

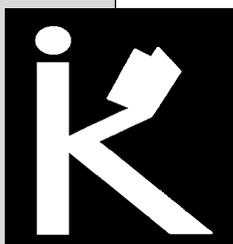
# Kansas Libraries

Official Newsletter of the Kansas State Library

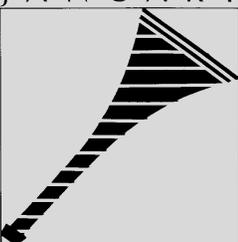
January 1998

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JANUARY



## New statewide trustees group underway

—by Pam McElvain & Ellen Miller

What are Kansas library trustees concerned about? During a half-day meeting in Salina, trustee representatives from across the state chose five program areas:

1. Continuing education
2. Policies, procedures and protections
3. Advocacy
4. Increased library awareness and visibility
5. Small libraries

The 12-person Core Group met on November 1. The kickoff session followed months of meetings around the state with all seven regional library systems and others in the library community. The group's purpose is to make recommendations to the Kansas Library Association for a trustee entity. Duane Johnson, State Librarian, will serve as advisor.

The Core Group divided into teams. Each will develop goals and

recommendations for the five program areas. Two other teams will address organizational issues—communications and membership/database/networking.

Trustee Core Group members are:

- Melva Barlow, Holcomb
- Skip Childress, Mound City
- Barbara Ebbert, WaKeeney
- Hans Fischer, Lawrence
- Dorothea Jackson, Baldwin City
- Midge Jones, Manhattan
- Verdel Krug, LaCrosse
- Pam McElvain, Liberal
- Ellen Miller, Lenexa
- Tim Peterson, Topeka
- Lois Ruby, Wichita
- Byron Warta, Newton
- Duane Johnson, State Library, advisor

"Many thanks to KLA for underwriting our kickoff meeting," said Ellen Miller, who has spearheaded the effort. The Core Group hopes to complete its recommendations to KLA within several months. Its next meeting will be on March 7, 1998.

During the first meeting, members reviewed trustee materials from other states. They also discussed the possibility of meeting informally with trustees from other states during the 1998 Public Library Association conference.

## USPS wants major library rate increase

The US Postal Service has proposed a 28.57% increase for the first pound in the library rate as part of its latest request to change postal rates, fees, and classifications. For each additional pound through seven pounds, the increase would be 23.81%, and for each additional pound over seven pounds, 13.64%. The Postal Service

claims the increase reflects its cost in handling this class of mail.

The American Library Association has requested data from USPS showing how it came up with the figures that support its proposal. ALA has also filed a legal notice to challenge the proposed increases in the library rate. The new rates would be effective in April of May 1998.

## ***The Internet Connection***

by Michael Sauers

### ***FirstSearch and Your Library's Internet Connection***

This month's column addresses several nontechnical ways users of OCLC's FirstSearch service can connect to and search the reference service more efficiently and make their sessions run more smoothly. For example, members of the Colorado/Kansas FirstSearch Project recently reported to BCR that their libraries have been having difficulties connecting to FirstSearch over the Internet. They also have experienced slow response times. Following the procedures below may help alleviate such problems.

### ***Connect to the Correct Address***

Any time you connect to FirstSearch via the web interface use the following URL: [www.ref.oclc.org:2000](http://www.ref.oclc.org:2000). By using this address, you are allowing OCLC to direct you to the computer that is being used the least at that time. Do not bookmark the URL where you end up; bookmark the above address.

### ***Exit from FirstSearch***

The default log-out time for FirstSearch is 15 minutes of no activity. Unless you first use the exit icon at the top of the screen, FirstSearch will leave a port open for you for the required 15 minutes, even if you're not using the service. This prevents another user from being able to access that port during that time. When using the telnet (text) interface, most users log out to disconnect when they are done searching. However, web interface users may not be logging out; instead they may only be exiting their browsers or going on to

another site. OCLC recently changed the FirstSearch timeout from 15 minutes to 5 minutes for the Colorado/Kansas FirstSearch Project to help alleviate this problem. However, using the exit icon is the best solution. (If you wish to switch the timeout value between 5 and 15 minutes, you must access the admin module by telnetting to [fscat.oclc.org](http://fscat.oclc.org) and type "admin" at the prompt.)

