

# Kansas Libraries

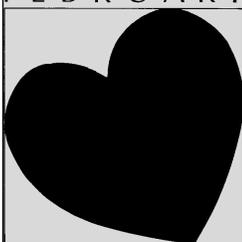
Official Newsletter of the Kansas State Library

February 1998

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FEBRUARY



## *Federal-State grants-in-aid applications mailed*

Applications for 1998 Federal-State grants-in-aid to public libraries and regional systems of cooperating libraries were all mailed from the State Library by February 3, 1998. These need to be completed and returned to the State Library as soon as possible.

Some changes have been made to make the forms simpler and to speed up the process of application. All libraries who are eligible will receive a one-page, two-sided application form. The front side asks for public library name and address, which has been provided using a mailing label.

It also provides an approximate amount of the 1998 grant, as well as a place to check yes if your library wishes to receive this grant or no if your library chooses to decline the grant. There is also a line for the signature of a board member.

The back side of the application provides blanks for amounts for which those wishing to receive the grants plan to budget the grants.

Only 14 public libraries were currently not eligible for grants-in-aid. These libraries have been contacted by letter.

If your library does not receive an application for a Federal-State grants-in-aid contact Roy Bird, Kansas State Library, 800/432-3919 immediately.

## *You're invited*

The Kansas Alliance for Literacy (KAL) held its annual membership meeting on January 22, 1998. The meeting was held at the Saline County Commission on Aging, 245 N. 9th, in Salina. The program began at 9:00 am and concluded at 12:00 noon.

The agenda included a video of KAL's recent Business Issues Forum on literacy in the workplace and election of new board members.

Anyone interested in literacy in Kansas is invited to join KAL, find out what the Alliance has done in the past and share its plans for the future.

## *Book barn still in business!*

Nancy Hubble, Lawrence, now operates the used book "treasure" store in Oskaloosa. Once run by Oskaloosa Library volunteers, the Book Barn is an outlet for weeded library books, donated books, and leftovers from estate and garage sales.

Hours are 9:00—5:00 Saturdays, though Nancy plans on extending the number of days open this spring. Plans are in the works to have a children's corner, coffee pot and a few small antiques, too!

Questions? Call Nancy at 785/749-2810.

## *Correction*

In the January issue of *Kansas Libraries*, the article headlined "Hotline to legislation" mistakenly listed the Legislative Hotline Reference toll-free number as 800/432-3919. The actual number for the Legislative Reference toll-free number is 800/432-3924.

We are sorry for any inconvenience this error may have caused.

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

—by Shannon Roy

### *Rising Above the Waters: Halstead's Library Since the Flood*

In the big flood season of 1993, the Halstead Public Library was badly damaged by floodwaters.

"It was a bad time," Elizabeth Cain admitted in a recent interview. "The water came up very fast and went down very slowly. We lost nearly 4000 volumes plus some local history materials that were irreplaceable. We lost our bottom row of periodicals and our circulating art collection. Thank goodness, we didn't lose the Birger Sandzens. They were upstairs."

"The lower level was completely flooded. On the main floor, the water was heaviest in the newest part of the library. The floor sank and had to be lifted. You can still see where the cracks in the wall have been repaired."

"I am still known as the "rubber glove lady" because I made all the volunteers wear protective clothing. Even so, several people, including myself, went down with mold poisoning."

But there was a silver lining to this cloudburst. "I couldn't believe how people turned out to help. We had volunteers working from all over Halstead. The Red Cross sent food for them every day. Other Kansas libraries gave us gifts. Boeing gave us a large donation. A wealthy gentleman in Washington D.C. sent a whole truckload of high quality books. A school in New York sent children's books. I don't even know how some of these people first learned of our disaster."

"The South Central System gave tremendous support. Paul Hawkins came right away and came back again and again to help. Later, the system staff spent hours helping me process donated books. But the system staff has told me that they learned a lot about disaster preparedness from our disaster. All Kansas libraries have a new awareness of this field since 1993."

