

Information Power Report
Fall WLA Conference Opening Session
October 2, 2003
Sheridan, Wyoming

Information Power had five main goals this past year: (1) Create a survey of school librarians to administer bi-annually in order to measure growth in our IP Implementation Plan [The bi-annual survey hasn't been done for about three years, however, continued needs assessments at all IP functions have been conducted.] (2) Advocate for a school library liaison between the State Department of Education and the Wyoming State Library [This has not been accomplished as of yet, however, this summer at the IP IV Rally we had the opportunity to meet Cheryl Schroeder, State Dept. of Education, and converse with her regarding the Wyoming State Standards and their role in Wyoming school libraries]. (3) Create an online handbook for Wyoming School Librarians [This project was tabled until the color-coding for the Wyoming Education Standards could be completed.] . (4) Continue Information Power awareness and school library reform through presentations and group gatherings: Hold IP meeting during the spring meeting in Casper and summer rally [The spring section meeting held in Casper hosted a 1 hour IP meeting and the summer Information Power IV class was held once again at the Casper Community College. (5) Bring informed speakers to Wyoming to keep school librarians current in library media issues and instructional strategies [Pam Berger, 21st Century Library Media Strategies, was the featured library media speaker for the 2002 WLA Conference.]

Highlights of the fourth annual Information Power class on August 6-8 in Casper, Wyoming: (1) We doubled the class size since the very first Information Power class held in the summer of 2000. There were 32 librarians participating in this past summer's 2.5 day UW graduate level class. (2) The class objectives were to provide training for school librarians from across Wyoming on how to implement school library reform changes as well as current programming strategies from Information Power AND provide opportunities for professional library media networking with colleagues that rarely happens during the busy school year nor during the summer since we lost the library science/information studies program at the University of Wyoming. (3) This past summer's class focused on "library media curriculum and the Wyoming Education Standards. (4) The most informative portion of the class was the presentation done by Cheryl Schroeder on the Wyoming Education Student Performance Standards and where the State Dept. felt library media "fit in." This was a first face-to-face contact with the State Department of Education. The overall message from the State Dept. was that schools were going to need librarians in order to be able to effectively fulfill the standards because of the heightened level of expectations in critical thinking, research, and technology. The State Dept. also presented an "open door" for us to contact it with ideas, suggestions, and questions regarding the library's role in our schools. We were also invited to present at the upcoming March 1-2 School Improvement Conference in Casper, Wyoming. (5) Another highlight of the Information Power class was the WYLD presentation by Chris VanBurgh which prompted us to ask Chris to present the same program at the WLA conference in Sheridan during our Information Power meeting session. (6) Other topics that were presented in the Information Power IV class this past summer included The Patriot Act and how it affects school libraries, copyright policy, teacher-librarian collaboration, book sharing K-12, promotional ideas for libraries, evaluating school library media programs and looking at EdGate (Wyoming Educator's Website). (7) The IP IV Needs Assessment was given and there was an overwhelming support

for the offering of Information Power V next summer. (8) The participants of Information Power IV want to thank the Wyoming State Library for supporting this class through LSTA funding. Many would not be able to afford taking the graduate level class every summer if it wasn't offered at a reduced rate due to LSTA funding. It's the best networking event that school librarians can attend in the State of Wyoming.

The Information Power annual advisory meeting will be held on Friday starting at 1:30 PM with Chris VanBurgh's presentation of WYLD changes and additions and will then move onto the IP Workshop starting at 3:00 PM. Topics of discussion for the IP meeting will include (1) writing of new goals for 2003/2004 based on the needs assessment from this past summer's class, (2) Continuing the work on color-coding the Wyoming Education Standards to demonstrate library media integration that occurs within the standards, (3) designing activities and lessons that will help teachers and students meet the standards that relate to information literacy and reading skills, and (4) Beginning work on creating the School Library Media Personnel Online Handbook so it can be LIVE on the Internet.

If participants in the WLA Conference would like CEU credit, they need to see Jan Segerstrom or the SSLMP and Information Power booth/displays. Either 1 or 1/2 CEU credit can be earned depending on how many sessions one attends at the WLA Conference. A form needs to be filled out that identifies which sessions were attended.

This concludes the Information Power Annual Report for the WLA 2003 Fall Conference.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Segerstrom