

Kansas Libraries

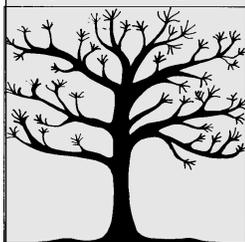
Official Newsletter of the Kansas State Library

November 1998

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NOVEMBER



Kansas Libraries gets new editor

by Eric Hansen

After years of faithful service, Roy Bird has passed the editorship of *Kansas Libraries* to me. Under his direction the newsletter has been a reliable source of news and information to libraries throughout Kansas. I know you, the readers, join me in thanking Roy for the great work he's done on our behalf.

Kansas Libraries is the official newsletter of the Kansas State Library, but as the new editor I will actively seek to incorporate news of regional and local interest for all Kansas libraries and their staffs. This can include announcements of new hires, positions to be filled, calendars of events, booksales, and anything else you'd like to see in our pages.

Press releases can be sent to me by E-mail at erich@ink.org or by fax at (785)296-6650. If a phone call is your best option, the State Library's toll-free number in Kansas is (800) 432-3919; my voicemail number is (785) 296-3875. Copy can also be mailed to me at the Kansas State Library, 300 S.W. 10th Ave., Room 343-N, Topeka, KS 66612-1593.

I look forward to a long and productive tenure as the editor of *Kansas Libraries*.

LSTA Awards Technology grants

The Kansas State Library Advisory Commission and the LSTA Advisory Council selected recipients of the federal FY 1999 Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) technology grants at a joint meeting on Friday, October 23, 1998 at the Days Inn in Topeka.

Grant applications ranged from \$390 to \$61,500. Amounts funded ranged from \$390 to \$20,845. All types of libraries in Kansas were eligible for technology funds. Awards were divided according to technology development and technology training.

Technology development grants awarded:

Arkansas City Public Library, \$9,350; Belleville Public Library, \$3,193; Beloit Juvenile Correctional Facility, \$3,515; Coldwater-Wilmore Regional Library, \$4,284; Courtland Public Library, \$3,081; Formoso Public Library, \$2,989; Glen Elder Library, \$2,350; North Central Kansas Library System, \$9,200; North-east Kansas Library System, \$12,400; Pottawatomie-Wabaunsee Library, \$20,845; Randall Public Library, \$1,764; Southwest Kansas Library System, \$17,500; Southeast Kansas Library System, \$13,508; Thayer FRC City Library, \$1,300; Tonganoxie Public Library, \$2,600; White City Public Library, \$3,500; Wichita Public Schools, \$8,400; Yates Center Public Library, \$2,800.

Technology training grants awarded were:

Baldwin City Public Library, \$2,650; Central Kansas Library System, \$12,887; Dodge City Public Library, \$12,500; Nixon Library, Butler Co. Comm. College, \$3,797; Northwest Kansas Library System, \$2,697; Phillipsburg City Library, \$6,999; South Central Kansas Library System, \$2,850; Southwestern College Library, \$6,457; Stockton Public Library, \$475; Thayer FRC City Library, \$390; Wichita Public Schools, \$529.

Letters of intent now being accepted for LSTA special populations grants

It's time again to submit letters of intent to apply for Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Special Populations grants. The deadline for letters of intent for FY 1999 awards is Monday, December 14, 1998. Letters of intent should be typewritten or wordprocessed on library, agency or institution letterhead.

LSTA Special Populations grants are open to libraries of all types. To apply, submit a letter of intent to Roy Bird, Federal Projects Coordinator, Kansas State Library, 300 S.W. 10th Ave., Room 343-N, Topeka, KS 66612-1593.

The letter of intent is the first step in the application process for a grant from the LSTA allotment to Kansas for special populations. Libraries which submit a letter of intent will then receive a copy of the application and LSTA Special Population Grant Program guidelines. The guidelines and application forms are also available electronically on Blue Skyways and they will be updated in the next weeks. The revised guidelines will be at <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/KSL/admin/lsttaguid.html>. The application form will be at <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/KSL/admin/lstaapp.pdf>.

A total of \$50,000 has been allocated for FY 1999 Special Populations grants.

If your library is interested in federal funds to support a project serving a special population during FY 1999, submit your letter of intent by December 14. Grant awards will be determined at the February 19, 1999 joint meeting of the LSTA Advisory Council and the State Library Advisory Commission.

