

# Kansas Libraries

Official Newsletter of the Kansas State Library

April 2000

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## Fire in Bucklin

—by Rosanne Goble, SWKLS  
Director

[Editor's note: on Saturday, March 18, a building adjacent to the Bucklin Public Library caught fire. The fire was put out, but the library suffered smoke and water damage. Southwest Kansas Library System director Rosanne Goble provided the following comments.]

Regional system staff learned three valuable lessons while assisting after the Bucklin Public Library fire:

The most fundamental issue was that the library had good insurance coverage. Nearly 10 years ago, the library negotiated a local agreement

with the city that clearly stated who would be responsible for what areas of upkeep to the building. The insurance coverage was based on this agreement and both agencies acquired excellent coverage for the portions of the building

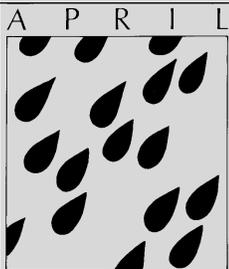
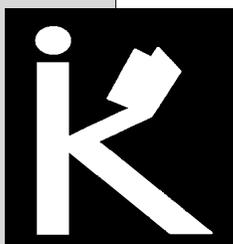
they were responsible for. Last fall the policy was reviewed and additional coverage was obtained. As a result, the extent of the damage, both structurally and from smoke and water, will be covered.

The second lesson learned was to hire a professional fire restoration company. If you do not know who offers these services locally or regionally, find out now. With smoke and water damage, it is important to begin the process immediately. Library board chair Robert Austin,

himself a volunteer fireman, was on the scene immediately in the early morning hours, and was able to make the decision about who to call literally as the fire was happening. There was a thin black sticky film all over *everything* in the library. When we arrived the Monday morning after the fire, the restoration company out of Garden City had already taken special precautions so the books would not be cross-contaminated because of other restoration taking place in other areas of the building.

Lesson three is to be sure to request board appointments and elect officers who take their leadership roles very seriously. Robert Austin's leadership from the beginning of the event was outstanding, as it has been on several occasions in the past. A disaster is no time to be dealing with a dysfunctional board, and a disaster can happen at any time. The Bucklin Library Board of Trustees held a special meeting on Monday night. In the midst of some difficult decisions, the board also explored how to continue services on an outreach basis even though they had to make the decision to close the library until further notice.

Status of the library as of March 27, 2000, one week after the fire: All books and computers will be taken to the restoration company's warehouse in Garden City where they can be put through ozone chambers. Significant smoke damage occurred on the floor above the library, and until this area and the water damage in the basement is dealt with, no structural restoration and smoke damage repair can take place in the library. A new ceiling and ceiling fans will be needed, and a new carpet will be installed. Smoke damage to furniture will be taken care of by special cleaning methods and materials used by the company. It is hoped there will be a grand reopening in two to three weeks, a celebration for all that have pulled together during this unfortunate event. I suspect most of the community will be there, as it is a library that has enjoyed community support throughout the years.



## **Ernie Voss Scholarship Fund needs replenishing**

—by Shannon Roy, Library Development

When Ernestine Voss left her position as Library Development Officer at the Kansas State Library in 1992, the KPLACE alumni founded a KPLACE Scholarship Fund at ESU in her honor. They knew that Ernie was one of the founders of KPLACE and had been largely responsible for its success, not only through her hard work but through her wonderfully positive attitude.

Since then, the Ernie Voss Scholarship Fund has helped library staff members attend the KPLACE Institute when they had no other agency to pay for it. The use of the scholarship funds was slowed dramatically by the growth of system scholarships. But eight years after the scholarship was established, the funds are gone.

The Kansas State Library and the ESU School of Library and Information Management are working together to put some money back into the Ernie Voss Scholarship Fund. But in the past, the fund was built through small contributions from the KPLACERs and their directors. KPLACE has many supporters across the state that have contributed in many ways to the success of the Institute. It has remained very cost-effective because of the number of people who have contributed expertise, time, travel and financial support.

