

Innovative Acquires Polaris Library Systems

Innovative Interfaces Inc. (III) on April 1 announced that it has acquired Polaris Library Systems, bringing together two of the leading providers of library automation technology. The combined companies will be led by III CEO Kim Massana, with former Polaris president and CEO William Schickling joining Innovative as VP, public library products. Several other Polaris executives will also join Innovative's management team, including VP of sales Scott McCausland and VP of customer operations Jodi Bellinger. Polaris's headquarters in Syracuse, NY, will be retained as a center of operations, joining III's offices in Emeryville, CA; Dublin, Ireland; and Noida, India. Other terms of the sale were not disclosed, but the companies described the acquisition as a strategic fit.

In a statement, Massana said III would be "fully committed to supporting the customers of both companies." III SVP of global marketing Gene Shimshock confirmed with *Hotline* that this would involve continued development support for the Polaris ILS.

"Our investors are investing for growth," Shimshock said. "Kim [Mas-

sana] has been very clear about our growth strategy.... [W]e're looking for opportunities to bring the best products to market."

John Blyberg, assistant director for innovation and user experience at the Darien Library, CT, who has worked with both Polaris and III's Millennium ILS, expressed surprise at the announcement but noted that the two companies' product lines could prove to be complementary.

"This move will allow Innovative to rethink how it structures its product line and how that will align with its existing customers, both public libraries and academic libraries," Blyberg told *Hotline*. "If I could look into the future, I'd bet that they are going to focus on those two branches and say, 'Here, on the Millennium side, we're going to adapt this to the unique needs of academic libraries....,' and then, on the Polaris side, they'll continue to focus on addressing the needs of public libraries."

Both companies also need to find a long-term way to address the emergence of next-generation library services platforms (LSP) such as Ex Libris's Alma and OCLC's WorldShare, noted Carl Grant, associate dean for knowledge services and the chief technology officer at the University of Oklahoma Libraries, Norman. Grant said that III's current next-generation solution, the Sierra Services Platform, does offer enhanced functionality compared with Millennium, without requiring significant staff training or changes to workflow. But, unlike Alma and WorldShare, Sierra is built on legacy code and does not have a true multitenant cloud architecture.

Interview

Michael Hansen

Cengage Learning has emerged from Chapter 11 bankruptcy, eliminating approximately \$4 billion in funded debt and securing \$1.75 billion in exit financing. *Hotline* caught up with Cengage CEO Michael Hansen to find out what's next for the company.



What does the company's new business plan look like?

We are building products that are focused on student and faculty end user needs. As part of that, we are driving this business from print to digital, with a clear acknowledgement that at some point, the textbook will be replaced by a digital solution.

What does today's news mean for your library arm, Gale?

In libraries, the transition to digital has already happened. The problem is that library budgets are not growing. For us, that means we have to concentrate on clearly differentiated, must-have content. We also see significant growth opportunity for our library products internationally.

What does this mean for Cengage Learning customers?

Our customers can expect to see business as usual. The only thing that will be meaningful to our customers is that because we have a robust balance sheet now, we're able to invest in the business more forcefully.

What are you excited for at Cengage Learning in the coming year?

After a period of some distraction for Gale, we have a clear focus on its customer, the library. We have an emphasis on what library users need from us and a development process that's closely linked to that.

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“Both of them really need to get a next-generation platform together and on the street,” Grant said. “Combining forces makes a lot of sense for them at this point in time.”

Grant and Blyberg both said they expect to see concerns arise among both customer bases, regarding specifics such as pricing or intangibles such as corporate culture. “Kim [Massana] is a smart man and he’s making smart moves in many ways...,” Grant said of the deal. “If they can preserve the customer-oriented nature of Polaris as they merge it into Innovative...I think that would be a very positive thing for the company.”

Ryan Budget Would Eliminate IMLS

On April 1, House Budget Committee chair Paul Ryan (R-WI) released his budget proposal for FY15. It would cut \$5 trillion from federal balance sheets in the next decade by making significant cuts to spending on initiatives like Medicare and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, more commonly known as food stamps. Among librarians, though, the most controversial cost-saving measure proposed in the Ryan budget might be its elimination of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) entirely, cutting millions in grants to libraries nationwide.

