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**For Immediate Release**

## **Library Websites Encourage Grassroots Engagement**

**Rapid City, S.D. – May 27, 2010** –As many memories of the Black Hills are fading, the Rapid City Public Library continues to recognize and identify important local records pertaining to the history of the Black Hills region and store them digitally in the Black Hills Knowledge Network.

The Black Hills Knowledge Network expands the Rapid City Public Library’s role in the community by identifying events that have left a lasting and important mark upon the Black Hills as well as serving as a clearinghouse of current topics. Information is presented to the public in a manner that accommodates ease of research and reflects local need.

“Large search engines fail at this task and we are picking up on the need,” said library director Greta Chapman. “In the Google Age, individuals are able to browse hundreds of links to major events that are occurring globally while the information that is often most needed—the local information—is lost.”

This movement, led by the Rapid City Public Library aims to collect local memories into one central gateway where citizens of the Black Hills can experience information that educates, inspires and enriches while encouraging community participation and input. In a form similar to the RCPL Flood Wiki, the Black Hills Knowledge Network will allow members of the community to join and share their own information, photographs, manuscripts and maps to

shed light onto our own shared history. By doing this we are able to see our community archives grow and expand with the community rather than remain stagnant.

You can access the Black Hills Knowledge Network at [www.knowledgenetwork.wikidot.com](http://www.knowledgenetwork.wikidot.com) and the Flood Wiki at [www.rcflood.wikispaces.com](http://www.rcflood.wikispaces.com) where you can share stories, experiences and reflections of an event that shaped the region for generations to come. You can also view interviews and sign up for an interview at the Rapid City Public Library's flood website. To visit the flood website go to [www.rapidcitylibrary.org](http://www.rapidcitylibrary.org) and click on [1972 Flood](#).

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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/>*