THE CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY

CONNECTION

LIBRARY OF CALIFORNIA

Counting California: government information access made easy

By Patricia Cruse
Content Development Manager, California Digital Library

Now that government information is distributed electronically instead of as printed text, private citizens, policymakers, and researchers who rely on quick access to government data are frustrated with the new system's high-tech complexity. The old, stable print materials have evolved into a constantly changing array of digital media, each with it's own formats and access methods. Similarly, preservation of historical data is at risk. Government agencies often mount new information on their websites, but do not have a system for preserving historical data as each update supersedes the previous one.

A concerned group of data specialists and government and public service librarians from various University of California campuses figured out an electronic solution to this significant electronic access problem. Working with a government information specialist from University of California's California Digital Library (CDL), this group developed a systematic and collaborative approach for managing government information. The group looked at six possible projects that UC campus librarians had outlined before choosing a special prototype online service that would allow the public to quickly browse data by topics, or focus, instead, on accessing city, county, or regional data gleaned from nearly a dozen information sources. They decided to call the online service *Counting California*.

Because the project is part of a collaboration between the CDL and the California State Library, *Counting California* (http://countingcalifornia.cdlib.org) is supported by the Library of California and federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), which funds the project's continuing development.

One of *Counting California*'s unique features is that it integrates disparate data from all levels of government. It folds data collections from different agencies into a single database in a format that a variety of end users can use. *Counting California* uses the Internet and digital library technologies so that California residents can easily access the growing range of social science and economic information from government agencies. It enables researchers and the public to discover and interact with contemporary and historical census data, almanac-style statistics, county business data, and a range of education, crime, election, and demographic information from nearly a dozen different sources.

To get a feel for how *Counting California* works, consider the student or researcher who is interested in education statistics. He or she can search for information on education topics and find statistics on school enrollment and attendance. Searching further, this information can be broken down by county or city, ethnicity, or grade level. He or she can draw data from various sources or publishers whose statistics have been entered into the system, without worrying about the relevance of the data. Once the student or researcher has selected the information wanted, *Counting California* can map it or display it as a bar chart.

So far, people using *Counting California* have liked it. One user found the online service useful in conducting community indicator research. She commented, "For years I have accessed state government sites and have been unable to easily download information on single counties or cities. While I have just begun using your site, it is a great improvement on what we have been using." Others like it as an information source for writing

Library Bond Act status report

Program Regulations Approved!

The State Library received approval of both the Title 5 and Title 24 regulations with only minimal non-substantive changes. The regulations will officially go into effect shortly after the first of year now that they have been filed with the Secretary of State's Office. Public library jurisdictions may now move forward with their project applications, using these final regulations. To avoid confusion, it is strongly recommended that **any previous versions of the regulations be discarded at this time.**

The Office of Library Construction (OLC) staff, along with the State Librarian and Board, wishes to thank all participants who provided public comments over the last year. The program regulations have been significantly strengthened by your input. Further, the State Library believes the public library buildings built with Library Bond Act funds will be considerably better projects because of the field input and the resulting increased quality of the program requirements.

Copies of the "Final (Codified) Library Bond Act Regulations" for both Title 5 and Title 24 were mailed out from the OLC the week of December 10th to all individuals on the rulemaking mailing list. If you did not receive a copy of the regulations in the mail, they are available for downloading on the OLC website at the following address: www.olc.library.ca.gov/regs.asp.

Rulemaking List "Retired"

Individuals on the rulemaking mailing list will no longer receive mailings from the OLC since the rulemaking activity for the Library Bond Act of 2000 has ended with the approval of the Title 5 and Title 24 Library Bond Act regulations. You will remain on this mailing list if future rulemaking activities are required for any reason, but it is not currently anticipated that this will be necessary.

"OLC News Flash!" - An E-Mail Alert System

In the place of mailings, the OLC will keep interested parties informed of Library Bond Act program activities with a new e-mail alert system called "*OLC News Flash!*" If you have not already received an e-mail from the alert system and would like to receive e-mails via the system, please visit the OLC website at www.olc.library.ca.gov/news/newsflash.asp and subscribe to the system. Individuals who wish to keep current with program activities for the Library Bond Act are encouraged to subscribe to this new service offered by the California State Library.