For additional information about LSTA Special Population grants, contact your regional library system consultant, or Roy Bird at (800) 432-3919, E-mail: royb@ink.org.

Clay Center gets Vote Smart

Would you like to know your elected officials' voting records, issue positions, campaign finances and performance evaluations? The Clay Center Carnegie Library has made that information available to its patrons thanks to Project Vote Smart, a national, non-partisan organization.

The library's partnership with Project Vote Smart is partially funded by a grant from the Carnegie Foundation. Benefits to Clay Center residents include access to special research services on the Vote Smart Web (www.vote-smart.org), the Voter's Research Hotline (888-VOTE SMART), and free copies of the "Voter's Self-Defense Manual." All of these resources enable library users to access information on more than 13,000 elected officials and candidates for political office, including those in Kansas.

Project Vote Smart is funded by more than 50,000 individual members and foundation grants. Its web site includes information about the organization, it's projects and resources. There is also a link to a page which describes library partnerships at <http://www.vote-smart.org/about/services/libraries/>. This page includes a description of services that participating libraries will receive, minimum qualifications for participating libraries, contact information, and an online application form.

Project Vote Smart is a national, nonpartisan research and information organization founded by prominent leaders and former leaders whose background spans a wide political spectrum. Some of its founders include Barry Goldwater, and George McGovern, Geraldine Ferraro and Newt Gingrich, Mark Hatfield and Bill Bradley.

Johnson County Library an innovations in government finalist

The Johnson County Library has been named an Innovations in Government Awards finalist for its Books to Grow Program. The library outreach program for child care settings was selected as one of the top 25 programs out of more than 1400 entries that were considered for the award. The

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Catalyst

by Eric Hansen,
Executive Director
Kansas Library Network Board

In the seventeen years of its existence the Kansas Library Network Board has been the source of several innovative projects that have helped Kansas libraries and the citizens they serve to access the information they want, when and where they need it.

Some of the board's initiatives include: Kanfax, the statewide fax network; a statewide courier service to make materials in all participating Kansas libraries available to all other libraries; the Interlibrary Loan Development Program, which provides funds to libraries for purchase of materials for ILL use within the state; Blue Skyways, the World Wide Web resource for libraries in Kansas; Community Connections, a web page training and development program funded in part by the Loleta D. Fyan Grant; and the Materials Replacement Fund, a program to help absorb the cost of replacing materials lost in interlibrary transit.

Many of these initiatives came about through the direct or guided efforts of my predecessor, Michael Piper. With so much good work on which to build, you can image my delight when the Network Board chose me to fill the position at its August meeting. Other business conducted at that meeting can be viewed on Blue Skyways at <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/KSL/KLNB/KLNB898.html>.

The change in directors does not mean the Board will abandon its prior projects. Kanfax is still going strong, at the time of this writing the

courier contract is being negotiated for next year, ILDP is still a great source of collection development funds, Blue Skyways will continue to be a source of information for Kansas libraries, and the Boeing Corporation has extended its Executive on Loan program so that the web page training John and Susan Howell are doing can continue.

Besides preserving past programs, the Network Board will also look to providing for the digital development of Kansas libraries. One prospect the board is assessing is the Kansas Electronic Document Center. The board is also set to assess its future role with regards to Blue Skyways. And we are determining the role we might play to aid the transition from the Kansas Library Catalog and the present ILL system to an integrated information network.

As before, the Network Board seeks to promote cooperation between Kansas libraries of all types and sizes, whether the tangibles involved are books or bytes. I look forward to the opportunity to make my contribution to the process for a long time to come.

For more about Blue Skyways, the ILDP, or any other Network Board initiative, contact Eric Hansen, KLNB Executive Director, at (785)296-3875 (erich@ink.org).

For complete information about the ILDP, go to the Network Board pages in the State Library section on Blue Skyways.

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Address comments concerning *Kansas Libraries* to the editor.

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award is presented annually for innovative government programs by the Ford Foundation and Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government in partnership with the Council for Excellence in Government. The library will receive a \$20,000 grant from the Ford Foundation to promote the program, encourage its replication, and communicate the benefits of reading to children at an early age.

The library has more than 100 theme-based Books to Grow Kits that are available for check-out to day care centers and home child care providers.

