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West Virginia Book Festival

In partnership with the Kanawha County Library system and Charleston Newspapers, the Humanities Council again sponsored the *West Virginia Book Festival*. More than thirty authors from around the country participated in workshops, readings, signings, panel discussions, and presentations. A publisher's fair featured many state and regional book sellers, and special activities for children were held throughout the two-day festival.



People & Mountains

The Humanities Council produces *People & Mountains* magazine quarterly and distributes it to over 8,000 households across West Virginia. The magazine features articles on humanities topics, as well as highlighting the Council's work throughout the state.

Programming Partnerships

The Humanities Council partners with a number of groups. The Council is an active participant in the *Southern Humanities Media Fund*, which provides grants for media projects with Southern themes. The Council's work with the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) has resulted in museum exhibits on humanities topics circulating to libraries and communities around the state. Partnering with the West Virginia Library Commission, the Council supported the Center for the Book in West Virginia again in 2002, which helped fund an essay contest on literature for students in fourth through twelfth grades. Collaboration with the Education Alliance resulted in fifty minigrants to classroom teachers in twenty-nine counties totaling \$14,540.

The Council was also a partner in the first Snowshoe Institute, week-long educational activities styled after those held annually at Lake Chautauqua, New York.

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The West Virginia Encyclopedia

The West Virginia Humanities Council's encyclopedia project logged five years at the end of fiscal year 2002. The large format, 1,000-page reference work, the largest undertaking to date for the Council, will bring together the work of more than 600 writers, mostly West Virginians.

When the *West Virginia Encyclopedia* is published next year it will feature 2,200 individual entries on a wide variety of West Virginia topics, with an index and other supporting material. Most entries are cross-referenced and many include bibliographic citations to direct the reader to additional reading. Each article is designed as a portal to further information, according to editor Ken Sullivan. "Readers may enter at any point and travel in any direction as they pursue knowledge," he says.

During 2002, editorial work continued on the big A to Z manuscript, which now includes nearly 2,000 completed topics, and sidebar material and illustrations were developed. At year's end about 300 manuscript pages were shipped to book designer Rich Hendel, who designed the *Encyclopedia of Southern Culture* and other reference works. Hendel will turn the raw material into sample layout pages.

With writing and research largely done and final editing well underway, the staff looks forward to publication of the *Encyclopedia*. Following print publication, an online version is planned. At the end of fiscal year 2002, the Humanities Council had invested a total of nearly \$408,000 in the *West Virginia Encyclopedia*. Funds continue to be sought for both the print and online versions.