

Three Systems Have Received Automation Grants

by Jeff Hixon, Deputy Director, Statewide Resource Sharing

The State Library of Kansas would like to increase the percentage of automated public libraries in Kansas from 50% to 80%. The State Library has initiated a three-year program of LSTA grants to regional systems that will be designed to assist libraries in meeting the costs of library automation. The statewide automation project is one part of a larger vision of information access that will be designed to offer "one-stop shopping" for Kansas library users who need sophisticated access to information.

LSTA Project Proposal Guidelines were sent in the early spring of 2006. These guidelines requested grant applications to automate libraries that are not presently automated or to migrate other libraries to the selected system. System staff from all of the regional library systems took a keen interest in this project and conferred actively with staff at the State Library of Kansas, as well as their own technology consultants. All seven systems are interested in participating in the project at some point.

As of early June three proposals have been received and fully funded.

North Central Kansas Libraries System, Manhattan, will receive \$24,225 to automate catalogs at three libraries presently using a card catalog, convert one library to a newer product, provide training, and facilitate retrospective conversion projects at two others.

South Central Kansas Library System, South Hutchinson, will receive \$101,759 to automate catalogs at twelve libraries presently using a card catalog, convert two libraries to a newer product (Sagebrush InfoCentre), and provide training.

Northeast Kansas Library System, Lawrence, will receive \$27,935 to automate one library presently using a card catalog, and convert two libraries to a newer product, and provide training.