With more than 60% of the county's preschool age children in a child care setting, the library was able to extend its services to this group through the Books to Grow Program. "Encouraging children to read and think as individuals is one of the most important goals of the Johnson County Library," said County Librarian Mona Carmack. "It is certainly an honor for the Johnson Co. Library's Books to Grow program to be chosen as a finalist in the Innovations in American Government program. The important element, for me, is the recognition of a basic type of library program for our youngest citizens as being of great importance."

For more information on the Johnson County Library Books to Grow program contact Kathy McLellan, (913) 261-2344 or Jean Hatfield, (913) 261-2345.

KS towns sought for Chautauqua

The Kansas Humanities Council is now taking applications from towns and organizations interested in hosting the Great Plains Chautauqua in 1999, 2000, and 2001. The Chautauqua will play in Kansas each June as part of its annual six-state tour. Dates for 1999 in Kansas are June 18-22 and June 25-29.

"According to Theodore Roosevelt, 'It's the most American thing in America'," says Marion Cott, KHC executive director. "Since the Great Plains Chautauqua will be in only five towns over the three-year period, we're seeking just the right communities to host this wonderfully educational and entertaining program."

To be selected, a town or organization must make a minimum cash contribution toward program costs, provide some support services, and be willing to host at least one humanities event prior to Chautauqua's arrival in the community.

The theme of the Chautauqua will be "Behold Our New Century: Early 20th Century Visions of America." Chautauqua week includes five nightly programs in which scholars appear in period costume and present autobiographical portrayals of people who left their mark on the history of our country, such as Theodore Roosevelt, Jane Addams, Andrew Carnegie, Booker T. Washington, and Ohivesa (Charles A. Eastman).

Applications for host communities must be received by November 20, 1998. For information or to request an application form, call toll-free (800) 562-8057, E-mail KSHUMCOUN@aol.com, or visit the Chautauqua web site at www.gp-chautauqua.org.

Humanities Council offers speaker service

The Kansas Humanities Council announces its 1998-99 History Alive! and Humanities Speakers Bureau is now available for adult, not-for-profit groups. Organizations may have up to four programs each calendar year.

History Alive! features presenters in authentic period costumes who tell the story of their lives, then answer audience questions "in character" based on extensive research into the character's speeches and writings. Theodore Roosevelt, Emily Dickinson, William Allen White and 17 other characters are available.

The Humanities Speakers Bureau offers entertaining, stimulating talks on topics from rodeo to baseball, from the Civil War to Dracula. Over 70 topics are available, and speakers will tailor talks to a group's interests.

A new feature of the 1998-99 Speakers Bureau includes talks on "Democratic Vistas: Creating Community for the New Century." These are talks on building community, volunteerism, and understanding cultural traditions.

To obtain a catalog of programs or additional information, contact Deborah K. Pomeroy toll-free at (800) 562-8057, in Topeka at (785) 357-0359, or E-mail at dkpom@aol.com.

Wichita Public Schools now online

Wichita Public Schools has recently completed conversion to SIRSI Library Automation software. The WebCat interface makes holdings of the district available to district patrons via the Internet. The district has also purchased subscriptions to EBSCO MAS fullTEXT Premier and Newspaper Source, which are available to district students and staff. The opening page includes links to the catalog, gateways to the Wichita State University and Wichita Public libraries, and "Find it fast," a subject directory to library holdings in the catalog. The catalog itself can be approached with a simple search, a complex search, or can be browsed by call number. Boolean operators and several search limiters are available as well. To visit the district's online catalog, point your web browser to <http://208.161.51.130> and login as "guest" (without the quotes). The online catalog contains the holdings of the Kansas African American Museum, located at 601 N. Water in Wichita.

New book by regional director

James Swan, Director of the Central Kansas Library System, has a new book out. *The Librarian's Guide to Genealogical Research* is intended for librarians who provide reference service to genealogists.

It offers a number of useful features, including reproducible copies of essential genealogy forms, contact and collections information on the major institutions serving genealogists, descriptions and evaluations of genealogical computer software, hints on hiring a professional researcher and how to evaluate his or her performance, and many others. According to the book's web site (<http://www.ckls.org/~jswan/GENBOOK.HTM>), the book provides "the essence of the various sources and resources without letting extraneous stuff get in the way" and includes "enough detail to connect your patrons with the family data they want."

