would include four meals in the registration fee (two breakfasts, two lunches).
Optional Awards banquet and pre-conference meal may be purchased on the form.

DUE TO THE GROWTH GILLETTE HAS EXPERIENCED OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, IT IS VERY
DIFFICULT TO FIND A QUICK MEAL. FAST FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS CAN TAKE UP TO AN HOUR
OR MORE! IF YOU DON'T WANT TO GO TO A PROGRAM MEAL, WE ARE OFFERING A BUFFET
EACH DAY FOR YOUR PURCHASE AND CONVENIENCE.

Register online at www.wyla.org - VISA/MC only!
The Legislative Committee of WLA continues in its pursuit of Wyoming Public Libraries Endowment legislation for the 2007 Legislative Session. After the failure of similar legislation in 2006, the Committee felt compelled to investigate the causes of the bill's quiet death—it did not make it out of the Legislative Service Office due to lack of sponsorship. Contact was made with Senator John Schiffer, Majority Floor Leader (Johnson/Sheridan counties) to

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Investigate the causes of the bill's quiet death—it did not make it out of the Legislative Service Office due to lack of sponsorship. Contact was made with Senator John Schiffer, Majority Floor Leader (Johnson/Sheridan counties) to determine the reasons for his opposition of the 2006 bill. His rationale was simple. He felt the endowment bill as it was written was inequitable with wealthy counties being able to raise matching dollars with ease and poorer counties struggling to raise enough to meet even the minimum match requirement. Senator Schiffer hastened to say that he was a strong supporter of Wyoming's libraries and legislation benefiting them but funding equity for all public libraries was the key. This opinion was echoed by other legislators. When asked if he would consider supporting a new draft of the legislation that addressed inequity, he said he would.

The Legislative Committee met in Buffalo at the Johnson County Library on June 22 and 23 with a priority of rethinking the endowment idea. An innovative concept was the outcome of that meeting. Libraries and their foundations need to be aware of three key components: (1) An appropriation of $25.3M would fund the endowment. (2) This legislation would provide for three tiers of criteria for matching funds based on a county's total valuation. Those in the highest tier would be eligible for 1:1 matching dollars—raise $1 million/receive $1 million; the middle tier would be eligible for 2:1 matching dollars—raise $500,000 / receive $1 million; the lowest tier would be eligible for 3:1 matching dollars—raise $333,333 / receive $1 million. (3) When $2.3 million is cumulatively raised across Wyoming from §JL counties, then every library foundation would receive $100,000. This formula effectively addresses the question of equity. Struggling foundations would get a huge $100,000 boost. The desire to engage in fundraising activities will be enhanced for all library foundations.

Legislative Committee members will be making face to face visits to all county library boards and foundations in August and September to achieve a demonstrated level of support for the Wyoming Public Libraries Endowment legislation. Signed "resolutions of support" will add the necessary credence to the proposed bill and will prove to legislators the consensus among all county library systems. This is the ammunition WLA will need to be successful in lobbying efforts and the ultimate passage of this bill in 2007.

It's not too late to register for the 21st Century Strategies for the Library Media Center Wyoming School Library Summer Institute August 8 - 10, 2006 - U/W Outreach Office - Poplar Street - Casper, WY. Forms are available at wyla.org - Send VISA/Mastercard/Check to WLA - Box 1387 - Cheyenne, WY 82003 or fax your online registration form to: (307) 638-3469. Quality Inn and Suites - Small block of rooms available - (307) 266-2400, ask for State Library block under Jan Segerstrom. Rate is $75.99, which includes a hearty breakfast.
Big change seems to be a constant companion this year. Campbell County Public Library, the home of vice president Ara Anderson and the local arrangements committee for this year’s conference in Gillette, is in the middle of a large renovation of their main building. Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library is also remodeling and renovating. The Laramie County Library System is building a new three story facility. Furthermore, the Wyoming State Library, where I work, is on the move. During much of June and July, WSL staff have been packing and unpacking for the move to our new location in Cheyenne (a former Safeway building). During June and the first few days of July, it took 26 WSL employees 16 1/3 days to unpack, sort, and shelve 5,500 boxes of library materials—more than half a million books and documents.

The move will be completed by August 1, and the State Library will once again be open to patrons. Stack and public internet access will be limited in the new building. Librarians visiting Cheyenne are always welcome to stop in and say hello at the new location—516 S. Greeley Highway, between the pharmacy and the video store.

This year’s conference theme is not directly about change, but about re-energizing ourselves. After a year of major life changes, I’m all about re-energizing. The Program Council and the local arrangements committee have done a wonderful job in planning this year’s conference.

I also would like to thank those of you who served on the Executive Board, the Program Council, chaired committees or sections. It takes the efforts of all of us to make this organization work. If you have not served in your section or a committee, please consider doing so. We all have something we can do to contribute to the leadership of the organization.

CONFERENCE KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Marshall Breeding

Marshall Breeding is the Director for Innovative Technologies and Research at the Vanderbilt University Library. He is part of the senior management team of the library and he focuses on planning the strategic use of technology in the library. He designs and develops digital library resources for the library. Marshall oversees the Vanderbilt Television News Archive, a large-scale archive of digital video content. In addition to his responsibilities at Vanderbilt, Marshall is a frequent speaker and writer on topics of network technologies and library automation. He is the creator and editor of the Library Technology Guides web site and the lib-web-cats online directory of libraries on the Web. His monthly column "Systems Librarian" appears in Computers in Libraries; he is a Contributing Editor for Smart Libraries Newsletter published by the American Library Association, and has authored the "Automated System Marketplace" feature published in the April 1 issue of Library Journal for the last four years. He has authored five issues of ALA's Library Technology Reports, and has written many other articles and book chapters. Marshall has edited or authored five books. He regularly teaches workshops and gives presentations at library conferences on a variety of topics related to network technologies and library automation.

More information at:  http://staffweb.library.vanderbilt.edu/breeding/
One of the popular attractions at WLA is the exhibits, and this year will be no exception. We already have a full house lined up for you. Plan time at conference to visit these great vendors! There will be jewelry for sale from the Colorado Library Association for their Bulgarian Library Project. So, in addition to your book and technology money, bring "fun" money for yourself!

Great Northern Book Company ♦ Craig Fowler & Associates ♦ Abdo Publishing ♦ Leo A Daly
H.W. Wilson Company ♦ Thomson Gale ♦ Bound To Stay Bound Books ♦ Sauder Education
EBSCO Information Services ♦ Swets Information Services ♦ 3M Company ♦ Scobre Press
Bearport Publishing Company ♦ Books on Tape/Listening Library ♦ Random House
Scholastic Library Publishing ♦ Sagebrush Corporation ♦ M.E. Sharpe ♦ The Child's World
Total Imaging Solutions ♦ Gould Evans ♦ Best Books

WLA ♥'s our vendors - don't miss seeing them in Gillette!