

Kansas Libraries

Official Newsletter of the Kansas State Library

November 2003

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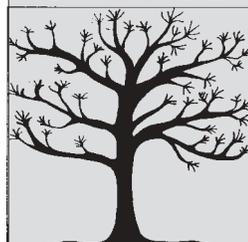
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NOVEMBER



LSTA technology grants awarded

—by Roy Bird
Federal Projects Coordinator/Library Consultant

In action by the State Library Commission and the LSTA Council in a joint meeting on Friday, October 17, 2003, a total of 17 out of 38 applications for technology projects were either fully or partially funded. A total of \$70,000 budgeted from federal funds under the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) was available for distribution. A total of \$277,201 was requested.

Included among the applications were projects for enhanced Internet access at a single library; projects to enhance Internet access at multiple libraries; technology other than the Internet at a single library; and technology other than the Internet at multiple libraries.

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:

Chapman Library, Neosho Community College, Chanute; Hillcrest Public Library, Cuba; Goodland Public Library; Prairie View High School Library, LaCygne; Sunshine City Library, Prairie View;

Wamego Public Library; Southwest Kansas Library System, Dodge City; Nixon Library, Butler County Community College, El Dorado; Central Kansas Library System, Great Bend; Kansas Library Association; Augusta Public Library; Centralia Community Library; Library District 2, Linn County, LaCygne; Lyndon Carnegie Library; Nortonville Public Library; Oskaloosa Public Library; and Winchester Public Library.

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.

Hennen Ratings

—by Jean Hatfield
Johnson County Library

The latest edition of the Hennen Ratings have been announced (<http://www.haplr-index.com/>) showing up in the “Top 100” list are the following Kansas libraries (who’ve been consistent in their appearance on this index):

Elkhart/Morton County Public Library
Hays Public Library
Johnson County Library

Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas and Utah are in the Top 10 states in the library rankings.

Congratulations to these libraries, their staff and community!

BCR and member state libraries sponsor DuPage teleconferences

—by Sharon Hoffhines
Communications Coordinator
Bibliographical Center for Research (BCR)

BCR and the State Libraries in BCR's 12 member states are again sponsoring free unlimited site licenses to downlink the six satellite teleconferences to be broadcast by the College of DuPage during the 2003-04 season. Support for downlink sites in Kansas has been provided by the Kansas State Library and the following libraries:

Ablah Library, Wichita State University
Axe Library, Pittsburg State University
Billington Library, Johnson County Community College
North Central Kansas Libraries System (Manhattan)
Northeast Kansas Library System (Lawrence)
Northwest Kansas Library System (Norton)
South Central Kansas Library System (Hutchinson)
Southeast Kansas Library System (Iola)
Southwest Kansas Library System (Dodge City)
Watson Library, University of Kansas
White Library, Emporia State University
Wichita Public Library

The College of DuPage, in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, regularly produces and broadcasts teleconference programs especially for the library community. This year's cooperative agreement provides unlimited downlink site licenses for six programs. (To downlink a program, a library receives a program signal transmitted by satellite to a satellite dish.)

Through this cooperative project, downlink licenses for the teleconferences are available - at no cost - to any library in Alaska, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming, as well as to BCR member libraries in non-member states. Site coordinators may register for the downlink licenses on BCR's Web site at <http://www.bcr.org/training/teleconferences/register.html>.

For the 2003-04 academic season, the College of DuPage has scheduled two series of teleconferences, plus an additional single broadcast, all geared to the interests of library staff:

Soaring to Excellence Series

- November 14, 2003 - "A Basic Toolkit: Good Manager and Good Employee Skills"

- January 23, 2004 - "A Technology Toolkit: Survival Skills for Everyone"
- March 26, 2004 - "Professional Toolkit: Skills for Advancement"

Reference Series

- February 6, 2004 - "New Tools for Enhancing Digital Reference"
- April 16, 2004 - "Joe Janes and Colleagues: Preparing for the Future of Digital Reference"

Single Program Broadcast

- March 12, 2004 - "Web Filtering: Policies, Software, Staff Training and CIPA"

For more details about the programs visit the College of DuPage's Web site at <http://www.cod.edu/teleconf/>. All teleconferences are scheduled to be broadcast from noon to 2 p.m., Eastern Time. For more information about the downlink registration, see BCR's Web site at <http://www.bcr.org/training/teleconferences>, or contact BCR's Sharon Hoffhines at shoffhin@bcr.org 303/751-6277 or 800/397-1552.

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Address comments concerning *Kansas Libraries* to the editor.





