

Kansas Libraries

Official Newsletter of the Kansas State Library

May 2003

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M A Y



LSTA Special Population Grants funded

—by Roy Bird
Library Consultant

In action by the State Library Advisory Commission and the LSTA Advisory Council in a joint meeting on Friday, April 25, 2003, a total of 20 of 25 applications were either fully or partially funded. A total of \$50,000 budgeted from federal funds under the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) was distributed. Included in the funded applications were projects to serve children, non-native English speaking persons, aging, institutionalized and combinations of these underserved populations.

Contracts for the funded projects will be mailed to grant recipients. Although all the applications were worthy, those libraries submitting applications which were funded by the Commission and Council include:

Children

Belleville Public Library - \$2,000
Frankfort Public Library - \$1,000
Goodland Public Library - \$1,500
Grant Jr. High School, Goodland - \$1,000
Wamego High School - \$1,500

Non-native English speakers

Lib. Dist. #2, Linn Co., LaCygne - \$1,000
Wichita Public Library - \$3,000

Aging

Atchison Library - \$1,328
Clifton Public Library - \$2,000
Girard Public Library - \$2,500
Osborne Public Library - \$3,000

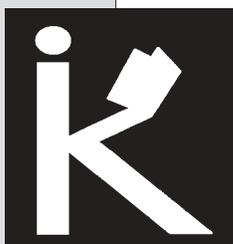
Institutionalized

Lawrence Gardner H.S., Topeka Juvenile Corrections Facility - \$3,500
Leavenworth Public Library - \$3,500

Combinations of above

Pioneer Memorial Library, Colby - \$1,250
Emporia Public Library - \$1,000
Central Kansas Library System, Great Bend - \$4,000
Kearny County Library, Lakin - \$2,000
Lawrence Public Schools - \$10,902
Vermillion Public Library - \$1,020

For further information about LSTA grants contact Roy Bird, Kansas State Library, 300 SW 10th, Room 343N, Topeka, KS 66612-1593; 800/432-3919; FAX: 785/368-7291; e-mail: royb@kslib.info; or visit the LSTA website on Blue Skyways at <http://www.skyways.org/KSL/admin/lsta/lsta.htm>.



The library trifecta

—by Fred D. Atchison, Jr.
Director, North Central Kansas Library System

What has eleven letters and does great things for Kansas libraries? It's easy, it's the TriFecta of alphabet soup: KLA, KLTA, and FoKL. Everybody reading this article knows about these organizations by now: the Kansas Library Association (KLA), the Kansas Library Trustee Association (KLTA), and the Friends of Kansas Libraries (FoKL). These organizations focus on different aspects of the library community with KLA serving as the professional voice of Kansas libraries, KLTA focusing on the role of trustees in public libraries, and FoKL being the state organization of library Friends groups. These groups work closely together to advocate and develop Kansas libraries and the people that make them work. Volunteers are the key ingredient for all three organizations. They serve as officers, run committees, plan and execute conferences, write newsletters, and so much more. These organizations provide a cornucopia-like collection of services including continuing education opportunities; scholarships; awards; special events and exhibits; leadership on legislative matters; guidance on fund raising; assistance in setting up new organizations; professional and volunteer development; and an excellent network of advocacy and support. Everybody knows KLA, KLTA, and FoKL do wonderful things for libraries.

So here is the pitch. The problem is too many of us take those organizations for granted. It's too easy to assume that someone else will step up and get the job done. Yes, the economy is in terrible shape and discretionary dollars are few for libraries and the people who care about them. These difficult times are when we need KLA, KLTA, and FoKL the most. We desperately need the advocacy, encouragement, and enthusiasm that come from these organizations.

The North Central Kansas Library (NCKL) region lost award opportunities this spring due to the difficulty of finding enrolled members of these organizations. It is essential that we find ways to support the important work of these groups. A membership is truly an investment in Kansas libraries. We need to do everything we can to get people signed up. Are you signed up? Are your board members and library friends signed up? Have you thought about putting membership fees in your library wish list?