If you would like to make a contribution to the Ernie Voss Scholarship Fund, make your check payable to Emporia State University and send it to: Shannon Roy, Kansas State Library, 300 SW 10th Avenue, Topeka, 66612-1593. If you need information about the KPLACE Institute, send your request to the same address or send e-mail to [shanroy@ink.org](mailto:shanroy@ink.org) and we will be glad to send you material on the program.



## **KPLACE Fall 2000 Conference set for Wichita**

South Central Kansas Library System and the KPLACE Roundtable will host a two-day Fall Conference on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 19-20, 2000 at the Spiritual Life Center, 7100 East 45th Street North, Wichita. Registration cost for the conference is \$40 and includes a Wednesday morning continental breakfast. The Tuesday evening meal and any other meals are the responsibility of participants.

The conference will feature presentations by SCKLS Automation Consultant Sharon Barnes, who will demonstrate computer applications for small and medium-sized public libraries; Kate Mutch, Andover Public Library Director ("Soliciting for Your Library: Tips for Selling Your Library Instead of Yourself"); WSU's Curator of Special Collections Mike Kelly's discussion of rare books ("Value is in the Eye of the Beholder"); Kathleen Rager, WSU in a discussion of memory skills ("Maximizing Your Brain Power"); and Dr. Chuck Smith, Kansas State Extension Service, Manhattan, who will speak on listening and communication skills. Chartered bus and auto tours of points of interest in and around Wichita are also planned.

The conference center is the modern Spiritual Life Center, a religious retreat in north Wichita. The center has plenty of parking and modern meeting rooms. Overnight accommodations are available at the Spiritual Life Center or area motels.

Complete registration information will be available in June and mailed to all KPLACE Roundtable members. If you are not a KPLACE Roundtable member, e-mail Karen Socha, Coordinator, KPLACE 2000 Fall Conference at [ksocha@hplsck.org](mailto:ksocha@hplsck.org) to place your name on the conference registration mailing list. For further information contact Karen at SCKLS, 901 North Main, Hutchinson, KS 67501, 800-234-0529, Ext. 129 or via her e-mail address above.

### **An invitation**

Do you have news items of interest to other librarians? An especially successful program or grant project, for instance? Let us know so that we can tell your colleagues in *Kansas Libraries*.

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# Catalyst

—by *Eric Hansen*  
*Executive Director*  
*Kansas Library Network Board*

The FirstSearch/Infotrac Web hands-on workshop I attended at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library on March 2 was a valuable exercise in how to teach the use of selected online databases effectively (see photo opposite). The workshop was sponsored by NEKLS, and was among those taught statewide by Janet Anderson-Story, who did a splendid job of explaining how to search the databases effectively.

I attended "Web-wise: A Conference on Libraries and Museums in the Digital World," at the Renaissance Hotel in Washington, D.C. March 15-17, 2000. Sponsored by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the University of Missouri-Columbia, the agenda was given over mostly to grantees and the good work they've done, are doing, or will do with funds given them by the IMLS. Some of the more interesting projects included the digitization of Hawaiian-language newspapers, of the Hoagy Carmichael collection at the University of Indiana-Bloomington, and the development of a juvenile web interface using software called KidPad at the University of Maryland. Remarks by Clifford Lynch of the Coalition for Networked Information, Rick Weingarten, Director of the ALA Office of Information Technology Policy, and Don Waters, Director of the Mellon Foundation provided some thought-provoking perspectives about digital libraries.

I'm very pleased to announce that Ruth Appelhanz began work March 20 as my assistant. Ruth has been at the State Library since 1993 as a secretary I. I'm looking forward very much to working with her, and I won't mind sharing her with the other division managers at the State Library.

The Blue Skyways project has a new Lead Developer to replace Jameson Watkins, who was recently promoted. Lyn Harris has taken his place, and I extend a sincere "welcome aboard" to her in her new duties.

Deadlines for Interlibrary Loan Development Grant applications (3/31), Digitization Grant applications (4/3) and the KLN B Logo Contest entries (4/3) have passed. Network Board evaluation committees will soon begin the difficult work of making decisions as to whom will receive grants and the logo prize. I'm grateful to all of you who submitted applications or entries, and I wish you all the best of luck.



