Thoughts from the State Librarian

by Christie Brandau, State Librarian

What are you reading this summer? August seems like a good time to relax a bit and read something fun. I've just read *The Friday Night Knitting Club* by Kate Jacobs, and my husband, John, just finished *Plainsong* by Kent Haruf. The book club I belong to (The Page Turners!), discussed *Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen in June, and *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson in July. We're scheduled to read *The Shack* by William Young in the fall, and I'm looking forward to it.

Of course it's not just those of us who work in libraries who enjoy sharing book suggestions, and that's why I'm excited about the new database that will be available statewide this month through the State Library of Kansas. NoveList is an electronic readers' advisory resource that helps fiction readers find new authors and titles. It has search techniques that allow readers to look for books by entering descriptive terms that appear in subject headings, reviews, and other fields in the title records. Besides locating books to read, users can learn more about books and authors through Feature Articles, Book Discussion Guides, and BookTalks. These features offer support for librarians, teachers, and individual readers. It even has a "For Staff Only" section that provides additional support for readers' advisory and school curricula.

So check out NoveList at http://ksuc-agent.auto-graphics.com/homepages/customerwide/ValidateGlobalIP.asp?cuid=ksuc&lid=kw9&stfftype=Z&defaultlang=english&qmisc=&mode=R and let your patrons know that it is now available. And have a happy reading summer!

Christie

P.S. See you at the road show meetings in the next few weeks!