

Kansas Libraries

Official Newsletter of the Kansas State Library

October 1998

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LSTA meeting October 23

Since the joint meeting of the State Library Advisory Commission and the LSTA Advisory Council in June, system administrators and consultants, members of the Commission and Council and State Library staff have been preparing for the October 23, 1998 meeting to award LSTA Technology Development and LSTA Technology Training grants. The Technology Development grants have a total budgeted of \$100,000; the Technology Training grants have been budgeted at \$50,000.

Following the June joint meeting, system personnel, some LSTA Council members and State Library staff participated in a mentor training session on July 28. They helped applicants by reading drafts and making recommendations and suggestions for improvement to get high quality applications. During August and September, State Library staff conducted Basic Grantwriting and LSTA Technology Grant workshops in six locations across the state.

In the meantime, letters of intent to apply for either or both of these LSTA grants were solicited, with a deadline of August 3. Application forms and guidelines for applying for

these grants were sent to the nearly 80 libraries submitting letters of intent.

Applicants have voluntarily consulted with the mentors if necessary and have completed the application forms, which were received at the State Library by the October 2 deadline.

Voluntary regional public hearings before a review committee of the Commission and the Council will be held at two central locations during October.

Those libraries submitting a letter of intent received an announcement of the two public library hearings by ground mail. The review committee will not be making formal recommendations to the Commission and Council, but they will gather information and prioritize the applications. A total of 80 grant applications were photocopied in their entirety and mailed to the Commission and Council members the week of October 5.

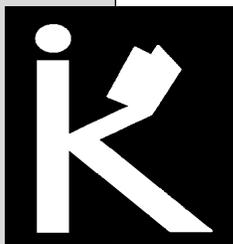
KLA legislative agenda

—by Kent Oliver

The following is the 1999 KLA Legislative Agenda as adopted by the KLA Council at its October meeting in Hutchinson. We will now begin producing literature and will try to have it out by the middle of October. If you have any questions in the meantime, let me know.

The Kansas Library Association....

- Supports the Board of Regents request that a 1% increase of the campus OOE be directed to library acquisitions.
- Opposes Internet filtering consistent with the Kansas Library Association position statement on filtering.
- Supports increased State funding for purchase of statewide library access to online research databases.



- Supports increased State funding of local libraries which creates a Grant-In-Aid package that represents 10% of the aggregate Kansas public library total annual operating budget funded at the State level and 90% at the local level.

State Grant-In-Aid monies increase from \$2,425,121 to \$3,859,378. Interlibrary Loan Development fund expanded from \$619,381 to \$964,844.

KS public library handbook to be mailed

The State Library is pleased to announce that the *Kansas Public Library Handbook* will soon be distributed to all public library directors in the state. This work, more than a year in the making, is the successor to *The Revised Handy Book for Kansas Public Libraries and Trustees*. The many changes, additions, and new issues caused a need for a complete rewriting of the older work rather than a simple revision.

The *Kansas Public Library Handbook* retains the dictionary style entries which are familiar to librarian and trustees. However, it has larger print, a more durable perfect binding and a more attractive, professional cover. They will be send out via ground mail as soon as they arrive from the State Printer.

Each public library in Kansas will receive one copy free of charge. Additional copies will be available at a to-be-determined cost. As with other documents provided by the State Library, there are no copyright restrictions so librarians can photocopy from the new handbook at will.

Watch for your copy of the *Kansas Public Library Handbook* coming to your public library soon.

1998 White award luncheon announcement

The 1998 William Allen White Children's book Award Luncheon will be held in the Century II Exhibition Hall in Wichita, Kansas on Saturday, October 24 at 12:00 noon. The Kansas Association of Elementary School Principals will host the 1998 White Award Luncheon. The 46th annual White Award Medal will be presented to

Barbara Park for her book, *Mick Harte was Here*.

There will be a sale of Barbara Park's books by the Friends of the William Allen White Book Award Board and an autographing session in the balcony area above the Exhibition Hall on October 24 from 9:00 am until 11:30 am and immediately following the luncheon. There will be a limit of one book which will be autographed for each person.