*Patti Butcher (top), NEKLS, assists Donelda Sage, Director, Burlingame Community Library*

*For more about Network Board initiatives, contact Eric Hansen, KLN B Executive Director, at 785/296 3875 (erich@ink.org), or point your browser to <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/KSL/KLN B/klnb.html>.*

## **Richard Rademacher to retire**

Richard Rademacher has announced that he will retire as director of the Wichita Public Library this summer. In an e-mail message he reflected on his years of service and librarianship.

"I have been Director of Libraries for the City of Wichita for twenty-four years. Previous to that I was Director of the Salt Lake City Public Library for seven years.

"The changes in librarianship have been both dramatic and, at the same time, unremarkable. That is to say that there have been significant changes while some things have remained the same. A change that really pleases me is that libraries are now being valued as institutions which add value to and are a necessary part of everyday life. Rather than repositories of knowledge, I believe libraries are being perceived as interactive agents of modern living.

"There has also been evident a tremendous change in the delivery of service due to technology. Both the quantity and quality of service offered by all libraries has exponentially increased because of technology. At the same time, the role of libraries and librarians in serving their mission has changed. Librarians are being viewed as experts in locating information regardless of where it is housed. As such they are becoming teachers, mentors, and partners to the patrons they serve.

"In talking about significant accomplishments one must remember that accomplishments are the result of people working together. Perhaps my greatest accomplishment is recognizing the talent of others and working with them in accomplishing goals. On that basis, I am proud of the Wichita Public Library Foundation which started with zero assets several years ago and now has in excess of two million dollars. I am proud of a revitalized Friends of the Library who operate a used book store in the library and who donate thousands of hours of volunteer service each year. I am proud of a fantastic library staff which produced a technologically advanced library.

"This staff also produced such things as the first library in a supermarket, free Internet and computer access for the public, accessible library catalog and data banks from home computers, a Gates grant that will allow construction of a computer lab in the library and greatly enhanced Internet and PC service at the

branches, superior cultural diversity programs such as Magic City and Black History celebration. This list could go on but I think the point is the Wichita Public Library has accomplished a lot due to the efforts of many people.

"I very probably would not have done things much differently than I have with the exception that the emphasis would change. I think I would put more stress on community partnerships. Much of what we have accomplished in the past is the result of working with groups within the community. I truly believe that partnerships produce results and offer the political and economic support so necessary to success.

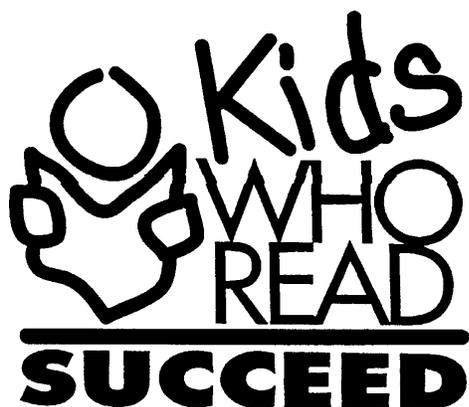
"It is difficult, if not impossible, to predict the direction of libraries in the future. I truly believe the future will validate even more the worth and necessity of libraries. What librarians must do is both lead and follow society in fulfilling needs. As a societal institution, the library exists only to provide service. Intelligent decisions must be made on what services the library is best suited to provide and then these services must be provided in an efficient and appropriate level. We must not be married to the past but we also must not discard that which is valuable. The Library of the future will be an information source with librarians acting as teachers, providers, facilitators, and guardians of the public's right to know."

## **Young authors conference in Emporia**

On May 6, 2000 the Emporia Public Library and USD #253 will sponsor a Young Author's Conference at Emporia High School. The featured author/illustrator is Lisa Campbell Ernst, a well-known children's author living in Kansas City. Lisa will present a morning session to about 200 students from grades 1-6. A parent session is offered with Barb Bleeker, a professor from Emporia State University, focusing on the importance of sharing good literature with your children.