The book can be purchased from the publisher, Highsmith Press (<http://www.hpress.highsmith.com/98hdbk.htm#GENEALOGICAL>) or from Amazon.com.

The Librarian's Guide to Genealogical Research, by James Swan, Highsmith Press, 120 pp. 8-1/2" x 11" Softcover ISBN 1-57950-011-0 P83-95686 .7 lb. \$18.

Mark Scheel named recipient of book award

Mark Scheel, Mission, KS resident, recently received the 1998 J. Donald Coffin Memorial Book Award for his book *A Backward View*.

Scheel's book is a collection of stories, essays and poems that look back to a time when eastern Kansas was a domain of small family farms, Tijuana was a provincial border town, and Berlin was a divided city. The writing styles of pieces in the collection are far ranging, and the pieces cover a wide range of themes and experiences.

The J. Donald Coffin Memorial Book Award was established by Mrs. Bertha Coffin to honor the memory of her husband, long-time member and officer of the Kansas Authors Club (KAC), the presenters of the award. Coffin died in 1978. The first book award was presented in 1979. Recipients are awarded \$100.

KAC district presidents from each of the seven districts submit a selection deemed the best book written by a member of their district, published within the past two years. Scheel's book was selected in his district and competed with books by authors throughout the state. The award was presented to Scheel at the annual meeting of the KAC in Scheel's home town of Emporia, KS, on October 3.

Scheel was born and raised in rural east-central Kansas. After graduating from the University of Kansas and spending a period "on the road," he served overseas with the American National Red Cross in Vietnam, Thailand, Germany and England. He later took graduate studies and taught at Emporia State University. Scheel worked for the Johnson County Library as an Information Specialist for nine years, and has

recently presented several literary programs for the Library. His stories, articles and poems have appeared in numerous magazines, and he co-authored the book *Of Youth and the River*.

Kansas libraries.... thirty years ago

—by Bill Sowers

Kansas Documents Librarian/Tech Services Librarian

Gleanings from the *Kansas Library Bulletin*, Summer, 1968, issue.

- Glasco voters have overwhelmingly approved an ordinance establishing their library as a “legal” library rather than a private project supported by donations.
- Duane Johnson, formerly Assistant Librarian at Salina Public Library, has been hired as System Librarian of the Central Kansas Library System and Director of the Great Bend Public Library.
- The Kansas Library Association has awarded two \$1,000 grants for graduate study in librarianship to Linda Wulfsuhle, Lawrence, and Barbara Ruth Herrin, Arkansas City.

New Kansas library trustee association launched

There’s a new kid on the block! By unanimous vote, the Kansas Library Association’s Council approved the new Kansas Library Trustee Association (KLTA) as a section of KLA. The October 1998 decision capped twelve months of hard work by a planning team of ten trustees from across the state.

“Kansas is well into a period when information access is easier and quicker than ever,” said Melva Barlow, Holcomb, to KLA Council. “However, funding of libraries is increasingly stringent. Trustees and librarians must work hand-in-hand to meet financial challenges by entering the political arena and competing for scarce public funding.”

Pam McElvain, Liberal, told Council that KLTA would address vital governance issues

including legal ones. “Many trustees don’t realize their liability,” she stated. One KLTA priority is sharing copies of policies, procedures and best practices with members. “Without a network, too many library boards are recreating the wheel,” McElvain noted.

Grassroots outreach

What is KLTA’s purpose? Helping local boards and libraries. KLTA’s two-fold mission is to promote (1) the development of highly effective library service for all Kansans, in every type of library and community; and (2) continuing education and support for library trustees throughout the state.

There are two goals. One is to help local trustees in seven priority areas including continuing education; small libraries; policies, procedures and protections; advocacy; and increased awareness and visibility.

The other goal is to help launch the statewide K-LEAP (Kansas-Library Electronic Access Project), providing all Kansans with full and adequate access to online capability and electronic sources. This goal might take several years to achieve; steps would be carried out in conjunction with KLA’s Legislative Committee starting with the 2000 legislative session.

New hires

Tom Brown has accepted the position of head of Library and Media Services for Donnelly College in Kansas City, Kansas effective December 1, 1998. He is leaving the post of Adult Service/Information and Referral Associate at the Kansas City Kansas Public Library West Wyandotte Branch.

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*.

