Karen Lange began as the LCCC library director on July 7.  
“I have always enjoyed working at a community college and this opening provided me the opportunity to return to a community college setting,” Lange said.  
Lange started her library career while a student at Riverton High School. She started at the Riverton Branch Library at a rate of 25 cents per hour.  
“The director at the time said he had never been approached by a high school student who wanted to work in the library, that’s why he only paid me 25 cents per hour,” she said. “While I worked there, I did a little bit of everything from shelving and pulling card sets to creating displays. The director realized I was serious about my job and I was given a raise to $1 per hour. But that was over 30 years ago.”  
After earning her master’s of library science degree from the University of Denver, Lange spent time at Sheridan College, The Denver Research Institute, Arapahoe Community College in Littleton, Colorado and 13 years at the University of Wyoming.  
“I took the job here because I was looking for a change and a new challenge and I felt this position would offer that,” Lange said.  
Lange is looking forward to the challenge of applying her experience in outreach services to help the college focus on distance education.  
Creating a library instruction classroom is one way the library is moving forward to meet another challenge for Lange, and librarians in general. “Particularly, as we have moved into a time when we have the ability to access so much information, I feel that librarians will play an incredibly important role in teaching the students about locating and using our information resources.”  
Starting during the summer has allowed Lange a chance to get to know the layout of the campus and some of the faculty and staff. It has also allowed her a chance to promote the library.  
“Absolutely I have been out doing some selling,” she said. “We want faculty to use our resources and encourage their students to use them as well and for the faculty to invite us to come into their classes and talk about information sources.  
“We want students to know we are here and are happy to work with them,” Lange added. “We want this to be a lively, exciting place to come to. I think you can see it in the library staff. They are very eager to work with and help the patrons who come in.”  

YALSA recognizes “Home Pages” 
Laramie County Library System receives national recognition for young adult program. 

The Laramie County Library System’s young adult book club for homeschoolers, “Home Pages”, was honored by the Young Adult Library Services Association, a division of the American Library Association for the Excellence in Library Services to Young Adults Project.  
The library will receive a cash stipend and be included in the fourth edition of the book “Excellence in Library Service to Young Adults,” set for publication in the spring of 2004.  
Amy Shelley, Youth Services Manager, said “The top winners are usually very large library systems, so this is very exciting. We have submitted programs before but have not been recognized. We’re also not the only Wyoming library to be recognized, Teton County was in the third (©2000) edition of the book.” The library plans to put the $250 award towards young adult programs.  
“Home Pages” was created to offer programming to supplement homeschool curriculums for homeschooled teens to familiarize them with literature outside their normal studies and introduce them to library services and materials.  
The participants meet monthly to discuss the selected book or hold special programs related to the annual theme. “When the homeschooled kids participate in other young adult programs they are usually very reserved. This gives them a peer group, a chance to express their opinions. I’m glad we were able to create a program to serve that niche,” said Shelley.  
Originally, the library’s program was designed for teens, but it has worked so well it has been expanded to K-12. For more information about programs for teens and young adults visit the library’s website, www.lclsonline.org.
Wyoming Inventors Database complete

Wyoming is now one of two states in the country with all of its patents in a searchable database.

The Wyoming Inventors Database contains 4,719 patents issued to persons within the current Wyoming boundaries from 1867 to July 2003. To keep it current the database will be updated monthly.

The first patent on the list belongs to Capt. Anson Mills, a soldier in the 18th Infantry stationed at Fort Bridger, Utah Territory. The patent was issued on Aug. 20, 1867, for an improvement in cartridge belts. Capt. Mills’ patent counts as the first because Fort Bridger is within the current Uinta County boundary.

“I used multiple sources in researching information for the database,” Dawn Rohan, depository librarian said. “While some patents were pretty weird, most generally follow what you would expect from Wyoming; guns and railroad, mining, and horse equipment.”

There is even a patent held by William “Buffalo Bill” Cody for a decorative horse bit.

One of the more peculiar patents was granted in 1904 to Olive Mayes of Evanston for “Cheek-Plumpers.” The patent is for an invention designed to make a person’s facial cheeks look plumper. Mayes is one of at least 60 Wyoming women who have been granted a patent.

One reason for the project is to help the public search for information contained in the patents.

“The United States is unique in the world in that patents are issued to individuals,” Rohan said. “Thus, researchers can use the database to find biographical or genealogical information.”

The database can be searched by name, city and date.

“We may add a subject or title search later, but it will be tricky because the patent office is notoriously obscure with what it calls things,” Rohan said. “For example, a pencil is not called a pencil. It is ‘a coding implement with material supply and an expendable sheath’.”

With the completion of the data entry, Rohan and others can start analyzing the patents.

For example, Rohan is looking at which cities in the state have the most patentees and tracking how the location and patentees change through the years.

The database can be accessed at cowgirl.state.wy.us/inventor.

Cody Welcomes Branch Manager

Joe Ermer is stepping into a newly created position of branch manager for the Cody Library. Previously, one of Arlene Ott’s responsibilities was running the Cody branch library as well as being county library director.

“I’ve been wearing a number of hats for several years,” she said. “The library board wanted to move ahead on plans for capital growth – expansion and growth – to give me more time to focus on planning.”

“I’m just glad to have him on board,” Ott said. “I’ve been gradually turning things over to him as he gets more comfortable with things.