Librarians have always understood the value of resource sharing. Supporting the work of KLA, KLTA, and FoKL is an expression of that important value. Do what you

can, but do something to support these vital organizations that work for you.

KLA Awards at Tri-Conference

—by Robert Walter
Dean of Learning Resources
Pittsburg State University

The Kansas Library Association honored several individuals at the 2003 Tri-Conference General Session on Thursday, April 10, with its Presidential Awards. Each honoree was called to the stage to receive verbal recognition and a framed certificate of appreciation. The honors awarded included:

Library Advocate Award - Lois Ruby, Wichita

Library Personnel Award - Leroy Gattin, Hutchinson Public Library/South Central Kansas Library System, KLA Executive Secretary

Library Personnel Award - John Stratton, Regents Center Library, Edwards Campus, Overland Park

Meritorious Service Award - Edwin A. Francis, Wichita

Meritorious Service Award - John and Susan Howell, Kansas on the Net

Meritorious Service Award - The Staff of Hutchinson Public Library and South Central Kansas Library System

New Professional Award - Caroline Kate Capps, Olathe Indian Creek Branch Library

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Address comments concerning *Kansas Libraries* to the editor.





NOTES

—by Eric Hansen
Executive Director

Tri-Conference 2003

Thanks to all who stopped by the KLNb Internet Booth at Tri-Conference this year. I asked John and Susan Howell to track attendance this year. The grand total of visits to the booth was 352, with an average of slightly more than 26 visits per hour. According to Exhibits Coordinator Karen Lundgrin, total estimated attendance at Tri-Conference this year was just over 1,000. Thanks are due to all who volunteered to help John and Susan staff the booth, especially Anne Damme, Jeff Hixon and Rhonda Machlan of the State Library for their help with setup and pack up, and to Anne Damme for staffing the Kansas Library Directory workstation.



KANAnswer operators met during Tri-Conference at the

Salina Public Library April 10 to discuss the service to date. As a result of the meeting, look for links to the service on library Web pages throughout the state. I welcome libraries of all sorts in Kansas to feel free to link to this service from their Web sites at the highest level possible, and encourage them to include the KANAnswer logo when doing so. Though use of and response to the service has been good so far, the operators and I are always interested in increasing the visibility of the service to the residents of Kansas. Questions about this can be directed to me at 800/432-3919 or eric@kslib.info.

Western Trails



Kansas participants in the Western Trails project are well along the way to digitizing materials relevant to the project and creating metadata records. Sample records are on the way to the

Colorado Digitization Project, where they will be tested in combination with such records from Nebraska and Wyoming.

Network Board to Meet

The Kansas Library Network Board will have its quarterly meeting on May 15 at the Kansas State University Veterinary Medical Library in Manhattan. The meeting is open to the public and will begin at 9:30 a.m. At this meeting the board will make decisions regarding ILDP FY 04 competitive grant awards, and its budget for FY 04.

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

William Allen White Children's Book Award winners

—by Terri Summey
William Allen White Library, ESU

Books by DiCamillo, Dowell selected as 2003 White Book Award Winners

The link: <http://www.emporia.edu/libsv/press03.htm>.

A story about a lonely girl who adopts an unusual dog and a story about a 12-year-old girl who has to prove she isn't a murderer have been selected by Kansas children as the 51st annual William Allen White Children's Book Award winners.

Because of Winn-Dixie by Kate DiCamillo is the 2003 White Award Winner in the third to fifth grade category and *Dovey Coe* by Frances O'Roark Dowell is the winner of the sixth to eighth grade 2003 White Award according to Joyce N. Davis, Dean of the University Libraries and Archives at Emporia State University and Executive Director of the White Awards Program. The White Awards Program, which is the nation's first statewide reader's choice award, is directed by Emporia State and is supported by the Trusler Foundation.

More than 66,000 Kansas boys and girls in the third through eighth grades participated in the voting for this year's awards. The boys and girls voted for their favorite book from master lists chosen by the White Awards Book Selection Committee, which is made up of representatives of education institutions in Kansas, Kansas educational and professional organizations concerned with children, classroom teachers, and school or public librarians working with children.

