

SOLINET™

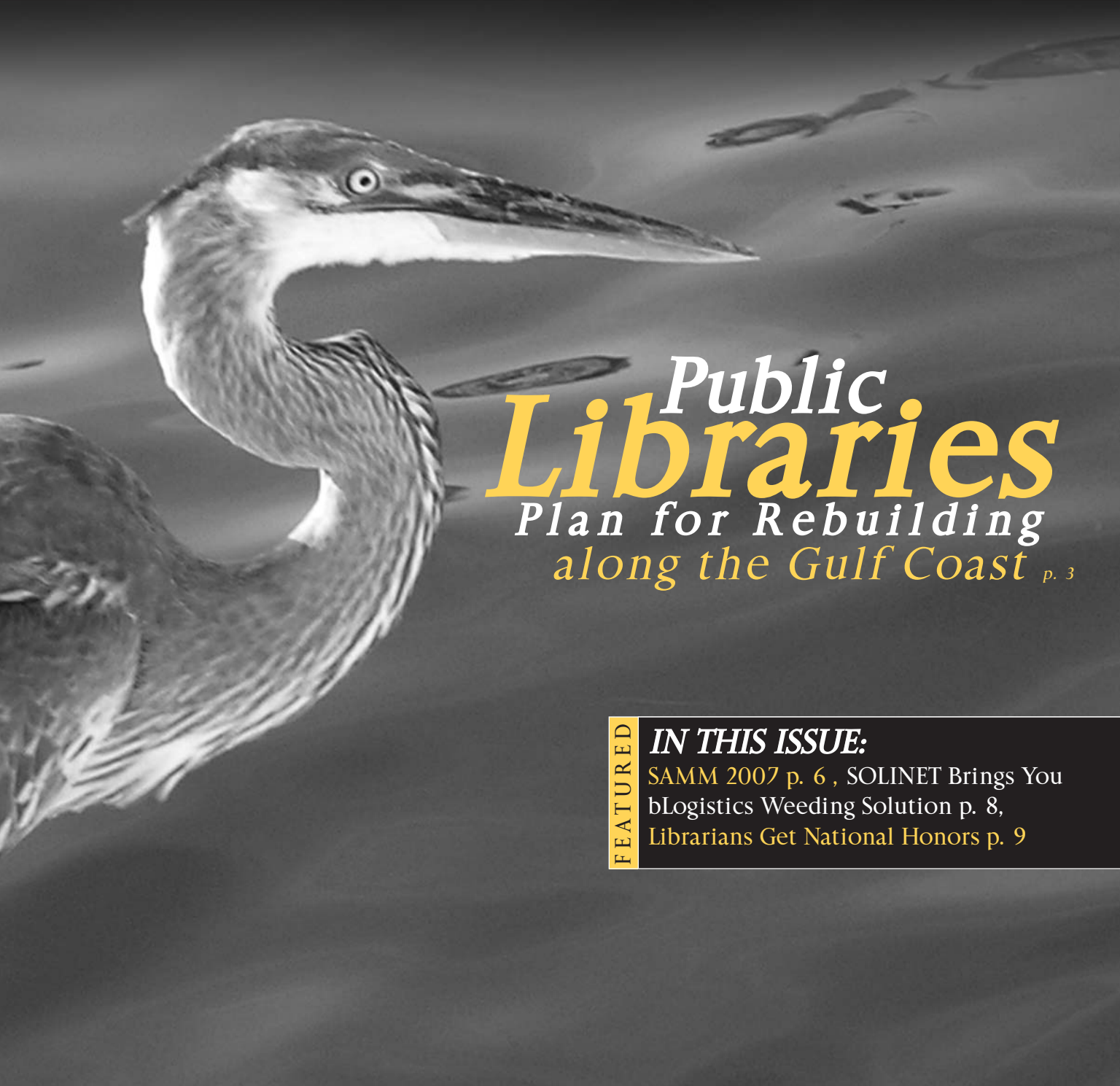
January/February 2007

Volume 4, Issue 1

# SOLUTIONS

CONNECTING YOU TO THE VALUE OF MEMBERSHIP

FEATURING: PLANNING FOR THE LIBRARY OF THE FUTURE by KATE NEVINS p. 2



## Public *Libraries* Plan for Rebuilding along the Gulf Coast p. 3

FEATURED

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

SAMM 2007 p. 6, SOLINET Brings You  
bLogistics Weeding Solution p. 8,  
Librarians Get National Honors p. 9

