

## Thoughts from the State Librarian

by Christie Brandau, State Librarian

Dear Colleagues:

National Public Radio recently did a series called “the long view,” which consisted of conversations with people of significant experience reflecting on the past and looking ahead to the future. I think it’s always important to stop and take a look at where we’ve been and where we’re going. At the State Library, we initiated some things in 2005 that are worth a “long view”:

- *Kansas Center for the Book* - We unveiled KCFB at the State Library of Kansas in May, and it shot off like a rocket! Look for projects in 2006 that include a Kansas Book Festival, a Kansas Notable Books project and a Kansas Authors Dinner at Triconference.
- *Kansas Virtual Library (KVL)* - We initiated a statewide cooperative project with Kansas libraries and Overdrive that will provide downloadable audio books. This project will be part of the KVL and expand the online library resources for Kansans.
- *Changes to the Kansas Library Card* - the Kansas Library Card will be easier to obtain in 2006. Soon, users will be able to register themselves for a card while they’re online, with a 30-day window of time to visit a library or school to validate the account. There will be a longer renewal period and users will be able to renew their cards online.
- *Report on Continuing Education for Kansas Librarians and Trustees* - This project began with the library community identifying training needs and led to eleven recommendations for future CE. In 2006, look for the development of core competencies for librarians and trustees, and a reconfiguration of statewide training for library administrators.
- *Kansas Reads to Preschoolers 2006* – builds on the huge success of the program in 2005. We’re already working on the “One Book, One State” for preschoolers project for October of this year.
- *Statewide Resource Sharing* - this project started with a summit last summer. Now resource sharing task forces are working on database offerings, a “one stop shopping” portal, delivery and enhanced interlibrary loan.
- *LSTA Library Automation Project* - In order to enhance library resource sharing, we need to have as many Kansas libraries as possible automated and their collections available on the web. Working with the Regional Systems, we hope to have a first wave of automation project started in 2006.



We have an aggressive agenda for enhancement of library service in Kansas, but it is doable! And the "long view," in my opinion, leads to stronger libraries and more access to information for Kansans of all ages.

Happy New Year!

*Christie Brandau*