The "News Flash" system is a "one-way" distribution list and not a discussion list or listserv. You cannot contact the OLC staff or others on the list by responding to the e-mail. However, OLC staff can be contacted by using "Staff Contacts by Activity" list at the following web address:

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Telecomm meeting addresses challenges in 2002

Representatives from the regional library networks of the Library of California (LoC) met with California State Library (CSL) staff in Sacramento on November 15 to share experiences and to address telecommunications challenges for the regions in 2002.

Among the topics discussed was the regional library networks' concern about LoC funding for 2002. Mark Parker, Library Development Services bureau chief for the CSL, acknowledged the problem and stressed the importance of carefully analyzing the best program options to support the considerable investment that the LoC has already made in telecommunications infrastructure.

Another important topic was the regional library networks' challenges in implementing programs that enable California residents in any part of the state to easily access library resources. Besides the complexity of computer software, provision of service depends on interlibrary loan policies, document delivery systems, and a basic commitment to open access to library collections.

Ira Bray, Electronic Information Resources Consultant for CSL, gave an update on the National Profile for Z39.50, the telecommunications protocol for linking library catalogs. Bray also discussed technology related to federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grants, and the Infopeople Project's technology training.

Regional library network representatives in the meeting included Nancy Brower, Cascade Pacific; Gail McPartland and Cara Wong, Golden Gateway; Darla Gunning, Gerry Maginnity, and Lois Shumaker, Sierra Valley; Cary Gordon, consultant, Arroyo Seco; Judith Segel and Janice Webb, Gold Coast. Also participating were Ira Bray and Cathie Helmick, Network Services Consultant, of the CSL.

The next meeting will be held via videoconference on April 30, 2002.

Counting California

grant applications, supplying people with census data, and even as a way of making a demonstration in a landscape architecture class for which a student "followed the [system's] geographical search path and pulled up the list of tables quite easily."

Even though it's successful now, *Counting California* faced several challenges while it was being developed. No one had ever created a system that integrated and housed aggregate data from a variety of agencies under the same roof. Ironically, this daunting task motivated the project participants because they were blazing a new electronic information trail. Besides learning a tremendous amount about how people use and interact with data on the Web, project developers used a description of data, or metadata, standard for *Counting California* that made possible the delivery of data to end users in an entirely new way.

Since it began, *Counting California*'s goals have been to provide flexible, user-friendly access to government information, to ensure the availability of both current and historical government data, and to foster information sharing between government agencies and researchers. This project has numerous collaborators and supporters who share these goals. They include the California State Library, Yale University, the University of Minnesota, the U.S. Bureau of the Census, and the Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research. The CDL is committed to providing superior, persistent access to digital government information. *Counting California* is one of the tools to fulfill this overarching goal. Over the next several months CDL will continue to add new data to the system, but in particular the emphasis will be on adding Census 2000 data and data from the California Department of Health Services.

Counting California is supported in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), administered in California by the State Librarian.

For general information about *Counting California*, visit the website at http://countingcalifornia.cdlib.org. For further information, contact Patricia Cruse, CDL, at (510) 987-9016, or by email to Patricia.Cruse@ucop.edu; or contact Tom Andersen, California Library Services Act consultant, CSL, at (916) 653-7391, or by email to tandersen@library.ca.gov

Amigos Library Services survey is underway

Amigos Library Services has begun surveying all Library of California (LoC) members to obtain information about the licensed databases each LoC member library currently uses, and to learn which databases the LoC member libraries propose for cooperative licensing agreements. Amigos will use the survey results as the basis for negotiating access agreements/licenses with the providers of the databases the members choose in the survey. Robert Watkins, director of member programs development at Amigos, is available by email to watkins@amigos.org to answer questions about the survey.

The June 2001 issue of *Connection* included an article about Amigos Library Services being offered to LoC members, but for more general information about Amigos Library Services, readers may visit the Amigos website at www.amigos.org

For questions about cooperative licensing services within the Library of California, contact Ira Bray, electronic information resources consultant at the California State Library, (916) 653-0171, or by email to ibray@library.ca.gov.