BCR gives option for local data on the Web

BCR staff can now help libraries provide their patrons with direct, easy access to local data on the World Wide Web. BCR converts the local library data to an indexed, fully searchable digital database, and then mounts the database on a web server. Library patrons can access the database using a standard web browser such as Netscape or Microsoft Explorer.

If the library doesn't have its own web server, BCR can host the database on its own ERL server, while still making the data web-accessible to library patrons. BCR also can publish the local data on CD-ROMs where searchers can readily access it using SilverPlatter's free SPIRS software.

Libraries will find a number of benefits to using BCR's web service:

- Local data is fully accessible using a standard interface found in many other databases library patrons access regularly.
- The local database is fully customized. Library staff decides what index fields to display, which are browsable and which can be searched.
- Library patrons can easily access the local data using technology with which they are familiar—either a standard web browser or SilverPlatter's SPIRS software.
- BCR can convert most database formats, including MARC records.

For more information, contact BCR's Ellen Fox today at efox@bcr.org, 303/751-6277 or 800/397-1552.

Carnegie library awarded heritage trust fund grant

Eleven Kansas properties on the state and national registers have been selected to receive a total of \$536,884 in Heritage Trust Fund Grants for 1998. The matching grants will assist property owners in preserving resources for the benefit of all Kansans. The grants will include a Carnegie Library project in Kansas.

The Argentine Carnegie Library, Kansas City, Wyandotte County, will receive \$25,756 for construction costs for the replacement of the central air conditioning system.

The Heritage Trust Fund was created by the 1990 Kansas legislature out of recognition of the important role of historic property owners and the unique circumstances they face in preserving our heritage. This fund is the only state financial incentive program for historic preservation.

Twenty-nine applications were submitted for this year's Heritage Trust Funds. The Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review made the final selection at its August 21 board meeting.

For more information about the Heritage Trust Fund grants call the Kansas State Historical Society, 785/272-8681 x240. The office is located in the Kansas History Center, 6425 S.W. 6th Avenue, Topeka, KS 66615; 785/272-8681; TTY 785/272-8683; www.kshs.org.

In memoriam

Opal Pauline Littlepage, age 65 passed away Saturday, August 1, 1998. Opal was the librarian in Sedan since 1988. Opal was born November 1, 1932 in Sedan, and married Everett Ishmael "Ish" Littlepage on July 24, 1949.

Services were August 5, 1998. Memorials may be sent to the Sedan Library or the Sedan United Methodist Church.

RFP for an integrated system of library services update

For the past three months, the Kansas State Library has been in the process of soliciting proposals from qualified vendors for an integrated system of library services.

The desired system will combine the following functions:

- the Kansas Library Catalog (KLC)
- the Kansas List of Serials (KLS)
- Interlibrary Loan request transmission (KICNET), and
- a statewide community information database (Community Library Online Union Database, or CLOUD)

This process took a major step forward when a committee of volunteers reviewed the 70+ pages of specifications which make up the heart of our request for proposals.

We incorporated changes into the final version in expectation of a meeting with the Division of Purchases.

Sincere thanks to conference call participants Marianne Eichelberger (Newton Public Library); Rosanne Goble (Dodge City Public Library/SWKLS/Kansas Library Network Board); Georgeann Haynes (CLOUD); Duane Johnson, Rhonda Machlan, and Tasmin Nyaforh (Kansas State Library); Deb Ludwig (Johnson County Community College); Brig McCoy (SEKLS); Susan Moyer (Bramlage Public Library, Junction City); Chris Rippel (CKLS) and Tim Rogers (Johnson County Library).

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*.

Eric Hansen, Executive Director, KLNB

The Kansas Library Network Board and the State Library are pleased to announce the appointment of Eric Hansen, KLNB Executive Director.