The ink was hardly dry on Ryan’s proposal before the American Library Association (ALA) released a state-

ment slamming the notion of cutting the federal government out of the library funding picture. ALA president Barbara Stripling described herself as “shocked and extremely dismayed” by the proposal, which, if it was enacted, could severely hinder the ability of libraries around the country to provide technology resources to patrons by eliminating the grants administered by IMLS under the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). “The impact of that funding has been profound in providing access to technology in libraries that absolutely would not have been able to provide that access otherwise,” Stripling told *Hotline*, pointing out that such technology is often used to access government services by patrons who don’t have Internet capability in their homes.

IMLS director Susan Hildreth was less surprised than her ALA colleagues, pointing out that this is the third consecutive GOP budget to come out of the House of Representatives that proposed the elimination of IMLS. She defended the grants her agency doles out—many of which are matched by state funds—as valuable investments in communities across the country. IMLS grants to states support programs from aggregated buying of electronic resources for libraries throughout state systems to braille services for visually impaired patrons, while other grant programs drive technological innovation and leadership training. “I would focus on the fact that the invest-

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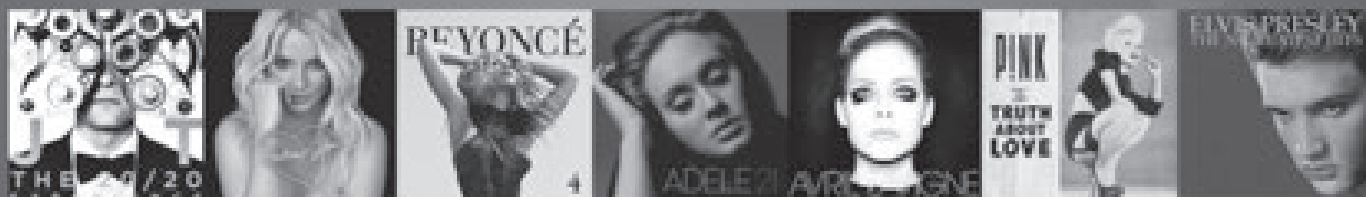
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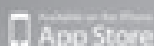
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Coding and Power Tools Arrive at Summer Tech Camps

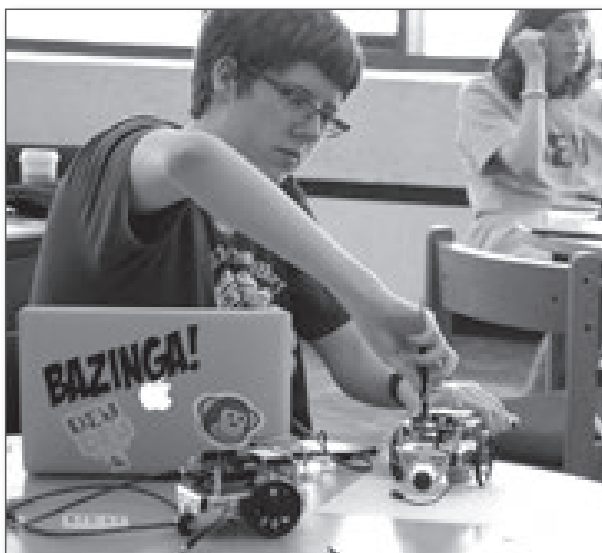
Computer coding programs and robotics are just some of the tools young patrons will be using this summer as school and public librarians nationwide gear up for technology camps.

“A lot of school librarians treat summer like a refresh and get-away-from-work time,” said Melissa Techman, a school librarian at Broadus Wood Elementary School in Earlysville, VA. “I never mastered that.”

Techman is always one to roll up her sleeves, write code, and remix video alongside her students. She’s currently developing a summer program with her local public library around Mozilla Webmaker, a hub for teaching digital skills.

Justin Hoenke, teen librarian and manager of the 2nd Floor kids and teen space at the Chattanooga Public Library, is also gearing up for summer. Last year, the library ran a four-week camp called “Dev Dev” (Developing Developers), in which students learned to code HTML, Python, and CSS and played with robotics. Hoenke believes that summer is the perfect time to work with students.