At 2:00 is a session with Lisa for the community. Children, parents, teachers, librarians, students and other interested persons are invited to attend. Following Ms. Ernst's presentation, a book signing and reception will be held.

The program is free. No registration is required. For more information, contact: Sue Blechl, Director, Emporia Public Library, 110 E. 6th Ave., Emporia, KS 66801-3960, Phone: 316-342-6524 or 6526, Fax: 316-342-2633, E-mail: [blechls@carrollsworld.com](mailto:blechls@carrollsworld.com), Web page: <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/library/emporia/>.



### **Olathe book sale**

The Friends of the Olathe Public Library is hosting a booksale at the First Christian Church, 200 E. Loula, Olathe, across the parking lot from the library. The church is on the corner of Chestnut and Loula, and can be entered on the library side. The sale will be open the following times: Friday, April 28, 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM; Saturday, April 29, 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM; Sunday, April 30, 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM. The Friends will also host a preview sale on Thursday, April 27 from 5:00 PM - 8:30 PM. Memberships will be sold at the door. For further information call 913-764-2259.

### **Pioneer Memorial Library Networked**

Colby's Pioneer Memorial Library recently completed a fiber optics project that was partially funded through the Kansas Library Network Board's 1999 Technology Network Development Grant program. The grant award in the amount of \$15,000 was for the purpose of laying fiber optic cable from the Colby public schools to the library. The grant proposal specified that the project would connect the public library and the USD #315 schools via a high speed fiber connection and would allow the public, for example, to share such things as the card catalogs from the public school libraries and the public library, plus other resources. The total cost of the project was approximately \$30,000. The fiber connection and the electronics were completed on March 2, 2000. "We are absolutely thrilled with this new fiber connectivity," said JoAnne Sunderman, Library Director. "It has always been our dream to be connected to other libraries in town. We are most grateful to the Kansas Library Network Board for the funding."

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Address comments concerning *Kansas Libraries* to the editor.



## Kansas Library Association centennial

—by Roy Bird, Consultant



Join the Kansas Library Association Centennial celebration! KLA invites everyone to take part in the statewide celebration of the KLA Centennial.

On Thursday, April 13, 2000, the Kansas Library Association will host a “Bash” at the Boathouse which will inaugurate the recognition of the distinguished past and the dynamic future of the state’s organization for library professionals, staff, trustees, Friends and Kansans interested in information, education, culture and recreation.

Beginning at 5:00 PM there will be a wine and cheese reception at the Boathouse sponsored by the Friends of Kansas Libraries and the Kansas Library Trustee Association. This is open to all conference attendees.

A grand dinner buffet will then be served from 6:00 PM until 7:30 PM. The program will commence at 7:30 PM. Past presidents of KLA will be in attendance and honored at this time. It will conclude with a performance by KU dance professor Joan Stone portraying Annie Diggs, State Librarian in 1900 who was instrumental in the formation of KLA.

Following the banquet and program, the evening will be filled with more food, a gourmet dessert buffet and music. Dance the evening away from 9:00 PM to midnight with The Funtones performing music from the 1950s through the 1980s.

Besides the banquet, program and dance, other KLA Centennial projects will come to fruition this evening:

A traveling exhibit featuring 100 years of Kansas library history has been developed by Jane Lee Communications, Ltd., Hutchinson.

*Shining the Light: A Centennial History of the Kansas Library Association*, a book by Robert W. Richmond, who will be on hand to sign copies of the book, to be available for the first time this evening.

A Benefactor Recognition display will also be set up on the first floor of the Boathouse.

KLA Centennial Quilt by KLA member Patti Butcher.

The celebration of the KLA Centennial, with the theme “A Distinguished Past, A Dynamic Future,” is the culmination of nearly two years of planning. With the goals of recognizing the accomplishments of the past and preparing for the future, the KLA Centennial Committee invites all Kansans to join nearly 1,200 members of the Kansas Library Association who seek to provide the best possible library service for everyone in the state.



