

Kan-safe Promotes Internet Safety

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With the passage of the *Children's Internet Protection Act* (CIPA) in 2001, the South Central Kansas Library System (SCKLS) brainstormed new methods to disseminate information regarding Internet safety. In 2003, after presenting several Internet safety and policy workshops, SCKLS developed **Kan-safe**, Kansas Internet Safety and Filtering Exploration (<http://kan-safe.info>). Kan-safe is a clearinghouse for Internet safety information applicable to Kansas librarians, educators and their respective boards.

Content on the site provides unbiased viewpoints regarding Internet safety and offers a variety of site choices to explore. SCKLS believes that Internet safety and filtering decisions should be made by each individual library and/or school district, while complying with applicable state and federal laws.

The greatest impact Kan-safe makes is through continuing education. To date SCKLS has conducted three live and Kan-ed Live broadcast events about Internet safety. On October 5, 2004, SCKLS debuted Kan-safe at Wichita State University's Lowe Auditorium at the Eugene M. Hughes Metropolitan Complex. Through a Kan-ed Content Grant, SCKLS hosted featured speaker Parry Aftab, Executive Director of WiredSafety, and special guest, *Marvel Comic's* Spider-Man. Aftab and Spider-Man successfully engaged the audience of fourth graders from across south central Kansas in a series of discussions and scenarios on Internet safety.

Other notable CE events have been presentations from ICAC (Internet Crimes Against Children) Task Force Detectives Jennifer Wright of the Wichita Police Department and Tom Prunier of the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office, as well as Dr. Ken Brown, the former Buhler U.S.D. 313 Technology Coordinator, who presented his findings from his doctoral dissertation, *The Internet Filtering Dilemma: A Qualitative Analysis of the Beliefs, Themes and Patterns Associated with Internet Filtering in Kansas K-12 Schools*.

Using a 2005 LSTA grant, SCKLS contracted with Parry Aftab to write *Kids Online in Schools: Risk Management & the Law* for use on Kan-safe. This guide has been downloaded 239 times since going online November 9, 2005. In addition, the section of Kansas public library and Kansas school district Internet policies at the Kan-safe site has been frequently visited. The section, which is organized by size of service and student populations, provides librarians and educators with samples of working Internet use policies.

State and Federal laws that impact Internet use are also part of Kan-safe. While this section is not complete, it does offer immediate access to various laws that affect many libraries and schools. Finally, there are linking pages. These are jumping points for the user who is seeking information on Internet filters, Internet safety sites, kid's web browser programs and kids Internet search engines. Each of these areas provides an alphabetical listing of sites and products along with a brief annotation taken directly from the linked site.

A section is currently being developed that will host “talking points” regarding Internet safety. The future of Kan-safe is now dependent upon the end user and SCKLS welcomes your help in further defining and shaping Kan-safe into a continuingly valuable resource. In 2006 Kan-safe has had 4,315 unique visitors, who in turn visited 16,095 pages of content. Malcolm S. Forbes once stated, “Education's purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one,” and to this end SCKLS will continue to adjust and modify Kan-safe in order to reach our goal of continuing Internet safety education.