“During the school year, kids are so booked with extracurricular activities,” said Hoenke, who blogs at justinthelibrarian.com. “The summer is a good time to hook them to get into the library.”



In creating the camp, Hoenke enlisted the help of a local technology non-profit, Engage 3D, as well as the American Institute of Graphic Artists. One element Hoenke wanted to impress upon students was the importance of design skills. “We wanted kids to think about how a website looks,” he told *Hotline*.

Set for June 30–August 1, Dev Dev 2014 will involve two daily sessions at

the library for three hours each. The four-week program is free (via scholarship by the Benwood Foundation) to 25 eligible teens and supported by a \$20,000 grant. For the other 25 teens participating, the cost is \$250 per person.

Girls are a special focus for Techman, who, in addition to the Mozilla Webmaker program, is also planning to help out this summer at Tech-Girls. Founded by Kim Wilkens, a former tech educator in Charlottesville, VA, Tech-Girls runs throughout the year and offers sessions on video game design, website development, and coding, in languages from HTML to JavaScript.

For Techman, the camps are a great way to excite students about technology and get them to engage with it. Another benefit? They enable Techman to hone her own skills and bring them back to benefit her community at Broadus Wood in the fall. Plus, she said, it takes very little for a teacher or librarian to launch a camp around the programming language Scratch or Mozilla’s video app Popcorn Maker.

ments being made create best practices and new service models across the country,” Hildreth told *Hotline*. “It’s a small investment for a big payoff.” Representative Ryan’s office did not respond to a request for comment.

Collection Development Tool Launched

Baker & Taylor (B&T) and its collection management subsidiary collectionHQ on March 19 announced the launch of ESP (Evidence-based Selection Planning), an optional feature for collectionHQ that aims to predict systemwide and branch-level demand for books, ebooks, and other materials, including newly published items. The feature works by analyzing a library’s circulation history using collectionHQ, while leveraging data from B&T’s online collection development and ordering system Title Source 360, identifying forthcoming titles that would be best suited to a library, highlighting those titles with a relevancy ranking, and determining branch locations where copies should be placed to satisfy demand.

“The way our [collectionHQ] customers do it now, they get a great understanding about what content is moving in their collection either on a systemwide perspective or a branch perspective, or on a collection-by-collection perspective. They then take that knowledge...and make future collection development decisions,” explained Scott Crawford, collectionHQ’s VP and general manager. “What ESP is doing is bringing a level of automation to that.”

ESP generates title-level relevancy rankings in Title Source 360, making these analytics-based suggestions a seamless part of a library’s purchasing workflow. Crawford noted that ESP also factors in aggregate data from libraries with similar profiles that order through Title Source 360.

The Phoenix Public Library (PPL) has been outsourcing a portion of its collection development activities to B&T for over ten years and was one of the earliest adopters of collectionHQ, going live with the system in May 2011.

B&T's suggestions, combined with collectionHQ, have made it possible for the library's two full-time collection development librarians to ensure that PPL's selections continue to meet patron needs. "In a time of budget cuts, that was very, very useful for us," Phoenix city librarian Rita Hamilton said. As an early adopter of collectionHQ, PPL was one of four libraries that chose to participate in the pilot test of the new ESP feature beginning last summer.

"What [collectionHQ] provides is data that measures the success of your choices and how you're spending money, giving you direct feedback based on use," Hamilton told *Hotline*. The additional automation of ESP has met with little disagreement from staff, Hamilton said, partly because of PPL's history with B&T and collectionHQ.

Libraries will still be able to order items regardless of ESP relevance ranking. However, Hamilton believes that ESP will help PPL respond to spikes in demand, even when a title is an unexpected hit. The optional ESP feature will be priced separately from collectionHQ, although at press time the company had not yet finalized a pricing structure.

Delayed Santa Clara Library Branch Finished

Members of the Santa Clara, CA, library community remain in a celebratory mood this week after finally getting the green light to resume work on the Northside Branch Library. The nearly finished building previously sat untouched for eight months while millions of dollars needed to complete

the work remained frozen by a bureaucratic snarl, threatening to close the Northside Library permanently before it even opened.