“And I actually have time to work on our needs assessment, which I have been putting off for the past 10 months,” she added.

Ermer started in Cody in June “I’m getting a good taste for the area and I’m learning some of the prospects the area has to offer.”

“This library is very pro-active and I see people reading different things and exploring different interests. It is nice to see the type of use and circulation they have here,” he said. “I was going over the June people-counter figures and I came up with 12,000 people who came through the door. I immediately took it to someone else and had them check the math and it was correct, then I checked the records from the previous month and I saw 10,000 people had come through the door.

“It is good to see good usage of the library.”

Enzi visits branch libraries

Sen. Mike Enzi visits with Carla Hardy, and Joni Harris at the Wamsutter Branch Library during his August 6 visit.

Sweetwater County Library courtesy photo

Sen. Enzi reads at the summer reading program on his August 7 visit to the Big Piney Branch Library

Michele McCann/Sublette Examiner courtesy photo
Thanks to a second two-year Carol McMurry library endowment grant, the State Library was able to hold the Library Leadership Institute again this year, July 21-23 in Lander.

Institute participants are chosen through a competitive application process. Applicants represented public, academic and school libraries. After they were selected, they gathered for two days of interactive exercises designed to help build decision-making, conflict exploration and other leadership skills.

“This was a very energetic and motivated group,” Chris Van Burgh, WSL outreach librarian said. “The first two were so successful and the feedback was so positive that we used the same format for this year’s institute.”

The first full day of the institute, Jep Enck of Enck Resources from Fort Collins, Colo. took the group through some leadership skill building, team building exercises and gave the DISC Personal Profile Inventory, among other activities.

“I have experienced Jep Enck before and I still got something out of his presentation,” Cynthia Riedel, circulation manager, Teton County Public Library said. “I got more than I was expecting from the institute. Anytime you get a chance to see a good presenter a second time, take it. I took away more substance this time than the first time because this time I was able to really sit back and listen, which allowed what he said to get caught on the hooks in my brain this time around.”

The next day saw Missy White, Jim Hutchison and John Kanengieter from the National Outdoor Leadership School work with the group on decision making, leadership style and skills, and conflict awareness, using the Hall Conflict Management Survey.

“In one exercise they got up and physically placed themselves on a continuum depending on their answers to certain questions,” Van Burgh said. “Some people are surprised by how they answer some of the questions.” “They learn about what motivates them, how they respond to conflict and about communication. They also discover that they need folks from other parts of the continuum, other personality types to work successfully. It’s a very dynamic activity.”

Van Burgh continued by saying that the leadership institute also offers informal opportunities for participants to get acquainted. “The dinners both nights really let people mingle and enjoy themselves. While the sessions are on, they are really focused”.

“...The networking was something extra” said Mitzi Gilgorea, school librarian at Lakeview and Stocktrail Elementary Schools in Gillette, “this was a really good time to network and see that people across the state have the same problems, that we are not unique in that respect”.

“When I arrived I was concerned that it was more oriented toward public libraries. I found it was applicable to both school and public libraries. And you don’t necessarily have to be a librarian. You can’t walk away from this and not have learned something” Gilgorea continued.

Encouraging participation by school library staff and opportunities for peer networking were two specific needs identified at the reunion/strategic planning retreat held in March. Another is to offer continual mentoring opportunities. This year, new members of the Wyoming Library Association are encouraged to attend the New Members, New Leaders breakfast and program to meet and mingle with LLI graduates and WLA members to explore leadership and mentoring opportunities.

Suzanne Morlock, Teton County reference supervisor concluded, “I’m grateful the Wyoming State Library recognizes the need to grow leaders from within the state and provides this kind of training.”

For more information on the Library Leadership Institute visit, http://www-wsl.state.wy.us/training/wlli.html
Library community team earns silver, bronze

“This was our best fundraising year yet,” team co-captain Erin Kinney said. Using various tactics, the squad raised more than $1,600 for the American Cancer Society, which earned them a bronze team award for fundraising.

But it was the tailgate gourmet competition where the WSL team really stood out. “The Wyoming Library Community team has raised money to help fight against cancer, a cause so important to us, and along the way we have made quite a reputation for ourselves as great cooks,” explained Chris Van Burgh, team co-captain.

In keeping with their Australian theme, the librarians whipped up a “right-bonzer” feast including lamingtons, snags (Aussie sausages), damper bread, wheatabix cookies, ANZAC biscuits, shrimp-a-roo salad, Ayers’ Rock ribs, Coonawarra tomato tart, Dundee sweet potatoes and to complete the Aussie feast, Shrimp on the Barbie, with lime and dill butter.

“It was a chore trying to set the tent up in the wind before the relay started. We didn’t get it up until after 8 p.m, but thankfully it didn’t really pick up until just after the judges came to our table,” Kinney added. This year’s squad took second in the Tailgate Gourmet category, making it the fourth year placing out of four years participating.

In the Relay for Life, the team must be represented on the track for 24 hours. The members of this year’s team making sure that happened — Dawn Rohan, Shelia Russell, Erin Kinney, Sandra Donovan, Crys Stratton, Debbie Buchmeier, Marc Stratton, Scott Kinney, Chris Van Burgh, Justina Buckles, Cathy Moody, Jill Rourke, and Ben, Natalie and Des Saunders.