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State Librarian Chosen as Librarian of the Year

Doris Ott, State Librarian of North Dakota, was recently chosen as the 2010 Librarian of the Year at the North Dakota Library Association (NDLA) annual conference. Every year since 1992, NDLA has given one North Dakota librarian this award. According to NDLA, the award is "given to an NDLA member who has made notable contributions to the North Dakota library profession, has furthered significant development of libraries in North Dakota, or has performed exemplary statewide service for an extended period of time."

Mrs. Ott is a native of Carson, North Dakota. She graduated from Dickinson State University and earned her Master of Library Science degree from George Peabody College (now Vanderbilt University) in Nashville, Tennessee. She started her professional librarian career as the Assistant Professor of Library Science at Dickinson State University. Mrs. Ott was the first librarian at Magic City Campus in Minot and held positions at a school library and a public library in Indiana prior to returning to North Dakota in 1986. Mrs. Ott came to the State Library in 1986 and has held various positions at the State Library. She was appointed by State Superintendent Sanstead to be State Librarian in 2002.

Dr. Sanstead lists professional accomplishments to her credit as State Librarian:

- Creating a Master of Library Science scholarship program for North Dakotans of which thirty-four persons have been recipients
- Developing a program that added sixty North Dakota libraries to WorldCat (a worldwide library catalog)
- Supervising the operation of North Dakota Talking Books since 1995
- Serving as an active member of committees that developed the long-range plan for North Dakota libraries
- Providing computers to public libraries through a partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- Serving in a leadership role in creating the unique interlibrary loan system that exists in North Dakota

A highlight of Mrs. Ott's career as the State Librarian was an invitation to the White House from President and Mrs. Bush to attend the one-hundred and fiftieth birthday celebration of Theodore Roosevelt's birth. The event was held at the White House on Monday, October 27, 2008.