solinet  
**SOLUTIONS**  
Connecting You to the Value of Membership

***SOLINET Solutions*** is published six times a year by SOLINET, the Southeastern Library Network. Current and past *Solutions* issues are available in PDF form on the internet.

Please fill out the [subscription](#) form to be included on the mailing list for Solutions.

#### **SOLINET SOLUTIONS STAFF**

Editor: Fatima Hyder

Associate Editor: Jennifer Labant

Designer: Sam Mitchell

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Web: [www.solinet.net](http://www.solinet.net)

Telephone: 800-999-8558; 404-892-0943

Fax: 404-892-7879

**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.



“The future of libraries” is a topic of ongoing speculation and passionate debate. What will communities need from us in the future? How will we provide better services? What roles can the library serve in society? How do we increase our value and secure support?

As a membership organization, SOLINET’s future is inexorably linked to your library’s future. Our Board of Directors wants to deepen its understanding of the issues member libraries face and the future they see for themselves. Hearing your voice, as a member, is one way to share your vision of your library and of SOLINET.

In February, the Board of Directors will convene discussion groups for members in every state in the region. We will use scenario planning methodology to explore ideas about possible futures for libraries and SOLINET. Recognizing that there is no single future for all libraries, the Board of Directors will collect visions from libraries of all types and sizes, and then look for the shared needs that can be addressed effectively through collaboration and cooperation.

A summary of the outcomes from all discussion groups will be shared in a future issue of *Solutions*. The Board of Directors’ recommendations also will be shared in *Solutions* and at SOLINET’s [Annual Membership Meeting](#) in May.

If you receive an invitation to a discussion group, the Board of Directors, my SOLINET colleagues, and I hope you will be able to attend. If you are interested in participating in one of these discussions, please let me know so I can be sure that you receive an invitation. You can email me at [knevins@solinet.net](mailto:knevins@solinet.net).

SOLINET was built on the premise that libraries can do more — and do it more effectively — together rather than individually. That premise still holds true, even if the “what” we do changes. As we look at your future, and the shared future of all SOLINET members, I hope that you, too, will be dazzled by the opportunities of a future so bright that as musicians Timbuk 3 would say you “gotta wear shades.”

**Kate Nevins, Executive Director**


# Public Libraries Plan for Rebuilding along Gulf Coast

By Jennifer Labant, *SOLUTIONS* Associate Editor

Library professionals, trustees, and community leaders explored opportunities and shared rebuilding ideas when they convened in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to discuss strategies to rebuild lost library facilities on the Gulf Coast.

Representatives from 14 public libraries in Louisiana and Mississippi affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita attended Building Libraries, Building Community: A Summit on the Role of Public Libraries in Re-Creating Community on the Gulf Coast. In partnership with the Mississippi Library Commission and the State Library of Louisiana, SOLINET hosted the event as part of an initiative funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Conference sessions featured presentations based on practical experience, research and trend analyses led by local and national experts in economic impact, disaster recovery and business development, community planning, technology, library planning and design, and the future of libraries.



Jill Nishi of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation stressed the importance of using the planning process as a springboard for improving library services.



Summitt attendees

**Libraries Transform Communities, Communities Transforming Libraries** was the theme of the first of the three-day summit. The day began with Mary Ellin Santiago, Project Director of the Gulf Coast Libraries Recovery project, welcoming participants. She then introduced Jill Nishi of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, who stressed the importance of not just rebuilding, but using this planning process as a way to improve library services to the residents of the coastal communities.