### ***Use Sample Databases***

OCLC offers free access to various sample FirstSearch databases at [www.oclc.org/oclc/fs/sample/sampledb.htm](http://www.oclc.org/oclc/fs/sample/sampledb.htm). When doing bibliographic instruction, please use these sample databases. They do not require an authorization number or password to access, and they do not use any of the available ports for which you are paying. Just remember, these are sample databases, and they don't contain the full number of files the regular databases contain.

### ***Remember, It's the Internet***

The Internet is not perfect. Just because your connection is slow, or you can't connect at all, does not automatically mean that OCLC is at fault. Slowdowns can occur between your terminal and the LAN, the LAN and the service provider, the service provider and the rest of the Net and the Net and OCLC. In next month's "The Internet Connection" column, watch for some technical ways to troubleshoot Internet connections and possibly determine where slowdowns may be occurring.

*Reprinted with permission from the December 1997 issue of BCR's ACTION FOR LIBRARIES (<http://www.bcr.org/~shoffhin/dec97.html>)*

## ***Longtime Emporia librarian passes***

Beryl Liegl, director of the Emporia Public Library from 1962 until her retirement in 1975, died December 2 at the age of 89.

Mrs. Liegl was a member of the first Congregational Church, a life member of Friends of the Emporia Public Library, member of ALA and KLA and Kansas Friends of the Library.

She remembered the Emporia Public Library with a \$25,000 contribution to the Friends Book Endowment Fund, for which we are most appreciative.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Friends Book Endowment Fund.

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# Catalyst

by Michael Piper  
Executive Director  
Kansas Library Network Board

## ***Noteworthy new Skyways services are in the works***

Blue Skyways, the Kansas library community's World Wide Web service, launched in December 1995. Since that time, Skyways has become a key aspect of statewide library services in Kansas.

During 1997, Blue Skyways has responded to more than 1.4 million requests. Skyways usage patterns are consistently trending upward. In 1998, we project that Skyways will receive more than two million hits from customers around the world.

In this month's Catalyst, I'll describe two key features we'll be adding during the first quarter of 1998. I'll also discuss our plans for re-designing Skyways to serve you even better in the future.

### ***Skyways will provide one-stop access to Kansas library info***

One of the most popular Skyways services is the Email Address Directory (<http://skyways.lib.ks.us/kansas/sekls/emad/index.html>). This service was designed and developed by Brig McCoy, Automation Consultant for the Southeast Kansas Library System, Iola.

During the past several months, Brig has been working with Jameson Watkins and our Skyways development staff to create an even more effective and comprehensive directory. It will combine features of the email address directory with another key Skyways

service, the interlibrary loan directory (<http://skyways.lib.ks.us/kansas/KSL/kild/>).

The result will be a unified online listing of all types of libraries statewide. In one convenient location, you'll be able to find complete information about Kansas libraries, including their postal, email, Web and courier addresses, as well as phone and fax numbers. The Skyways online library directory will also include information about each library's interlibrary loan policies. We'll be introducing the online library directory in early 1998.

### ***Legislative directory will debut in 1998***

We're also nearing completion on another key service: a directory of Kansas legislators. Thanks to our collaboration with Kansas Legislative Services, we'll soon be introducing an online legislative directory. It will include a photograph of each Kansas legislator, along with their postal, email and Web page addresses.

This new service will include a feature you can expect to see in other Skyways services: clickable maps. Color maps will illustrate our state's counties, as well as House and Senate districts. Just click on the map to identify the senator or representative for a particular area. Look for the Legislative Directory in early 1998.

### ***Skyways redesign will commence early next year***

Our goal is to add value to Skyways every day. To make Skyways more user friendly than ever before, we're about to begin another redesign process for the main Skyways pages. As we embark upon this process in early 1998, we'll have regular announcements on KANLIB-L, and we'll post test pages for your review and comments. It's all part of our continuing effort to make Skyways all Kansans can be proud of.

*Michael Piper, Executive Director of the Kansas Library Network Board, welcomes your comments about Blue Skyways or any other KLNBS service. His email address is [mpiper@ink.org](mailto:mpiper@ink.org).*

## ***Copeland director at ESU library***

Emporia State University President Kay Schallenkamp has announced the permanent appointment of Jud Copeland as the director of library services at William Allen White Library. Copeland had served as acting director of the library since May following a national search.

