

# 1998 Publicity Scrapbook Summary

## **System News:**

The American Library Association ranked the Hennepin County Library system in third place out of the 58 U.S. Library systems serving similar-sized populations: Its 1996 circulation of library items per capita was 14.8, while the national average was 6.0. (Southwest Journal 10/21/98)

The Hennepin County Board adopted a 1999 budget that will require a 4/7 % increase in property taxes. The increase was driven by construction of the county's new jail and funding for costs associated with doubling the size of the Ridgedale Library in Minnetonka. (Star Tribune 12/9/98)

A public hearing was held at Brookdale in June to elicit opinions of the public on the proposed "Bestsellers Express" a project to give public access to approximately 50 highly popular titles for a rental charge of \$3. for a one week loan period. (Eden Prairie News 6/11/98) The library is proposing to take \$200,000 from its budget to start the program which would be self sustaining. (Bloomington Sun Current 6/17/98)

Library users can call "Harry" to renew materials and make library transactions any time of the day. It is expected that the service will not only be more convenient for borrowers but also will save significant staff time for Hennepin County Library. (Osseo Maple Grove Press 3/4/98) They can also have the option of using internet e-mail to receive their reserve notices and overdue notices. (Champlin Dayton Press 3/13/98)

As part of the library's strategic realignment effort, an employee opinion survey was conducted during January 1998. The results are available in "HCL 1998 Climate Survey: Summary Report" circulated to the staff on 4/1/1998. Also available in 1998 was a "Site Visit Report, June 4-5, 1998 to Columbus Metropolitan Library. The report includes a "Vision Planning Statement prepared by CML Planning Committee 1/98.

Jack Cole won the American Library Association Trustee Citation award, presented to him June 27 at the ALA conference in Washington DC. He was the third Minnesotan to receive the award. Jack was honored at a reception at Rockford Road Library. (Bloomington Sun. Current 7/29/98)

Hosmer library was one of the Minnesota libraries featured in the year's Architalks series. (Star Tribune 2/22/98)

National Library Week was celebrated April 19-25 with the theme "Connect @ the Library". (Osseo Maple Grove Press 4/13/98)

## Statistics:

Total circulation 10,600, 611,

Per Person circulation 14.9 items

Reference Questions: 1,200,282 (Melsa MetroLink Winter 98-99)

### Intellectual Freedom/Censorship:

In a Star Tribune Commentary, Katherine Kersten, Director of the Center of the American Experiment in Minneapolis, argued against Hennepin County Library's policy to provide all patrons with the "greatest possible access to the Internet". She believed that the library should protect users, young and old, from pornographic exploitation. Library Board members continually reaffirmed their belief that access to the Internet should be largely unfettered, except for material already defined as illegal, and that parents, not librarians should be the arbiters of what kids can see on their computer screens. The library's new policy, that will be renewed annually, provides recommended web sites for child computer users (KidLinks). In addition the library provides screens that block unintentional viewing of material on another user's computer. (Star Tribune 12-17-98)

An attorney representing the Minnesota Library association praised the (Hennepin County)library's Net-access policy as "a benchmark" for other library systems to follow. But commissioners criticize the policy for allowing access to Internet materials they consider obscene. (St. Paul Pioneer Press 6/29/98)

A copy of Gangsta's Paradise languished in storage as library staff struggled with policies on censorship and intellectual freedom. (City Pages 11/25/98)

### Pen Pals:

Authors for this season were Mary Higgins Clark, Louise Erdrich, Ursula Hegi, Anne Quindlen and David McCullough. (Eden Prairie News 8/6/98) News articles about these authors are available in the Pen Pals file in the library archives.

### Technology:

The Fugitive Fact File, a new, award winning database on the library's new web site, was compiled from elusive, hard -to-find information requested often by patrons and maintained individually on card files at Hennepin 25 suburban libraries. To make the files more dynamic and their maintenance more efficient, the information was converted to a database accessible through the library system's web site. (Eden Prairie News 11/19/98)

KidLinks Centers opened in Brookdale, Brooklyn Park and Maple Grove Libraries in late November. KidLinks was a collaborative project involving Hennepin County libraries and Osseo Area Schools, along with Northwest Hennepin Family Service, Healthy Community Healthy Youth of Maple Grove, and the cities of Brooklyn Park and Maple Grove. KidLinks was funded largely through a grant from the Governor's Technology Initiative. (Education, Osseo Area Schools 11/1998)

Hennepin County Libraries around the western suburbs are teaming up to offer World Wide Web tutoring. Volunteers who have been trained or have a computer background are invited to learn what the library has to offer as far as internet services and relay this information to the public. (Lakeshore Weekly News 4/2/98)

### Library Foundation:

Chris DeGraff, a fund-raiser with nearly 20 years of non-profit management experience was hired as the new executive director of the Library Foundation of Hennepin County. (Eden Prairie News 11/5/98)

#### Literacy:

In a "letter from readers" article in the Star Tribune (12/13/98) Gretchen Wronka responded to a Minneapolis Public School evaluation of 4 and 5 year olds saying "the critical need (is) to provide more stimulating, quality, pre-academic experiences for youngsters before they enter school. To this need Gretchen pointed out that public libraries offer strong preschool literacy experiences. " Parents, caregivers, teachers: Check out your library! Every child needs this opportunity".

#### Newbery/Caldecott Awards:

This year the prize winners were: Rapunzel by Paul O. Zelinsky (Caldecott) and Out of the Dust by Karen Hesse (Newbery). ( Star Tribune 2/8/98)

### **Individual libraries:**

#### Brookdale:

As a volunteer, Lillian Figueroa offered "Spanish Read-to-me" at Brookdale Library. Spanish storytimes have benefits for children who don't speak Spanish as well as those who do. (Star Trib 3/16/98)

An introduction to the free services of Hennepin County Library's Job and Career Information Center was presented at the Brookdale Library. Participants received a basic introduction to searching local job listings, writing a resume and identifying career services in the community. A tour of the Job and Career Information Center followed the presentation. (Spokesman/Recorder 5/14/98)

#### Excelsior:

Mary Monica Pulver, a writer of award winning mysteries, located her 1998 novel in Excelsior. (Lakeshore Weekly News 11/25/98)