NOTES

—by Eric Hansen
Executive Director



Kansas Western Trails digitization grants

The Network Board has a total of \$10,000 in matching funds to grant to Kansas libraries to digitize

materials relevant to the westerly migration of peoples through Kansas. The project can apply to historic trails, railroads, steamboats, and interstate highways, among others. Libraries who apply are encouraged to collaborate with other cultural heritage institutions in their project planning. Such institutions often have possession of valuable source materials relevant to western trails. Archives, historical societies and museums are all examples of cultural heritage institutions. Schools can also partner in this grant program.

Libraries that win awards must digitize material according to technical standards stated in best practices documents on the Colorado Digitization Program Web site (see <http://www.cdpheritage.org/westerntrails/index.html> and the links to Best Practices). The library must make the resulting metadata publicly available online via the Kansas Western Trails database. Objects digitized for this project can reside on a local Web server.

Western Trails Digitization Grant application forms documents are available on the Network Board's Web site as links within the grant guidelines page at <http://www.skyways.org/KSL/KLNB/KLNBWTDigitGrantGuidelinesFY04.html>. Completed application and budget forms must be mailed to Eric Hansen, Executive Director, Kansas Library Network Board, 300 SW 10th Ave., Rm. 343N, Topeka, KS 66612-1593 and must be postmarked no later than April 2, 2004. Applications will be judged according to a rubric, which is also available as a link on the guidelines page at the

URL above. Awards will be announced after the Network Board's quarterly meeting in May of 2004.

I am more than happy to answer any questions about this. Feel free to contact me at eric@kslib.info or 800/432-3919.

Network Board to meet

The Network Board will have its final meeting of the calendar year on Thursday, November 13, 2003 at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library in the Langston Hughes Room (number 205). The meeting will include updates on KANAnswer, KAN-ED, and the board's strategic plan. The complete agenda is on Blue Skyways at www.skyways.org/KSL/KLNB/meetings.html#agenda. The meeting will begin at 9:30 and is open to everyone, so guests are welcome.

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

Kansas salary project continues to work for improved compensation

—by Shannon Roy
Director of Local Library Development

The Kansas Public Library Salaries Project is three years old. In 2001, the KLA Public Library Standards Committee put together the new *Compensation Guidelines for Kansas Library Directors*. In 2002, the state library and the systems distributed these widely to both librarians and trustees. In 2003, we have been raising awareness of the Salaries Project in as many public library venues as possible, working with individual libraries and beginning to develop the Kansas Public Library Salaries Project Website, which is available at <http://www.skyways.org/KSL/development/salaries/>.

The Kansas Public Library Salaries Project has suffered, like many other projects, from the current climate of fiscal stringency. But there is still progress being made. Perceptible raises, defined as those exceeding COLA, are being given to library administrators and staff librarians. Modest improvements in staff benefits are taking place in many libraries. The Kansas State Library is trying to document these successes, so please report any successful salary negotiations. Raises are reported on the website only as percentage increases.

There are four points that we try to make as often as possible:

- It is part of the library's responsibilities to take care of the personnel positions, as opposed to the individual staff members. This responsibility is just as real and just as long-term as taking care of the facility, the collections, the board or the policies.
- It is part of the library board's responsibilities to take care of the administrative position, as opposed to the present library director. This includes up-to-date job descriptions, effective appraisal and competitive compensation that will attract and retain capable administrators.
- A library director who chooses to work for a salary that is not correct for their library is not acting responsibly for either their library or for the profession. They frequently leave their trustees with unintended problems when a new director is needed.
- A case for improved salaries can be built for individual librarians, as opposed to a library positions. These cases

must be built on documented achievements in training, skills, community leadership and accomplishments for the library. Most library administrators can build better cases with the assistance of the system and state library consultants. The Kansas State Library Local Library Development Division staff is available to work with any library director and board to build a case for a better compensation package. Anyone who wants to arrange such a partnership should call the Kansas State Library at 785/296-3296 or send e-mail to shanroy@kslib.info.

Improving compensation for librarians is a difficult task and a long-term priority. But it is critically important to the future of the library profession and absolutely essential to offering excellent service in Kansas libraries.

KICNET trial project, 10/2002 - 10/2003

—by Rhonda Machlan
Library Information Technology

In September 2002, the KIC Council approved guidelines for a trial project that would allow libraries with no or few holdings on the KLC to use KICNET while they worked toward increasing their KLC holdings. So far, 33 libraries (17 public, 14 school, 2 academic) have signed up. They signed a KIC Council Agreement, received training on KICNET from their regional library system, agreed to add all current acquisitions to the KLC, make progress toward adding existing holdings, and report quarterly on their progress.

