

Connecting You to the Value of Membership

PUBLIC LIBRARIES: MEETING NEEDS IN CHANGING TIMES

By Jennifer Labant
Solutions Associate Editor

As patrons' needs evolve, public libraries are expanding and altering their services to help meet those different needs and reach out to diverse patrons.

While some libraries are becoming part of a multi-function government center, others are following the lead of commercial businesses and creating an atmosphere that even allows drinks.

For example, visit the Orange County (FL) Public Library in Orlando and you'll find Z-Café, a 40-seat downtown eatery with a wide-ranging menu, including a big vegetarian selection and a choice of more than 70 individual coffees, each freshly ground and brewed to order.

The libraries in Miami-Dade County are working to help



The Columbia County (GA) library is part of the Columbia County Government Complex in Evans. Inside the library, visitors find a downstairs reading gallery featuring a slate floor, comfortable seating, and a view of the county park.

residents with their busy schedules. In July, they started Borrow-by-Mail, a service that offers patrons the convenience of having books and other materials delivered to their homes.

"Even though the Borrow-by-Mail program has only had a

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REMEMBERING FREDERICK G. KILGOUR



Librarian, educator, and founder of OCLC, Frederick G. Kilgour died this summer at the age of 92. He revolutionized cataloging and interlibrary loan worldwide as a leader in the application of computer networks to library processes and eventually library services.

Shortly after I started working at OCLC, I was invited to attend a series of weekly seminars hosted by Fred. Over four months, we discussed innovation, creativity, and the future of libraries. Those wide-ranging discussions had a profound impact on my professional outlook and career direction, especial-

ly in demonstrating the importance of collaboration as an avenue for sustainable innovation in the library community.

In looking back, I can see how often Fred's creative ideas (some of which the people involved in the seminars considered improbable) have come to be reality. I recall a vivid discussion of the digitization of tables of contents and indices for books, a wildly impractical idea we thought then, which has now become the basis for much of our current electronic

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SOLINET, a membership organization founded in 1973, strengthens libraries and the communities they support through cooperation, leadership, and services.

SOLINET offers classes and training for library staff, preservation services, consulting, access to and support of OCLC products and services as well as discounts on electronic resources and library products.



GULF COAST RECOVERY PROJECTS UNDER WAY

By Jennifer Labant
Solutions Associate Editor

Last month, SOLINET welcomed Brenda Banks as Project Manager of the Academic Library Recovery Project. Mary Ellin Santiago joined SOLINET as Manager of the Gulf Coast Libraries Project.

SOLINET is partnering with the Mississippi Library Commission and the State Library of Louisiana in this venture, which is supported by grants from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Banks is heading the project funded by the \$896,000 grant from the Mellon Foundation, and she has already hit the ground running. Within a week of her start date, she had posted the application process to assist those libraries that are in immediate need of funds to re-establish service.

“These people have already been through so much with their lives and their homes,” Banks said. “We want to make this process as easy for them as possible.”

Other short-term goals for Banks’ project include developing training and information to address immediate and short-term recovery needs. To meet libraries’ needs, she is going to see what can be addressed through coordinated, centralized services and resources to acquire discounted and donated products and services. She is also beginning the planning process for a regional summit in spring 2007.

Santiago is heading the \$12 million Gates-funded project and is ready to meet public libraries’ needs. Assessment and procurement are the priorities as she works to begin restoring library service to the communities that have been affected by storm damage. She will also help deliver temporary facilities as quickly as possible. A huge undertaking of hers will be hosting the Gulf Library Project Summit from November 28-30 in Baton Rouge, La.

“It is a real privilege for SOLINET to work with the libraries on the Gulf Coast,” said Kate Nevins, Executive Director. “These libraries have been so strong during a difficult time and have not only continued to provide vital services to their patrons, they have expanded their offerings to meet increased needs.”



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REBUILDING AFTER TRAGEDY

By Laura Crook
Marketing Coordinator

What does August 29 mean to you? For many of our friends and colleagues on the Gulf Coast, August 29, 2005, was the day their lives changed forever. When Hurricane Katrina hit, most of us were watching coverage on television from the comfort of our homes. On the Gulf Coast, however, homes, businesses, libraries, and lives were being washed away by the storm.

A year later, the Gulf Coast is slowly rebuilding. During the weekend of August 11, I attended the Mississippi Governor's Recovery Expo at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum in Biloxi. Amidst booths about siding, storm shelters and pre-fabricated homes, the Mississippi Library Commission/SOLINET booth served as a place for residents to stop and reflect on their love of libraries. The library has remained a vital part of many residents' lives even if they now have to travel a little further to reach an open branch.

