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For Immediate Release

New Library Databases Offer History at Your Fingertips

Rapid City, SD – January 7, 2009 – Take a visitor touring through the Black Hills and it won't be long before the history of the area takes center stage in the conversation. If you've always wanted to expand your historical knowledge but have not had the opportunity, then two new history databases from the Rapid City Public Library may be just what you need.

The library's first new database is **American Indian History Online**: the premier source for Native American history with access to over 15,000 years of culture and history of indigenous peoples covering both North and South America. Anyone with a current RCPL library card can access this database to find out more about Native American culture, events, traditions, tribes, leaders, legends, and history. The database features rare primary sources including treaties, charts and photos along with written information, maps, timelines, images and video.

Find American Indian History Online at the library website's Resources page (http://www.rapidcitylibrary.org/services/resource_index.asp) under General Reference Resources. The database offers user-friendly tools for searching or browsing. The Tribe or Culture segments feature helpful tabbed lists of over 600 Native American groups, or you can simply browse by region.

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The library also debuts a new online biography database. **Biography Resource Center** is a one-stop resource for biographies on notable figures in literature, science, politics, history, government, business, art, multicultural studies, religion, entertainment, and world culture. If there's a historical figure or current celebrity who intrigues you, from Macedonia's Alexander the Great to Guns N Roses frontman Axl Rose, you'll find accurate and trusted information from respected sources. There are 435,000 full-text biographies on over 340,000 individuals from all around the world. Other great features include research guides, updates on people in the news, more than 27,000 images, plus links to 19,000 websites that provide additional content and context on an individual's life and works. The Lives and Perspectives Collection is a seamless part of the Biography Resource Center offering more than 160,000 in-depth biographies.

Regularly updated to expand existing information and add new biographies, the Biography Resource Center is a superb research tool for students. Find it online at the library website's Resources page (http://www.rapidcitylibrary.org/services/resource_index.asp) under resources for Students Grade 6-College.

There's a whole world of information available online from the Rapid City Public Library. Find business and financial information, download legal forms, get automotive and small engine repair help, take practice tests - and much more!

Find out more about library resources and events by visiting the Rapid City Public Library website at www.rapidcitylibrary.org.

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The Rapid City Public Library has served the Rapid City area since 1879, and now has two locations, the downtown library at 610 Quincy Street and the north library within General Beadle Elementary School at 10 Van Buren St. Both offer print and electronic resources for adults, young adults and children as well as computers and Internet access and a variety of programs and events. In March 2008, USA Today named the Rapid City Public Library's downtown library as one of the nation's 10 greatest places to "Find a Nook and Read a Book."

Find video footage of RCPL events at: <http://www.youtube.com/user/rapidcitylibrary>
Find photos of RCPL events at: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/rcpl/>