"Since Dr. Copeland's appointment as acting director, his campus performance review indicated support for his leadership within the library," said Dr. John Schwenn, vice president for academic affairs. "We are delighted to have hired him on a permanent basis."

Copeland will oversee the operation and services of White Library, which includes a collection of 565,600 books, government documents, and other print titles, more than 1.1 million microform items and more than 7,000 audiovisual titles including video cassettes, laser disks, compact disks, and computer software. Open 89 hours a week, the library seats 900 people and offers a variety of traditional and technological services.

The library director position has been filled by two interim directors since Henry Stewart resigned in November of 1996 to become dean of library services at Troy State University in Alabama.

"I was attracted to the position because of the professional staff, the people who work in the division of library services. They are dedicated to enhancing the quality and variety of services they offer to users both on the ESU campus and in the community," Copeland said. "It is a real challenge to work with such a dynamic staff, and as a team, we will continue to implement the 'Can Do' attitude articulated by President Schallenkamp."

## ***New ALA director has Kansas roots***

—by Paul Hawkins  
SCKLS

A former Hutchinson resident, William R. "Bill" Gordon, will become the new executive director of the American Library Association (ALA) on March 1, 1998. Headquartered in Chicago, IL, the 57,000 member American Library Association is the oldest, largest and most influential library organization in the world.

Gordon who is currently director of the Prince George County Library System in Hyattsville, MD, was born in Pratt, KS and lived in Cullison, KS until his family moved

to Hutchinson in 1944. He attended Hutchinson Public Schools and graduated from the Hutchinson High School. "I consider Hutchinson my hometown," said Gordon in a telephone interview with Paul Hawkins of the South Central Kansas Library System.

"My first library card was from the Hutchinson Public Library and my late mother, Virginia Gordon, worked for twenty years as the bookmobile librarian and later as a reference librarian," said Gordon.

Although Gordon no longer has family members in Hutchinson, a cousin, Larry Dorskocil lives here and Gordon has established several memorials on behalf of his family members at the Hutchinson Public Library.

From 1954 to 1960, Gordon attended Baker University, Baldwin, KS for two years and then left school to work. He later returned to school, taking classes at the University of Kansas, and eventually graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from Baker. In 1962, he obtained his professional degree, a Master of Arts in Library Science, from the University of Denver.

Gordon, who has been with the Prince George's County system since 1977, has also served as director of the Arrowhead, MN Library system, the Pocatello, ID Public Library, and the Southeastern Idaho Public Library Agency and as assistant director of the Renton, WA Public Library.

Despite living the past 21 years on the east coast, Gordon says "I am very proud to have been from Kansas. Kansas is very much maligned. I get a lot of the typical Wizard of OZ comments. Nevertheless, mid-western values like the work ethic, friendliness and common sense have been important to my success."

At sixty-two, Gordon might be considered ready for retirement, but he says that he considers his appointment as ALA Executive Director as "a cheer for senior citizens and indication that society has begun to view aging differently. "I still have energy and enthusiasm along with years of experience for libraries."

ALA's members are primarily librarians and library staff, but also trustees, authors, publishers and others who share its commitment to ensuring free and open access to information. Gordon said his goals as ALA director include promoting intellectual freedom and furthering the implementation of technology and new funding for libraries.

In announcing Gordon's appointment on December 1, 1997 ALA President Barbara Ford commented, "We are delighted to announce Bill Gordon's appointment as executive director of ALA. He brings strong credentials, a solid track record and a wealth of library experience to the position. The executive board feels he is extremely well qualified to lead the association into the next century."

### ***Three out of five American communities have public library outlets***

—*Library Research Service,  
Colorado State Library*

One of the quintessential landmarks in the Norman Rockwell image of the American town is the public library buildings. But, this traditional conception has little to do with contemporary reality. In metropolitan areas, the public library is usually represented, not by a single building, but by a large central library and numerous neighborhood branches.

Many New England towns have multiple public libraries. In outlying rural areas, public libraries are occasionally found where there is not even a "wide spot in the road." Generally, however, most people assume that every place big enough to have a local government has a public library, whether it is a creature of the city or town in which it is located or part of a county-wide system or library district.

