

Kansas Libraries

Official Newsletter of the Kansas State Library

November 2002

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NOVEMBER



LSTA technology grants awarded

—by Roy Bird
Library Consultant

In action by the State Library Advisory Commission and the LSTA Advisory Council in a joint meeting on Friday, October 25, 2002, a total of 23 out of 28 applications for technology projects were either fully or partially funded. A total of \$90,000 budgeted from federal funds under the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) was available for distribution. A total of \$166,737 was requested.

Included among the applications were projects for initial Internet access at an individual library; projects to enhance, expand or maintain Internet access at individual libraries; projects to enhance Internet use at multiple libraries; and projects involving technology other than the Internet.

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:

Initial Internet access at a single library:

McLouth Public Library.

Enhance, expand or maintain Internet access at a single library:

Atchison Public Library; Basehor Community Library; Coffey County Library, Burlington; Independent Township Library, Claflin; Colby Community College Library; Pioneer Memorial Library, Colby; Nixon Library, Butler County Community College, El Dorado; Mary Miller Library, Hesston College; Morrill Public Library, Hiawatha; Library District 2, Linn County, La Cygne; Lawrence Public Library; Louisburg Library District 1; Marion City Library; Jefferson West USD 340, Meriden; Ottawa University; and Mabee Library, Washburn University, Topeka.

Enhance Internet use at multiple libraries:

Southwest Kansas Library System, Dodge City.

Technology other than the Internet:

Central Kansas Library System, Great Bend; Neosho County Community College, Chanute; J.H. Robbins Memorial Library, Ellsworth; Goodland Public Library; and Northeast Kansas Library System, Lawrence.

Obviously, not all the grants could be funded, but congratulations are due for the high quality of all the grant applications received for this round of LSTA technology grants.

Literacy giants merge to form ProLiteracy Worldwide

—by Vikki Jo Stewart
Literacy and Volunteer Management Coordinator

Syracuse, New York, October 1, 2002—The merger of the world's two largest adult volunteer literacy organizations is complete and Laubach Literacy International and Literacy Volunteers of America, Inc. have become ProLiteracy Worldwide.

ProLiteracy Worldwide has programs in 45 developing countries as well as in the U.S. where it represents some 1,450 adult volunteer literacy organizations. ProLiteracy serves more than 350,000 adult new learners around the world each year. Its purpose is to sponsor educational programs and services to empower adults and their families by assisting them to acquire the literacy practices and skills they need to function more effectively in their daily lives and participate in the transformation of their societies. ProLiteracy's publishing division, New Readers Press, produces and distributes approximately 500 titles of adult educational books and materials to literacy organizations, schools, libraries, and other institutions nationwide. New Readers Press also publishes *News for You*, a weekly newspaper for adult new readers, which is read by 90,000 adult learners.

According to Robert Wedgeworth, president of ProLiteracy Worldwide, "This merger will bring incalculable benefits to the programs and people we serve around the world. Our goals are first and foremost to raise public awareness of the adult literacy cause and second, to influence public policy and funding. ProLiteracy Worldwide will make a substantial contribution to improving adult literacy during UNESCO's Decade of Literacy, 2003-2012."

"A merger of this scale and scope is unprecedented in the literacy field," said Marsha L. Tait, senior vice president of programs and services and former president of Literacy Volunteers of America, Inc. "Until now literacy advocates have not spoken with one voice on behalf of adult learners—either internationally or domestically."

In the United States, one in four adults function at the lowest literacy level. Abroad, more than 877 million adults are functionally illiterate. Adults with low literacy skills experience social, economic, and personal challenges that compromise their abilities to support themselves, to help their children in school, and to fully participate in society.

Laubach Literacy International was founded in 1955 by world literacy pioneer Dr. Frank C. Laubach and Literacy Volunteers of America, Inc. was founded by Ruth Colvin in Syracuse, New York, in 1962.

Highsmith library award

Public libraries can apply for the Highsmith Library Innovation Award. It recognizes a public library's innovative and creative service to the community. Any innovative creative program, activity or service that is a benefit to the community will be considered. The program or service must have had a measurable impact on the library's clientele. Proposals will be judged on the collaborative efforts of the staff and community in the planning and implementation process, and the measurements of success in the community based on usage, program attendance, or greater community awareness. Applications are due by December 1, 2002. Highsmith, Inc., the award's sponsor, will provide a plaque and a \$2,000 honorarium to recognize those proposals selected. Further information and application forms are available at <http://www.pla.org/awards/highsmith.html> or by calling 800/545-2433, ext. 5PLA.

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Address comments concerning *Kansas Libraries* to the editor.





NOTES

—by Eric Hansen
Executive Director

Network Board welcomes two

I am pleased to announce that the Kansas Library Network Board once again has a full roster, thanks to two recent appointments from the State of Kansas Secretary of Appointments.

