

Directors Report 2007



Sections of this annual report describe the events, activities and accomplishments of our Agency in detail. This report depends on the summary and the Appendix documents to provide the comprehensive view. But, as the Agency Director, I could not be more proud of our staff efforts or more honored to sign this transmittal.

Highlights of 2006 – 2007

The 2007 Annual Report of the Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records covers the time period from July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007. Additional ongoing programs and projects prior to the October 9th planned Library Board meeting are included for clarity and completeness. In addition, the section devoted to the February 8, 2005 Library Board Meeting inadvertently omitted from the 2006 Annual Report is included in this report.

Our performance measures are described both by calendar year and by state fiscal year. We include the related supporting programmatic information in separate brief summaries.

The Polly Rosenbaum Archives and History Building, the final answer to the 1999 Sunset Review of our Agency, becomes more of a reality with every passing day. We deeply appreciate everyone's support and interest. Much of our staff time is consumed by the constant planning required by the move of our Archives and History staff and collections to the new building. We must plan for the movement of materials of all types from seven different locations. This is a complicated move by any standard. We could not be more grateful for the help of the Transition Planning staff of Gilbane and the invaluable support from Legislative Council. Pictures and a summary of the building may be found under the Significant Accomplishments.

Library and Archives has been recognized internationally for excellence. Our work in state government digital information organization, on line access, web based government information collection and digital preservation is detailed in our report. Providing public access to local history, for local cultural institutions, tribal library archive and museum support, innovation in records management, museum outreach services and our support for education and literacy are among those detailed in the pages that follow. Each of these topics is highlighted in the Significant Accomplishment section of this report. Our staff not only serves our Legislative and State Agency colleagues here in Phoenix, we also work across the state in every town, city, county and Indian Nation. We travel more than 100,000 miles annually providing library, archive and records training and assisting

with local cultural issues. We are proud to be used regionally and nationally as an example of competence in each of our four professions.

We are especially pleased by the positive outside evaluation of our federal funds program and management and our approved federal five year plan (see the Appendix for entire documents and Significant Accomplishments for one page descriptions).

Much of our Agency effort this year relates to Arizona's coming 2012 Centennial. We are thankful for the operations assistance provided by the 2007 Legislative Session. Details of the Centennial activity are highlighted in our report under Boards and Commissions.

Fiscal and Service Challenge

In 1997, at the first Library Board meeting I attended, we talked about space and staffing issues. We talked about resources and challenges. Those issues remain, despite our wonderful fundraising track record and the exceptional new building. Since our 2006 Annual Report, Library and Archives has raised \$10,718,626 for Arizona Cultural institutions and Agency operations.

Out of respect for the current fiscal news we are submitting a straight line budget request. However, we do hope that some consideration might be given to our real fiscal shortfall as detailed in the text and accompanying charts, should revenues make that possible.

For the first time, we are facing serious staff turnover. We have been successful in recruiting many bright young professionals, many of whom have now been lured away to promising careers and higher salaries. Our fiscal situation remains grim. We have not received assistance for the basic operational costs related to increases in book inflation or technology increases. We are hopeful, having fundraised for our conversion to voice over internet protocol (VOIP), that we might be considered for some small fiscal assistance of a one time nature to tide us over to the move to the new facility. We are currently renting three off site storage areas at enormous cost both in actual rent charges and in the added complexity of providing services from materials stored in a variety of locations. With the move to the new building, those funds can be redirected to cover the costs of the salary needs of the new building, but we still face fiscal challenges. The following summary of our rent increases starts to explain part of our difficulties.

Library & Archives

Rent Forecast

	2007	2008	2009	2010
BRAILLE AND TALKING BOOK LIBRARY	99,100	109,900	105,200	113,900
RECORDS CENTER	188,600	186,600	189,500	232,400
EVANS HOUSE	68,500	76,500	85,451	95,449

Appropriation Increase for Rent

2007	2008
No Change	15,700

Overall Non-Personnel Appropriation Decrease

2007	2008
No Change	(3,600)

One example of our telecommunication increase related to our Newsline telephone based news and information services for the visually impaired subscription. In January we were notified that the federal funding that had supported the telephone costs for this service for the states had been discontinued – states would be billed immediately. Our unexpected annual cost for this one service was \$15,242.

See also the General Fund Operating Appropriations chart and the two Charts detailing Book Inflation increases in the following pages.

E-Government – Opportunity and Challenge:

Libraries must help bring the government to the people. Our work with the five state federally funded effort detailed in the Significant Accomplishments, illustrates one approach to this issue.

Findings from the *Public Libraries and the Internet 2006: Survey Results and Findings* points out:

“...as federal, state, and local government agencies migrate their services and resources to e-government applications, they do so without offering any community-based access points to these services. Increasingly, government agencies refer individuals to their public libraries for assistance and technology to complete their interactions and meet their government services needs.”¹
Public libraries are seen as the place that provides this information to the public, often without significant training on e-government resources and frequently without additional government funding. In 2006 it was noted that information and forms from FEMA, Medicare, and Immigration were only available online, without a print equivalent being distributed.

Meeting citizen expectations of easy to use, easy to find, forever available internet based government information, the life cycle management of this only digital material, remains one of Library & Archives grand challenges.

The Library of Congress recently awarded Library and Archives one of only four grants given nationally for e-government information management. Our PeDALS, Persistent Digital Archives and Library System is also detailed under Significant Accomplishments.

I invite you to review our accomplishments.

Respectfully Submitted,

GladysAnn Wells
Director
Library, Archives and Public Records