

Building a Sustainable Future

by Cindi Hickey, WebJunction Coordinator, State Library of Kansas

The Rural Library Sustainability Project (RLS), funded through a grant by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, is a collaborative effort of WebJunction and the State Library of Kansas. The aim of the project is to provide training to librarians and staff members serving rural and small communities that will help them develop a plan for sustaining public access computing. The training will include continuing support for participants through discussion forums and other activities.

Public access computing provides library users with access to rich information resources including statewide research databases, links to business and economic development support and connections to family and colleagues across the globe. The RLS program is exciting because of its potential to empower library staff to initiate strategies within their communities that will assist them in sustaining their public access computing through planning and problem solving and will introduce them to WebJunction resources that can provide continuing support and networking opportunities.

Working towards a target participation rate of 269 Kansas libraries, the State Library of Kansas will launch this project at Tri-Conference 2006 with a preconference entitled “Building a Sustainable Future” to be held Tuesday, April 4, 2006, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Century II, 209A. There is no fee for the preconference and lunch will be included at no charge. Mileage reimbursement will also be available. You can register for the preconference by selecting it on your Tri-Conference registration form or by contacting Cindi Hickey at [Cindi Hickey](#). One more benefit is the chance to win a free trip to ALA’s Annual Conference.

Trainers for this event will be Brenda Hough, Technology Consultant for the Northeast Kansas Library System and Cindi Hickey representing the State Library. Hough and Hickey will be trained by WebJunction. They will also lead additional training sessions for the Kansas regional library systems.

Sidebar:

Register now for “Building a Sustainable Future,” a preconference for Tri-Conference 2006. This program will launch WebJunction’s Rural Library Sustainability Project in Kansas. The day-long workshop will be held Tuesday, April 4, 2006, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Century II, 209A in Wichita, Kansas.

No Registration Fee – Free Lunch – Mileage Reimbursement – A Chance to Win a Trip to ALA’s Annual Conference.

Contact Cindi Hickey at [Cindi Hickey](#) with questions or to register.