

Kansas Libraries

Official Newsletter of the Kansas State Library

April 2003

This month in Kansas Libraries

Older Kansans Information Forum serves growing population.....1

American Sign Language collection developed.....2

State Aid payments mailed.....2

Technicians available..2

N O T E S.....3

Dr. Robert Grover retires as Dean of SLIM to become Associate VP for Academic Affairs at ESU.....4

Outstanding supporter of support staff honored..4

Library positions.....5

An invitation.....5

Kansas books.....6

Kansas Libraries... 10 years ago.....8

A P R I L



Older Kansans Information Forum serves growing population

—by Shannon Roy
Local Library Development

For many years, librarians have worked hard for children. They have had good reason to. Families have needed the resources, assistance and entertainment that librarians have had to offer. The care of children will remain critically important as libraries move through the twenty-first century.

But there is a growing population at the other end of the human lifespan that will need thoughtful care from librarians. Older Kansans are often among the most active users and best supporters of public libraries. They are often community leaders, library board members and Friends. They are not only a large age group but the ones most likely to vote, so they have political power. Savvy Kansas librarians are aware of the importance of older citizens. They work with them, and for them, very well.

The number of older Kansans is going to grow dramatically in coming years as the large baby boom generation moves into the senior years. While most librarians are aware of the aging of the baby boomers, many have not yet realized that Kansans over 60 could be as much as a quarter of the state's population by 2030.

Two trends that will result in a huge elder population were not truly foreseen by the country's leadership. People really are living much longer than they used to. And the birth rate really is dropping in the developed world. This will mean a large population of seniors supported by a smaller working age population. It will also mean a huge population of caregivers, many of them already in their fifties and sixties.

Older Kansans and their caregivers are going to need a lot of current, accurate information in varied formats. They are going to need information on social services, financial management, medical care, legal issues, childcare and special interests.

The members of the Older Kansans Information Forum (OKIF) believe that good library service for older Kansans will not happen automatically. Only the largest urban systems or Talking Book Subregionals can afford to have staff who have any specialization in senior services. OKIF wants to organize and market information that will help Kansas librarians and trustees serve this fast-growing population. The OKIF website can be found at <http://www.skyways.org/okif/>.

The members of OKIF believe that seniors are going to need more than practical information. Our society needs to totally transform its attitudes toward aging. The senior years should be seen as a time of potential fulfillment and promise and not just as a time of inevitable loss. Librarians need to not only acquire, but actively display, the books that discuss senior issues and offer models of happy and successful aging.

Kansas librarians and trustees are invited to participate in the Older Kansans Information Forum by recommending useful websites to the OKIF webmaster, Toni Harrell, at tonih@kslib.info or by contributing articles and book reviews. Those who are willing to write articles or book reviews should contact Shannon Roy at 785/296-3296 or send e-mail to shanroy@kslib.info.

American Sign Language collection developed

—by Marc Galbraith
Research and Information Services

With funds from an ILDP grant the State Library has initiated a new collection of American Sign Language video tapes.

Working from a list prepared by ASL Access (<http://www.aslaccess.org/>), as well as other sources, and with considerable input and support from the Kansas Commission for Deaf and Hearing Impaired, the State Library has assembled a collection of twenty-some titles and thirty-some tapes on American Sign Language.

Many who are deaf or hard of hearing, family members of the deaf and hard of hearing individuals, as well as friends, business associates and others, want to afford themselves access to the language of the deaf and to learn something about deaf culture.

Because American Sign Language is rapidly growing as a second language, this is now more easily done than ever before. U.S. publishers currently offer over 200 video titles packaged for the deaf and hard of hearing. Many of these include American Sign Language videos of the classics, history, biography, children's stories and more.

The collection developed by the State Library is, so far, limited almost exclusively to ASL lessons including dictionaries, interpreting, linguistic analysis and special focus lessons, such as videos for parents, programs for children, phrase-books and quick lessons.

All materials in the collection are available through inter-library loan. A list of the collection is available at <http://www.aslaccess.org/>.