Eric brings a diverse professional background to the position. After receiving a B.A. in music from Dana College, Clair, NE, Eric performed for several years as a professional musician on national tours and recordings. While working on his M.M. in Music History and Literature, he served as a graduate research assistant at the Conservatory Library at UMKC, an experience that eventually led him to change careers from music to librarianship.

Eric earned his M.L.S. at the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1994 and went to work for the Johnson County Library. He comes to the KLNB and State Library from his present position as Adult Services supervisor at the Argentine Branch Library, Kansas City, Kansas Public Library.

Eric is a founding member of the KLA New Members Roundtable and the Heartland Chapter of Reforma. He enjoys working with personal computers and is certified in advanced PC repair. In his spare time he also serves as a contributing reviewer in classical music to the Kansas City Star.

Eric started on Monday, October 5.

Colleagues of the Board and State Library send Eric a warm and very pleased welcome.

New NWKLS automation consultant

Adam Smith is the new part-time NWKLS computer consultant. He works out of his home in Hoxie and can be reached at:

P.O. Box 785
Hoxie, KS 67740
785/675-2185
877/675-2185 (toll free)
nwlibcc@ruraltel.net

New Gov Docs Librarian at ESU

The Division of Library Services at Emporia State University is pleased to announce the appointment of Karen Nordgren to the post of Government Documents Librarian. Karen comes to the division from Portland State University. Karen's first day on the job was September 21.

Library staff member awarded by Johnson County Commission on Aging

Marilyn Heley, Information Specialist at the Corinth Library, is the recipient of an Extra Mile Award from the Johnson County Commission on Aging. Heley was honored for her "services above and beyond the all of duty to help improve the lives of Johnson County seniors and their families" in taking library programming for adults to retirement homes.

Heley coordinates a successful monthly program that brings local authors to Claridge Court, a residential facility across the street from the Corinth Library.

Because of that program, over the past year, Heley has visited 13 different retirement homes, and 150-200 residents on a monthly basis. She contacts activity directors to establish needs and wishes of the facility's residents.

Heley also presents book talks at the retirement homes. Some are about books of her choosing, others have been requested by residents. She provides information on what's new in the library, introduces her audiences to new authors or stirs up interest in old favorites. By taking the library to a segment of the community no longer able to take advantage of resources and activities at the library, Heley stimulates the minds and enriches the lives of the many older adults who she visits.

Library name change

The library board voted on Sept. 16, to have the official name of the Cawker City Library as "Cawker City Public Library." It had been known previously as the Hesperian Library.

Community Connections

by Shannon Roy

New Building Brings Many Changes to Pittsburg Library

The recently remodeled and expanded Pittsburg Public Library glows with subtle greens, soft neutrals and warm woods. It is very beautiful, still historic and rapidly becoming an effective modern library facility.

I asked Library Director Pat Clement and Director of Reference Carol Ann Robb what effect the new facility had on the library's use of technology. They both laughed.

"We really didn't have a lot of technology in the old facility," said Carol Ann. "We didn't have the connections, the wiring, the outlets or much of anything else. All we had was a staff and a board who knew where we had to go.

"It's hard to put technology into a historic facility," Pat added. "It takes a major renovation. We still have some problems to solve but we have come a long way.

"We participate in a consortium with Pittsburg State University, Fort Scott Community College and the Pittsburg Schools. All the members have Dynix as their automation system so resource sharing is quite effective.

"We have also made good progress with access to electronic information. We have put in an ISDN line to support our Internet access. We have three public Internet stations in Adult Services and two in the Children's Department.

"One of our real assets is our technical support. Susan Johns at PSU knows Dynix very thoroughly. We will also benefit from having system automation consultant Brig McCoy headquartered at our library.

"Technology development is important because it supports reference and research but it is also disproportionately expensive. We are primarily a popular materials library and a comprehensive program for children. Because of these competing priorities, we will have to make

our information access as cost effective as possible and then make sure we use it very efficiently for all our people.

"The community leaders in Pittsburg are very supportive of electronic information access but many are not yet aware of the tremendous volume of information the Internet can pull in the community. It will be up to the library to show how the Internet can meet a wide variety of information needs.

