



The Keepers of Knowledge

Fourth International Indigenous Librarians' Forum

Daily Forum Newsletter

Thursday – 15 September 2005

Welcome Back!

We were saddened to hear that our keynote speaker from the south, Joe McGeshick, would be unable to present. Fortunately three delegates, Jean Whitehorse, Mari Russell and Mehealani Merryman, stepped in the last minute to give the welcome from the South.

June Degnan followed with a presentation of her personal experiences that led her to the librarian field. She related to the audience her work with archives, that helped her attain a Master's degree in library studies.

Larry Loyie and Constance Brissenden teamed up to share their work in publishing and writing about difficult life topics. Loyie's experiences in residential schools struck chords with several audience members' experiences with U.S. boarding schools. Loyie's publications include *As Long As the Rivers Flows* and *The Gathering Tree*.

After a filing lunch, Janice Linton guided us through health-related sources on the Internet for Native North American populations. Her very informative handout provides a wealth of sources to help patrons find the right health information. Visit umanitoba.ca/libraries/health for a list of sources.

Alana Garwood-Houng of Australia informed us about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Protocols for Libraries, Archives and Information Services. The statement contains eleven protocols to encourage positive relations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people of Australia.

Through beautiful slides, Marilyn Russell guided us through IAIA's (the Institute of American Indian Arts) mission, history, and library services at its Santa Fe, New Mexico campus. Jean Whitehorse, Outreach Librarian for the New Mexico State Library, described the Native American Libraries Program which promotes information access

and current technology for tribal communities.

Sheila Pfeifer and Deanna Starr set the tone for their presentation through tasty salmon samples. They described the library services for the First Nations People of British Columbia. Library initiatives focus on children's programs, computer access, literacy promotion, language preservation programs as well as books and services for babies and their families. Early childhood development is the focus of many library services as the libraries strive to help children be prepared for school.

Following the day's sessions was a reception hosted by the Library and Archives Canada. Attendees snacked as Aboriginal Canadian authors, who have contributed to the national heritage through their works, provided a preview of their new publications. Featured speakers included Cora Voyageur, co-editor of *Hidden in Plain Sight: The Contributions of Aboriginal People to Canadian Identity and Culture* and Constance Brissenden and Larry Loyie, author of the new book *The Gathering Tree*.

To round out the day, forum attendees toured the Albert Library branch in Regina. The branch is a strong example of a library striving

to be responsive to an urban Native community.

Announcements

Please remember to fill out your conference evaluation forms.

A contact list of forum participants will be provided at the end of this year's forum.

Congratulations! Colin and Phyllis Lerat-Holtz are the proud, new grandparents of Xavier Lucas, 7 lbs. and 4 oz., born yesterday, September 14, 2005

As always, the staff of the daily newsletter invites your comments and suggestions for content. Contact Sandy Littletree (Navajo/Shoshone) or Rob Yazzie Jr. (Navajo/Slovenian), MSIS students, School of Information, The University of Texas at Austin.