State Aid payments mailed

—by Bonnie Keim
Chief Financial Officer, State Library

State Aid payments have been sent to all eligible libraries. If you have electronic deposit please check with your bank. If you do not have electronic deposit you will receive a warrant directly from the Department of Admin-

istration. If you have not received either by April 4th please contact us. If you have a question or concern please call Bonnie Keim, CFO, at 800/432-3919 or send e-mail to bkeim@kslib.info.

Technicians available

—by Janet Anderson-Story
Librarian, Flint Hills Technical College

Looking for employees with specialized technical skills? Then Flint Hills Technical College (FHTC) Career Fair is the place to be. FHTC students are equipped with technical knowledge and experience in the areas of computer networking, office professionals, computer information systems, and others. If there is an opening for a highly skilled employee, consider participating in the FHTC Career Fair, Tuesday, April 15, 2003, from 9:15 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Employers will have an opportunity to showcase their library and visit with FHTC students in an open fair setting. The morning session is 9:45 – 11:30 a.m. and the afternoon session is from 12:15 – 2:00 p.m. (Lunch will be provided free of charge.) Employers are encouraged to arrange interviews with individual students at a mutually convenient time.

Please contact Eric Tincher at etincher@fhtc.kansas.net or 800/711-6946 for more information, no later than April 8, 2003.

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Address comments concerning *Kansas Libraries* to the editor.





NOTES

—by Eric Hansen
Executive Director

Tri-Conference 2003

The Kansas Library Network Board is pleased to host the Internet booth on the exhibitors' floor at the 2003 Tri-Conference in Salina on April 9-11. As before, John and Susan Howell will manage the booth, but they can use help. For those who wish to volunteer to help staff the booth, contact me at 800/432-3919 or eric@kslib.info and I will pass the information along to John and Susan.

During Tri-Conference I will be on hand at the KLNB Internet booth to demonstrate KANAnswer, the Kansas Library Card, and Western Trails during the exhibitors' bash, Wednesday, April 9, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Feel free to stop by for a guided tour of these three Network Board services.

ALA/CLA Conference 2003

I will be chairing a panel discussion at the joint conference of the American Library Association and the Canadian Library Association in June in Toronto called "How we survived: Coping strategies for rural libraries." The event will discuss how rural libraries adapted to decreased government funding of their libraries. For this purpose, I am interested in any and all information about how your rural library coped with the budget shortfalls that so many states, counties and localities are enduring now. Please send any such information you are willing to share to me at eric@kslib.info or 785/296-6650 (fax). You can also talk to me about it at 800/432-3919.



KANAnswer operators sometimes refer in-depth research questions to a Kansas library staff expertise directory that I maintain. The directory includes names, institutions, contact information and subject areas of expertise for library staff that volunteer to be a part of the directory. John and Susan Howell will have a signup sheet on hand at the KLNB Internet booth. If you would like to be included in the directory, please stop by the booth and ask to add your information to the signup sheet.

A fond farewell

KLNB member and Tabor College Library Director Sylvia Kuhlmeier is leaving Kansas to follow her husband in a career move to West Plains, Missouri. She will be the Coordinator of Registration and Records at Southwest Missouri State University—West Plains. Her last day at Tabor was March 31. On behalf of the KLNB, very best wishes to Sylvia in her move and her new life in Missouri.

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

Dr. Robert Grover retires as Dean of SLIM to become Associate VP for Academic Affairs at ESU

—by Daniel Roland
Director of SLIM Communications
Emporia State University

Emporia State University recently announced that Dr. Robert Grover has been appointed to the position of Associate Vice-President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the Office of Graduate Studies and Research. The promotion is effective June 1, 2003 at which time Dr. Grover will step down as the Dean of the School of Library and Information Management.

Dr. Grover assumed the position of Interim Dean of Graduate Studies & Research at Emporia State University on June 1, 2002 in addition to his regular duties as Dean of the School of Library & Information Management. That move was made necessary by the resignation late in the year of the previous Dean of Graduate Studies & Research and a budget crisis in Kansas generally and on the ESU campus.

The months-long search for an Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Graduate Studies and Research concluded with no candidate hired. At that point Dr. Grover was encouraged to apply and his appointment to the position has been announced effective June 1, 2003. As Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Graduate Studies and Research, he will continue the duties he has been performing as Interim Dean of the Graduate School. In addition, his duties as Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs include overseeing assessment, international education, the Student Advisory Center, the Registrar's Office, the honors program and summer school.