• **Gayle Willard** is Director of the Veterinary Medical Library at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Kansas State University. She holds an M.L.S. from Emporia State University and has also been awarded a Certificate of advanced Study in Information Management from ESU. She is a Distinguished Member of the Academy of Health Information Professionals and chairs the membership committee of the Medical Library Association. Gayle will represent special libraries on the Network Board.

• **Joe McKenzie** has been Director of the Salina Public Library since 1989. He has also served as Assistant Director and Children’s Librarian there. He is a member of the American Library Association and a past-president of the Kansas Library Association. He holds an M.L.S. from Denver University. Joe will represent public libraries on the Network Board.

Network Board receives commendation

AASL At the 2002 Annual Conference of the American Library Association, the Affiliate Assembly of the American Association of School Librarians formally commended the Network Board. The Network Board received a certificate of commendation with a letter from the AASL dated October 10, which read, in part:

“The acknowledgement is for providing anyone with a Kansas library card access to high-quality electronic

information and research resources from any computer with access to the Internet.... Additionally, Eric Hansen, Executive Director of KLNB, is commended because he and one or more associates traveled across the state and presented hands-on workshops at Kansas Association of School Librarian district level conferences to school media specialists.”

KANAnswer needs you



KANAnswer, our state’s virtual reference pilot project, is

looking for library reference staff to serve as operators for the project. Operators serve on a volunteer basis, away from the library’s public desk. Training will be provided. I have contracted with LivePerson for two simultaneous operator seats, to reduce patron wait time. Several libraries of different types across Kansas have come forward to commit to time slots, but additional volunteers are still needed, especially to double up on times. The KANAnswer operator schedule is available on Blue Skyways at: <http://www.skyways.org/KSL/KLNB/KANAnswerOpSched.htm>. To volunteer for KANAnswer or for more information, contact Eric Hansen at 800/432-3919 (785/296-3875 voicemail) or eric@kslib.info.

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

ESU School of Library and Information Management receives \$1.7 million

—by *Diana Staresinic-Deane*
Associate Director of Advancement Communications
Emporia State University

Thanks to forward-thinking ESU alumni John and Valeta Richel, the ESU School of Library and Information Management has \$1.7 million dedicated to supporting SLIM students and faculty.

This gift is the largest single gift ever received by Emporia State University. Funds from this estate gift will be used for master's and doctoral fellowships, faculty support, and a discretionary fund. In addition, \$600,000 will be used to establish the Richel Professorship for the Advancement of Teaching, which will bring visiting scholars to SLIM.

What makes this gift even more special is that it comes from two people who were truly interested in ESU and SLIM students.

"They were a delightful couple – very warm, very friendly, very interested in the university, very interested in SLIM and our activities," said Robert Grover, SLIM dean and interim dean of graduate studies and research. "They enjoyed learning about our program and hearing from the students whom their scholarship supported."

SLIM Professor Marty Hale first met the Richels about 15 years ago during Homecoming. Then dean of SLIM, she became fast friends with the Richels, and often exchanged letters and postcards with them."

A retired school principal, John was especially proud to have saved such a large sum of money. He grew up in a poor family, and was forced to delay his own education until he could save enough money to go to college. When John and Valeta began planning a trust for the university, they met with Hale and representatives from the ESU Endowment Association (now the ESU Foundation) to determine what ESU, and SLIM in particular, needed.

Despite retiring to Florida, the Richels maintained their ties with the university. After John and Valeta died in 2000, the ESU Foundation began to receive partial disbursements of their trust—disbursements that would continue for the next three fiscal years.

"As a faculty, and with Marty [Hale's] input, we tried to think of ways that the money could be used as the Richels would want it used. And this is what they were very interested in—supporting students," Grover said.

The discretionary money could not have come at a better time. "Especially in times like the current times, when our financial resources are so tight, those kinds of funds really help us tremendously," Grover said. "I'm just most appreciative of the money. It really does open up a lot of possibilities."

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*.

"I Thought That Was My Job: Library Leaders!"

—by Vikki Jo Stewart
Liberacy and Volunteer Management Coordinator

What:

What is Social Action Theater (SAT)? SAT's are social dramas acted out in mini skits without scripts.

"I Thought That Was My Job!" is a series of 3-4 minute scenarios/vignettes designed to stimulate discussion among library leaders—library trustees, local Friends and library directors. Topics can be about anything. We used "trusting the Library Director," "misuse of funds by a relative of a board member," and "a difference in opinion about how funds raised by the Friends could be spent!"

Vignettes or a parody of a situation can provide an opportunity to touch on serious issues. Using the SAT helps create a safe environment for discussion. Participants, actors and others talk about the values of clarity, respect and trust as essential parts of communication between librarians, trustees and Friends. SAT can help participants view local experiences with a new perspective.