The program continued with SOLINET Executive Director Kate Nevins thanking participants for attending. She then began introducing the day's speakers, which included Nancy Tessman, Fred Kent, Dr. John C. Bertot, Leslie Burger, and Dr. Eugenie Prime.

Much of the day's discussion focused on how even though these areas had experienced such a horrific loss, the rebuilding process could be a huge opportunity and one that should be undertaken with great care.

"When planning for rebuilding, it's extremely important that people think about what they would do in a place, not what it should look like," said Kent, President of the Project for Public Spaces.

Day two of the summit focused on **Public Libraries of Today and for Tomorrow**. Speakers and presenters included Diantha Dow Schull, Steve Cisler, Dr. Loren C. Scott, Burger, Pamela Pridgen, Raymond Santiago, Andy Kopplin, Steven Bingler, Cynthia

Nitkin, and Mary Ellin Santiago.

Schull, President of the Americans for Libraries Council, spoke about "Trends in Public Perception and Use."

Schull offered optimism for the libraries when she commented: "The Gulf Coast Library renewal is a way to turn a disaster into a dividend. It's an opportunity to define and demonstrate for the rest of the country the core competency of planning libraries for the future."

Burger, Chair of the Summit Planning Committee, President of the American Library Association, and Director of the Princeton Public Library, participated in a presentation with Pridgen, Director of the Library of Hattiesburg. The theme, "Envisioning Libraries of the Future," was an opportunity to discuss ways for these librarians to garner community support and to design service-oriented libraries.

Burger's part of the presentation mostly focused on funding and on libraries as "destinations of choice."

She told the audience, "You must be passionate, share passion, do shameless self-promotion, engage people in the community, listen, be willing to walk on the wild side, take risks, build back, use new practices, and challenge the status quo." She ended with additional inspiration when she told the crowd, "You must keep everlastingly at it and never give up!"

As the summit neared an end, the audience eagerly

awaited a presentation by Mary Ellin Santiago, who detailed the process that will be used to deliver the temporary library facilities being provided to communities whose libraries were destroyed. She explained the next steps, and reminded the librarians of the need for their participation in the follow-up workshops to support planning. These workshops are scheduled for February.

Closing the session was Nevins. She focused on where the participants are in the process and her confidence in all of them to rise to the occasion.

Nevins also offered up an inspirational quote by Teddy Roosevelt. “Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.”

Summit attendees received proposal guidelines detailing non-competitive grants, averaging \$75,000, for each parish and county to develop rebuilding plans for new buildings as part of SOLINET’s Gulf Coast Libraries Recovery Project. In addition to support for planning new buildings, the Project will provide temporary libraries and book/tech mobiles, technology, materials, and staffing for Louisiana parish libraries in Calcasieu, Cameron, Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Tammany, Terrebonne, Vermilion, and Washington. Libraries in Mississippi receiving support include the library systems in Hancock and

**The goal of the Summit was to provide ourselves with the opportunity to think about what libraries are to communities, what roles they now serve and what people will need from them in the future – Kate Nevins**

Harrison counties as well as the Jackson-George Regional Library System and the Long Beach Municipal Public Library.

“The goal of the Summit was to provide ourselves

with the opportunity to think about what libraries are to communities, what roles they now serve and what people will need from them in the future,” Nevins said.

“Hurricanes Katrina and Rita caused enormous destruction. We now have a chance, perhaps a once-in-a-lifetime chance, to build new and dynamic libraries, capable of flexible adaptation to evolving community needs. This is our chance to ‘not only build back, but build better,’” she concluded.



- A. Lilia Montoya, Mary Ellin Santiago, and Cheri Smithson, SOLINET staff
- B. Fred Kent, Speaker
- C. Leslie Burger, Speaker





Author Gwyn Rubio

# SAMM 2007

## Envisioning Our Future: Critical Issues for Libraries

By Laura Crook, SOLINET Marketing Coordinator

**SAMM 2007: What to Know**

**When:** Thursday to Friday, May 10-11

**Where:** Westin Buckhead, Atlanta, GA

**Registration:** \$120

**Early Bird registration:** \$100 (by March 30)

Changes in the library profession — from the changing role of the librarian to integrated systems that weed books to removing the concept of the book altogether — are in the forefront of not only the industry press but also general-interest publications. It's no secret — the landscape is changing.