Every five years (most recently in 1992) the Census Bureau conducts a Census of Governments that determines the number of municipal governments. That year, there were 21,642 municipal governments in the U.S., including cities and towns and, in the New England states and New York State, townships. (Note: The District of Columbia is excluded from this analysis.)

In 1993, 13,002 places reported having public library outlets, including main or central libraries and library branches. These figures indicate that only three out of five U.S. communities have public library outlets.

Kansas is much higher than the 42 percent norm for the Mountain West states: its 55 percent ratio (based on 627 municipal governments and 345 places with public library outlets) suggests that there may be a public library in half of the towns in the state.

### ***Aging topics on the Internet***

Here are some Internet sites where you can find information on senior services and issues.

**www.ink.org**

State of Kansas Agencies Home Page

**www.ink.org**

Kansas Department on Aging Home Page

**www.kumc.edu/kansas/ksleg/klrd/klrd.html**

Kansas Legislative Research (1998 session calendars/bill tracking information)

**www.aoa.dhhs.gov/aoa/aoa.html**

Administration on Aging (Older Americans Act and program information)

**www.elder.org**

Kansas Elder Law Network

### ***Read Across America***

Read Across America is a new, nationwide NEA campaign to motivate children to read. We are calling for every child in every school in every celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday.

Please join us in this exciting program. It provides us with an excellent opportunity to work with parents and others in our communities to make a difference in the lives of our students.

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Address comments concerning *Kansas Libraries* to the editor.

## ***FirstSearch and SearchBank input***

The Kansas Library Network Board's Reference Networking Committee wants to hear from Kansas libraries about their use of the statewide FirstSearch and Search-Bank databases.

The Committee will be distributing a questionnaire via Blue Skyways, by mail and by other means. The survey instrument will also be printed in, or distributed with the next issue of this newsletter.

The committee's objective is to gather information that will help with the ongoing process of implementing the database service. The questionnaire seeks your input on issues regarding any difficulties you may be having connecting to the databases, or staying connected once you're online.

The Committee also wants to know if additional training is needed and, if so, what sort of training. Your thoughts about the content, quality and relevancy of the databases being made available is also sought after.

Please watch for the FirstSearch/SearchBank questionnaire in these pages and elsewhere and respond as soon as possible.

## ***Hotline to legislation***

The State Library plugged in its Legislative Hotline on January 12, 1998.

The Hotline can be useful to you and your library patrons seeking answers to questions such as:

- Who introduced a particular bill in the Kansas House or Senate?
- What's the status of that bill?
- What bills have been introduced on a particular topic?
- Was there interim work on a given economic development issue?
- What have newspaper reporters been saying about your favorite state issue?

Rita Haley and her staff can also help with questions about legislative procedure and the legislative calendar.

The Hotline number is 800/432-3919.

## ***Library high-tech***

A five-year draft plan for the state's library services, funded by the federal Library Services and Technology Act of 1996, would give all state libraries Internet access, improve the Kansas libraries web page, give competitive technology grants to local libraries and provide access to electronic databases. The project would run from 1998 to 2002.

It also seeks technology training for library personnel and library services for special populations.

Read about the plan at <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/kansas/KSL/admin/5yrplan.html#introduction>.

## ***New staff at NEKLS***

We are delighted to announce that Catherine Zilber will join the Northeast Kansas Library System as Library Services Coordinator beginning in mid-February. Cathy is currently Assistant Director and Youth Services Librarian at the Eldredge Public Library in Chatham, MA. She has been actively involved in regional and state level library training activities, including Internet skills, services to young adults, standards for youth services, and school and public library cooperation.

Cathy earned her Master's Degree in Library and Information Science at the University of Tennessee, where she received a fellowship for children's services in public libraries. Cathy is an enthusiastic, dedicated librarian who is eager to begin working with NEKLS librarians. Her duties will include the Summer Reading Program and other youth services activities; editing of system publications and other marketing activities; and general library consulting. In order to clarify the positions of NEKLS staff, the title of Patti Mersmann's position has been changed to Library Development Coordinator.

### ***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*.**

### ***Friends luncheon-lecture series***

The Friends of the Wichita Public Library Luncheon-Lecture Series: "Seeking Solutions to Poverty" was held on January 8 from Noon—1:00 pm at the Wichita Public Library (223 S. Main). Panel of speakers focused on long term methods to combat the ongoing problem of poverty in Wichita.