"This beautiful building has excited a lot of people, but people will notice if the facility doesn't hold enough copies of a bestseller or can't provide a quick interlibrary loan or the answer to a reference question. So for us, the building program is not an ending but the beginning of a lot of library development."

Pat Clement received her MLS from Indiana University in the early 70s. She has been a school library media specialist at both the elementary and high school level. Her most recent position was at Murray State University where she taught workshops on how to use Internet, email and Microsoft Word. Her first Internet workshops dealt with telnet, FTP and Gopher. Now, it's hard for her to remember life before the World Wide Web was developed.

"With all the improvements in technology in the past five years," she said. "I wonder why I can't get an uninterrupted connection to PSU for automation. That's what Pittsburg Public Library is working on today. We don't know what technology will bring tomorrow but we are looking forward to finding out."

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

Address comments concerning *Kansas Libraries* to the editor.

National Children's Book Week

In the twilight of the twentieth century, Books Go Everywhere—on mass transit; in cars; and on planes, even with those en route to the moon. How appropriate that this theme, chosen for The Children's Book Council's 79th annual observance of National Children's Book Week from November 16—22, 1998, reflects the mobile, exciting and varied society that today's children inhabit.

Since 1919, educators, librarians, booksellers, and families have celebrated National Children's Book Week during the week before Thanksgiving. Check the CBC web site: www.cbcbooks.org for more information about and ways to celebrate National Children's Book Week.

Library to offer DVD

The future in home entertainment is coming to the Kansas City, Kansas Public Library. Starting in September, the Argentine and West Wyandotte Libraries offer Digital Video Discs (DVDs), the next generation of optical disc storage technology. Patrons will be able to check out DVDs following the same guidelines as currently in place for regular videos.

DVD is basically a faster, super CD that can hold video as well as audio and computer data. Most DVD movies include special features like interactive menus, production notes and photos, interviews, commentary, theatrical trailers, scene access, multiple languages and subtitles. DVD can produce near-studio-quality video with twice the image sharpness of videotape, and 3-D surround sound for booming theater-like audio.

DVD also offers multi-viewing formats, allowing viewers to select the size of the picture. Movies can be viewed in regular TV format or in a wide screen, full-aspect ratio that provides panoramic images just like in the theater.

The DVD format is compact and durable, which makes DVDs much easier to store and care for than videotape. DVD players currently

cost around \$400, but prices are expected to come down. DVDs may even be viewed on computers with the proper hardware and software requirements.

Call the Argentine (913/722-7400) or West Wyandotte (913/596-5800) Library for more information on the new DVD collection.

Emporia Offers Distance MLS to Students in New Mexico

New Mexico residents who are interested in enrolling in a local graduate library school program can soon do so via the Distance Education Program (DEP) at the School of Library and Information Management (SLIM) of Emporia State University (ESU). SLIM is currently recruiting for its second MLS program offered in New Mexico, beginning January 1999. Graduation will be in the summer of 2001.

The first program in the state began in 1993 and conferred 40 MLS degrees in 1995. Since 1987, SLIM has offered nine MLS programs through the DEP and graduated nearly 500 students. Currently, programs are underway in Colorado, Nebraska, Oregon, and Utah.

Lieber Library, Osage City plans progress

Thanks to Osage City voters, the space crunch soon will be gone at Lieber Library. On August 4, voters overwhelmingly approved \$854,000 in general obligation bonds to build a new library on city-owned land a block west of the current building.

The 526-275 vote was the exclamation point of a 2.5 year effort by library supporters and community members.

Cindy Wymore, a library board member and chairwoman of the building project planning committee, said the new 6,700-square-foot building would offer twice as much space. The current library was built in 1927 after Edward Lieber donated \$15,000 to erect the two-story brick building and furnish it with books.

The library was a private facility until 1970, when it was taken over by the city. Wymore said the building was no longer meeting the library's needs. The cooling and heading systems had become inadequate, the basement had sprung leaks, and handicapped accessibility was non-existent.