"We'll have the doors open no later than sometime this summer," Santa

Clara city manager Julio Fuentes told *Hotline* a few days after he announced an agreement by the city not to touch those contested redevelopment funds, instead making \$5 million available from city coffers to finish the branch.

Branching Out



April 12 marked the grand opening of the **South Whatcom Library** branch (pictured) of the Whatcom County Library System (WCLS), Bellingham, WA. The 6,500 square foot facility is located in the middle horse barn of the Sudden Valley Community Center and features such amenities as Wi-Fi access, high-speed touch screen Internet computers, self-check stations, a meeting room, a children's area, a teen zone, and a study room. The project was orchestrated and paid for by the Friends of the Sudden Valley Library (FoSVL), which raised \$500,000 through major state and other grants and private contributions. Around \$147,300 from WCLS covered shelving, furnishings, supplies, and the collections.

Founded in 1941, the **Bentleyville Public Library**, PA, is looking to remodel and enlarge its Main Street space. The \$3 million project will include a two-story, 3,600 square

foot addition, according to the *Observer-Reporter*. The work will begin in August following a fundraising drive coordinated with Djdc Architects. A \$400,000 state grant and \$100,000 from casino money has already been secured. The new facility will feature an events space as well as collections and meeting rooms. "It's not all about books," library board president Mary Thompson told the *Observer-Reporter*.

The **Sonya Crawshaw Branch** of the Poplar Creek Public Library District, Hanover Park, IL, opened recently following a \$1 million renovation and expansion project. Now 1,000 square feet larger, the 4,000 square foot facility encompasses Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant bathrooms, a new entrance, and eight computers and new workstations. The project was funded through the library's reserve funds along with a \$50,000 state grant, according to MySuburbanLife.com. The land for the expansion was donated by the town. The main library, in Streamwood, was selected as *Library Journal's* top Landmark Library in 2011.

The Irving A. Glavin Regional Center, Shrewsbury, MA, will serve temporarily as the town's library per an agreement between the **Shrewsbury Public Library** (SPL) and the city's Executive Office for Administration and Finance's Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM). The plan will cover the duration of the library's proposed makeover and expansion project, saving the town \$300,000, according to the *Community Advocate*.

Send information on groundbreakings and ongoing and completed building projects to blfox@mediasourceinc.com

The city council, at its March 25 meeting, approved the plan, which had been in the planning stages since 2008.

"We are ecstatic," said Tracy Wingrove, interim executive director for the Santa Clara City Library Foundation and Friends (SCCLFF), a non-profit group that spearheaded efforts to build the Northside branch.

According to the SCCLFF website, the 15,000 square foot, one-story library is "99.9 percent" complete. A 50-space parking lot is ready, and the property has even been landscaped. The sleek building is Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified as a green facility. But the interior is empty. "We need books," Wingrove said. "We need shelves. We need computers. We need furniture. We need people to staff it."

That's where the \$5 million, shifted from Santa Clara's land sales reserve fund, comes in. Fuentes called it "more than enough money" to

finish off the project, bringing the final price tag to \$16 million.

Funding obstacles had kept the project on hold for years, particularly after the 2008 recession took its toll on California's economy. Redevelopment money, it seemed, was the best solution to get construction of the branch on track. But timing became a problem.

By 2011, California governor Jerry Brown was fighting to bring down the state's massive debt. He dissolved the state's local redevelopment agencies, known as RDAs, amid criticism they lacked proper oversight. In January 2012, Santa Clara turned over \$19.2 million in RDA funds to SCCLFF to build a library. Ground was broken in July.

The problem was, the state had given every city until February 1, 2012, to give back all unused money. California's state controller's office ordered the funds returned, and

a county oversight board was formed to monitor the RDA's dissolution. Last August, Santa Clara County obtained a temporary restraining order to stop work on the library, which by then was standing practically ready to be occupied.

Once the RDA logjam was in place, and in the courts, Santa Clara officials knew it could be years before the remaining \$6.5 million would be freed up for use, if ever. Meanwhile, the Northside branch would remain unfinished and unused.