Speakers: Berniece Hutcherson, Retired Professor of Sociology and Social Work, WSU; Nancy McCarthy Snyder, Ph.D., Associate Director for Graduate Studies of the Hugo Wall School of Urban and Public Affairs, WSU; Linda Sorrell, Director of Employment Services, Social Rehabilitation Services, Wichita; and Marge Zakoura-Vaughan, President, Wichita Human Services Board.

Lunch was available for \$7 per person, and January's featured caterer was Cafe Lafayette.

Lectures will continue on the second Thursday of the month through May. This year's nine part series features lectures on a variety of topics including family, poverty, religion and fitness.

### ***Used book clearance sale***

The Friends of the Wichita Public Library sponsored their Used book Clearance Sale January 10—11 in the lobby of the Wichita Public Library, 223 S. Main.

The Friends of the Library asked ridiculously low prices during their clearance sales. Most books went for only 25¢ each, romance novels sold for just 10¢ each, and magazines were priced at 5¢ each.

The Friends Bookstore is open year round at the Central Library, 223 S. Main, offering low prices on used books and magazines. Donations are appreciated and accepted at all Wichita Public Library locations. All proceeds from the sale benefit the Wichita Public Library.

### ***Libraries and "Project Vote Smart"***

*With 1998 being an election year, this project in an article first published in the Missouri State Library's Newsline, seemed especially appropriate.*

"Project Vote Smart" is a nonpartisan, nonprofit research center developed to help citizens access information about voter registration, political issues, and the biographies, campaign finances, voting records, issue positions, and performance evaluations of more than 13,000 elected officials and candidates for political office.

The center's extensive database, Voter's Research Hotline, and Vote Smart web site (updated daily) are used by thousands of journalists and citizens each day. Now libraries have an opportunity to partner with "Project Vote Smart" by qualifying as a participating or sponsoring library.

All participating libraries will receive special research services over the center's web site and hotline, two copies each of the *Vote Smart Web YellowPages* and *Reporter's Source Book*, "Road to Democracy" posters, and unlimited supplies of *U.S. Government: Owner's Manual* for distribution to library clients and the public. These publications are updated frequently and new editions provided. During the 1998 election season, the *Voter's Self-Defense Manual* will also be available in unlimited quantities.

Sponsoring libraries will promote and offer a place for the Project Vote Smart on the Road Tour, a traveling exhibit that deals with researching the issues and candidates.

Libraries interested in this project should call 541/754-2746 or send e-mail to: [libraries@vote-smart.org](mailto:libraries@vote-smart.org). The Vote Smart web address is <http://www.vote-smart.org>.

### Kansas books

—by Roy Bird

**Any Given Day: The Life and Times of Jessie Lee Brown Foveaux**, by Jessie Foveaux. New York: Warner Books, 1997, 287 pp. hardcover, illustrated. \$19.95

There's been a lot of hoopla about Jessie Foveaux's book published last November. There's also been a lot of negative criticism. *Any Given Day* should be given the credit it is due and the judgments of it should be taken with many grains of salt.

The story of this book has spread beyond the borders of Kansas. In 1979, Mrs. Foveaux, then 80, put down her life story at a Manhattan writing class. Many years later the thousands of words of her manuscript was published in *The Wall Street Journal*, which resulted in a bidding war that earned Mrs. Foveaux a million dollar contract and instant celebrity.

The story *in* this book is nothing short of dramatic though it is not—and never claimed to be—a literary

masterpiece. Her loveless abusive marriage, with a drunken husband, a messy divorce, a hardscrabble life and many tragedies are enough to fill several romance novels. Only don't expect a fictional work—this is a real life drama, written by an amateur.



The amateur style of *Any Given Day* has been the source of much sarcasm. The review in the *New York Times* was especially vitriolic, and got the book off to a bad start. Then a scheduled appearance by Jessie on "60 Minutes" was abruptly, unceremoniously, cancelled. Such criticism is unjustified. In 120 short chapters, some containing only three pages, is an authentic description of plain folk in the twentieth century. As such it merits a place on the shelves of every Kansas public library's adult or Kansas collection. It is also valuable nonfiction for high school or academic collections. It may not be literature, but it is highly recommended.

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