From the opening speech to the closing session, the presenters at the SOLINET Annual Meeting 2007 (May 10 to 11) will address many of the issues facing libraries with an eye to creating a place for open discussion on changes that will ensure the sustainability of the library.

To make sure the topics come from you — the attendees — SOLINET issued a call for presentations instead of selecting session topics and then finding someone to address the subject. Based on the submissions, the topics for SAMM 2007 are going to be out of this world! Also different will be the location. The Westin Buckhead is accessible to both major roadways and fine restaurants and shopping venues (when sessions are over, of course).

Old favorites, of course, will still be part of the meeting. The popular Author Luncheon on Thursday is one of these longtime traditions. Sit back and listen to the literary stylings of Gwyn Hyman Rubio. Rubio is the *New York Times* best-selling author of *Icy Sparks* and her new title *The Woodsman's Daughter*, set in 19th-century Georgia. As always, following Rubio's talk, you'll have the opportunity to speak with her in person, purchase her books, and ask her to sign them.

With a new location, old colleagues and new friends to toss around ideas, and thought-provoking session topics to spark healthy debate, SAMM 2007 will be an event to remember. Mark your calendars and watch the SOLINET website for regular updates to the program information.

Be sure to register by March 30 to qualify for the Early Bird discount of \$20 off the regular registration price of \$120.

See you there!

# Strength in Numbers

By Fatima Hyder, *SOLUTIONS* Editor

In one year, SOLINET members saved more than \$8 million by leveraging the power of group purchasing.

“Everyone benefits when members purchase electronic resources through SOLINET,” said Timothy Cherubini, SOLINET Manager of Program Management & Development.

Members benefit in two ways:

**They can stretch their budget dollars because they pay less for the resources they need.**

**Because SOLINET is a membership organization, every purchase made through SOLINET strengthens the cooperative, thereby strengthening the individual members of the cooperative.**

“Because of SOLINET’s regionwide knowledge and the trust our members and our vendor partners have in us, we are in a unique position to create opportunities for both the member and the vendor,” Cherubini said.

One of the best-known examples of this is the [NetLibrary Shared Collections](#). Participating libraries receive thousands of titles for just a few dollars each. Subjects range from business and computer science to education, history, literature, and reference, making the collections ideal for academic, community college, and public libraries.

Shared Collections III, IV, and V have been reopened for a limited time. Each of these shared collections is worth more than \$1 million. SOLINET is also accepting participants for the NetLibrary Sixth Shared Collection, which is projected to have 3,000 titles. Order by June 15, 2007, to take advantage of early adopter pricing discounts.

“NetLibrary is one of our best-known and most successful examples of the power of group purchasing. However, this is definitely not the only group purchase SOLINET has created,” Cherubini said.

For example, SOLINET collaborated with [Emerald](#) to create the Emerald Management Xtra College awards; five community college members of SOLINET will win



a free one-year subscription to [Emerald Management Xtra College](#).

SOLINET can also help members create groups within the membership for purchase of electronic resources. For example, the subscription price of [ACM Digital Library](#) is based on the number of subscribers, but a new institution can join in the middle of the subscription term.

“Unlike other electronic resources, which are likely to see an increase in price at renewal, there is the possibility that the price of ACM Digital Library will go down at renewal if enough new subscribers join,” Cherubini said.

SOLINET also offers discounts on library products. For example, SOLINET members can enjoy a healthy discount on [ScholarlyStats](#), which streamlines the process of collecting statistics on usage of electronic resources.

“This is the maximum discount that MPS Technologies is offering to any purchasers of ScholarlyStats,” Cherubini said. “The size of the discount is based on the membership size, which is why SOLINET was able to negotiate such a significant savings for our members.”

Not every offer is the same. SOLINET offers flexibility, variety, and savings. With nearly 40 vendor partners, SOLINET is able to offer a broad range of resources at substantial discounts. So look to SOLINET first when you are expanding your collection. You will likely save enough per item that you can buy more databases than you had initially expected.