Remodeling wasn't an option because improvements would have gobbled up space that the building couldn't afford to lose. Enlargement was out of the question because no adjacent properties were available.

So far, there are no plans for the old building.

Under a preliminary timetable, construction of the new library could begin as early as next spring.

Wymore said organizers were working out a contract with Emig and Associates architects, Emporia, to provide a final design. After the blueprints are drawn, the city will solicit construction bids.

The new library will be a one-story brick building with room for visitors to listen to music, work privately on a computer and see small exhibits. There will be a meeting room and a "Kansas" room devoted to local material, such as genealogical records.

Emporia P.L. programs

The Emporia Public Library hosted a special program, "Talking Tombstones: History in the Cemetery" on Thursday, September 10 at 7:00 pm in the large meeting room. Albert N. Hamscher was the guest speaker. Through their physical design and the evolution of funerary "art," cemeteries in Kansas and elsewhere reflect the changing views of life and death. Hamscher is a professor of history at Kansas State University. He became interested in historical views of death and dying as a result of his students' curiosity about the topic. This presentation includes his photographs of Kansas cemeteries.

Also Emporia Public Library began its book discussion series for the fall and spring featur-

ing books from "100 Best Novels of the 20th Century." Copies of the books have been available at the reference desk at least two weeks before each discussion. The first meeting was Wednesday, September 16 at 7:00 pm in the library's large meeting room. Interested readers will talk about "The Maltese Falcon" by James Dickey; "Track" by Louise Erdrich; "Possession" by A.S. Byatt; "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" by Ken Kesey; "Invisible Man" by Ralph Ellison and "Wide Sargasso Sea" by Jean Rhys.

Newbooks

—by Roy Bird

The Enchanted Rocking Horse, by Southwind Writers. Ha' penny Press, P.O. Box 1464, Salina, KS 67402. 1998. \$9.95+ 2.00 p/h.

Just in time for the holiday seasons, *The Enchanted Rocking Horse: Christmas Tales* by Southwind Writers a delightful collection of seven yuletide short stories by seven central Kansas published authors. The writers group, which first met in 1991, includes cowboy poet Rod Beemer, historian and columnist Judy Magnuson Lilly, Therese and Larry Uri, painter and poet Joyce Green Pearson, journalist and editor Sheridan Warner, and actress Victoria Page. Each author contributed one delightful story to this collection

Read about Santa's first reindeer travel, how pioneer celebrated holidays on the plains, or a midwife and a Christmas Eve mother and babe, relive wartime holidays with a WWII WAC or experience the loneliness of a 1960s divorcee celebrating without her children. Explore your own memories as a young woman pages through her mother's autograph book or witness how a brass rocking horse saves Christmas for an inn-keeper.

Perfect for the holiday season and sure to have something for everyone, this is recommended for all collectors. But order it right away! They won't last long.

Wichita Blues: Discovery, by Patrick Joseph O'Connor. Wichita Blues Project, 2401 W. 27th N. Wichita, KS 67204. 1998. \$9.00 post-paid.

Patrick J. O'Connor has taught courses on the blues at Wichita State University and at Friends University. He's worked with blues man Berry Harris for the Wichita public schools. He is the perfect author for *Wichita Blues: Discovery*, a 120 page work complete with 15 photos that takes a serious look at the blues and the Wichita musicians who contributed to this jazz form.

O'Connor examines the early African American neighborhood of Wichita, the club scene and the blues music that drew people in and made them coalesce into a community. Much of the rest of the book consists of transcripts of interviews with Wichita blues legends Glonquez Brown, Erick Robinson and Harmonica Chuck, Berry Harris and Henry Cole.

The face value of this book is a study of blues music in Wichita. But a deeper value is the face of the African American community in Wichita. The study of the music of this ethnic groups is as great a contribution to Wichita and Kansas literature as the music itself. Recommended for adult non-fiction and Kansas collections.

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