

Kansas Libraries

Official Newsletter of the Kansas State Library

April 2002

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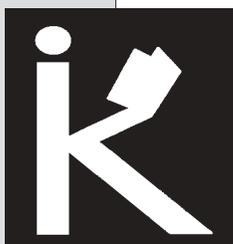
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A P R I L



IMLS calls for grant applicants

In 2002, the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities will present Coming Up Taller awards to non-profit organizations, state or local governments, or federally-designated tribal communities conducting out-of-school programs using the arts and humanities to enrich the lives of underserved children. Coming Up Taller grants ten awards of \$10,000 each year. Guidelines, eligibility requirements, past honorees and applications are available on the Coming Up Taller web site at <http://www.cominguptaller.org>.



Coming Up Taller is a unique partnership among federal cultural agencies. Recognizing the exceptional after-school programs at many of our nation's libraries and museums, this year the President's Committee on the Arts

and Humanities welcomes the Institute of Museum and Library Services (www.imls.gov) joining with the National Endowment for the Arts (www.arts.gov) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (www.neh.gov) in making these awards possible. Founded in 1998, the program focuses national attention on, and garners support for, out-of-school programs that use the arts and the humanities to provide children safe places to go, new learning opportunities, chances to contribute

to their community, and ways to take responsibility for their own futures.



IMLS is an independent Federal agency that fosters leadership, innovation, and a lifetime of learning by supporting the nation's museums and libraries. Created by the Museum and Library Services Act of 1996, P.L. 104-

208, IMLS administers the Library Services and Technology Act and the Museum Services Act. For more information contact IMLS at 1100 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 202/606-8536, or (<http://www.imls.gov>).

Kansas Kids Ready For Learning!

—by Tammie Benham



www.readyforlearning.net

Early literacy continues to be a hot topic across the nation as research validates the importance of quality early childhood experiences. Recognizing and responding to this important issue, the Kansas State Board of Education (KSBE), in collaboration with the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) and Kansas Inservice Training System (KITS), has developed a new web site.

Subtitled “Links to Early Literacy for Families and Providers,” this site “links” Internet users with quality early literacy web sites and initiatives within the state and across the nation. Developed for use by parents and early childhood providers, this web site has been divided into “What We Know,” “Activities” and “Special Needs” sections for ease of use.

Librarians from Kansas State Library, educators in the field of early childhood, State Department personnel, and families have contributed their expertise and suggestions to make this a valuable web site for those who have an interest in ensuring young children are literate.

If you have suggestions for links within this resource, or suggestions on how families who do not have Internet access might have the opportunity to gain access to this site, please contact Tammie Benham, tammieb@ku.edu or phone 620/231-6550, x1638.

New director at Arkansas City

Michelle Swain comes to the Arkansas City Public Library from Kansas State University—Salina, where she was the Technical Services/Automation Coordinator. She holds an M.S. in Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and is ABD in a Ph.D. program in Curriculum and Instruction from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. Her husband Mike is an instructor and director for the aviation maintenance technology program at Cowley County Community College. They have seven cats: Walnut, Sammie, Spike, Shadow, Snow, Lucky, and Peaches. Michelle reads science fiction and fantasy, and is “totally addicted to television.”

Michelle is optimistic about the future of Arkansas City and its library. She says, “I see a great potential for this town and for this library. The community has many groups concerned with attracting and retaining businesses and employment for the residents. It also has the college, which brings in many more public lectures and entertainment groups than you might think for its size. There is an active arts community, and there are many festivals throughout the year in the surrounding region. The library, however, ...will need additional space very soon. We have had an architect draw up plans for an expansion of our building, but we are also working on improving and organizing our existing space to enable us to survive until more room is available.”

Michelle sites three areas of concern for Kansas libraries: continuation of statewide databases through LSTA funding, offering high quality continuing education, and keeping our professional groups active.

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Editor: *Eric Hansen*. Contributing editors: *Roy Bird, Rhonda Machlan, Shannon Roy, and Vikki Jo Stewart.*

Address comments concerning *Kansas Libraries* to the editor.





NOTES

—by *Eric Hansen*
Executive Director

Western Trails Update



Kansas participants in the Western Trails Project continued to move forward in March. Representative working groups formulate determinations of state procedures. In a conference call March 5, the “Metadata

Working Group” decided that Kansas participants would create metadata for the project in MARC format, rather than other options, such as Dublin Core or Encoded Archival Description. This will make it possible for staff at the Kansas institutions to work in a familiar format and load metadata records into their local catalogs if they so choose. Metadata is information about information, similar to a library catalog record about an item in the library collection.