Quietly, officials began to lobby behind the scenes, and a deal was struck. The final agreement called for the SCCLFF to relinquish control of its remaining \$6.5 million in RDA funds. Santa Clara sweetened the deal with an additional \$700,000 from the city's land sale reserve. It's now up to the state to determine how and when that \$7.2 million is returned to taxpayers.

Santa Clara currently runs two city-owned libraries with an operating budget of \$7 million, city spokesperson Dan Beerman told *Hotline*. When the Northside branch opens its doors later in 2014, that expense will naturally increase. "We estimate that in its first year, owing to its anticipated popularity in the community, it will cost an additional \$1 million to operate [the Northside] branch," Beerman said. The facility, he added, will be staffed by 6.9 FTEs, including four full-time staff positions and seven to ten part-timers.

VA Libraries Summer Read Goes to the Dogs

The Chesterfield County Public Library (CCPL), VA, has big plans for the dog days of summer. With the help of therapy dogs, a reading therapist, and reading mentors, the library will host a program designed to prevent summer reading loss among children, including disabled kids. Children completing

People

Mario Ascencio was appointed College Librarian and Managing Director at the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, CA. He was previously Library Director, the Corcoran Gallery of Art/College of Art and Design, Washington, DC. He is a 2008 *Library Journal* Mover & Shaker.

Loretta Broomfield was named Director, Sallie Logan Public Library, Murphysboro, IL, following the retirement of **Donella Odum**. Broomfield was previously Manager of Talking Books at Illinois Heartland Library System, Edwardsville.

Scott Davan was appointed Director of Rockaway Township Library, NJ. He previously held the same title at the Mount Olive Public Library, Flanders, NJ.

Thai Jones was named the Lehman Curator for American History at Columbia Universi-

ty's Rare Book and Manuscript Library, New York. He was previously an Assistant Professor of History at Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY.

Sheila Mikkelson was named Director of the Margaret E. Heggan Free Public Library, Sewell, NJ. She was previously in the same position at William Jeanes Memorial Library and Nicholas and Athena Karabots Center for Learning, Lafayette Hill, PA.

Sonoe Nakasone was appointed Special Formats and Metadata Cataloger at the University of North Carolina Library, Chapel Hill. She was previously cataloger at the District of Columbia Public Library, Washington, DC.

Teri Taylor, U.S. Documents Collections Supervisor at New Jersey State Library, Trenton, was appointed to the Depository Library Council. She will serve a three-year term.

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the program will have their efforts recognized when the library brings free meals to animals at the Chesterfield County Animal Shelter in their honor.

The summer reading program, Paws To Read, is supported by a \$3,000 Summer Reading grant from the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) and vendor Baker & Taylor. The participating dogs will come from the Virginia Sprite's HERO and Caring Canines, both therapy dog organizations in Virginia. The kids can read without self-consciousness, while the dogs can get some extra belly rubs.

In weekly two-hour sessions designed for special-needs kids, children will work with a reading specialist for an hour in groups of ten or fewer, said CCPL librarian Anna Wilson-Stillwell. For the second hour, the children will practice the skills they worked on by reading to dogs.

In such initiatives, "The dogs are there to listen and provide a sense of comfort to the kids while they read," said Aleta Shelton, director of Caring Canines. "Most of the kids sit on the floor with the dogs beside them or in front of them and read to them."

Each of CCPL's nine branches will kick off the ten-week summer program with an opening event, said Wilson-Stillwell, with animals present at some of them. In addition to spending time with the dogs, the youngsters will log the books they read over the summer on the library site.

The group also liked that the program benefits homeless animals. "Kids know that by reading they're



A young library patron reads to a therapy dog from the Virginia organization Caring Canines.

doing community service," Wilson-Stillwell said. "It means a lot more to kids to know that they're doing something good and helpful rather than just get a trinket that they throw away and forget about."

CCPL has carried out similar programs connecting reading and shelter animals, though not during the summer. In a related 2011 initiative called Read 2 Feed, homeless animals received one meal for every ten books kids read or ten hours they spent reading. That resulted in 1,600 donated meals. In the FY12, 1,078 children joined the library's programs with reading dogs; the number jumped to 1,842 in 2013.

