

Second Reaching for Excellence Program Will Cover Issues in Library Technology

by Shannon Roy, Continuing Education Coordinator

The first Reaching for Excellence Administrative Training Program was on public library administration in June. It was very successful, partly because of the talented training team from Wichita, and partly because of the lively classmates. The State Library staff has also been busy planning the second Reaching for Excellence Administrative Training Program, which will be on Issues in Library Technology. This program will be on Thursday, October 23, and Friday, October 24.

It will be especially exciting because it will be the first use of the high-definition video-conferencing network called ELMER (Enhanced Library Meeting Rooms) for a librarian training program. The ELMER locations will be at the Northeast System, Salina Public and Lane County in Dighton. The locations for the presenters will be announced later.

The participants will be free to choose their preferred location and to attend both days for 10 contact hours of re-certification credit or to attend either day for 5 contact hours of re-certification credit. Classmates who have not joined the Certification Program for Kansas Public Library Administrators will be encouraged to participate. The workshop charge will be \$25.00 for one day and \$50.00 for both days.

Jessamyn West is coming from Vermont to be our guest for this program. She will speak on the development of 2.0 library services. Jessamyn has presented to Kansans on this topic but the current issues are always changing. Jessamyn has been described as a library consultant, a blogger, an opinion maker, a mover and shaker and a free spirit. Although a keynote presenter, Jessamyn is not a morning person and will be presenting on the afternoon of October 23.



Kathy Rippel is in charge of the workshop on "Technical Services" that will be presented Wednesday morning. This workshop will cover good procedures for acquisition, processing and tracking materials, high quality catalog maintenance and connecting technical services with reference work for better library service.



Kathy Rippel currently heads the Resource Access and Sharing Department for the Central Kansas Library System in Great Bend. This department handles cataloging, acquisitions and interlibrary loan. Kathy also manages Pathfinder Central, a union catalog of 31 CKLS libraries. Through working public and technical services in many types of libraries, Kathy has developed philosophies for connecting technical services with reference

work.

On Friday, October 24, the talented Automation and Technology Consultants from the South Central System will teach a workshop on current topics in library technology. Larry Papenfuss and Sharon Barnes have worked closely with South Central libraries to foster technology development and have been presenters at a number of programs.

Larry Papenfuss, Automation & Technology Coordinator for the South Central Kansas Library System, oversees all facets of technology services provided to South Central libraries. In addition, he manages the networks, computer, wireless and video-conferencing technology of the regional system office/training center. His job at SCKLS has grown exponentially since he was hired in 1998 and he revels in embracing technologies and issues which were never conceived of at that time. His vision and persistence are qualities that have proven beneficial to libraries throughout the region. In a 2006 survey of SCKLS member libraries, 94% of respondents rated services as excellent. Larry counterbalances the stress of serious “keeping up” by maintaining a fish aquarium in his office and with occasional inventive pranks on previously unsuspecting coworkers and associates.

Sharon Barnes is the Automation & Technology Consultant for the South Central Kansas Library System. She has participated in the transition of libraries from paper-based and hand-counted processes to the current level of technology, and has a broad understanding of the issues librarians face. Her participation in that technology was not totally voluntary at the beginning, so she can empathize with those who approach the subject without much enthusiasm. Sharon has helped hundreds of librarians see how today’s ever-changing capabilities can enrich their daily lives and help them be more productive, even if these technologies are not always trouble-free. Member librarians know her love of lifelong learning is contagious, and often learn as much from her about rabbit-raising, knitting and genealogy as they do about technology.

The topics they will cover will include hardware infrastructure, software, technology management, planning and budgeting and tools for library websites, social networking, collection management and web searching.

The registration form for this program will be posted to Kanlib-I in early July. Any librarian is welcome to send a placeholder for either day or for the entire program to shanroy@kslib.info.