The “Collections Working Group” met at the Salina Public Library on March 21 to decide on the layout, design, and content of the Kansas Western Trails Web site. The site will replace the existing page at <http://www.skyways.org/KSL/KLNB/westerntrails.html> as a source of information of all kinds about the project. Sarah Goodwin Thiel of the University of Kansas, Steven Schermerhorn of the Dodge City Public Library, and Trevor Swarm of the Kansas State Historical Society are the members of this working group. The new site is expected to be ready to view and use by about mid-April.

I attended a meeting in Denver for Metadata Working Group members from participating states Kansas, Nebraska, and Wyoming, as well as guests from other states, on March 28 and 29. Kansas’s Metadata Working Group members Mike Kelly of Wichita State University and Matt Veach of the Kansas State Historical Society attended as well. One purpose of the meeting was to make decisions about metadata that will make it possible for users of the project to search across records from all three states. I came away from the meeting with a much-increased appreciation for the kinds of decisions archives, historical society and museum staff, not to mention library catalogers, must make about how they index their collections. Plans are under way for a follow-up meeting on July 15-16, 2002 at the Kansas State Historical Society in Topeka.

The Kansas Library Network Board strategic planning focus group sessions have been scheduled for the state. The updated schedule is available on Blue Skyways at <http://www.skyways.org/KSL/KLNB/FocusGroupSchedule.htm>.

For information about the Network Board, contact Eric Hansen, KLNB Executive Director, at 785/296-3875 (eric@kslib.info).

Bill Martin Jr. picture book award

—by Judy Kohman

Solomon Elementary School

The winner of the 2002 Bill Martin, Jr. (BMJ) Picture Book Award was *Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type*, by Doreen Cronin, Illus. by Betsy Lewin. The award was announced Feb. 15, 2002 at the Kansas Reading Association Conference in Wichita. Both the author and the illustrator will be present at the KRA Conference in Salina April 25-26, 2003 to accept the award.

Books that have been nominated for the BMJ award for the 2002-03 year are as follows:

With Love, Little Red Hen, by Alma Flor Ada/Leslie Tryon. Atheneum. ISBN: 0-689-82581-1

Is My Friend at Home? Pueblo Fireside Tales, by John Bierhorst/Wendy Watson. Farrar Straus & Giroux. ISBN: 0-374-33550-8

Quilt Alphabet, by Lesa Cline-Ransome/James Ransome. Holiday House. ISBN: 0-8234-1453-1

Waiting for Wings, by Lois Ehlert, Harcourt Brace. ISBN: 0-15-202608-8

Lizards, Frogs, and Polliwogs, by Doug Florian. Harcourt Brace. ISBN: 0-15-202591-X

The Hickory Chair, by Lisa Fraustino/Benny Andrews. Scholastic. ISBN: 0-590-52248-5

Red are the Apples, by Marc Harshman & Cheryl Ryan/Wade Zaharrs. Harcourt Brace. ISBN: 0-439-29304-9

One Monday, by Any Huntington. Orchard. ISBN: 0-439-29304-9

Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon, by Patty Lovell/David Catrow. Putnam. ISBN: 0-399-23416-0

Goin' Someplace Special, by Patricia McKissack/Jerry Pinkney. Atheneum. ISBN: 0-689-81885-8

Little Panda: The World Welcomes Hua Mei at the San Diego Zoo, by Joanne Ryder. Simon & Schuster. ISBN: 0-689-84310-0

The Journey, by Sarah Stewart/David Small. Farrar Straus & Giroux. ISBN: 0-374-33905-8

New SLAC member

Rebecca Torline is the newest member of the State Library Advisory Commission (SLAC). She served two four-year terms on the Bucklin Public Library Board and was treasurer of that Board for six years. About those years, she says, "If nothing else, I learned how important the public library is in a small town!" Rebecca is a graduate of Baker University, where she majored in business and Spanish. She later attended Saint Mary of the Plains College, where she studied secondary education.

Rebecca has been a full-time mom to Ashley, Lauren, and Jeff for about the last ten years. She reports that once her youngest child started school, she became an avid reader again.

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*.

Gates Foundation update

—by Jeff Hixon

Library Information Technology Division

Kansas State Library staff participated on Monday, March 11, in a conference call with representatives of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, consisting of a final review of applications received by the Foundation from libraries wishing to participate in the U.S. Library Program.

The Foundation will be notifying applicants concerning grant awards at the end of March (the 29th is the tentative date for award letters to be mailed). Meanwhile, here are some highlights of Kansas' participation as a state:

- 248 Kansas libraries ("Library Systems" in Foundation terminology) were eligible to apply for Foundation funded grants. 213 or 86% of these libraries applied.

- 74 Kansas libraries were eligible to acquire Gates computers and software at cost through Purchase Options grants. 15 or 20% of these libraries applied.

Of the 15 libraries that applied for Purchase Option grants, 13 or 87% appealed their eligibility status, asking to receive Foundation-funded, rather than Purchase Option grants.