Today the little brick library on the banks of the Little Arkansas River is warm and welcoming. The meeting rooms in the lower level have been completely renovated. The main floor has a tweed carpet and rosy-peach walls. New furniture is coming, though at present you can still see water scarred chairs.

New services have been added since that waterlogged day. The Library has TV and VCRs for public use, public Internet access and will shortly be adding public telefax. Southwind (the area Internet Service Provider) has been offering computer classes at the library every few weeks. Out of a population of 2100, Southwind has over 130 subscribers in Halstead.

"Technology isn't always our top priority," Elizabeth commented thoughtfully. "There are several reasons for that. The school district has set up a splendid information access environment and they have worked with adults as well as students. We have a wonderful partnership with the school. They have helped us set up our technology and we have a coordinated collection development program as well."

"It is also important to remember that about a third of our library use is from Harvey County's Mennonite residents. Their strongest needs are for print materials."

"Of course, our use of information technology will grow. I don't believe Halstead is falling behind. But we are growing in all directions."

With visible excitement, Elizabeth described a \$30,000 bequest the library received for children's services. "It's quite a story. Ida Sommerlin was a patient of Dr. Hertzler's back in the 1940s and they shared a love for children. After she moved away, she bought us William Allen White books for many years. Now she has left us enough to really strengthen our services to children. The board will be considering how to renovate and expand our children's department."

Like any other small library, Halstead still has some problems. "We aren't barrier-free at this point and we can't afford an elevator. But we will be working on this. We have some very active library users who use wheelchairs. One of them is a very supportive library trustee. Its really exasperating because our public meeting rooms are downstairs and the lower level is also a designated storm shelter.

Elizabeth Cain is proud to be the oldest KPLACE graduate. "KPLACE was pure delight, more like vacation," she commented. Time has not diminished her vitality or her enthusiasm. "I want to do this job as long as I can. It's so much fun. But I don't want any more floods."

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# Catalyst

by Michael Piper  
Executive Director  
Kansas Library Network Board

## ***New Skyways resources feature legislators, grant-writing and communities***

### ***Introducing... The Kansas Legislator Directory***

Now on Blue Skyways: complete information about Kansas legislators. Our Kansas Legislator Directory includes contact information, committee assignments, and pictures for Kansas legislators. It also offers clickable maps: just click on a county, House or Senate district to find legislators for a particular region in Kansas.

You can use this key resource by following the link from the "Government" page on Skyways. Or type this address into your Web browser's "Open Location" dialog box: <http://skyways2.lib.ks.us/ksleg/>.

This new Skyways service is made possible by our partnership with Kansas Legislative Services.

### ***Skyways offers ILDP tips and tricks***

Find out about preparing a successful Interlibrary Loan Development Program (ILDP) grant on our new ILDP tips and tricks page. It offers step-by-step instructions for writing an effective proposal. It also includes links to helpful grant-writing sites on the Web.

You'll find complete ILDP information under the "Network Board" listing in the Kansas State Library section. Follow the links from the Skyways "Libraries" page. Or type this address into your Web browser's

"Open Location" dialog box: <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/kansas/KSL/KLNB/klnb.html>.

### ***Boeing sponsors Skyways community pages***

Support from The Boeing Company is helping Kansas communities publish pages on Skyways.

Since September, John Howell, computer analyst at Boeing's Wichita plant, has served as an "Executive on Loan" to the State Library. With his wife Susan, John is helping librarians develop Web pages for Kansas communities. So far, John and Susan Howell have:

- \* Visited forty Kansas towns to help them build Web sites. The Howells meet with community residents to help them learn how to build and maintain their own pages. Sixteen communities have assumed responsibility for their own sites on Skyways.
- \* Created twenty new sites for Kansas towns. Combined with sites they developed before this project began, the Howells have created and maintained Skyways pages for 177 Kansas communities on (<http://skyways.lib.ks.us/kansas/towns/>). Communities with recently-created Skyways sites include: Atwood, Plainville, Sedan, Smith Center, and Stockton.

