

P3M maven bids fond 'Do widzenia'

My dad never liked to say good-bye. It seemed too final for him.

So instead he'd say, "Good night," "Be careful" or "Do widzenia," the Polish equivalent for "Until we meet again."

Reflecting on the past 26 years with the Wyoming State Library and nearly 30 in the state system, some thoughts come to mind.

When I started, the State Library and the Archives, Museums and Historical Department shared a director, business office and public information staff. So I worked in the Barrett Building until 1980 when I moved across the street to the Supreme Court/State Library Bldg. Since then, I have only been in two offices.

I have worked for five state librarians, six, when I include Jerry Krois as acting state librarian, and they have all brought a special talent to the job.

While they were here have been many changes: automation, downsizing, automation, expanded outreach, automation, reduced outreach, automation etc.

I have the deepest regard for WSL managers and staff and there are several retirees with whom I still remain in contact – like an extended family.

I am especially proud of the staff I have

had to work with over the years, 17 of them when I count interns and contract employees, starting with Faye Simons in 1977 to Justina Buckles and Scott Axtell. Many of whom went on to bigger and better jobs.

There are a lot of old friends in the field like Sandra, Susan, Isabel, Debbie, Marcia, Lucie, and Patty, and there are plenty of new ones I won't attempt to name.

Changes in the profession have been countless: moving from cutting and pasting to desktop publishing and Web pages; from letters and phone calls to email and faxes.

While cleaning out files, I pitched paste-ups of various publications. For the younger set, it reflects the old technology where we set the type and assembled the pages manually. Or marked the copy and drew "dummy pages" for the printer. Now we use desktop publishing, digital cameras, scanners and electronic transfers, and CDs.

We had small budgets and high standards. Public Programs, Publications and Marketing staffers have won recognition from American Library Association, Wyoming Press Association, Wyoming Media Professionals and National Federation of Press Women. State librarians uniformly supported our training and equipment to keep pace.

We shared concern for protection of the First Amendment and freedom of information.

Some of the highlights for me include editing the Roundup and Outrider for many years, updating the history of WSL, getting the authors database online, WYLD marketing packets and CD-ROM, creating a new structure for the state's annual report and the Wyoming Center for the Book. WCFB programs took me into the realm of Mother Goose and family literacy programs, to the Library of Congress, National Book Festival and a close-to-being published anthology of contemporary Wyoming literary writers.

It's been a great job and it's time to move on. I plan to spend more time with my husband, children and grandchildren; go camping and bicycling this summer with trips to Minnesota, Alaska and Delaware for starters; do some freelance writing; spruce up the house, relax and read.

I can't imagine ever being too far away from books, libraries and literacy.

Thanks for the memories and Do widzenia.

Linn Rounds, Public Programs, Publications and Marketing Manager, retired

Memories of a departing department manager

This story goes back to the 1980s.

Six of us librarians from Cheyenne were returning from a meeting in Lander.

Three people and lots of boxes and luggage in each of two cars. Linn, Sandra Donovan and Carol McMurry were in the lead car departing about 15-30 minutes before the car I was in.

A few miles east of Jeffrey City we spotted a car at the side of the road with three people standing near.

We knew it was Linn and colleagues as we approached the blue state car.

The alternator had gone out and the car died. So we crammed six of us, boxes, and luggage into our sedan and its trunk and drove to Muddy Gap to call the state motor pool, drop the vehicle key with a towing service in Lamont (yes, it existed at the time), and intimately drove the 200 miles to Cheyenne.

I don't think Linn or the rest of us stood straight when we finally got home from that hot summer trip because of the boxes on laps, 'cheek to cheek' closeness and transmission hump on the floor.

Linn, thanks for your wonderful work all these years and best wishes to you.

Jerry Krois
WSL Deputy State Librarian



photo by Jerry Krois

Brenda McGinnis, Lincoln County Library System director, Chris Van Burgh, WSL outreach librarian, stand behind Linn Rounds last year at the State Library.