
U E L M A

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President's Message - - Burke Belnap

A Line Item Notion: Has Its Time Come?

Once, when the majority of us were children, the library was a place of books and magazines. Now it is much more. It is books and magazines, discs and videos, software and the internet. The intent is still the same but the scope has changed and with that, the role and importance of the librarian have increased.

From the days of keeping an orderly shelf and tracking the use of items contained within the walls of the library, the time has now arrived when those walls are not so limiting or protective. Even in our most rural of settings, the library has at once moved to the center of the educational experience and also beyond the reach of the school. As a librarian our hat has become multi-colored as we have become multi-tasked. For some, it is expected that traditional activity of assisting teachers with reading programs and managing school inventories, counseling with administration on purchasing and policy, and expanding the library program to include the community.

The decision makers who provide the funds, personnel, and set the parameters, often do not have the same vision regarding the scope and importance of the library as those working in them. This was somewhat evident at a budget hearing of the Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee held January 22, 2004 in which a UELMA presentation was made advocating the importance of properly staffed and funded libraries in the learning process, particularly as it pertains to the foundational skill of reading and communicating.

Susan Huff presented a meaningful Power Point program showing the struggle Utah schools are having maintaining adequate resources and proper staffing. She was able to show statistics which show the relationship of student achievement to the quality of the library program. See Susan wrote an article about her presentation for this newsletter.

When asked by members of the education budget committee if each school should have a certified library media teacher, Susan Huff responded with "all schools would benefit from having a certified library media teacher and library aides as school population dictates." Then the question was posed by the committee chair that perhaps a line item budget should be made for librarians and school library funding.

At the present time funds for school libraries are included as part of the block funding grant given to districts as their major operating budget source. Thus school library funding is determined by the policy and procedures of the local administration and is subject to the bias and pressures placed on the local institution. This has often caused library programs to suffer, and in some cases even have many of their services eliminated. This has happened in a time when the availability of those

services is most critical for young people and their teachers to have available.

The notion of a line item allocation seemed to strike a cord at the committee meeting, but may have some resistance because of the trend in the last several years to move away from such legislative directives and allow greater power to the local school administrations to exercise control in meeting local needs.

In the struggle to improve our lot and sense the direction you, the workers among the stacks, have on this issue, I would like your thoughts and comments regarding this idea.

Should the notion be promoted by UELMA? What would you think of having the pay of a librarian be a line item budget much like it is for counselors and administrators? Give us your feedback.

Possible advantages and justifications

- Improve the view of the library among administrators.
- Create greater equality throughout the state in support of the Northwest Accreditation standard that every school should have a certified librarian.
- Contribute positively to the requirements of No Child Left Behind by more fully accommodating the pre skills of research needed by children.
- Enhance the resources available for teachers by enabling librarians to be more active as a training resource to teachers and staff as well as students.
- Increase the number of people who would be in a position to champion the library as a center for training and learning.
- Increase the capacity of library staff to make budgets fit their needs.

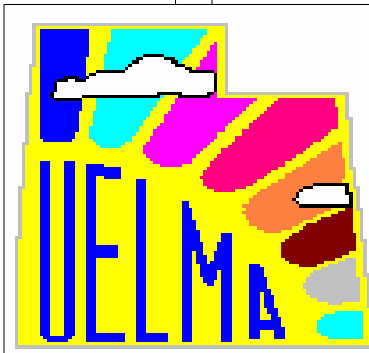
Possible disadvantages

- Put librarians in a competitive position with faculty and other programs for limited funds, potentially with a negative impact on classified personnel.
- Place even more expectations and weight on some libraries that are already staffed with certified librarians.
- Earmarked funds may be limited to a point that those librarians presently contracted under salary schedules may have reduced income.

At first blush the idea seems like a good one as it may enable better and more equitable supervision of resources on both local and state levels, I think it may help increase and understanding and appreciation of the library role in education and help reduce the disparity that seems to exist at the present time. Please think about it. Discuss it with your peers and then let us know how you feel.

Email me at burke@admin.schs.wash.k12.ut.us or send your comments to:

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UELMA - Anchor in a Sea of Change

- - Diane Stokoe



Conference Parking

Parking for the conference should be available in the parking garage behind the conference center. The cost is \$2 per day. There are no other meetings scheduled there that day. There should be room for everyone, according to the conference center.

