

## Thoughts from the State Librarian

by Christie Brandau, State Librarian

For the third time in three years, Governor Kathleen Sebelius recommended funding to enhance library services in Kansas. She used the State of the State address on January 14 to formally submit her budget recommendations for FY2009 to the Kansas Legislature. In her recommendations, the Governor proposed nearly \$311,000 in funding for programs to benefit Kansas libraries: \$250,000 to establish a statewide delivery system for library materials, and \$60,864 to create the position of Statewide Youth Services Librarian. These recommended budget enhancements acknowledge the importance of libraries and library service to children.



In addition to the Governor's recommendations, the State Library is also requesting funding from the legislature for a statewide career and education test preparation database (\$200,000), digitization of special newspaper files held by the State Library (\$70,000) and continuation of the funding for promotion of Talking Books (\$76,500).

We are thankful for the support of Governor Sebelius and members of the Kansas Legislature as we work to enhance library service in Kansas. For FY2008, the State Library received **\$175,437** in new dollars for the promotion of:

Talking Books (\$75,500)  
Newsline (\$29,000) and  
Position of State Data Center Coordinator (\$70,937).

In FY2007, we received **\$340,000** in new funding for:

HomeworkKansas (\$265,000) and  
Talking Books Service (\$75,000).

With these new programs we have been able to provide more service to our customers... which is what we're all about!

Happy Valentine's Day!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christie Brandau". The ink is dark and the signature is written in a fluid, personal style.

P.S. -- a little valentine of a quote from the late Kurt Vonnegut:

**"...so the America I loved still exists, if not in the White House or the Supreme Court or the Senate or the House of Representatives or the media. The America I love still exists at the front desks of our public libraries."**