CCPL has offered more general summer reading programs for over three decades, according to Wilson-Stillwell. "During the 2013 summer reading program, 6,133 children and 1,533 teens registered for the program," she told *Hotline*.

The Caring Canines dogs who participate in reading programs are as varied as the children who read to them. "We have all shapes, sizes, breeds and mixed breeds," Shelton said. "We have everything from a five-pound Maltese to a 165-pound Newfoundland participating, so if children are afraid of bigger dogs, there will be smaller dogs available to read to. Most of the children pick out the same dog to read to every visit."

News in Brief

The **Escondido Public Library & Technology Center**, CA, selected **Innovative Interfaces' Sierra Library Services Platform**. It was previously using SirsiDynix's Horizon service.

The **Stark County District Library**, OH, implemented Family Place Libraries within two of its branches. The program creates a space for families with young children to read and play.

The **Association of Research Libraries (ARL)** announced applications for the **ARL/Music Library Association Diversity and Inclusion Initiative**. MLIS tuition funding will be provided to minority candidates who have a concentration in music librarianship.

The **University of Delaware Library**, Newark, joined the **National Digital Stewardship Alliance**, in which it will be involved with the Content Working Group. It also gained membership to the **Name Authority Cooperative Program**, a component of the Program for Cooperative Cataloging.

Santa Monica College Library, CA, and **Backstage Library Works** have partnered to microfilm and digitize more than 14,000 pages of the college's student newspaper *Corsair*. The digital images will be hosted by the California Digital Newspaper Collection online.

Columbia University's Center for Digital Research and Scholarship and the **Modern Language Association**, New York, received a start-up grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The money will fund the development of the **Humanities Commons Open Repository Exchange**.

OCLC and **NetAdvance** will collaborate on a project to add metadata from the latter's **JapanKnowledge** and **JK Books** collections to **WorldCat**. The JapanKnowledge database includes more than 50 encyclopedias and dictionaries, and JK Books is an ebook platform for reprinted Japanese magazines.

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CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Library Director Concord (NH) Public Library

The City of Concord (population 43,000) is seeking a highly motivated, experienced individual who can work in a team environment to provide leadership and direction for the Concord Public Library, managing a staff of 20, with a total operating budget of \$1.6 million. In addition to ensuring the effective and efficient operation of the Library, the Library Director evaluates the effectiveness of library services in relation to changing needs of the community and develops/implements an action plan in conjunction with the identified needs; under the general direction of the City Manager, and engendering the support of City Council, staff, Library trustees, and the Concord Public Library Foundation, acts as an agent of change to develop and implement a vision for the Library; sets, plans, develops and implements overall goals; develops, prepares and oversees the Library's annual operating budget; and plans, allocates and monitors time, staff, equipment and other resources to ensure efficient delivery of quality services. The ideal candidate will be an effective team player and team leader; possess and demonstrate a positive attitude and understanding of group dynamics; set high standards for personal and departmental performance; possess a strong participatory management style which values the contributions and diversity of all employees; and be an excellent communicator. For a complete job profile, visit www.concordnh.gov.


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The Library Board of Trustees seeks applications for the position of **LIBRARY DIRECTOR**, following the retirement of the current Director. **Douglas County Public Library**, Nevada serves a county of 47,000. The County lies in Northern Nevada, bordering California and containing a portion of Lake Tahoe. The Library Director reports to a five-member Board of Trustees. Responsibilities include, among others, the fiscal, personnel, facilities, and operational management of the system. Minimum qualifications and key attributes include a Master's Degree in Library Science or equivalent from an ALA-accredited program. Seven or more years of progressively responsible experience in the library field, including 5 years in a supervisory/management position. Salary range starts at \$74,500 with benefits and compensation negotiable depending upon experience and qualifications. The online application opens April 21, 2014 and will remain open until filled. The first review of applications will begin on June 20, 2014. Submit an online application and attach: a meaningful cover letter; a current resume; and three (3) professional references including address, telephone number and email address for each. The online application is located at <http://agency.governmentjobs.com/douglasconv/default.cfm>. Additional information is available at the Careers page on the Library Website: <http://www.douglascountynv.gov/index.aspx?NID=1021>



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