"This was a tough decision to apply for the job because I so much enjoy my work at SLIM with the students, faculty, and staff," Dr. Grover said concerning the impending change. "It is also important for SLIM to continue to be dynamic and in step with the changing needs for library and information education. I have been dean for five years and it is time for a new look, new leadership, and a new perspective. I have confidence that the school will continue to innovate and to continue making a significant impact in the library and information profession in Kansas and in the western states that we serve. I look forward to continuing my association with SLIM from Plumb Hall as Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Graduate Studies and Research."

Dr. Grover first came to SLIM as Dean in 1981 and guided the school through some of its most difficult days as accreditation by the American Library Association was withdrawn shortly after his arrival. A thorough and intense reworking of the curriculum, recruitment of additional faculty, and a commitment to collaboration with the library and information management profession led to re-accreditation in just two years. Dr. Grover spent three years at the University of South Florida before returning to SLIM in 1990 and accepted the Dean's position a second time in 1998. Highly regarded in the field of library and information management education, Dr. Grover was awarded the 1997 Teaching Excellence Award by the Association of Library and Information Science Education.

A search committee has been formed and is chaired by Dr. Joyce Davis, Dean of Libraries at Emporia State University. The committee is currently accepting applications for the position and actively recruiting candidates for the position.

Outstanding supporter of support staff honored

—by Dianna Waite
Salina Public Library

Library Mosaics, a magazine devoted to issues affecting library support staff, has announced that the winner of the 2002 Outstanding Supporter of Support Staff Award is Salina Public Library Director Joe McKenzie. Among the accomplishments cited in nominating Joe for this award was his development of the SMART program. Dianna Waite, who submitted the nomination on behalf of the staff, said, "Joe's care and support has given the staff at our library a tremendous boost of pride in our work and in our library. Joe McKenzie deserves to be named the Outstanding Supporter of Support Staff."

Annually *Library Mosaics* makes two awards, one for Outstanding Support Staff and one for Outstanding Supporter of Support Staff. *Library Mosaics* will feature Joe's picture on the cover and a feature article about him in an upcoming issue. He will receive his award, a plaque and \$100, at the COLT Conference annual banquet on June 19th in Toronto, Canada.

Library positions

Assistant Librarian (25 hours per week)
The College, Ottawa, KS
Reports to: Director of Library Services

Job Summary:

Responsible for supervision, service, and projects related to library circulation desk (patron registration and recordkeeping, maintenance of library materials, manage rotating collection, circulations of interlibrary loan items). Plans, supervises, and coordinates student circulation desk employment, schedules, training and activities. Provide positive and helpful customer service to patrons of the library. Performs special projects and responsibilities as assigned by the director.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities:

- **Circulation Supervision:** Assists in policy development and implementation of policies for registration, lending, fine/fees; develops procedures for circulation staff; provides supervision on quality and quantity of circulation staff performance; prepares semester student aide schedules for circulation duties and off-desk tasks; participates in interview and hiring process to fill vacant student aide circulation positions; participates with Library Director in orientation and training for new student aides and assists in performance appraisals of supervised student aide staff as requested by Director; performs circulation and serials automated system duties; assists Director in resolving problems with overdue materials, registration, etc. for students and faculty.
- **Patron Service:** Performs patron registration and check in and out duties as needed; demonstrates use of computer catalog and assists students/faculty in catalog use; locates items in catalog and on shelves for patrons as needed and assists patrons with holds and interlibrary loan requests; assists Director in determining damage/loss fees and in resolving circulation and patron problem.
- **Reference Services, Projects and Leadership:** Locates information for patrons using standard reference sources in books, on the Internet and in the Library's electronic databases to answer live, online or telephonic reference queries; performs special projects and tasks necessary to the improvement of the Myers Library; promotes the Myers Library, in a positive way, to the College and the public; educates patrons so that they may better understand how the Myers Library can be useful to them; provides leadership to colleagues through appropriate conduct, attitude and

professionalism.