The Howells are not just building Web pages - they're building goodwill for libraries throughout Kansas. Their easy, friendly manner, combined with their Web expertise, makes them ideally-suited for this assignment.

If you'd like to work with the Howells on pages for your town, or if you'd like to assume responsibility for community pages they've already developed, email them at [howell@wichita.fn.net](mailto:howell@wichita.fn.net). Boeing's funding for this project will cease on 1 September 1998. So you'll need to act soon to take advantage of this limited-time opportunity.

*For more about Blue Skyways, the ILDP, or any other Network Board initiative, contact Michael Piper, KLNB Executive Director, at 785/296 3875 ([mpiper@ink.org](mailto:mpiper@ink.org)).*

*Interlibrary Loan Development Program grant proposals are due by 31 March 1998. For complete information about the ILDP, go the Network Board pages in the State Library section on Blue Skyways.*

### ***Program funds assistive technology***

Libraries will want to be aware of the Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) of Kansas which will provide vouchers for specialized telecommunications equipment for people with certified disabilities who need assistance in utilizing the telephone to access basic telecommunications services.

#### **Who is eligible for telecommunications equipment vouchers?**

1. An applicant must be a Kansas resident.
2. An applicant must have telephone service in home.
3. An applicant must have a certified disability that requires specialized equipment to effectively use the telephone.
4. An applicant's annual adjusted gross income does not exceed \$55,000 per household (\$3,000 may be added to the \$55,000 income threshold for each dependent claimed for income tax purposes.)

These vouchers can be used for assistive technology devices for the hearing impaired, visually impaired, persons with a combination of hearing and visual impairment, speech impaired, motor impaired, and cognitively impaired. Such technology as TTY, amplifiers, large-number or Braille phones, TTY with visual display, speech amplifiers, cordless, picture, hands-free or speaker-phones, and other devices are included in the program. A catalog from the Assistive Communication Center, Englewood, CO, accompanies the application.

The Telecommunications Access Program staff may make certain information available to the Kansas Legislature, the Kansas Corporation Commission, or their entities for the purposes of program administration, improvement, evaluation or auditing.

To apply for a TAP voucher, send a completed application to TAP. If the application is approved, a voucher will be issued to the applicant in an amount equal to the market price of the equipment requested. If the applicant is also approved for a signaling device, two vouchers will be issued. The voucher(s) will be mailed to the applicant along with a list of approved vendors.

Take the voucher to the vendor on the TAP approved vendor list. The vendor will provide (or order) equipment listed on the voucher. Simply give the vendor the voucher in exchange for the equipment. The vendor will submit an invoice to TAP along with the voucher for reimbursement. Check the approved vendor list to find out which vendors can provide training or assistance in equipment selection.

If you have questions about TAP, the applications process, or need information in alternate formats (such as Braille, large print, or audiotape), please contact:

Brenda Eddy, Telecommunications Access Program of Kansas, 700 S.W.. Jackson, Suite 704, Topeka, KS 66603-3758, Voice/TTY 785/234-0200, FAX 785/234-2304 or email tap@kstelecom.com.

### ***In memoriam***

Southcentral Kansas lost a fine librarian and a true library friend on Wednesday, January 28, 1998, with the passing of Gerri Crane.

Gerri, for many years the director of the Lyons Public library, was diagnosed last fall with cancer. Ironically, she had planned to retire in the near future. Her husband,

formerly an employee of the school district, had retired last year.

The Lyons Public Library, the South Central Kansas Library System, and the entire Kansas library community mourn the loss of this vital librarian and great lady.

## ***High school debate topic***

The University of Kansas Government Documents Library announced that the High School Debate Topic Online page is up on the web. This year's topic is Russia and our site can be found at <http://www.ukans.edu/cwis/units/kulib/docs/debate98.html>. All three years of our topic sites can be accessed from <http://www.ukans.edu/cwis/units/kulib/docs/debhome.html>.

Unlike many debate sites, we not only provide links to agencies, organizations, etc. that seem appropriate to the topic, but also a great number of links to full text online articles, books and journals as well as an email reference service. We also provide a bibliography of a variety of sources and maintain the site daily.