Since 1952, more than 2,788,000 votes have been cast by the children of Kansas to select the annual winners of the White Book Awards. The White Award Program was founded by Ruth Carver Gagliardo, a specialist in children's literature, to honor the memory of one of the state's most distinguished citizens by encouraging the boys and girls of Kansas to read and enjoy good books. Gagliardo's dedicated and inspired leadership guided the White Award Program from 1952 until her death on January 5, 1980.

KAN-ED full-text database selection update

—by Marc Galbraith
Research and Information Services

Action taken by the KAN-ED Users Advisory Board on April 4th will mean information seekers in the state of Kansas will soon have additional full-text databases to consult.

That same KAN-Ed Board action authorized the State Library of Kansas to begin negotiations for those database products. The products include the highly ranked selections from an online database trial, hosted on Blue Skyways January 20 to March 15, 2003. Many library users, librarians, teachers and students accessed the trial and used the databases, and more than 800 of those individuals completed response forms to evaluate the usefulness of the trial products. The selected databases include Newsbank, Ancestry Plus, Heritage Quest, Literature Resource Center, Contemporary Authors, Grolier Encyclopedia and World Book Encyclopedia. These selections are designed to complement the products available through current statewide agreement, Blue Skyways and the Kansas Library Card.

Final selection of databases will be based upon price and a variety of service considerations. The goal is to have subscription contracts in place and databases up and available by fall semester 2003 and sooner, if possible.

The KAN-Ed Users Advisory Board has also designated a negotiation team. The team members are Marc Galbraith, Kansas State Library, Director of Research and Information Services; Jeff Hixon, State Library Director of Library Information Technology; Eric Hansen, Executive Director, Kansas Library Network Board; Richard Fyffe, Assistant Dean of Libraries for Scholarly Communication, Kansas University; Kay Bradt, Director of Libraries, Baker University; Diane Leupold, Coordinator of Media Services, USD 501, Topeka; Lenora Kinsey, Hospital Librarian, Stormont-Vail Hospital, Topeka and Randy Stout, KAN-ED Research and Development Coordinator.

The team has begun communicating with vendors via the Bibliographic Center for Research. Final agreements and databases will be announced by KAN-ED, as well as by other sources as soon as information is available.

Gates Foundation update

—by Jeff Hixon
Director, Library Information Technology

In late March, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation provided the Kansas State Library with an implementation report detailing the activity of their State Partnership Program for libraries in Kansas. The statistical evidence points to a dramatic change in the place of public access computing in our public libraries as a result of the Foundation's efforts on our behalf.

Some highlights of the report:

Training

Attendance at Gates foundation training totaled 1,405 Kansas library staff from 233 library buildings. Of this number, over 1,000 were trained along with or after installation of granted computers. During the first part of training, 82% of participants responded to a survey identifying training needs—above the national average of 80%!

Hardware, Software and Documentation

The Foundation granted 499 Gates Library Computers for public use and 90 content servers in support of public access computing to Kansas libraries. Using their own funds, Kansas libraries purchased an additional 36 public use computers, 2 content servers and 3 public service desk computers. In all, the current program provided 630 new computers to public libraries in our state.

Included in this total are six computer training labs, each consisting of 12 computers, one for the instructor and 11 for trainees. Training labs were installed in the public libraries of Dodge City, Finney County, Great Bend, Hutchinson, Kansas City (main branch), and Pittsburg.

Networking

According to Foundation records, of the 232 library buildings awarded networking grants, the percentage using dial-up connections dropped from 55% prior to the implementation, to 33% at the conclusion of the program. 154 buildings, or 66% of networking grant recipients, now have dedicated internet connections. Of these, 113 or 49% have symmetrical connections with a speed of at least 200 Kbps, defined by the Foundation as "broadband."

Software Upgrade

All libraries receiving Gates computers will receive a software upgrade this summer, using an automated procedure that will completely reimage the hard disk drives (*you'll want to back up anything you've added before installing the upgrade!*) Technical support for the upgrade will be available from the Foundation through November 15, 2003.