Kansas books

by Roy Bird

Kansas Pacific: An Illustrated History, by Robert Collins. South Platte Press, 1998. \$18.95. Paperback. 60 pp. 8 1/2 x 9 1/2. Order from: Robert Collins, P.O. Box 134, Andover, KS 67002.

In his foreward, Robert Collins says "This book tells the story of Kansas' first great railroad, the Kansas Pacific... The story of the KP involves dramatic characters, furious battles, and savage terrain. This book will present that story with the passion it deserves."

Collins has published **Ghost Railroads of Kansas** (1997) and



A Railfan's Guide to Kansas Attractions (1996). His latest will thrill railroad buffs and Westernhistory fans alike. The 60 pages are heavily illustrated, a relatively easy task since the Kansas Pacific was one of the best documented railroads by early photographers.

The photos are stitched together with clear, succinct, well-written text. The cover art was painted by popular aviation and railroad artist Michael Boss of Hill City. It features the WaKeeney depot in 1879 with Kansas Pacific engine 45 alongside. This paperback history will be a welcome addition to adult Kansas or railroad collections.

NEKLS to host Fall In-Service at Topeka Expo Center

Northeast Kansas Library System will hold its fall in-service on November 19, 1998 from 7:45am - 4:30pm at the Topeka Expo Center. Keynote speakers will be Becky Schreiber and John Shannon of Schreiber Shannon Associates, New Mexico.

Becky and John are nationally known speakers who conduct the Snowbird Library Leadership Institute each summer in Utah. Their presentation is "Mayhem, Myths and Miracles: Surviving Organizational Change," and will run from 8:45 - 11:45am. They recently presented a program on "Leading from Any Position" at PLA in Kansas City.

Afternoon sessions will be offered in three topic areas: "So Sue Me" (job descriptions, evaluations, legal interviewing and hiring, and ADA issues); "Toastmasters 'R' Us" (customer service, powerful presentations, and conflict resolution); and "Kids are People Too" (preschool story times, programs

for grade school and YAs, and preparing high school students for college libraries).

Cost for attendance is \$20 for NEKLS members and \$40 for non-members. This includes a continental breakfast and served lunch. You may contact the NEKLS office to register or with questions at 785-838-4090.

Library positions

Adult Services Librarian Kansas City, Kansas Public Library

Provides reference and reader's advisory in the use of adult library materials and services. Participates in the collection development of the branch, using considerable knowledge of library science. ALA/MLS with public library experience and familiarity with HTML. Schedule will include evening and weekend rotations. Salary of \$24,966.00-\$38,410.00 d.o.q. w/benefits. Cover letter with resume and three references may be submitted to: Personnel Coordinator, KCKPL, 2nd floor, 625 Minnesota Ave, KCK 66101. EOE. <http://www.kckpl.lib.ks.us>

**Reference Librarian I
Salina Public Library**

Salina Public Library, Salina Kansas has an opening for a full time entry level Reference Librarian I. Beginning salary is \$23,400, higher depending on qualifications. The work involves answering reference questions and assisting patrons with the use of the on-line catalog, CD-ROM indexes, Internet, print resources, microforms, reader-printers and photocopiers. Some evenings and weekend hours included. An MLS is required.

To view complete job description, see the Salina Public Library home page at <http://www.salpublib.org/>. Position will remain open until filled. Send resume and the names of 3 references to: Nancy Jo Leachman, Reference Department Head, Salina Public Library, 301 W. Elm St., Salina, Kansas 67401. Nancy Jo Leachman Head of Reference Salina Public Library (785) 825-4624 fax: 785 823-0706; email: nancyjo@salpublib.org.

Skyways Train Station

The Skyways Train Station (<http://skyways.lib.ks.us/training/>) is a starting point for users to learn more about computing and the Internet, with a slight bent towards the Kansas librarian. Each track is chocked full of annotated links to sites we think are the best around.

- Track One: The Basics Terms, Dictionaries, DOS, Windows, Macintoshes
- Track Two: The Internet Terms, success stories, Web browsing, Netscape, Acrobat Reader, files
- Track Three: Email Eudora, Netscape mail, signatures, attaching files, finding addresses, netiquette
- Track Four: Lists & Groups Listservs, Discussion Groups, and Usenet newsgroups
- Track Five: Policies Ethics, policies, copyright, and censorship
- Track Six: Web Site Creation Terms, samples, HTML, style, color, editors, counters, Java

434-10

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