

## **Cindi Hickey Receives Award at MPLA Joint Conference in Albuquerque**

by Patti Butcher, Director of Statewide Resource Sharing

Cindi Hickey, Continuing Education Librarian and WebJunction Kansas Coordinator at the State Library of Kansas, was presented with the 2007 Mountain Plains Library Association (MPLA) Intellectual Freedom Award during their recent joint conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

During 2004 and 2005, Cindi led a task force that was charged by the president of the Kansas Library Association to develop a website and resources to meet the needs of Kansas libraries and librarians. Ms. Hickey and the task force developed the first online edition of the KLA Intellectual Freedom Handbook. This required numerous hours of research, writing, development, gathering of feedback, and evaluation. While members of the task force contributed their expertise and assistance, Ms. Hickey was the key to the ultimate success of the website.



***Cindi Hickey Receives Intellectual Freedom Award from Sharon Osenga***

Since its debut in 2005, the website has proven to be a valuable tool for librarians and trustees not only in Kansas, but across the country. Usage statistics and comments from users indicate that it continues to be a valuable tool for library professionals. Through Ms. Hickey's leadership and commitment, the Kansas Library Association boasts a shining example of Intellectual Freedom, accessible to all Kansas libraries and the larger library community.

Upon receiving the award during an awards banquet, Hickey thanked MPLA for honoring her, but stated that she was receiving the award "on behalf of the members of the task force: Laura Loveless, Kansas City Kansas Library; Susan Taylor, McPherson College Library; Carol Barta, North Central Kansas Library System; Anne Liebst, Washburn University Library; Kathleen O'Leary, Olathe Public Library; and Rod Inman, Topeka and Shawnee County Library."

Hickey received her MLS from the School of Library and Information Management at Emporia State University. She served as the coordinator for the Institute for Continuous Education at SLIM and has served as an independent consultant for a number of state libraries and public libraries. She was previously recognized as a *Library Journal* "Mover & Shaker" in 2005.