## ***BCR-sponsored video teleconference***

A two-hour videoconference "Telecommunications and Networking Technology," is scheduled for March 19 at 2:30 pm (Eastern Time). It is designed to help librarians with the maze of telecommunications in the changing technological environment. Library professionals will make presentations about the telecommunications and networking technology.

The four panelists are:

- George Machovec, technical director at the Colorado Alliance of Research Libraries
- Dan Iddings, assistant director of Networked and Automated Services at Carnegie Library of Pittsburg
- Lynn Chambers, systems administration at Brewton (Alabama) Public Library
- Marshall Breeding, library technology analyst at Vanderbilt University

This teleconference will:

- Update you on the latest telecommunications and networking technology.
- Define terminology that will assist you in communicating with vendors, consultants and funding agencies.
- Provide criteria to assist you in selecting hardware.
- Provide information to assist you in planning for the future.

This videoconference is directed at administrators, librarians, technology staff and those serving on technology planning committees. Cost is \$85 per individual site; \$75 per site for 10-19 sites; \$65 per site for 20-40 sites.

Register your site(s) by filling out the registration form on the web at [www.bcr.org](http://www.bcr.org) or by contacting Sharon Hoffhines ([shoffhin@bcr.org](mailto:shoffhin@bcr.org)). Your site license allows you to downlink the videoconference, make one videotaped copy for later replay and provides you and your viewers with the opportunity to participate by calling in or faxing questions or comments. To downlink the program, you will require a facility able to receive KU or C Band satellite transmissions. Testing will be one hour prior to the broadcast.

## ***Information to visually impaired***

Information Access Association Inc. (IAA) has launched a new telephone-based reading service that converts text to speech for people who are unable to read printed text.

The free service is called the Air Capital Telephone Reader. It is the second text-to-audio, telephone-based reading service for print impaired persons in Kansas.

With Air Capital Telephone Reader, visually-impaired people can hear news and information 24-hours-a-day, calling a local phone number for access. They can customize their choices by selecting from sections of the publication. They can choose from reading speeds ranging from 100 to 300 words per minute in one of nine different reading voices.

The service is available to Kansans in Wichita, Andale, Cheney, Douglas, El Dorado, Garden Plain, Halstead, Leon, Mount Hope, Newton and Towanda.

These publications are on IAA's Air Capital Telephone Reader:

- The Wichita Eagle;
- The Wichita Business Journal
- television listings
- General community news and information, such as local meetings, new products, publications of specific interest to blind and visually impaired persons, and stories about visually impaired people.

Interested participants must complete a short application which verifies eligibility. Upon acceptance, users will receive an information packet in their choice of media—Braille, large print or computer disk—with instructions on operating the system and personal security access codes.

Reader application packets are available upon request by calling the telephone reader office at 316/337-7701.

## ***William Allen White portrayed***

On Kansas Day, January 29, 1998, Emporia Public Library hosted a visit from notable Emporian, William Allen White. This program was sponsored by the Kansas Humanities Council. White was portrayed by Frederick A. Krebs, an instructor in the Social Science and Humanities Division at Johnson County Community College.

White's blazing 1896 editorial, "What's the matter with Kansas?" put his newspaper, *The Emporia Gazette*, on the map in a big way. For the next fifty years, White enjoyed the national spotlight with books, short stories, and editorials. A leader in the Republican party and a spokesman for the middle class, White was a close friend of Teddy Roosevelt and Alf Landon, and a promoter of democratic reforms. He ran for Kansas governor himself in 1924 to oppose the growing influence of the Ku Klux Klan.

## ***Major donation received***

The Friends of the Johnson County Library who have been instrumental in helping form the Johnson County Library Foundation over the past year donated \$10,000 and have pledged another \$10,000 donation during 1998.

Kay Robeson of Prairie Village has also donated \$1,000. Kay was a member of the Johnson County Citizens Library Committee which formed the county library, served on the first Library Board and was active in the Friends of the Library.