Of the 13 libraries that appealed eligibility, 10 or 77% have been recommended for approval by Foundation researchers.

- 1 library successfully appealed for two additional computers.

- 61 libraries, eligible to receive one computer, requested a second computer for Spanish-speaking patrons.

- 6 Kansas libraries applied for Supplemental Training Labs. Final decisions have not been released concerning lab applications, but no concerns or questions were raised during the conference call, which is an encouraging sign!

- Each of the seven regional library systems, along with the State Library, applied for and will receive one Gates computer as an aid to providing assistance to grant recipient libraries.

- Public Access Computers awarded under the core grants program: 402

- Additional Spanish-Language computers awarded to 1-computer grant recipients: 61

- Content servers approved to date (review incomplete): 90

- Training lab computers to six locations: 66

- Computers to State Library/Regional Library Systems: 8

Total computers awarded to date: 627

- Value of above computers at current price estimates provided by the Gates Foundation \$1,608,435.00

- Value of other equipment (printers, switches, wiring allowances, etc) \$634,160.00

Estimated value of computers and equipment donated to Kansas \$2,242,595.00

Not included in above:

- 12 Computers and other equipment that would be awarded if approved appeals are granted according to the Foundation's eligibility table

- Computers and equipment previously awarded to Wichita Public Library under the Accelerated Grants Program

- Additional equipment (Ethernet cards, etc.)

- Training lab equipment other than computers

- Donated software, training and support

Libraries with successful applications will be looking forward to attending one of seven "Before Your Computer Arrives" workshops to be conducted by the Foundation in locations across Kansas. The approximate time frame will be May 30-June 11. Details will follow soon!

Congratulations to all of the recipients, and many thanks to colleagues at the State Library and the Regional Library Systems for making this success a reality.

Upcoming author visits

—by Jean Hatfield
Johnson County Library

We have some exciting opportunities coming up in the next few months that we would like to share with our friends throughout Kansas. If you have questions, please feel free to email me and I'll do my best to answer them. For information about our locations, go to our web page at <http://www.jocolibrary.org>. Please feel free to share this information with your colleagues and patrons.

Our friends at I Love a Mystery Book Store (5460 Martway, Mission, KS 66205, 913/432-2583) have arranged two great programs for us.

April 16 7:00p.m. Lackman Library

Jim Huang, compiler of *One Hundred Favorite Mysteries of the Century* will be facilitating a mystery trivia contest based on the books mentioned in this guide to great mysteries. Individuals or teams are encouraged to sign up to play the game. It is a lot of fun and a great test of all of that trivial knowledge running through our heads!

May 25 2:00p.m. Antioch Library

The Deadly Divas. You may have heard of them; if not, the members of the group are Susan McBride, Denise Swanson, Letha Albright and Lisa Kleinholz. They do a panel-type discussion, talking about "Why Nice Women Write About Murder," which basically concerns why they do crime fiction instead of, say romance; how they came up with the main characters; how they plot, outlining vs. flying by the seat of their pants, etc. They also come armed with their boas and tiaras, plus goodies they hand out, like Diva beads, rings and badges. They have a specially-made Deadly Divas T-shirt that is signed and raffled off. All for free. It's just a really fun time!

Our friends at the Last Chapter Bookshoppes (1128 Antioch Rd., Overland Park, KS 66210 913/339-6616) have also brought us some great talent! They have arranged for us to have the opportunity to meet four fabulous authors in the next few months. Mark your calendars and spread the word about these fabulous opportunities:

April 10 6:30p.m. Leawood City Hall

Joel Goldman, author of *Motion to Kill*
Leawood resident Joel Goldman will discuss and sign his first novel, published by Pinnacle Books and released in February. This legal thriller has received good reviews. It has a Kansas City setting and lots of action. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

April 16 4:00p.m. Central Resource Library

Anthony Horowitz, author of *Stormbreaker*
English author and screenwriter, Anthony Horowitz will discuss and sign his latest novel, *Point Blank*, the latest offering featuring young Alex Rider, a James Bond-like high school student. Tightly written and full of adventure, this new series is a hit with young adults throughout the country, but adults will enjoy it as well! (Horowitz has written screenplays for such BBC series as *The Midsomer Murders*, *Robin of Sherwood*, *Murder Most Horrid* and *Poirot*.) Books will be available for purchase and signing.

April 23 6:30p.m. Blue Valley Library

Robert Munsch, author of *Love You Forever*
Canadian author Robert Munsch is well-known for his very funny books such as *Paper Bag Princess*, *Moira's Birthday*, and *Mud Puddle*. Mr. Munsch will also be appearing at the Reading Reptile on Wednesday evening. Books will be available for purchase and signing. For more information about one of my favorite authors, go to <http://www.robertmunsch.com>.