Who: FoKL and KLTA.

Friends of Kansas Libraries (FoKL) is a statewide organization committed to helping libraries meet the needs and expectations of local communities. Kansas Libraries Trustee Associations (KLTA) helps library board members understand their roles, responsibilities and legal duties. FoKL and KLTA formed a partnership to improve communications among libraries, trustees and Friends groups. "I Thought That Was My Job!" was an experiment for that partnership.

How:

Before presentation:

Recruit three or four volunteers—three are characters and one is a moderator. Volunteers are given a one-page vignette containing the scene and brief character descriptions. Vignettes have different scenes but all have the following characters: a library director, Board of Trustee President, and a Friends President. Assign roles to volunteers and make sure volunteers are familiar with impromptu style—to act without previous preparation. Arrange to talk as with the group moments before presentation.

Presentation:

Three characters are seated at a table and each has a table tent identifying a character. To begin action the moderator reads the vignette scene. The characters act extemporaneously. The scene lasts about four minutes and is completed when the moderator claps hands once. Actors stay in character and the moderator asks if there are questions. Actors stay in character and answer questions from the moderator or audience. (HINT: Write several questions ahead of time for the moderator to ask the Friend's President, or library director or board president, asking why he did or did not do something. The scenarios/vignettes are written with humor and are satirical.)

Why:

"I Thought That Was My Job!" is an experimental technique using humor and satire to improve communication between library and community leaders.

When:

Plan on at least an hour and not more than two. Consider using the first half hour or so for a panel of state-level resources. They can talk about how they can help trustees, Friends and librarians. The balance of the allotted time may be spent with the SAT—three or more vignettes with a moderator and participation by panel members.

Where:

Opportunities available at full library meetings, a state library conference and a Friends/Trustee conference day.

What For:

SAT can be entertaining and informative but is NOT a workshop. The outcome hoped for is that trustees, friends and library directors consider alternate resources to help solve what may be a communication problem. The SAT could be followed by sessions designed to improve communication and follow up on themes in vignettes.

In closing, the SAT "I Thought That Was My Job!" was an experiment to help illustrate that we are all library leaders and that FoKL and KLTA can be resources.

HAPLR Index

—by Roy Bird
Library Consultant

Do all you public librarians out there remember the public library statistics you now fill out online by March 1 every year? If so, you might be interested to know a way that these are used.

After these statistics are received and assembled at the Kansas State Library, they are submitted electronically to the Federal-State Cooperative System of Public Library Data Collection (FSCS) in Washington, DC, where they are compiled with similar statistics from around the nation. Nearly 9,000 public libraries of all sizes submit statistical data to this national project.

Annually, a Wisconsin public librarian named Thomas Hennen, Jr., uses these national statistics to create Hennen's American Public Library Ratings Index, commonly known as the HAPLR Index. He focuses on circulation, staffing, materials, reference transactions, and funding, calculated on statistics from FSCS. He assigns points for these statistics. Using these he creates rankings in categories based on population. These rankings have become extremely prestigious among library professionals since they first were produced in the late 1990s.

The newest HAPLR Index has been recently released. Kansas libraries once again have done well. Three are ranked in the top ten of their population category:

Mary Cotton Library, the public library in Sabetha, population 2,355, ranked seventh of ten in its category.

Morton County Library, Elkhart, population 3,440, is ranked eighth out of ten in its category.

Johnson County Library, population 346,046, ranked second out of ten in the next-to-largest library category.

In the state HAPLR scores, Kansas ranked eighth among the 50 states, being assigned 627 points. The top score was 701 points. Scores for each state are weighted so that a large number of small population libraries with high scores will not weigh more heavily than a few large population libraries with low scores.

Next year between January and March when public librarians are completing their online statistical reports, they will be aware of how widespread these statistics are

used. The 2001 statistics were among the most accurate and complete that Kansas has ever been able to report. Perhaps when we collect 2002 statistics in 2003 we can improve even more! And know the stats are used, too.

Ad Astra installed

Ad Astra, the bronze statue created by Salina artist Richard Bergen to symbolize the state of Kansas, was installed atop the statehouse dome on October 7 after



Ad Astra before liftoff

years of delays. The 22-foot tall statue, weighing close to 4,000 pounds, was originally set in place on October 7 at about 1:20 p.m., but had to be removed for several days to correct bolts intended to secure the statue to the dome that did not fit properly. The statue had been a source of some controversy due to the expense of reinforcing the Capitol dome to support it in these times of state

budget deficits, but \$500,000 donated from the Topeka Foundation for this purpose largely deflated that argument. The statue is named after the state motto, "Ad Astra Per Aspera," which means "To the stars through difficulties."

Corrections were made to the statue's base and it was reinstalled on the Capitol dome shortly before 9:00 a.m. October 10, 2002.