SOLINET currently offers a range of electronic resources and library products [advantageously priced for group participation](#). If you have any suggestions for product offerings or group discounts, please share them with SOLINET’s [Program Management & Development](#) team. “It is important that we hear what people want, so we can give them what they want,” Cherubini said.



# SOLINET

## Brings You bLogistics Weeding Solution

By Fatima Hyder, *SOLUTIONS* Editor

Are you being overrun with donated materials you do not need? Are you trying to figure out what to do with book sale leftovers? SOLINET has the answer for you: [bLogistics](#).



bLogistics, an online book and media sales service, accepts libraries' new and used inventory and sells the materials through e-commerce sites, such as Amazon and eBay. The library and bLogistics share the resulting revenue.

"The management of discards and gift books takes a lot of time, staff resources, and physical space," said Timothy Cherubini, SOLINET Manager of Program Management & Development. "bLogistics handles the inventory management, pricing, and order and payment processing. This increases the library's productivity by freeing staff members to focus on other responsibilities. It also heightens revenue potential by expanding the customer base for these products."

Participants can make thousands of dollars from materials that are just taking up space in their buildings.

"We needed a place to send items that we could not sell through the Friends book sales," said Booker T. Bates of Virginia Beach Public Library. "We have been pleasantly shocked to have cleared over \$71,000 since January 2004 on items that had no 'home.'"

### How the Program Works

bLogistics will post materials online for three to six months, Cherubini said. After this time, bLogistics will donate unsold materials to nonprofit groups. Those materials that cannot be donated are recycled.

"One of the draws of the program is that nothing sent to bLogistics goes to a landfill," said Geetha Sridaran, Assistant Director of the Library at Life University in Georgia.

bLogistics is flexible enough to complement or replace current methods of disposal. "We are doing extensive weeding in our Science Collection. We don't want to flood the book sale with that kind of material because it tends to dilute interest in folks wanting to browse the sale," said Laura Turner, Technical Services Librarian at Leyburn Library at Washington and Lee University.

Monthly reports sent by bLogistics to each participating library include sales figures as well as other information, such as how much was donated and recycled. In addition, bLogistics provides guidelines on what types of materials are most successful.

"bLogistics understands libraries and the issues we face with weeded materials," Bates said.

Read more about [bLogistics](#) on the SOLINET website.



### Test bLogistics

To introduce libraries to the program, bLogistics is offering a free trial. Interested libraries will receive 10 prepaid mailing labels to send items representative of their unneeded items. bLogistics will begin selling these items immediately. Information from these sales will be used to create a custom comprehensive forecast for the library. Reports are sent approximately 15 days and payments are issued about 60 days after the close of each calendar month.

# Three Librarians

## Get National Honor

By Fatima Hyder, *SOLUTIONS* Editor

*The New York Times* honored three librarians at SOLINET member libraries with the 2006 New York Times Librarian Awards.

The award recognizes librarians who have provided outstanding public service and have had a strong influence on the person who nominated them. Each honoree received \$2,500 and a commemorative plaque from *The New York Times*.

“All librarians fill a vital role in our society; they are the people who bring together communities in the pursuit of knowledge,” said Alyse Myers, senior vice president and chief marketing officer of The New York Times Media Group. “In doing so, they remind us that education and civic engagement are critical components of a thriving democracy.”

SOLINET would like to congratulate these recipients who represent SOLINET member libraries:



**Larry J. Frank**, Director of Knox County Public Library, a Governing member in Knoxville, TN: Frank was nominated by library patron Marti Davis, who praised his vision of what a library can bring to the community.

“Larry Frank has completely shaken up and redefined our definition of ‘library,’ beating the dusty old clichés black and blue as he’s introduced a whole new concept of library to our community,” Davis wrote in her nomination. “He’s brought us film festivals and live music, poetry readings and sidewalk dramas, filmmaking for teens and even family movie festivals on Knoxville’s Market Square. He’s made our libraries the most happening place in town.”