June 6 6:30p.m. Antioch Library

Susan Elizabeth Phillips, author of *This Heart of Mine*
NY Times bestselling author Susan Elizabeth Phillips will be on hand to discuss and sign her newest book *Breathing Room* (published by William Morrow). Ms. Phillips was inducted into the Romance Writers of America Hall of Fame in 2001. For more information on her and her novels, go to <http://www.susanephillips.com>. Books will be available for purchase and autographing.

Kansas books

—by Roy Bird
Library Consultant

The Summer of the Crow, by Eunice Boeve. Order from: Leathers Publishing, 4500 College Blvd., Leawood, KS 66211. Softcover, 5" x 8", 218 pp., 2001. \$12.95.

On his 13th birthday in 1935 Kansas, Brady survives a dust storm, his favorite chocolate cake is ruined by dirt from the storm, and his mother's asthma becomes acute to the point of being life-threatening. The southwest Kansas family farm is devastated by drought and low market prices, and his father decides to take his failing mother to California, forcing Brady and his autistic sister to live with their grandparents in northwest Kansas. Growing up in the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl is not easy. Brady finds a bosom friend and ally in Eddie, a poor boy in his new school whose pet is a crow.

Eunice Boeve's first book, *Trapped!*, was well received and a Kansas Reading Circle selection in 1995-96. She has lived in northwest Kansas since 1957. Her young adult style is not only appealing but also deals with age-specific issues such as bullies, special friends, autism, parental illness, loss of parents, and adjusting to new schools, communities and families, as well as coming of age in an historical location and time period. *The Summer of the Crow* won the 2001 J. Donald Coffin Award at the Kansas Author's fall convention. Highly recommended for middle school/junior high media centers, young adult and children's public library collections, academic young adult collections and Kansas collections.

The Secret of Whispering Springs, by Jerri Garretson. Order from: Ravenstone Press, Box 1791, Manhattan, KS 66505-1791. Softcover, 5" x 8", 208 pp., 2002. \$6.99.

Jerri Garretson is an author and librarian quite familiar to most children's and young adult librarians across Kansas. But with the publication of *The Secret of Whispering Springs* she has truly reached maturity as a writer. In this new book, Jerri goes beyond the scope of anything she has written or published before, and it is the crowning accomplishment of her writing career to date.

The fourteen year old female lead character, Cassie, moves into the magnificent old Victorian-style home with which virtually every Kansas community is blessed. But in this house there is a lurking, cold but not unfriendly, presence, an entity that seems to whisper to Cassie. And she seems to have visions of the house in bygone days. Finally, a dangerous stranger spies on the family and threatens her little brother. Cassie must solve the mystery, help both the stranger and the mysterious entity and prove that she really is experiencing the seemingly unexplainable phenomena. Jerri uses a captivating combination of dialogue, different fonts and even penmanship to convey her story in a gripping fashion. Even the cover, which is a photo of Jerri's own grandmother superimposed over a stone mansion similar to the one described in the novel, is fascinating.

For the best Jerri Garretson book so far, don't miss *The Secret of Whispering Springs*. Jerri recommends it for grades 5-8, but there are a lot of adults who will want to read this one. Recommended for middle school/junior high media centers, young adult and children's public library collections, academic young adult collections and Kansas collections.



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

Kansas libraries.... 10 years ago

—by Bill Sowers

Kansas Documents Librarian/Tech Support Librarian

Excerpts from the March/April 1992 issue of Kansas Libraries.

- From the findings of the Resource Sharing Advisory Committee issued this month: Interlibrary loan traffic in Kansas increased by 100 percent between 1984 and 1990. This increase is due, in part, to expanded participation by all types of libraries in interlibrary loan. Advances such as the improved Kansas Library Catalog and KICNET have contributed to more ILLs too.
- Wichita Public Library and Botanica, the Wichita Gardens, have joined forces to host “Ready, Set, Grow!” This program is designed for beginning and experienced gardeners. There will be two parts to the program, one at the Wichita Public Library auditorium and one at the Botanica auditorium.

- Jean Hatfield, formerly youth services coordinator for the River Bluffs Regional Library in St. Joseph, Mo., has become the youth services coordinator at Johnson County Library.

- The first class of graduates from the three-year Kansas Public Library Annual Continuing Education program (K.P.L.A.C.E.) met in Wichita in October. They wrote a mission statement and set goals and objectives for continuing programs of interest to non-MLS library directors and support staff. Plans include a meeting of all KPLACE attendees at the Tri-Conference and a reunion at the May KPLACE program.

- MARC, McPherson’s adult literacy effort, is off to a successful new beginning. The Board is in place and tutors are being trained. Congratulations go to Steve Read for persevering.



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Please route to

Library Director

Kansas Libraries
 Kansas State Library
 300 SW 10th Street, Room 343
 Topeka, KS 66612-1593
 785/296-3296
 Toll Free 800/432-3919