- Understands the University's policies and procedures as they apply to the Library and recommends necessary circulation, reference or staff policy changes as appropriate.
- Supervise staff consistent with University personnel policies. Encourage collaboration among the staff and with others, provide regular evaluation and feedback, and facilitate developmental opportunities.
- Understand the University's policies and procedures and exercise judgment accordingly. Ensure policies are implemented, employees and students are safe, assets are protected consistent with their value and restrictions. Represent the University to students, faculty, staff, alumni and external groups so as to reflect well on OU.

Qualifications:

Education: BA degree required; MLS preferred.

Work Experience: 5 years or more of professional experience; one to two years of experience/training in the library field. Undergraduate library degree can substitute for library experience.

Required skills and abilities: works collaboratively with others with service-centered approach; strong written and oral communication/organizational skills; computer skills including databases and spreadsheets; experience in supervising; work independently/provides leadership to others.

Send letter of interest, resume, and contact information for three professional references to: Gloria Creed-Dikeogu, Director of Library Services, Ottawa University, 1001 S. Cedar #56, Ottawa, KS 66067-3399. Closing date is April 18.

Ottawa University is committed to equal employment opportunity and does not unlawfully discriminate in the recruitment of applicants, employment opportunities, or general employment practices on the basis of race, age, sex, gender, color, religion, disability, national or ethnic origin, or any other characteristic protected by law.

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*.

Library Director

Andover Public Library, Andover, KS, is accepting applications for the full-time position of Library Director. The Library Director is responsible for all administrative and managerial duties for the public library of approximately 19,000 items. Duties included are supervision and training of 3 FTE; collection development; public relations; reference; budgeting; maintaining the computer system, as well as web page maintenance. The director reports to a seven member governing board and works with city administration. The selected director will have the opportunity to shape the future of this library which has seen a 15% growth in circulation and has doubled its patrons in the past 3 years.

Minimum of 3 years of public library experience is required. MLS preferred. Salary will be based on education and experience.

Applications close April 15, 2003. Please send cover letter, resume and references to John Penny, 225 Jamestown Circle, Andover, KS 67002 or e-mail lpenny1@cox.net. Please refer to <http://andoverpubliclibrary.org> for general information and job description. EOE.



Kansas books

—by Roy Bird
Library Consultant

Wind Whispers, by Sam Pierson. Published by the author, 2003. Order from: Sam Pierson, 2075 Lynx Road N.W., Lebo, KS 66856. Softcover, 5" x 9", 341 pp.

In the fall of 2002, Sam Pierson's first novel, *Rose's Mountain*, debuted in this newsletter column. That initial effort was similar to James Patterson's mystery novels.

This sequel, *Wind Whispers*, is also a mystery with a murder. It has a hint of the Gothic and a dollop of intrigue, some romance and even a few surprises. Although the protagonist is female, men should enjoy this story too. Set again on a mountain, this time during a snow storm, children are abandoned, a young woman is taken hostage by a brutish creature of a villain, a hunter relentlessly pursues his human prey—and across the story is a blossoming romance. It all adds up to an exciting tale that will appeal to more than just mystery fans.

Sam Pierson has chosen again to publish her own fiction. This sequel is not precisely like *Rose's Mountain*, but it will appeal to the same audience. When contacting Sam Pierson about ordering *Wind Whispers*, ask her about public appearances.

Recommended for adult mystery and contemporary fiction collections.



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

Twister Twyla, by Jerri Garretson. Illustrated by Diane Dollar. Order from: Ravenstone Press, PO Box 1791, Manhattan, KS 66505-1791, 2003. Softcover, 8 1/2" x 11", 31 pp. \$5.95.

Well-known Manhattan children's author Jerri Garretson, who has been delighting children, young adults, and children's librarians since her very first book, has returned to her original format with her latest work, *Twister Twyla*. This is a large, softcover children's story set in Kansas and with a topic sure to be popular among many small-fry—cowgirls and tornadoes. A little girl named Twyla loves the wind. Not just breezes, mind you, but the mighty Kansas prairie zephyrs. After she learned to ride, barrel race and rope, she began throwing a loop around dust devils. She worked her way up to lassoing a twister to ride around the barrels—no horse could go fast enough for her.