Kansas books

—by Roy Bird
Library Consultant

A Collection Of Plays By Mark Frank: Bend, Hotel 5, I, Figaro!, A Purrfect Life, He's Harry, But Aren't We All, Torn, by Mark Frank. Lincoln, NE. Writer's Club Press, c/o iUniverse, Inc., 5220 S. 16th St., Suite 200, 68512, (www.iuniverse.com). Softcover, 6" x 9", 190 pp. Inquiries concerning performance royalty fee should be addressed to Mark Frank, 400 West 11th Street, Coffeyville, KS 67337, 620/251-7700.

Mark Frank, the artistic/technical director of the Coffeyville Community College theater department, observes in his forward: "It is such a plus to have your own space to produce and experiment with your original work...However, on the other side of the coin, being a playwright in Coffeyville, Kansas, is extremely hard to get published." He has put his finger on a problem from which many Kansas authors suffer. Those attending his original plays in Coffeyville are fortunate to have viewed them. The rest of us have not yet had the good fortune to see them produced, but we can read them. And maybe by reading them we can also encourage their stage production.

In "*Bend*," the longest of the six plays, Frank explores the frustration of being a playwright in the Midwest while showing concern for a pregnant teenager, a cancer victim, an alcoholic rodeo clown and a female police officer—all characters of one personality. "*Hotel 5*" depicts a harried elevator operator confronted on his first day on the job by a series of bizarre patrons, only to find all of them are hotel employees...was it a dream, or is his mind playing tricks? A short, nine-scene play, "*I, Figaro!*" presents a garbage man convinced he is the opera character Figaro, his wife who administers his medication, and an irreverent son. The remaining plays are short episodes describing the lives of two cats, a scenario illustrating the frustrations of modern office work, and a one-woman soliloquy as the last conversation with her father, delivered to a coffin on stage. Overall, Frank exhibits some strong emotions and highlights often overlooked minor details in our everyday lives.

Public and school librarians should be aware of some very strong language, but *A Collection Of Plays By Mark Frank* is recommended for academic and public library adult theater collections.

Rose's Mountain: Take An Eye For An Eye, by Sam Pierson. Order from: Sam Pierson, 2075 Lynx Road NW, Lebo, KS 66856. Softcover, 6" x 9", 255 pp., \$16.00 (library discount \$10.00).

A multi-talented lady, Sam Pierson not only wrote and published her first work of fiction, *Rose's Mountain*, she even took the photo of a rose that graces the cover. She also has written poetry and dabbled in oil painting. She left St. Joseph, Missouri, to enjoy rural life in Lebo, where she found time to write an extraordinary fiction book.

Rose's Mountain looks like a romance if one judges books by their covers. However, inside the reader discovers that the author wanted to write a murder mystery. She has been influenced by authors such as James Patterson, and she loves to tell a good story. It is an exciting tale of a quiet Kentucky mountain, a young girl, and her family who live there. The family's peace is torn asunder by an evil assailant who the youngster, Rose, struggles desperately to defeat. Through the use of dialect and an innovative system of chapter headings that reflect the change from Rose as an old lady and Rose as a young girl, Sam Pierson successfully accomplishes her goal. This is an eminently readable and cliff-hangingly satisfying first novel, one intended for a female audience but which will be enjoyed by many readers. A sequel entitled *Wind Whispers* can be expected soon.

Highly recommended for adult fiction collections in public, academic and secondary school libraries.



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

Kansas libraries.... 31 years ago

—by Bill Sowers
Kansas Documents Librarian/Tech Support Librarian

Excerpts from *The Kansas Library Newsletter, November, 1971*

- Lois Flanagan has retired after 32 years of service at the Dodge City Public Library. Ms. Flanagan's successor is Terrence Risko. The people of Dodge City honored Ms. Flanagan with a Lois Flanagan Day.
- Mrs. Pat Heidrick is the new librarian at Port Library in Beloit. She succeeds Rosemary Morris who recently retired.
- Miss Betty Denslow retired as librarian of the Burlington Carnegie Public Library after 37 years of service. Mrs. Harold Geery is her successor.
- Sherry Hokanson, formerly consultant for Institutional Library Services at the State Library, has been named the

director of the Library Services to the Blind and Physically Handicapped Division. Ms. Hokanson succeeds Ellen Zabel who accepted the position of Regional Librarian for the Blind in Illinois.

- Mary Gonzalez has joined the staff of the State Library of Kansas as director of the Community Information Center Project. This project will explore ways in which the library can become a more complete source of all kinds of information for the community.
- Mildred Boyersmith recently joined the staff of the South Central Kansas Library System as children's services consultant. She is developing a creative program for preschoolers called "Let's Pretend."



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• *Library Director*

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 Kansas State Library
 300 SW 10th Street, Room 343
 Topeka, KS 66612-1593
 785/296-3296
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