Amigos Library Services to conduct survey to obtain information about the licensed databases currently in use.

A P P O I N T M E N T S

Victoria Fong new Library of California Board president

On January 1, 2002 Victoria Fong will be the new Library of California (LoC) Board president. Fong's hands-on experience with diverse library types, from public and law to special libraries, is extensive. Her library career stretches from the mid-west where she received her Master of Arts in Library Science at the University of Michigan, to the east coast where she began her career as public librarian at the Free Library of Philadelphia, to California where she has long been active in the state's libraries.

For nine years Fong served on the Marin County Free Library commission for which she was president for two years. Currently, she is a trustee on the Belvedere-Tiburon Library Agency Board and is chair of the Council of Friends of the Bancroft Library, a position formerly held by State Librarian, Dr. Kevin Starr.

In March 1996, Governor Pete Wilson appointed Fong to the California Library Services Board (CLSB). She was re-appointed in 1998. As a member of the CLSB, she served on the board's committees for Legislation, System Advisory Boards, Literacy, Networking, and board Nominations.

Fong was elected vice president of the LoC Board in 1999. She has also chaired the LoC Access services committee (interlibrary loan, reference, and young adult services) and the ad hoc Planning committee.

During the time she has served the LoC, Fong has kept the board's mission, to build and support the sharing of resources among all libraries for all Californians, as her professional focus. Fong says "libraries provide opportunities, services and places for people in their communities to connect to the cultural wealth of their past and the innovative changes in their future." She asserts that the LoC will "be the catalyst that enhances services to share those rich resources and to improve the quality of life through knowledge of and understanding among all people"; and that "the board will continue its work for more successes and funding for the Library of California."

New member on USAC Board

Anne Campbell, Director of the National City Library and former CLA President, will replace KG Ouye on the Universal Services Administrative Company (USAC) Board, which administers the E-Rate. Because he knows Campbell will represent California and California's public libraries exceptionally well, State Librarian, Dr. Kevin Starr supported this nomination and sent the appropriate letters to Washington. Look for further details at: http://www.universalservice.org/new/default.asp#122001

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www.olc.library.ca.gov/staffcontact.asp, or by using the "Staff Contacts by Activity" link on all pages of the new OLC website: www.olc.library.ca.gov.

For those who do not wish to subscribe, the four most recent e-mail messages sent from the system will be accessible in the "What's New?" section of the OLC Homepage. Further, a chronological listing of all "OLC New Flash" messages will be kept on the website and available for future reference by clicking on the "News Flash E-Mail Archive" link also available on all OLC website pages.

This e-mail archive not only lists all of the messages chronologically with the most current message displayed at the top of the list, but there is a search function that allows interested parties to search the messages by author, date, or by keywords in the subject line or the text in the body of the message. This function will become particularly useful as the archive grows.

New Website for the Office of Library Construction

The California State Library is pleased to announce the launch of a new website for the Office of Library Construction (OLC). The website may be accessed directly at: www.olc.library.ca.gov.

The website may also be accessed from the State Library's home page by clicking on the "Library Bond Act" link in the left-hand navigation bar.

The aim of the new website is to provide access to information about the Library Bond Act in a more user-friendly manner on a 24/7 basis. As a quick summary, the new OLC Web site provides access to the following:

- All "OLC News Flash!" e-mail messages
- Summary information "About the Library Bond Act"
- Calendar of Library Bond Act activities
- Frequently Asked Questions
- The Title 5 & Title 24 Final (Codified) Regulations
- AG Legal Opinions about the Library Bond Act
- Assistance in Finding Professional Services
- A Summary of First Priority Projects for the Library Bond Act
- Information on "How to Apply for a Grant"
- Information on workshops currently being offered
- Field Act information and links
- Access Compliance information and links
- Planning Assistance links and publications
- OLC Staff Contacts by Activity & Staff Roster
- Board member information
- A list of library projects funded with the original 1988 Library Bond Act
- Glossary of Title 5 & 24 definitions and library facility planning terms
- Bibliography of library planning materials

When additional web pages or major enhancements to the website are added, they will be announced via the "OLC News Flash!" e-mail system.