There is also free parking in the city lot north of the conference center.

It has been an honor to serve you. I have enjoyed working with the talented people on the executive board. I feel we have been able to meet the goals I set for our organization when I became president elect in 2001. They include rewriting the constitution, improving our public relations and writing a history. In summary,

1. Our 1989 constitution was in need of revision and updating. The board devoted many hours to this project. The new constitution was ratified last year.
2. We have made good progress in the areas of political action and public relations. "Utah School Library Media Programs Standards," was edited and published last spring. On November 18, 2003 this booklet was placed in the boxes of all state legislators.
3. On January 22nd 2004, Susan Huff and her committee presented to the Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee. Four UELMA presidents were in attendance along with Dr. Sheryl Smith and representatives from Governor Olene Walker's office.
4. All UELMA and UELMA's historical records have been organized into eight folders.
5. A draft of UEMA/UELMA's thirty-two year history is now in the hands of the past presidents. You will receive "Conference Highlights," a summary of past conferences and a gold anchor, commissioned for U.S. naval officers, as luncheon favors.
6. Rebecca Simmons and the 2004 Conference Committee have done an excellent job of scheduling, organizing and publicizing "UELMA - Anchor in a Sea of Change." Voni Rivas is developing a souvenir conference booklet which will include bios and e-mail addresses of presenters, an annotated list of Jim Jacob's forty favorites and session highlights. Dave Harline will be publishing Jim Jacob's complete book lists on our web site. He will publish handouts from all presenters as he receives them. So you can download and look over the handouts *before* you come to the conference.

We are pleased to have Guest Author **Lee Modesitt** from Cedar City share how to get new science fiction books in your centers at little or no cost to you. Lee is a trustee for Rearing for the Future in Utah (RFF Utah.) He is the author of forty-one books. Many have been translated into Russian, French, Spanish and circulate world wide. Author Mary Casanova will entertain us during lunch with "*No Less Than Stars*," a slide show highlighting her life and some of her award winning books. President Burke Belnap will pass the gavel to Fawn Morgan. Our new officers will be announced and awards presented. The vendors will update you on new products.

"UELMA - Anchor in a Sea of Change," will be a very exciting conference. We hope you have already registered. If not, please go to UELMA.org. download the registration form, fill it out and send it in right away. We are still in need of hosts and hostesses for a few sessions. If you would like to take charge, introduce a speaker and collect evaluations, please email diane.stokoe@granite.k12.ut.us. Overnight accommodations are still available at the Hampton Inn, adjacent to the Eccles Convention Center. Registration is from 7:00 to 8:00 a.m. The first session begins at 8:20. The last ends at 4:20. We look forward to greeting you in Ogden on March 4th.

2004 UELMA Service Project

This year three schools have been chosen as our service project; Circleville Elementary, Oscarson Elementary, and Carmen B. Pingree School. All of these schools could use elementary level books.

Circleville Elementary is a K-6 school with a population of 103 students. The library is managed by the school's secretary and principal. Dayna Torgerson is the secretary/ librarian. The children really enjoy Magic Tree House and Hank the Cow Dog books. They use the Accelerated Reader program so books that would have AR test available for purchase would be welcomed.

Oscarson Elementary is an elementary with 56 students in grades K-6. A new school secretary has the awesome job of learning office management as well as learning all that is involved when

managing the library. Non fiction books are welcome as well as Accelerated Reader titles. Jeri Sylvester replaced the retired secretary a few weeks ago.

Cameron B. Pingree school is a special school for children with Autism under the Valley Mental Health organization. "We moved into a new school a year ago last November, with brand new library, and because I am working toward my library certification, I was given the task of setting up a library. We are seriously lacking in the type of books that families don't buy and discard. I am referring to the non-fiction book sets, that give children the scope of information usually only found in libraries. We also have a sparse collection of biographies, social studies, and science type books. Our present reading level is generally around Kindergarten to 2nd grade," reports Helen K. Durall, bus driver and librarian of Pingree School.

As you can see there is a need for our help out there. Please, as you are weeding your centers, when you find a duplicate copy of a book, books that your students don't use and are in good condition and still full of useful information please bring them to UELMA's conference in March. We will also be accepting cash donations to be given to these libraries.