County Librarian Mona Carmack said these two initial large donations help the Foundation begin its fund raising campaign and move toward its goal of raising \$1,000,000 by the year 2002, the fiftieth anniversary of the Johnson County Library.

The Johnson County Library Foundation was formed in 1997, a result of the 1995 Envisioning and Strategic Planning process, to create an endowment. Proceeds will be used to fund additional library materials.

## ***African American arts festival***

In celebration of the Wichita Public Library's 10th annual *An Afternoon of Arts: African American History Program*, the library is sponsoring the African American Arts Festival from February 21 through March 1. The week-long event features exhibits, local and nationally known storytellers, and a special guest speaker.

The original program was designed to increase knowledge and promote an appreciation of African American culture and history to a cross-section of the community. Each year the program demonstrated how the arts play a role in building bridges of understanding across different cultures. "When I started this program 10 years ago, I had no idea how popular it would become," said Jean Pouncil-Burton, Mariana Lakes Branch Librarian and creator of the program.

For the last 10 years the library has been bringing in the best African American storytellers from around the country and that tradition continues. "We want to make the 10th annual celebration bigger than the one day," explained Sandra Koontz, Head of Art, Music & Video Section at the Wichita Public Library.

## ***Anonymous benefactors help library***

In 1997 an anonymous couple challenged the people of Nortonville to raise \$45,000 for a new library, which they would match with shares of stock. The townspeople succeeded, surpassing the goal by nearly \$5,000. The benefactors, Mr. & Mrs. David Corkill, recently came forward with shares in ENRON Corp. worth \$40,000 and plans to make up the difference.

Mayor David Schneider said he was worried at first that the town—with a library taxing district of 976—wouldn't be able to pull off the effort. But then another couple, Steve and Lori Clinkenbeard, Topeka, chipped in \$4,500. More donations followed, many for \$1,000.

The town put on a bluegrass festival and a talent show in the park. There was a bingo party at the Knights of Columbus hall. The library committee offered to engrave bricks for the front wall with the names of anyone who gave \$50 or more. So far more than 300 bricks have been sold, Schneider said. More donations came in from former residents now living out-of-town and out-of-state—Arizona, California, Washington, Illinois.

On retiring from ENRON, Mr. Corkill returned to his Nortonville home and served on the city council. He noted then that the library needed modernization and more space, but more important infrastructure projects always seemed to interfere. Thanks to the donation of the Corkill's stock and the proud efforts of the community, a building committee is planning a new library facility, 60 x 80 feet, to be constructed immediately east of the present building. No schedule has been announced.

## Kansas books

—by Roy Bird

***Tales From A Blackout***, by Patrick Joseph O'Connor.

Order from the author, 2401 W. 27th N., Wichita, KS 67204. 1997. Softcover, 5" x 8", 159 pp. \$7.00 post-paid.

Some of us are children of the Sixties, and those who grew up among the Beat generation or as flower children may appreciate Pat O'Connor's innovative exposition of an important site of the 1950s and 1960s Wichita counterculture. Pat is an ideal candidate to produce such a work—he teaches a course on the local counterculture at Wichita State University and uses some of the findings in this work in his class. Also, you can tell he is very familiar with his topic by reading the eleven entries.

A Blackout was the name of a tavern a couple blocks from WSU during the 1960s. It attracted folksingers, hippies, beer-drinking college students, intellectuals, some of the drug culture and others who fit the antiestablishment mold that spread from coast to coast. *Tales From A Blackout* is a collection of nonfiction, folktales and expositions that recollect an era that is gone but which has impacted an entire generation of baby-boomers.

Some of the language is salty, some of the scenes depicted are graphic, some of the events described were at least illegal. Yet *Tales From A Blackout* is a true and clear picture of how a neighborhood tavern could find a place in urban folklore. Because its setting is Wichita, Pat hopes to place it in some library collections in Kansas. It is recommended for adult nonfiction collections with caution.