"How to Apply for a Library Bond Act Grant" Workshop Registration

The Office of Library Construction is pleased to announce a series of workshops around the state of California entitled: "How to Apply for a Library Bond Act Grant." This workshop will provide potential grant applicants with the essential information they need to make an application for Library Bond Act funds. There is no fee for this workshop.

Interested parties may view a course description, outline, schedule as well as register for the workshops by visiting the following web page: www.olc.library.ca.gov/workshops/. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. Register as soon as possible since space is limited in all workshops. When a workshop location fills up, individuals will be automatically put on a waiting list.

You may not register for more than one workshop at a time. If you wish to register for a different date, you must first cancel any existing date you have registered for previously. If you decide not to attend a workshop, please cancel your registration immediately so that those on the waiting list will be able to attend the workshop of their choice.

The workshops will be offered on the following dates and in the following locations:

January 14	Redding
January 16	Sacramento
January 17	Fresno
January 22	Santa Rosa & Los Angeles
January 23	Vacaville & Corona
January 24	Fremont & Aliso Viejo
January 29	So. Chula Vista & Sunnyvale
January 30	Temecula & Clayton

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January 31	San Diego & Danville
February 5	Mission Viejo & Riverside
February 6	Glendale & San Diego
February 7	Perris & Chula Vista

Additional dates for the workshops may be added, but only if demand necessitates. If you are unable to attend any of the dates above, please contact Pat Zografos at (916) 445-9612 or by e-mail: pzografos@library.ca.gov.

All workshops will begin promptly at 8:30 a.m. following an 8:00 a.m. registration. The OLC staff will walk-through the application form page-by-page as well as review all other requirements for submitting an application for Library Bond Act funds including all necessary supporting documents. Strategies for increasing project competitiveness will also be discussed.

Individuals from jurisdictions that know they will not be applying until the second or third cycle are encouraged to register for later workshops to allow first-cycle applicants priority for the earlier dates. The workshops will be offered again after the end of the first cycle grant awards some time in the fall of 2002.

Survey Results of Potential Library Bond Act Applications

In October of 2001, the California State Library surveyed the public library jurisdictions in the state of California. Two hundred and fifteen (215) potential applications were reported for a total cost of just under $2 billion. It was reported that approximately half of the applications would be submitted for the first application cycle.

Seventy-five (75%) percent of the applications would result in new public libraries and twenty-five (25%) percent would be for the remodeling or expansion of existing libraries. Over ninety (90%) percent of the new public library projects plan to attain first priority status as a "joint use" project. Of those projects, the vast majority (almost 90%) will be "joint venture" projects with only 16 projects falling into the "Co-located" classification. Of the slightly over fifty (50) projects that are remodeling or expansions of existing public libraries, only thirteen (13%) percent will qualify as first priority projects.

Based on the data provided, the average state grant will be approximately 5 million. The State Library is estimating that the Library Bond Act will fund somewhere between 60 to 70 projects. If these figures hold true, it means that one project out of every 3 to 4 applications submitted, will be funded. Clearly, the application process will be highly competitive.

Official Application Deadlines:

Now its official, the first application deadline is 5 p.m. on June 14, 2002. In order for a project to be considered by the California Public Library and Renovation Board for a grant award, an application must be complete and submitted by the deadline. Incomplete or late applications will be deemed ineligible and will not be evaluated by staff or considered by the Board for grant award during the first application cycle. All applications must be submitted to the Bond Act Fiscal Officer, Office of Library Construction, 1029 J. Street, Suite 400, Sacramento, CA 95814-2825. Deadlines for the second and third application cycles are March 23, 2003 and January 16, 2004 respectively.