We can follow her adventures leading up to a performance at the big Flint Hills Rodeo at Strong City not only with the story Jerri has written, but also with the black and white illustrations drawn by seasoned artist Diane Dollar, who has also worked with Jerri on that first book she did, *Johnny Kaw*, and on one young adult novel, *Imagicat*. The story is delightful, the illustrations are nicely done (and might even be colored by the user if one is not careful) but this book goes even further. Once it has been concluded, there are a series of appendices that include an author's note and definitions of dust devils, barrel racing, and the Flint Hills Rodeo; more children's books about rodeo, cowboys and cowgirls, tornadoes, and Internet sources for these topics.

Altogether, this is not only a great read, it is a great place to start discussions about some very, very Kansas topics—another self-published hit by Jerri and Diane. Don't miss Jerri's presentation, "Uppity Girls and Fearless Women: Picture Books with No Damsels in Distress," on Thursday afternoon at Triconference.

Recommended for all public library children's collections and for all elementary school library media centers.

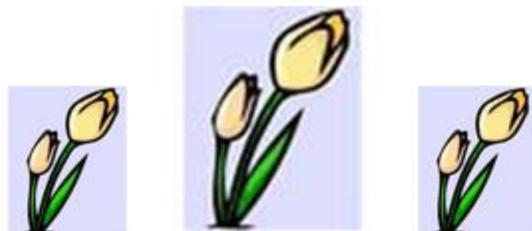
At Home on the Range and *Tall Tales & Lessons Learned*, two poetry books by Donna Penley. Order from the author: Donna Penley, 7560 S. Hoover Road, Haysville, KS 67060. Softcover, comb binding, 8 1/2" x 11", both approx. 20 pp.

Speaking of cowgirls and Kansas, cowboy poetry is always a hot topic in small rural Kansas libraries. Donna Penley is a relative newcomer to the cowgirl poetry genre. And she has found a niche that can surely stand additional talented writers, cowgirl poetry. She emphasizes that that is her background and prefers to be called a cowgirl.

Her poems are short yet meaningful. They cover livestock and ranching, native Kansas fauna, and some good old-fashioned story telling in the tradition of Baxter Black. She has read her poetry at cowboy poetry gatherings, which has also been her chief means of marketing her books at \$10.00 each. Although one might expect a feminist bent in cowgirl poetry, it is really quite similar to cowboy poetry. Donna speculates on ranch life, rodeoing and numerous other things. For a truly delightful read that should appeal to male as well as female readers, young and old alike, one or both of these are likely to become real old friends.

Most of Donna's books have been sold at cowboy poetry shows for \$10 apiece. If you have anyone in your community that reads and appreciates cowboy poetry and would like to see a cowgirl's perspective, then these two books, *At Home on the Range* or *Tall Tales & Lessons Learned*, need to be in your library.

Recommended for adult poetry collections.



Kansas Libraries.... 10 years ago

—by Bill Sowers
Kansas Documents Librarian/Tech Support Librarian

Gleanings from Kansas Libraries, March and April, 1993, issues

- The Kingman Carnegie Library received the 1993 Excellence in a Small Public Library Award from the Public Library Association (PLA) headquartered in Chicago. Kingman won the award in competition with 85 outstanding small library programs from throughout the United States.
- Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library is the recipient of the 1993 Romana Hood Award presented by the Community Resources Council on behalf of the citizens of Topeka and Shawnee County. The award was given to the library for innovative service, accountability, and responsiveness to public needs in making a model for other public institutions serving the community.

- KICNET is now up to 184 participants. The network continues to grow and operate extremely well. Recent additions include Jay Johnson Public Library (Quinter), Norton Correctional Facility, Great Bend High School and Benedictine College.
- The first edition of the OCLC/Auto-Graphics-produced CD-ROM and fiche catalog have been “on the streets” since mid December.
- Librarians who attended the Kansas Interlibrary Loan Roundtable at the Tri-Conference were the first to see the new Kansas Interlibrary Loan Directory and Manual (KILDM). This computerized, hypertext file is being issued on diskette to Kansas libraries.
- The Kansas Library Operations Associates (KLOA) will hold its first conference on April 21 in Salina. The conference is entitled “Continuing Education: What It Is, Why You Need It, and How to Get It.”



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Please route to

• *Library Director*

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