Volunteers from the hardest hit areas in Mississippi, Hancock and Harrison counties, provided information about branch openings, rebuilding efforts, and resources. Thanks to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, I was able to tell attendees support is coming to their libraries in the form of technology. Despite the heat in the coliseum, rarely was the booth absent of Gulf Coast residents expressing gratitude for their local libraries and librarians.

Every August 29, remember what your friends and colleagues experienced as a result of that tragic day in 2005. As library professionals, we are all in this together. Don't



Photo by Laura Crook



The Mississippi Library Commission/SOLINET booth at the Mississippi Governor's Recovery Expo served as the place for residents to stop and reflect on their love of libraries. Eventhough some residents now have to travel further to reach an open branch, the library continues to be a vital part of their lives.

forget to reach out, with your time, your money or your resources, to them to help make the difference.

For more information on how SOLINET is aiding in Gulf Coast recovery, please visit the [Gulf Coast Library Recovery page](#).



CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

By Kara M. McClurken
Preservation Services Librarian

SOLINET's Preservation Field Services is collecting names of individuals willing to volunteer their time and talents in the event of a disaster. Please share your name and contact information if you are interested in helping institutions that have been affected by a flood, fire, tornado, hurricane, or other disaster.

Volunteers can go onsite and help with salvage (such as packing materials out of a damaged environment, cleaning moldy materials, removing debris, air drying materials, or

reshelving them after they have been dried). We are also looking for volunteers who are willing to serve as preservation consultants (either onsite or over the phone).

Signing up to volunteer on SOLINET's new [disaster website](#) does not commit you to volunteer should an institution need you. It only provides us with a list of possible resources for institutions in need.

To register, please fill out the [form](#) on the disaster response page in the Preservation section of the website. While you are on the disaster website, check out the disaster planning

and recovery resources we offer. The disaster recovery page provides information by type of disaster as well as type of format. You can find links to other organizations that provide disaster recovery information and assistance there as well. The [disaster planning page](#) takes you through the disaster planning process step-by-step and includes links to useful planning materials. There is also a special section on hurricane preparedness.

If you have any questions about SOLINET's disaster volunteer program, please contact Preservation Field Services Librarian [Kara M. McClurken](#).



FOSTERING DIVERSITY: RESOURCES ON ALL CULTURES

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Editor's Note: Being welcoming and accessible—and above all, helpful—to the diverse communities we serve is a challenge librarians wholeheartedly accept. However, making this a reality calls for dedication, planning, and a creative use of resources. SOLINET offers a number of electronic resources that support the mission of providing service to a wide variety of patron groups.

This is the first in a series of articles about ways SOLINET supports its members' efforts to serve their diverse patrons.

Hard copy or digital? In the library or at home? Whatever the format or delivery method, library collections have to meet the needs and interests of diverse communities.

SOLINET's Program Management & Development (PM&D) staff is constantly assessing and reassessing new and established resources. PM&D seeks out vendors of databases and ebooks that focus on diverse cultural offerings—among them [Alexander Street Press](#), the [Brown University Women Writers Project](#), and a LexisNexis series called "[Primary Sources](#)."

SOLINET's NetLibrary Shared Collections are another good source for enhancing ebook collections.

OCLC's FirstSearch databases are also an excellent source of materials about and for populations that enjoy little notice or support in the mainstream. Some of these FirstSearch databases include Alternative Press Index, ATLA Religion, Clase and Periódica, Contemporary Women's Issues, PAIS International, and Index to Legal Periodicals and Books. In

addition to providing materials of interest to underserved populations, FirstSearch makes it possible for libraries to provide remote, full-text information to patrons who may not otherwise be able to access it.

OCLC also offers a number of other valuable e-resources:

- [WorldCat Resource Sharing \(ILL\)](#) allows libraries to obtain items from participating libraries throughout the world, providing access to unlimited resources for a very diverse population. Even though they could never purchase materials to cover all possible peoples and cultures, libraries can still obtain them via ILL.
- [OCLC Language Sets](#) help libraries buy collections in foreign languages even though no one on staff speaks those languages. The purchase includes catalog records as well, enabling patrons to find the materials in the online catalog in their own languages.
- [Open WorldCat](#) makes the library known and available to users of Google or Yahoo!, including those who would not have otherwise thought to visit the library.
- [CONTENTdm](#) provides libraries with a tool to put media (historical documents, photos, monographs, etc.) that might otherwise be hard to find online so that anyone can access them.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities have expressed interest in [CONTENTdm](#) because it enables them to put black history collections online.

E-Resources for Members

All of the e-resources available from SOLINET are categorized for easy searching in the [electronic resources index](#). And SOLINET staff are ready to assist with selection and support at the [Member Services Help Desk](#). To speak to a Help Desk member, call 800-999-8448.