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Provider: **InfoPeople**
Course: The Reference Interview:
Asking All the Right Questions
Dates and locations:
Friday, January 18, 2002,
Vallejo-John F. Kennedy Library Branch

Wednesday, January 23, 2002,
Bakersfield-Beale Memorial Library

Thursday, January 24, 2002,
Ventura County Library-E.P.Foster
http://infopeople.org/WS/workshop/Workshop/69

Training Corner

Provider: **InfoPeople**
Course: Blueprint for a Library Capital Campaign
Dates and location:
Wednesday and Thursday, January 9 and 10, 2002,
Los Angeles Public Library
Electronic Resources Training Center
http://infopeople.org/WS/workshop/Workshop/63

Training Corner

Provider: **InfoPeople**
Course: Library Cheat Sheets, Guides and Manuals:
How to Create Effective Instructional Materials
Dates and locations:
Tuesday, January 8, 2002,
Sacramento County Office of Education

Wednesday, January 23, 2002,
Downey City Library
http://infopeople.org/WS/workshop/Workshop/62

Provider: **InFoPeople**
Course: Gumby Meets Dewey:
Rethinking Library Staffing Issues
Date and Location:
Thursday, January 10, 2002,
San Francisco Public Library
http://infopeople.org/WS/workshop/Workshop/59

Provider: **InfoPeople**
Course: Getting the Most from PowerPoint
Date and Location:
Tuesday, January 8, 2002
San Francisco Public Library
http://infopeople.org/WS/workshop/Workshop/10

Provider: **InFoPeople**
Course: Computer and Internet Troubleshooting 101
Dates and Locations:
Wednesday, January 9, 2002,
Riverside County Library-Robidoux Branch

Thursday, January 17, 2002,
San Francisco Public Library

Tuesday, January 22, 2002,
Pleasant Hill-Contra Costa County Library
Gates Lab
http://infopeople.org/WS/workshop/Workshop/51

Provider: **OCLC (Online Computer Library Center)**
Course: The Book Stops Here: (1 Day)
Date and location:
Monday, January 14
Western State University College of Law, Fullerton.
http://www.oclc.org/western/training/book_stops_here.htm

Provider: **InfoPeople**
Course: Library Laws for the Web Environment
Dates and locations:
Tuesday, January 15, 2002,
Mountain View Public Library

Wednesday, February 6, 2002,
Downey City Library
http://infopeople.org/WS/workshop/Workshop/68

Provider: **OCLC**
Course: MARC21 Holdings Format/Serials Format
(2 day)

Dates and location:
Tues-Wed, January 29-30 , Wed-Thur, March 27-28
OCLC Western Service Center, Ontario
http://www.oclc.org/western/training/marc_holdings.htm

Provider: **OCLC**
Course: Searching for Cataloging and Resource
Sharing Day 1 (1 day)
Dates and location:
Tuesday January 15; Wednesday, February 6
OCLC Western Service Center, Ontario

Tuesday January 15; Wednesday, February 6
El Camino College, Torrance
http://www.oclc.org/western/training/fun_worldcat.htm

Provider: **OCLC**
Course: Legal and Investigative Internet Research
for Non-Law Library Staff (Half Day)
Dates and locations:
Tuesday, January 15,
Western State University College of Law, Fullerton

Wednesday, January 16,
National University, San Diego
http://www.oclc.org/western/training/internet_non_law.htm

Provider: **OCLC**
Course: MARC21 Authority Format (Half day)
Date and location:
Wednesday, January 16,
OCLC Western Service Center, Ontario
http://www.oclc.org/western/training/marc_author.htm

Provider: **OCLC**
Course: MARC Bibliographic Format (1 day)
Date and location:
Thursday, January 17 OCLC Western Service Center,
Ontario
http://www.oclc.org/western/training/marc_biblio.htm

Provider: **OCLC**
Course: Searching for Cataloging and Resource
Sharing Day 2 (1 day)
Dates and locations:
Monday January 28; Thursday, Feburary 7
OCLC Western Service Center, Ontario

Monday January 28; Thursday, Feburary 7
El Camino College , Torrance
http://www.oclc.org/western/training/difficult_titles.htm

Provider: **OCLC**
Course: Cataloging: Book Blitz (4 days).
Dates and location:
Tues-Friday, February 12-15
National Semiconductor University, Santa Clara
http://www.oclc.org/western/training/blitz.htm

calendar of events

2002

January

January 18-23, 2002
American Library Association (ALA) Midwinter Meeting, New Orleans

March

March 13-16, 2002
Public Library Association (PLA) National Conference, Phoenix

April

April 14-20, 2002
National Library Week

June

June 13-20, 2002
American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference, Atlanta

November

November 15-18, 2002
California Library Association (CLA), Annual Conference, Sacramento

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