*Detail of KLA Centennial Quilt by KLA member Patti Butcher.*

## Kansas books

—by Roy Bird, Library Consultant

*Paperboy: Essays, Profiles, Short Stories, Comments and Comic Pieces* by J.T. Knoll. Order from: White Buffalo Press, 401 W. Euclid, Pittsburg, KS 66762-5011. 5x8" 174 pp., paper, 1999. ISBN:0-967490-0-8. \$13.00 + \$3.50 shipping.

*Paperboy* is a collection of various short works by Pittsburg writer J.T. Knoll. Its title is especially appropriate in context because J.T. once had a paper route as a youngster, and all of the 80 entries in his new book were originally published in the *Pittsburg Morning Sun*. Knoll is a well-known writer in southeast Kansas as well as among journalists. Once people read this delightful compilation of essays, short personal biographies, fiction and humor he is bound to become popular to a much broader statewide audience.

He recently told an editor at his newspaper that he still identifies with the image of a paperboy in the sense that he believes in "bringing writing to the doorstep." In the process, he shares an intimate view of southeast Kansas with his readers, a view that many might not have.

The obvious love of the region in the carefully crafted words of a native of Crawford County who has spent most of his life in that county make this an exploration of the vicinity, not to mention a touching glimpse into the social and family life of the area. His references to restaurants make one want to eat there, to locations in the region make one long to visit, to people he knows make one want to make their acquaintance. In a sense, the reader already has done these things, through the eyes of this Crawford County "paperboy." Recommended for Kansas and adult nonfiction collections.

*Moody's Skidrow Beanery: Kansas Underground from Beat to Hip* by Patrick Joseph O'Connor. Order from: Rowfant Press, Box 9313, Wichita, KS 67277. 5" x 8", 132 pp., paper, 1999. ISBN: 1-929731-02-7. \$8.00 postpaid.

Remember 1960s folk music? Rock music? Reading underground newsletters and newspapers? The paraphernalia of the counterculture? Reading counterculture literature like William Burroughs and Allen Ginsberg? This new book by Pat O'Connor, whose books have graced the pages of *Kansas Libraries* several times in the past, takes a sometimes nostalgic,

sometimes critical, but always unique look at the Kansas counterculture of the 1960s.

Pat O'Connor is a lecturer at Wichita State University and a Kansan who came of age during those years. His work is reminiscent of the language and literature of that decade. He attempts to add definition to the counterculture movement in Kansas in *Moody's Skidrow Beanery*. He provides valuable references at the end of each entry, as well as primary source interviews and publications. Some illuminating photos and illustrations are included which add to the mood O'Connor tries to create. At least four of the nine chapters have been published previously in such works as *Heritage of the Great Plains*, *Popular Culture Review* and *Popular Music and Society*.

There is good coverage, but it seems limited to the Wichita vicinity and Lawrence, the places with which the author is most familiar. The counterculture in other parts of the state — and there certainly was a counterculture in the rest of Kansas — is somewhat overlooked. Recommended for Kansas or art and music collections.



Check out the Topeka libraries  
online "ATLAS" catalog at:  
<http://lib.wuacc.edu/>

# Kansas libraries.... sixty years ago

—by Bill Sowers

Kansas Documents Librarian/Tech Services Librarian

Gleanings from KANSAS LIBRARY BULLETIN, March-June, 1941

- "Libraries in National Defense" was the theme of the southwest district library meeting which was held at Hugoton April 22. Dodge City will entertain the southwest district next spring. Mrs. Ora Vawter of Dodge City was elected chairman.
- Mr. Claxton Helms, former librarian of the McPherson College Library, is now a WPA assistant project technician. He is working in the defense areas in Kansas City.

- In Stanton and Hamilton counties the question of establishing a county library was voted on in the 1940 general election. The proposition was voted favorably, by a large majority, in both counties. County tax funds, however, will not become available until January, 1942.

- Miss Julia Bliss, librarian of the Winfield Public Library, reports that the Winfield library has received two gifts: a large oil painting "The Conscription" and a fine marble statue "The French Dancing Girl."

- The Wichita library film, "The Newcomers Visit the Library," was shown early in April at the University of Toronto Library School. It was then sent to Australia where it was shown at the Conference of the Australian Institute of Librarians in Canberra.



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