Holdings on the KLC for all participants went from 6466 as of 10/1/2002 to 51,620 as of 10/9/2003. 11 libraries started with no holdings; that's down to 4 as of 10/9/2003.

Participants who have reached the membership threshold by the end of 2003 will be offered a permanent license; those who have met program requirements, but not reached the threshold will have their trial license extended for another year; and those who have not fulfilled their end of the bargain will be asked to surrender their license.

If your library would be interested in joining this trial project, please complete the application at <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/KSL/ill.html>; for more information, contact Jeff Hixon (jeffh@kslib.info) or Rhonda Machlan (rmachlan@kslib.info) at the State Library.

Smith Center dedicated at Hesston College

—by Margaret Wiebe
Library Director, Hesston College

Rich strains of “Praise God from whom all blessings flow” sung in a capella four-part harmony resounded through Smith Center as the dedication service for the new Hesston College facility came to a close Saturday, September 27. The dedication occurred during the college’s Homecoming Weekend festivities held September 26-28.



Smith Center Dedicated

Several hundred people attended the afternoon service at Hesston Mennonite Church, which included a colorful history of the college’s libraries provided by Margaret Wiebe, director of Mary Miller Library, and Michele Hershberger, chair of the college’s Bible department.



*Michele Hershberger (left) and Margaret Wiebe recount history of libraries on campus since 1909
Photo by Larry Bartel. Used by permission.*

Smith Center is named in honor of former Hesston College President Tilman R. and Louella Smith. Smith served as president from 1959-68, during which time Mary Miller Library was built (1965).

Mary Miller Library is part of Smith Center, which also contains faculty offices, a new computer lab, Media and Instructional Technology Services, the ACCESS program (learning support services), classrooms, college archives, and the Hesston College Gallery.

Tilman and Louella Smith were informed in March 1997 that the building would be named after them. But she died in July 1998 and he died in August 2000.

Miller family members were present at the dedication. Lahla Selzer, Hesston, Kansas, a niece of Mary Miller, remembered her aunt as a good English and composition teacher at the college. “Students loved her, and even Chaucer was charming,” she said. “She made stories come alive.”

According to another niece, Roma Schmidt, also from Hesston, Miller was ill with cancer when she learned that the library would be named for her. She died in the fall of 1963. The Mary Miller Library was built in 1964-65, and dedicated May 28, 1966.

Groundbreaking for Smith Center occurred on Sunday, May 4, 2002. Construction began that summer and was completed in July of this year.

The \$2.6 million dollar project was funded by gifts to the college’s Enhancing Excellence Campaign. The general contractor was Conco Construction of Wichita, Kansas. Architects were Sam Frey and Gary Holler of Schaefer Johnson Cox Frey Architecture, Wichita, Kansas. Contact Phil Richard, 620/327-8115; philr@hesston.edu.

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*.

Governors' Speeches web site

—by Bill Sowers
Cataloging/Kansas Documents Librarian

Within the State Library of Kansas' state documents collection are small booklets containing speeches of our governors dating back to statehood. Through the years circulation of these booklets has worn many of the older volumes to a frazzle making check-out impossible.

About three years ago several staff members at the State Library, notably Rita Troxel, Donna Copeland, Vicky Wolf and Bill Sowers, began a project to transcribe these speeches online providing a glimpse into the political history of our state for serious researchers or casual readers.

Within these speeches are the issues of the day and how government tried to deal with them. Quantrill's raid on Lawrence, conflicts between Native Americans and settlers, economic booms and busts, droughts, political scandals, the development of public institutions throughout the state and many other topics of importance to succeeding generations of Kansans are presented in the rhetoric and buzz words of the day. Reading through these speeches one gets a view of history as it was happening rather than through the eyes of people who lived many years later.

Currently the State Library has 37 speeches by 16 governors transcribed online. Library staff began at the beginning, 1861, and have been moving slowly toward the present, concentrating for now on the Governors' Messages or "State of the State" speeches to the Legislature. Portraits of each of the governors, supplied by the Kansas State Historical Society, are included on the web site and down the road library staff are also hoping to add some biographical information.

The Governors' Speeches web site is found online at: <http://kslib.info/ref/message/index.html>.

Library position

Baker University

Baker University is seeking a librarian to provide library instruction for classes in the School for Professional and Graduate Studies in Topeka, Lawrence and nearby sites. Classes begin at 6:00 in the evening. The library presentation is the first item on the schedule and lasts between sixty and ninety minutes. There are currently ten to fifteen presentations to be given each year.