## Library positions

**Library Specialist/Administrative Assistant**  
**Adult Services Division**  
**Wichita Public Library**

This position administers the Local History and Genealogy Units of the Library and serves as curator, archivist and researcher for local and Kansas history requests. Responsibilities include: organization of Wichita and Kansas materials within the Genealogy/Kansas Room to ensure easy accessibility for the public; collection development in Wichita and Kansas history subject areas; reference assistance for library patrons in person, by telephone and through correspondence and e-mail;

supervision of staff and volunteers; assistance with development of grant proposals for enhancement of Local History collections and programs; assistance for city officials, local media and community organizations with special projects; and secondary reference support for Genealogy and Kansas Reference information requests. The position includes some public speaking on Wichita history. Requires bachelors degree plus two years administrative or professional library experience. MLS from an ALA accredited institution and/or experience with Wichita and Kansas history research preferred. Strong communication skills, working knowledge of preservation and archival methods and the ability to work a flexible schedule are essential. City residency will be required of the successful applicant. Salary Range: \$28,786-\$40,302. Position classification upon hiring is dependent upon the extent to which the preferred qualifications are met. Offers of employment may be made contingent upon passing a preemployment drug screening and will be made contingent upon satisfactory evaluation of a police records check. Send resume and letter of application to: Cynthia Berner, Coordinator of Administrative Services, 223 S. Main St., Wichita, KS 67202. Application deadline is March 1, 1998. EEO/AA.

**Library Services Coordinator**  
**Public Services Support Division**  
**Wichita Public Library**

This position manages the Public Services Support Division which includes acquisitions, bibliographic maintenance, cataloging, circulation, interlibrary loan and materials processing and maintenance activities for the library's 12 facilities. Responsibilities of the position include coordinating and analyzing system circulation services, overseeing and developing enhanced interlibrary loan services and overseeing the library's acquisitions, cataloging and physical processing activities. The position reports to the Director of Libraries and serves as a member of the Library's Administrative Council. Requires MLS from an ALA accredited institution plus five years professional experience including three years experience in library administration or supervision of professional library staff or any equivalent combination of experience and training. Also requires technical services experience in an automated environment including acquisition procedures, cataloging and serials control, familiarity with integrated systems, excellent communication and interpersonal skills, experience in strategic planning, a strong customer service orientation and skill in team leadership. Preferred qualifications include experience with the Dynix library automated

system and knowledge of current trends in cataloging. City residency will be required of the successful applicant.

Salary range: \$37,735-\$52,826. Offers of employment may be made contingent upon passing a pre-employment drug screening and will be made contingent upon a satisfactory evaluation of a police records check. Send resume and letter of application to: Cynthia Berner, Coordinator of Administrative Services, 223 S. Main St., Wichita, KS 67202. Application deadline is March 15, 1998. EEO/AA.

**Librarian  
Fort Scott Community College**

Education: MLS preferred (will accept Library Certificate). Hours: 40 hours a week varied by assigned. 10 month contract (This year when filled through June; next year August through May). Experience/Training: Online reference work with Internet, Ebscohost, blue Skyways; Online cataloging and circulation with Dynix: Experi-

ence with a variety of databases/media and general reference. Job Description: 1) Be responsible for the circulation of materials and equipment in the Library Resource Center. 2) Assist the director in writing and enforcing policies of the Learning Resource Center. 3) Answer general reference requests that come to the Learning Resource Center. This will include manual reference, subject searches, online searching, use of multimedia files and indexes and instruction in the use of items to patrons. 4) Process materials to be added to the collection as assigned. 5) May be called upon to be the work supervisor if the director is away from the Learning Resource Center for a period of time. 6) Other duties as assigned. Please forward resume with at least three references, transcripts, and a cover letter not to exceed three pages, stating how your qualifications meet our needs. Salary range will be based upon education and experience. Please send application packages to: Dr. Jim Baber, Vice President/Dean of Academic Instruction, Fort Scott Community College, 2108 Horton St., Fort Scott, KS 66701. Fax: 316/223-6530 or email: Jimb@fscax.ftscott.cc.ks.us. Closing date is March 10, 1998.

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