

Director's Report

It continues to be an honor and privilege to work with the staff of the Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records. Despite horrific mid year fiscal reductions, staff stayed on task, positive and productive.



This report covers the time period from the late summer of 2007 to September 30, 2009. On October 1st, Library and Archives became a division of the Secretary of State. We are pleased and proud to become a viable part of our new organization. Library and Archives is the oldest continually operated cultural institution in Arizona, and we look forward to a bright future of public service.

During the time included in this report much was accomplished for the people and government of Arizona even though since 2002 our budget has been reduced 24%, our staff 19% and our workload increased 147%.

The State Capitol Museum successfully participated in the Ad Hoc Task Force on the Capitol, an intensive review of the use and potential for the use of the Historic Capitol. (See Appendix). A new Outreach program became amazingly popular and new exhibits were offered for public viewing. The State Capitol Museum remains the most widely attended state- run museum in Arizona. At a time of retrenchment in state government, the Museum expanded its volunteer program, nearly tripling the number of hours donated between 2008 and 2009. The total value of volunteer service was \$57,540 by September 2009.

The State Records Center brought up a new inventory system and worked with all state agencies to change procedures and policies to increase our service to our clients. The Records staff improved records retention schedule completion and revised the general schedules, as well as conducted a required inventory of boxes in custody during a time of staff shortages. The Records staff moved all off- site materials to the newly constructed Polly Rosenbaum State Archives and History Building with effectiveness and efficiency. New and faster procedures for approving digital imaging requests from agencies were completed.

The State Archives staff moved all of the archives collections into our new building with only a short time of dislocation for the public. The hours staff has invested in the Polly Building, as it has come to be called, are almost unfathomable. It has been a major commitment for the entire agency, especially the Archives and Records staff. The work of the Arizona Historical Records Advisory Board received national praise. NHPRC modeled their revised national grant program based in part on our model. Unfortunately, the National History Day work, built over many years in large part by our Archives staff, was transferred to the Arizona Historical Society by national decision during our fiscal constraints. We wish them well with their new primary responsibility.

The State Law and Research Library made national contributions in the discussion of necessary changes to the Federal Depository Library Program. They worked with the law community of Arizona and the region to ensure the most legal research content for the restricted collection development funds available. The Library also conducted training in the use of government materials, Web and print, and launched the new service AzLibrary.gov (<http://www.lib.az.us/azlibrary/res.php>) for state employees and Arizona residents. A national forum was planned, conducted and summarized for the American Library Association (see Appendix).

The Braille and Talking Book Library brought new digital recording capacity on line with the help of the wonderful Friends of the Talking Book Library. Arizona specific materials are now recorded digitally. The national roll out of the long awaited digital audio books and players came to Arizona, and a celebration for the first veteran users was a great success.

The Library Development Division continued to lead the nation in effective library development and Center for the Book services. The OneBookAZ and early literacy work are only two examples of the successful training and outreach services offered to Arizona libraries through this division. The Carnegie Center became a center for learning and meetings, a gathering place for governmental and non profit training and meetings. A benchmark study on Library Districts was completed (see Appendix).

Staff of the Director's Office successfully brought in more grant funds, represented the state nationally and the nation internationally at no expense to the State's General Fund. The Pedals project is internationally recognized for excellence in innovation dealing with digital government information. The Arizona Memory Project is continually held up as a national model of excellence. Much effort continues to be invested in the various commissions detailed later in this report and in the coming Arizona Centennial of 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "GladysAnn Wells".

GladysAnn Wells
Director and State Librarian
Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records