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## Vision 2010: Serve Every Child

Angela Reynolds

*Washington County Cooperative Library Services*

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# Vision 2010:

## Serve Every Child

by Angela Reynolds

Youth Service Librarian  
Washington County Cooperative  
Library Services

### **Serve Every Child**

- *Nurture the joy of reading by providing every child in Oregon with quality library services from both public and school libraries.*

**Y**outh Services librarians are passionate about reading and inspiring children to love reading. We are constantly searching for new and innovative ways to invite children into the wonders of reading. Our efforts to nurture the joy of reading by providing every child in Oregon with quality library services from both school and public libraries are enhanced by a variety of opportunities for professional development and interaction with other librarians that are offered by the Children's Services Division (CSD). It is vital to the profession that we be inspired with new ideas and be able to talk to others who work with children and parents. All librarians need this, but children's librarians thrive on it. Staff in libraries of every size and description are provided with opportunities to network, learn, share, and discuss our continuing commitment to serve every child through a variety of CSD projects and programs and in addition, State support:

- **Summer Reading**

For over 25 years CSD has supported statewide Summer Reading. The history is long and involved—including a five-year experiment with sponsorship that tried innovative ways to make sure that every child in the state had access to a quality Summer Reading Program. Currently CSD is involved in the Summer Reading Collaborative, which allows all libraries in the state to receive a manual of ideas and programs, and order incentives at reduced prices. CSD offers workshops that showcase Summer Reading crafts, ideas, and simple ways

to entice children into the library. Librarians know that keeping children reading for fun during the summer is important and helps children retain their reading skills. Summer Reading was developed specifically for that purpose—to make reading fun. Coming up with new ideas to keep the fun in reading is where CSD is a big help—members come together to share ideas and renew their dedication to this important program.

- **Spring and Fall Workshops**

The Children's Services Division provides low-cost workshops each year. Attendance at national conferences is next to impossible for many Oregon youth librarians, so CSD makes it possible for those librarians and staff to get quality training and networking right here in the state. All-day workshops with a little fun thrown in are the perfect way to learn about current research and new programs, to meet colleagues, to share, and to become inspired by others. These workshops feature guest speakers, presentations from other librarians, and hands-on activities that we can use in our own libraries.

- **Stories by the Sea**

Now in its tenth year, this Storytelling Festival presented by CSD and the Oregon Coast Council for the Arts inspires and creates storytellers in libraries around Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. The festival features high-quality workshops at a low cost. Storytellers known worldwide have been featured at this festival, and Oregon's librarians and children benefit each year from this wonderful opportunity. Teaching children to love stories teaches them to love reading and Stories by the Sea keeps that love alive in all who attend.



- **Mock Caldecott**

The CSD presents a day of intensive book review in the Mock Caldecott program. Librarians gather to learn about artwork and critical reviewing skills, to look at the newly published books, and to choose their own Caldecott Award. Many attend each year to see the new books and to talk with others about the books. School librarians attend as well, many to get a look at the new books and make decisions what to order for their own libraries after attending.

- **Conferences and Scholarships**

CSD always offers excellent choices for children's staff at the annual conference. Preconferences often bring nationally known speakers and authors to the state. For CSD members who have monetary needs to attend conferences and workshops, CSD offers scholarships that help pay for attendance.

- **Evelyn Sibley Lampman Award**

Each year the division honors a person who has made a significant contribution to the lives of children in the state or Oregon. Attendees at the Lampman Award breakfast are always inspired by the Award Winner's speech.

- **State Library Support**

The Oregon State Library (OSL) has been committed to helping libraries in Oregon provide quality library service for every child. OSL's primary tool is the Ready to Read Grant established during the 1993 Legislative Assembly with the endorsement of the Oregon library community. The grant provides state aid to "establish, develop or improve public library services to children, ages 0 to 14, with an empha-

sis on preschool children." Every legally established public library in Oregon is eligible to apply for the annual Ready to Read Grant. During the 2003–2004 grant year, the Ready to Read budget was \$597,311 and was distributed to 118 libraries. The average grant was \$5,062. In 2003 State Library staff published a report analyzing how funds had been spent during the grant years 1996–2002, whether library service to children had increased, and how additional local funds were leveraged by Ready to Read funds. The full report and more information about the Ready to Read Grant is available on the Oregon State Library Web site: <http://www.osl.state.or.us/home/libdev/r2r.html>. 