Presentations are developed and updated by the Business Librarian at Baker University, the Library Instructor is responsible for giving the presentation, for being familiar with the resources taught, for using appropriate examples to help students learn to use the resources, and for conveying information about the services available from the Baker University Library.

The Baker University School for Professional and Graduate Studies is located in Overland Park, KS with instruction sites located in the Kansas City, Topeka and Wichita areas. Programs are offered at both the bachelor's and master's levels in business and at the master's level in liberal arts and education.

Currently, instruction takes place in the business programs only. As needs arise, we will be developing presentations to use in the liberal arts and education programs.

A master's degree in the field of librarianship is required and experience in instruction is greatly prized.

Screening of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. Baker University is an equal opportunity employer. To apply, send letter of application, resume, and a list of at least three references (including relationship to the applicant, addresses and phone numbers) to: Kay Bradt, Baker University Library, PO Box 65, Baldwin City, KS 66006.

Kansas books

—by Roy Bird
Federal Projects Coordinator/Library Consultant

The Border Tier Road: Reflection of an Industry, by Robert Collins. David City, NE: South Platte Press, 2003. For an autographed copy order from: Robert Collins, 616 Daisy Lane, Andover, KS 67002. 5 1/2" x 8", softcover, stapled binding, 48 pp., \$4.95 + \$1.55 p/h.

Robert Collins of Andover continues his research and sharing his wealth of knowledge about Kansas railroads with this small yellow chapbook from South Platte Press, *The Border Tier Road*. Robert has previously published *Kansas Pacific: An Illustrated History* (1998) and *Arkansas Valley Interurban: The Electric Way* (1999) with South Platte Press.

Most of us recall the mighty efforts to build transcontinental railroads to link the Missouri River with the Pacific Ocean. Few but train aficionados and people who rode the trains recognize that there also were great races north and south to link the Great Lakes with the Gulf of Mexico. Among those races, ironically, was one that had its roots in the creation of The Border Tier Road—a line that went from Kansas City to Baxter Springs along the eastern Kansas counties bordering Missouri—at the very time the Civil War intruded into Kansas. Confederate General Sterling Price led the only rebel army to invade Kansas in October, 1864, just three months after a railroad meeting in Paola. The meeting opened the race of three railroads in eastern Kansas through the southeastern part of the state. They hoped to exploit trade with Indian Territory (Oklahoma) and Texas as well as link with other lines out of the gulf coast ports. The Border Tier Road through the very area that Price retreated won the race, supported by its parent company, the Kansas City, Fort Scott & Gulf Railroad. Through the years the Border Tier Road was owned by six different larger entities; today it is part of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe. It was important to every one of them. Readers should include all railroad buffs and Kansas history enthusiasts. This chapbook is recommended for all public, school and academic libraries.

A Day on the Trail: Humorous Journey, by Dorothy M. Masters. Order from: Dorothy M. Masters, 13842 Highway K-31, Harveyville, KS 66431-9151. 5 1/2" x 9", softcover, 210 pp., \$15.00 + \$3.00 p/h.

Some readers will remember the review of Dorothy Masters' earlier inspirational book, *Keep on the Sunny Side of Life*. She continues to inspire with a collection of pieces she wrote for small local newspapers and other short works she has written just for this book, quilted together in *A Day on the Trail*. She writes that "I wanted to put some of my fun experiences into a book to leave as a legacy for my family. I also wanted to share some human interest facts...." She does so in her own inimitable fashion.

The author, known in her family as "Grandma Dorothy," was born in the depths of the Great Depression. She contends that "Being poor was the best luck she ever had" and her articles and brief sketches reveal an individual way of looking at everyday life, often with a wry sense of humor, on topics one can only imagine, from "Outhouses to Outer Space" as one of her articles is titled. She remembers family and friends, fashions and trends, how things were and how they are. For a unique look at Kansas during the last half of the twentieth century, from the point of view of a lifelong professional nurse, pick up this book. Some of the stories included in *A Day on the Trail* seem very specific or very personal, but read them with the author's intent in mind—she wanted to share stories and events that have made impressions on her over the years and to leave a legacy. She certainly leaves a down-home, rural legacy that many have enjoyed in her first book and will continue to enjoy with this newest one. Dorothy Masters also travels to share her humor in person, which makes reading her books more enjoyable. Recommended for adult nonfiction collections in public libraries.



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

