

KLAS System Provides New Services to Talking Book Users

by Toni Harrell, Director, Kansas Talking Books

In the closing months of 2006, Talking Book service centers in Emporia, Manhattan, Topeka, and Norton migrated to KLAS, an automated library system by Keystone. Plans are underway to complete the migration as the Wichita and Great Bend service centers implement the program in the coming months.

The KLAS system allows for resource sharing among the six service centers. Seamless resource sharing provides patrons ready access to titles that may not be located on the shelf in their local service center. Another added service feature that KLAS provides is an accessible WebOPAC. The Talking Book collection in Kansas may be searched at <http://klas.com/kstb>. The site is public and can be used by caregivers and interested parties to check on availability of titles. Registered patrons may log in and place requests and reserves, check on account status, submit change of address or changes to their "reading preferences" and monitor items shipped to them whenever they wish, 24/7. Up to three rush items may be submitted each day, helping to get the necessary books to the patrons as soon as possible. In these early months patrons have submitted more than 1,400 requests through the website.

Kansas Talking Book Patrons have been delighted with the wider access to materials and the convenience of using the new services provided by the KLAS system.