Future Activities

The Gates Foundation investment in Kansas continues with two more programs—a grant to the State Library to develop a training program for library staff who work in public access computing, and the Staying Connected program, which will grant funds to the State Library to assist with one-time costs of moving libraries from dial-up to broadband connections, and to further develop training and technical support resources. These programs have the potential to bring nearly \$490,000 to Kansas.

The recent investment in Kansas libraries means that public access to computers and the Internet is in good-to-excellent shape right now, and with the KAN-ED network development well under way, the potential for continued enhancement is significant.

The governance and leadership of Kansas libraries will need all of the help the Foundation can provide, plus a lot of initiative, planning, and resources at the local level, in order to sustain what we now have. The end of the Gates program will not be the end of need for upgrades and expansion of computing resources. In a sense, it will be only the beginning.

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*.

Public Library Peer Comparison Tool, others highlighted by brochure

—by Roy Bird
Library Consultant

The State Library has been asked to alert public library directors in Kansas that a new brochure, *A Quick Guide to Education Data Resources: A Tabletop Reference to Selected NCES Web Site Tools*, is being mailed to your library. This handy tabletop reference has been designed for use in public libraries as a quick guide to selected, easy-to-use web site tools from the National Center for Education Statistics. This brochure is intended as a free-standing tool to be placed on reference desks and Internet workstations.

The web tools highlighted by this brochure are: Search for Schools, Colleges, and Libraries; Students' Classroom; Quick Tables and Figures; Electronic Catalog; and the Public Library and Academic Library Peer Comparison Tools.

The Public Library Peer Comparison Tool is especially helpful for statistical comparisons between your library and other public libraries all over the nation.

Produced by the Library Statistics Program at the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), the brochure is currently being mailed to the 9,134 public library systems included in the NCES Public Libraries Survey universe and also to all State Library Agencies. To order up to five copies, call ED Pubs at 877/4ED-Pubs and provide the publication reference number NCES 2003-406. The tabletop reference can also be ordered online or downloaded from the NCES Electronic Catalog at <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2003406>.



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

Library positions

Position: Assistant Director

Assistant Director for Pottawatomie-Wabaunsee Regional Library; forty hours a week; may include evening and weekend hours; MLS or comparable relevant education and experience preferred; requires excellent communication/interpersonal skills; attention to detail a must.

Responsibilities include: developing appropriate technologies, maintaining and managing all aspects of the regional library computer system and ability to conduct training in computer applications; requires dexterity and strength to move and install PC systems; requires travel. Salary determined by qualifications.

Position available June 1, 2003. Application forms are available at the library and will be taken until the position is filled. For more information please contact Freda Dobbins, Director, 306 N. 5th, St. Marys, 66536; 785/437-2778 or e-mail dobbinsf@oct.net.

Gallery Director

This position requires an MFA degree from an accredited college or university in Art History/Art; three years experience in a gallery/museum environment with knowledge of American art, working with decorative arts, ethnographic collections and fine arts; and three years of supervisory/management experience.

The salary range is \$39,777-\$47,731. Excellent benefits, including BCBS health/dental, retirement and cafeteria plan, with 22 days vacation and 12 days sick leave.

Application and more specific job information is available at web site: <http://www.tscpl.org>. Please submit an application with resume and three professional references to Human Resources, Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library, 1515 SW 10th, Topeka, KS 66604-1374. 1/785-580-4492.EOE.

Applications accepted through May 30, 2003.

Visit our gallery website at <http://www.tscpl.org/library/about/sabatini/sabatini.asp>.

Regional Library System Computer Consultant, Northwest Kansas Library System

Northwest Kansas Library System, a ten-county multi-type library system headquartered in Norton, Kansas, is seeking applications for the position of Computer Consultant. The Computer Consultant helps maintain library computer systems and trains librarians in the use of software and hardware maintenance. Half-time contract position. Travel is required.

Equal Opportunity Employer. All qualified applicants are encouraged to apply regardless of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, sex, disability, or age.

Send cover letter, resume and three references to: Leslie Bell, Director, NWKLS, #2 Washington Sq., PO Box 446, Norton, KS 67654. Additional information, including a job description: <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/nwcls/norwest.html>.