Frank has been director of the Knox County Public Library System for three years. He has brought lifelong education to a broad range of library users through remote access to downloadable talking books and newspaper archives.



**Melissa K. Hymel**, Administrative Librarian at Pointe Coupee Parish Library, a Group Affiliate member in New Roads, LA: Penelope McCarthy, a retired schoolteacher and library volunteer, nominated Hymel for her efforts

to encourage children to read as well as for her assistance to Hurricane Katrina evacuees who came to Pointe Coupee Parish for help.

Pointe Coupee Parish is 100 miles to the north of New Orleans, and thousands of evacuees went to the parish following the devastating hurricane. To serve these evacuees’ immediate and intense needs, Hymel extended library hours, providing access to the internet so the evacuees could locate lost relatives, apply for emergency federal assistance, and use online banking. She kept the children occupied with DVDs while parents searched for information about their homes. She also did not overlook the significance of the human touch: Hymel offered evacuees a shoulder to cry on, held and cuddled their infants, and provided “two huge urns of strong Louisiana coffee.”

The education and future of children is clearly a high priority for Hymel. “Melissa works hand-in-hand with the local public, private, and parochial schools to encourage children’s love of reading,” McCarthy said. “She budgets well so that she can purchase the required reading list books for the students in our economically deprived parish. The parents of the majority of these children would not be able to purchase these books for their children. She is continually finding ways to provide these children, who are our future, with ways to increase both their literary skills and their love for the written word.”



**Nancy Tillinghast**, Director of Thomas County Public Library, a Group Affiliate member in Thomasville, GA: Tillinghast was nominated by Liz Crockett, Executive Director of the Thomasville

Community Resource Center and a fellow member of

Certified Literate Community Project committee.

“It seems as though if there is a cause, particularly one that has anything to do with reading, literacy, or imparting knowledge, Nancy is involved,” Tillinghast said. “Nancy has shown me, and so many others, that there is so much more to the library, and to librarians, than just serious, stuffy books, and serious, stuffy personalities. Stuffy, Nancy is not! But she is serious about her love of reading and about her crusade to help all children grow up knowing the joy of reading and access to a welcoming, child-friendly library.”

Tillinghast’s support of literacy is evidenced not just in the causes she supports, but also in the Thomas County Library System’s distinction of having the highest circulation per capita (15.33) of any library in Georgia. Tillinghast connects with users by talking to children, sharing ideas for “good reads,” and asking users what they want to see on the shelves. The library has an active children’s program that attracts hundreds of children to story hours, crafts sessions, and magic shows.

*For a list of all 25 honorees, please see [The New York Times press release](#).*

## Nevins on Judging Committee

Kate Nevins, SOLINET Executive Director, was one of the judges who selected the winning public librarians.

“In studying the nominations for this award, I was struck once again by how many wonderful things libraries do for their communities,” Nevins said. “These activities show that libraries have always been and continue to be the glue that holds communities together.”

The committee was composed of educators, public librarians, and government officials.

– Fatima Hyder

## North Carolina Library Receives National Honor

Congratulations to the Public Library of Charlotte & Mecklenburg County (NC), a SOLINET Governing member, for receiving a 2006 National Award for Museum and Library Service.

The 2006 awards were presented by First Lady Laura Bush. The awards are given by the national Institute of Museum and Library Services and are based on a long-term commitment to public service through innovative programs and community partnerships. Only six awards were given to libraries and museums throughout the country.

“These outstanding museums and libraries exemplify great community service,” said Laura Bush. “They lead efforts to promote literacy, science education, environmental conservation, and good health. Like many libraries and museums around the country, these six have made themselves indispensable to the communities they serve.”

The Public Library of Charlotte & Mecklenburg County strives to expand minds, empower individuals, and enrich its community. The library serves more than 850,000 county residents, 26,000 area users, and web visitors from all over the world. It manages 24 library locations, numerous outreach programs, and a family of 18 websites. Whether in its new *ImaginOn* facility or one of its smaller neighborhood branches, the Public Library of Charlotte & Mecklenburg County exemplifies an approach to service and programming that can transform lives.

