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## **Building Libraries, Building Community: A Summit on the Role of Public Libraries in Re-creating Community on the Gulf Coast**

November 28-30, 2006, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Libraries are assets to their communities and critical resources for positive, sustainable community growth. Rebuilt libraries, planned with the involvement of the communities they serve, will support and serve recovery of the Gulf Coast region. The goal of this summit is to provide a framework and context for planning library buildings and services in communities where they were damaged and destroyed.

- Sessions begin at 1 pm on November 28 and include dinner.
- Sessions on November 29 begin at 9 am and end at 5 pm.
- Sessions on November 30 begin at 9 am and conclude after lunch at 1 pm.

The Summit begins on Tuesday afternoon, November 28, with presentations discussing **“Libraries Transforming Communities, Communities Transforming Libraries.”** Presentations will explore the role of the public library in creating community, including how it functions as an economic, educational, and social asset. Speakers include:

- Fred Kent from the Project for Public Spaces on the library as an inviting public space,
- John Bertot from Florida State University on the role of public libraries in economic growth, and
- Dr. Eugenie Prime on libraries as leaders of change and recovery.

On Wednesday, November 29, the focus is on **“Public Libraries of Today and Tomorrow.”** Presentations will look at trends impacting public libraries, future public library roles and services, statewide recovery initiatives in Louisiana and Mississippi. Speakers include:

- Diantha Schull from the Americans for Libraries Council on perception and use of public libraries,
- Steve Cisler on technology trends and their impact on public libraries,
- Loren Scott from Louisiana State University on demographic and economic trends in Mississippi and Louisiana,
- Leslie Burger (American Library Association and Princeton Public Library) and Pamela Pridgen (Library of Hattiesburg) on the future of public libraries,
- Raymond Santiago from the Miami-Dade Public Library on that system’s experience in providing services and rebuilding after hurricanes, and
- Andy Kopplin of the Louisiana Recovery Authority and Leland Speed of the Mississippi Development Authority, on statewide recovery initiatives.

Thursday’s session, November 30, focuses on **“The Engaged Library,”** applying asset-based community development principles and tools to planning and building libraries. Participants will leave the Summit with identified activities for community involvement and feedback, in preparation for state workshops in February 2007 (also sponsored by the Gulf Coast Libraries Project) on developing library building programs.