FROM HARRIET TUBMAN TO OPRAH

By Jennifer Labant
Solutions Associate Editor

Oxford University Press has created the first online resource center to fully document the field of African American Studies and Africana Studies. Developed by a team of renowned African American historians around the country, the [African American Studies Center \(AASC\)](#) provides students, scholars and researchers with online access to a landmark reference in African American studies.

More than just an interconnected collection of great reference, it is a coherent site built to guide research, provide thoughtful insight, and to reassemble the lost and scattered fragments of the African-American past.

The site includes more than 7,500 articles by the top scholars in the field. The core content is drawn from over 20 different sources of African American reference titles, including *Africana 2nd edition* and the *Concise Oxford Companion to African American Literature*. The site also includes more than 1,000 images, over 100 maps, timelines, and various charts and tables.

Whether a third grade student is looking to learn more information about Harriet Tubman or a student majoring in African American Studies is writing a paper on Oprah's impact on society, the [AASC](#) is the perfect resource. Try it today to see how it can benefit your patrons.



PUBLIC LIBRARIES

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soft launch, 170 users have already signed up for the program,” said Bill Urbizu, Assistant Director of the Miami-Dade Public Library System. “It’s a brand new service, so we wanted to make sure everything was up and running before our official launch date on October 1.”

Travel north to Georgia and visit Columbia County, where the new 50,000-square-foot public library is part of the Columbia County Government Complex in Evans.

The master plan includes the library and performing arts center, amphitheater, parking lots, a terraced garden, a children’s playground, paved walking

trails, and a pond. Indoors, visitors find a downstairs reading gallery featuring a slate floor, comfortable seating, and a great view of the park and amphitheater. Patrons are in love with the new library and the convenience it offers.



“It’s like a Wal-Mart of libraries,” commented Jackie Watts, library patron. “You can do everything in one place.”

SOLINET is available with support and services to help its public library

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MR. KILGOUR

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access to published literature.

To give you an idea of the impact of Fred’s work, consider these numbers. WorldCat now links 55,000 institutions in 110 countries. When you use WorldCat, you have access to holdings at institutions large and small, from the Library of Congress to your local historical society and your neighborhood public library branch. WorldCat contains more than 70 million records and one billion location listings, with a new record added every 10 seconds. In addition, it supported nearly 10 million interlibrary loan transactions last year alone.

I believe that Fred’s beliefs about the role of the library in the community formed the basis of his efforts to apply technology to library services. He saw libraries not as places to store knowledge but as “an instrument of education.” As a result, he realized how valuable computer networks could be in increasing access to information. His vision of increasing access while reducing library costs continues to live through OCLC.

Fred Kilgour will be remembered and appreciated throughout the library world for, in the words of ALA’s Honorary Life Membership Citation, “the acuity of his vision that helped to introduce the most modern and powerful technologies into the practice of librarianship (and) the establishment and development of a practical vehicle for making the benefits of technology readily available to thousands of libraries.”

Kate Nevins
Executive Director, SOLINET



SOLINET CALENDAR

- **October 10** Georgia Users Group meeting (Barnesville)
- **October 20** North Carolina Users Group meeting (Greensboro)
- **October 25-27** SOLINET at Mississippi Library Association Annual Conference (Tunica)
- **October 25-27** HBCU Library Alliance Second Membership Meeting (Savannah, GA)
- **October 30** Virginia Users Group meeting (Williamsburg)
- **November 6** Tennessee Users Group meeting (Nashville)
- **November 9-10** SOLINET at Virginia Library Association annual conference (Williamsburg)
- **November 16** Tina Mason, SOLINET Preservation Services Manager, presents at Palmetto Archives, Libraries, Museums Council on Preservation annual conference
- **November 23-24** SOLINET office closed for Thanksgiving
- **November 29-31** SOLINET at South Carolina Library Association annual conference
- **December 1** Deadline to take advantage of Early Adopter Pricing on CQ Political Reference Suite Online Edition and CQ Congress and the Nation
- **December 4** Mississippi Users Group meeting (Jackson)
- **December 8** Kentucky Users Group meeting (Georgetown)
- **December 22** SOLINET office closes at noon for winter break

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

► *Continued from Page 5*

members in their efforts.

“One of the biggest challenges public libraries face is meeting patrons’ needs in changing times. It’s also extremely important that libraries remind the public who they are and what they can do for them,” said Ron Leonard, Senior Membership & Services Librarian.

One concern of many libraries is trying to do more with a limited budget. For many libraries, this means less funding for travel. To address this need, SOLINET offers distance education courses, some of which are especially useful for public libraries. These classes include Podcasting for Libraries, RSS for Libraries, Webjunction: An Introduction, Xtreme Web Searching, and many other classes designed to help libraries focus on the latest trends in technology and more.