Accepting the award for the system was Charles M. Brown, Director of Libraries and a member of the SOLINET Board of Directors.

– Institute of Museum and Library Services

# Two New Distance Education Classes from SOLINET Preservation Services

By Kara M. McClurken, Preservation Services Librarian

## Preservation Services will debut two live online classes in March:

### Preserving Oral Histories, March 22, 2-4 p.m.

This two-hour class is designed for staff members who are responsible for creating and maintaining access to oral histories and their related materials in libraries, archives, historical societies, and other cultural institutions. To ensure that the sights and sounds of oral histories will survive into the future, librarians and archivists must be proactive regarding long-term access to these materials. Preserving Oral Histories covers the selection of appropriate storage formats and housings for sound and video recordings, transcribed interviews, and interview notes. The course discusses reformatting and digitization of oral histories and the issues that must be considered when prioritizing materials for reformatting. The class will also cover the selection and setup of recording equipment to ensure high-quality recordings for those instances in which repositories have input over the creation of new oral histories.

### Emergency Management: What Administrators Need to Know, March 29, 2-4 p.m.

This class is designed for library and archives administrators who bear the overall responsibility for emergency management at an institution. Having an emergency management plan in place before disaster strikes makes good business sense. An organized approach to recovery will help mitigate damage to collections and facilitate the resumption of operations. Institutions that view emergency management as critical and provide staff with the authority and tools to plan for disasters will ultimately respond more successfully than ones that have not prepared.

This two-hour class outlines the key actions that administrators need to take to coordinate an effective and efficient response to a disaster. Because a broken pipe will be handled differently from a major flood, response procedures are discussed according to the severity of the disaster. Other topics included are the components of emergency management, managing staff during and after a disaster, working with vendors and contractors, sources of federal and statewide assistance, and strategies for cooperating with other institutions to facilitate recovery.

**SOLINET** warmly welcomes these new members:

#### **Governing:**

Largo Public Library (FL)

#### **Associate:**

Continental Shelf Associates International (FL)

DeKalb Technical College (GA)

Northwestern Technical College (GA)

Sumter County Public Library (FL)



Largo Public Library

# SOLINET Calendar

## February

February 13  
FREE online demonstration of CONTENTdm

February 19  
SOLINET office closed for Presidents Day

## March

March 30  
Deadline to get Early Bird discount on SOLINET Annual Membership Meeting registration

March 31  
Deadline to purchase NetLibrary eAudiobooks and get waiver on access fees

## May

May 10-11  
SOLINET Annual Membership Meeting



## Making history available – all under one roof

**The most comprehensive, historical Congressional collection in a single search. Only from LexisNexis®.**

Introducing the redesigned LexisNexis® Congressional interface. Now, you can search across LexisNexis® Congressional and the complementary LexisNexis® U.S. Serial Set® and LexisNexis® Congressional Research Digital collections. History is yours in a single search!

With our new simplified interface, you begin your search with one value-added index of the entire archive, or select the *Basic*, *Advanced* or *By Number* search form you prefer. With more intuitive ways to begin your search and fewer search forms, it's easier than ever to

find precisely what you need. And with our commitment to add other collections over time, LexisNexis helps you make history available with what continues to be the most comprehensive, historical online collection of Congressional material under one roof. Give the students, faculty and research staff you serve the context, richer insights and new perspectives they need.

Give us a call at 1.800.638.8380 or visit us online at [www.lexisnexis.com/redesign](http://www.lexisnexis.com/redesign) to find out more about making history available.



LexisNexis and the Knowledge Burst logo are registered trademarks of Reed Elsevier Properties Inc., used under license. ©2005 LexisNexis, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

## Manage Your Account



# 24/7

with

## My SOLINET

[www.solinet.net/order/Login.aspx](http://www.solinet.net/order/Login.aspx)

# SOLUTIONS

CONNECTING YOU TO THE VALUE OF MEMBERSHIP