Open until filled. Application review will begin May 30, 2003.

Kansas books

—by Roy Bird
Library Consultant

Silk and Secrets, by Linda Madl. New York: Zebra, 2002. Paperback, 4" x 7", 351 pp., \$5.99.

Silk is one of the businesses the hero of this historical romance is in; secrets are what must be uncovered in order for the hero and heroine to eventually come together for the romantic finale. Linda Madl, who lives in the Flint Hills near Manhattan, is one of a number of romance novelists from Kansas. She has been writing and publishing fiction since 1989. While *Silk and Secrets* is set in 19th century Cornwall, and the female protagonist, Alyssa, is an American from New England, the author manages to squeeze in at least one reference to her native state—Alyssa is sent to her Cornish cousins after an embarrassing incident at her private school, but she considers running away to become a Harvey Girl along the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad in Kansas. But the majority of the novel takes place at the ancestral home of her cousins where she meets a dashing hero and has to solve a murder mystery before the climax.

For adult readers in public libraries who enjoy historical romances this is an exciting, mysterious entertainment,

but the reader must be cautious as there are some explicit scenes. A plus is that the author encourages readers to contact her and provides an e-mail address in the book for that purpose. Recommended for public library adult romance collections.

Downtown! Strolling Down the Avenue, by the Shawnee County Historical Society, Bulletin Number 79, December 2002. Softcover, 6" x 9", 288 pp. Order from Shawnee County Historical Society, PO Box 2201, Topeka, KS 66601. \$20.00.

Each year since 1964 the Shawnee County Historical Society has published a book-length monograph about the history of Topeka and/or Shawnee County. The current edition is all about downtown Topeka, the very heart of the city during the first half of the twentieth century. Edited by Topeka historian Douglass W. Wallace, this edition has seven distinct sections. The first is an introduction by noted Topeka historians; the second concerns the controversial Watertower Place, the historic homestead of Kansas pioneer John Ritchie and the cylindrical water tower that survived the 1966 tornado; another covers the 900 block of Kansas Avenue, where many famous businesses and stores were located just a block east of the capitol grounds; Kansas Power and Light, now Westar Energy, is the subject of the fourth section; Assumption Catholic church and parish immediately across the street from the capitol grounds is explored in another section; radio, moving pictures and television are covered in the sixth section, including the gala premier of the Randolph Scott Western movie "Fighting Man of the Plains" in 1947; and an atlas of downtown Topeka concludes this monograph.

For people who remember visiting the capital city during the heyday of its downtown, for people who visit today and want to know what it was like in its glory, or for people who just want to know more about the history of the Kansas capital city, this book will be prized. Recommended for secondary school collections, academic Kansas or history collections, adult nonfiction or Kansas collections in public libraries.

Kansas libraries.... 40 years ago

—by Bill Sowers
Kansas Documents Librarian/Tech Support Librarian

Gleanings from Kansas Library Bulletin, June, 1963, issue

- The Book of the Month Club awarded the Dodge City Public Library with a check for \$1,000 on April 21, at a ceremony held on the first day of National Library Week at the Lora Locke Hotel in Dodge City.
- Fort Riley is currently served by four libraries with book collections of 35,000, over 200 magazines, and 44 newspapers. Among the special collections within the library system are many books in French, German, Spanish, Italian and Russian. The library system also has extensive military science material.
- Miss Margaret Thrasher of Wichita was chosen for the 1963 grant for Study of Librarianship which is given each year by the Kansas Library Association.

- During the 1963 session of the Kansas Legislature, major changes were made to integrate the statewide programs of the State Library and Traveling Libraries Commission. The Stormont-Vail Medical Library was removed from state control and transferred to Stormont-Vail Hospital in Topeka. The Traveling Libraries Commission, as such, was abolished and the authority to continue that long-existent program was given to the new Library Extension Division of the State Library.

- The Morrill Free Public Library of Hiawatha has undergone a series of improvements within the past few years which have given the old Carnegie building a “new look.”



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