SOLINET also spreads out its placement of face-to-face classes to cut down on students’ travel time and expense. Fall face-to-face classes that are especially useful for public libraries include Developing a Disaster Plan, The Library as Place, and Trends in Technology. With more than 61 classes on a broad range of topics included in the Fall 2006 Class Schedule, some can definitely help you and your library.

In addition, SOLINET’s member outreach consultants work with libraries to share the latest information about available databases, and help determine which ones will best suit their needs and the needs of their patrons.

Through candid conversation, these staff members make sure that libraries obtain the best products. View our



The Columbia County Government Complex in Evans features the public library, a terraced garden, paved walking trails, a children’s playground, and a pond.

“
It’s like a Wal-Mart of libraries. You can do everything in one place.”

— Jackie Watts,
Columbia County (GA) library patron

region map online to locate your friendly outreach consultant. Have you called your membership consultant recently to see if any new products might help your library?

One of the many other things SOLINET offers is discounts on library products and electronic resources. Rather than purchasing these resources at full price, it makes sense for libraries to take advantage of group purchasing power and work with SOLINET, whose Program Management and

Development team has worked to offer the best discounts possible. Serials Solutions, McGraw-Hill Access Science, and Emerald Management Xtra are just a few examples of some of the most recent databases and products added to SOLINET’s list.

What will you do to make sure your library meets the needs of your community? Whatever you decide, you can be sure that SOLINET is here to help.



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LINKS TO MORE INFORMATION

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Podcasting for Libraries: www.solinet.net/workshops/ws_details.cfm?doc_id=4052&WKSHPID=26PL
 RSS for Libraries: www.solinet.net/workshops/ws_details.cfm?doc_id=4053&WKSHPID=26RSSL
 WebJunction: An Introduction: www.solinet.net/workshops/ws_details.cfm?doc_id=3540&WKSHPID=26WJ
 Xtreme Web Searching: www.solinet.net/workshops/ws_details.cfm?doc_id=4058&WKSHPID=26XWSLO
 Developing a Disaster Plan: www.solinet.net/workshops/ws_details.cfm?doc_id=3004&WKSHPID=12DDP
 The Library as Place: www.solinet.net/workshops/ws_details.cfm?mode=preview&doc_id=3928&WKSHPID=26LAP
 Trends in Technology: www.solinet.net/workshops/ws_details.cfm?doc_id=4253&WKSHPID=26TT
 Fall Class Schedule (PDF): www.solinet.net/emplibfile/Fall_2006.pdf
 Membership map: www.solinet.net/membership/membership.cfm
 Electronic resources index: www.solinet.net/product_index/electronic_db_products-top.cfm
 Serials Solutions: www.solinet.net/library_products/SS
 McGraw-Hill Access Science: www.solinet.net/product_index/Science
 Emerald Management Xtra: www.solinet.net/product_index/EmeraldXtra

REBUILDING AFTER TRAGEDY

Gulf Coast Library Recovery Page: www.solinet.net/GulfCoastRecovery

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

Disaster website: www.solinet.net/preservation/disaster
 Volunteer form: www.solinet.net/preservation/disaster
 Disaster planning page: www.solinet.net/preservation/planning
 Email address for Kara M. McClurken: kmccclurken@solinet.net

FOSTERING DIVERSITY: RESOURCES ON ALL CULTURES

Alexander Street Press: www.solinet.net/product_index/ASP
 The Brown University Women Writers Project: www.solinet.net/product_index/WomenWriters
 Lexis Nexis Primary Sources: www.solinet.net/product_index/LN
 OCLC Language Sets: www.oclc.org/languagesets/default.htm
 Open WorldCat: www.oclc.org/worldcat/open/default.htm
 CONTENTdm: www.oclc.org/contentdm/default.htm
 Electronic resources index: www.solinet.net/product_index/electronic_db_products-top.cfm
 Help Desk email: orders@solinet.net

FROM HARRIET TUBMAN TO OPRAH

African American Studies Center: www.solinet.net/product_index/OxfordAfAm

SOLINET CALENDAR

Georgia Users Group: www.solinet.net/membership/Georgia
 North Carolina Users Group: www.solinet.net/membership/NorthCarolina
 HBCU Library Alliance Second Membership Meeting:
www.solinet.net/workshops/ws_details.cfm?mode=preview&doc_id=4073&WKSHPID=HBCU-MM
 Virginia Users Group: www.solinet.net/membership/Virginia
 Tennessee Users Group: www.solinet.net/membership/Tennessee
 CQ Political Reference Suite Online Edition: www.solinet.net/product_index/CQPRS
 CQ Congress and the Nation: www.solinet.net/product_index/CongNat
 Mississippi Users Group: www.solinet.net/membership/Mississippi
 Kentucky Users Group: www.solinet.net/membership/Kentucky