The UELMA board has been attempting to meet with state legislators for several years. Finally we put together a package containing a cover letter, our recently published *Standards; Utah School Library Media Programs* booklet and a fact

....with the Legislators

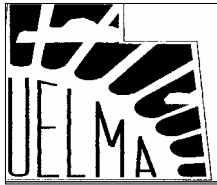
- - Susan Huff

sheet summarizing current studies that prove that strong libraries raise test scores. We sent that packet to all Senators and Representatives. The packet raised some interest in the Legislature, and thanks to Karen Hale and other supportive Legislators, we were able to meet with the Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee on January 22, 2004. A group of ten UELMA representatives presented a 20 minute slide

show, followed by a question/ answer session reinforcing how adequately funded school libraries can make a difference. We focused on three areas: staffing,

technology, and age and condition of print materials. We felt it was a real success. Our message was simple. Despite amazing and dedicated Library Media Teachers and Library Aides throughout the state, support from the state legislature and funding are essential for school libraries in Utah to continue to offer quality services.





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Change in Election Process

The UELMA board and related committees represents all school library media personnel

in the state. At its inception district supervisors and media professors were best able to serve in official capacities. Over the years candidates for elections have traditionally more often come from the populated areas of the Wasatch Front and from the ranks of certificated library media teachers.

In order to better represent all library media personnel throughout the state, the process of elections has been modified this year. After the deadline for nominations, no candidates had been put forward. As a result, the elections committee then selected a slate of candidates which will be presented at the convention. Candidate bios are also available in this newsletter. Members may vote at the conference to confirm this slate or may write in a candidate for president-elect and for the two open board positions.

Further modifications to the process will be discussed during the next year. We welcome suggestions from the general membership. It is anticipated that a simple amendment to the constitution may also be undertaken in the coming year.

Conference Hotel

The hotel that adjoins the conference center is now the Hampton Inn. Tell them that you are attending the Utah Educational Library Media Association Conference and that you are to receive the state rate of \$69 per night. You may choose between one king or two queens. The number of persons does not change the rate. Telephone 866-394-9400 (toll free) or (801) 394-9400.

Nan Allsen President Elect

Nan began her library training as a children's librarian for the Community Library in Ketchum, Idaho and The Sanford School in Hockessin, Delaware. She taught science for three years at Estancia High School in Estancia, New Mexico. Currently she is the District Library Supervisor for North Sanpete School District where she wrote and administers a grant for ULMS which provides training in school library administration. As the library media teacher at North Sanpete High School she is involved with the Sterling Scholar program. Nan belongs to many professional organizations including ULA, ULMS, UELMA and CLAU. She received a MLS from Emporia State University in 2002, a Library Media Endorsement from SUU in 1997, and a BS from BYU in 1987.



Marilyn Walker Board Member

Marilyn was born and raised in Utah. She attended BYU and received her degree in English and German along with a teaching certificate. She then took some time off to marry and have eight children. Later she returned to school for a Masters in Education with a Library Media certificate from Utah State, substitute teaching while going to school and while applying for a position. She landed her dream job as a librarian in Salt Lake District at Washington Elementary and taught there four years before moving with her principal to the new Escalante Elementary. She ordered all the books for the new library and had it up and running four weeks after school started even though the books didn't arrive until a week before the school opened; of course, she says, she had lots of volunteer help! Marilyn loves being a librarian and teaching library skills to the students. She always says that she has the best job in the whole school. She loves getting to see every student and be the friend that shows them wonderful new books, tells them stories, and shows them how to find what they are looking for.



Paula Cloward Board Member

Paula graduated from Southern Utah University in elementary education and went on to Utah State University for her library certification. Paula is a UELMA member. She worked in the Millard School District as a Library Media Specialist for 5 years at Delta South Elementary School and is currently in her third year in the Alpine District at Pleasant Grove Jr. High. Paula has enjoyed working with both elementary and jr. high students. Her main focus at the jr. high level has been to increase library use by creating an atmosphere where kids want to be and secondly to educate students in effective research skills. Working with students would have to be first on the list as favorite aspects of her job with book selection a close second. Paula serves of several committees at her school including Advisory, Faculty Council and 7th Grade Transition; she enjoys being involved with the school as a whole.

