

# Kansas Libraries

Official Newsletter of the Kansas State Library

April 1998

## This month in Kansas Libraries

State Library welcomes Jeff Hixon.....	1
PLA attracts 4000.....	1
CBC 1998 catalog.....	1
COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS.....	2
CATALYST.....	3
Exhibit, proclamation mark information week.....	4
New traveling trunk.....	4
ILDP grant.....	4
Derby public library celebrates 40th.....	4
Emporia hosts discussion.....	4
Book drive benefits TSCPL.....	5
New endowment helps Holton.....	5
TSCPL Friends contribute gift.....	5
Department on Aging moves.....	5
Kansas books.....	6
Johnson County gets YA librarian.....	6
Library positions.....	7
State Library staff, spouse honored.....	8

## State Library welcomes Jeff Hixon

The staff of the State Library look forward with eager anticipation to the arrival of Jeff Hixon as the Director of the Library Information Technology Division. Until March, Jeff had been consultant and assistant administrator of the North Central Kansas Library System, headquartered in Manhattan, a position he held for 14 years. Prior to his employment with NCKLS, Jeff served as director of the Clay Center Carnegie Library.

Jeff holds a bachelor's degree from Wichita State University and received his MLS from Emporia State University. In recent years he has been closely involved in several conferences and projects concerning technology and libraries. He will bring an empathy for people; a sense of humor and some common sense to the automation of

Kansas libraries. We'll look forward to working with Jeff.

## PLA attracts 4000

Despite the inclement weather, nearly 4,000 public librarians and vendors converged on Kansas City for the Public Library Association (PLA) annual conference from March 10-14, 1998. Not only the conference organizers but also the business people of Kansas City were pleased with the turnout.

According to the Library Hotline, attendees at the PLA conference "stretched the capacity of the city's fleet of taxis, overflowed into the hallways at several program presentations, and tolerated bitter cold one day and balmy spring breezes the next."

For a delightful change, program planners thoughtfully spaced sessions with time allowed between them for visits to the exhibit hall. Reports indicate that the 300 exhibitors were generally pleased with the flow of librarian traffic. It appears that PLA in Kansas City was a success.

## CBC 1998 catalog

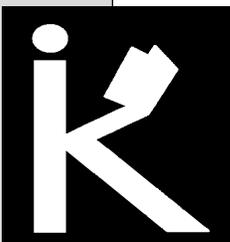
Free copies of the 1998 Catalog from the Children's Book Council are available by calling 212/966-1990 or by email: [www.cbcbooks.org](http://www.cbcbooks.org). This year's new reading encouragement materials and official National Children's Book Week artwork include items that will brighten any room and lend a graphic reinforcement to any educational program.

Founded in 1945, The Children's Book Council (CBC) is a nonprofit trade association encouraging the use and enjoyment of books and related literacy materials for young people. The CBC membership is comprised of U.S. publishers and packagers of trade books for children and young adults, and producers of book-related materials for children.

The CBC promotes the reading and enjoyment of children's books through the sale of quality reading-encouragement graphics that help support the CBC's publications and other literacy efforts. Since its inception, the CBC has sponsored National Children's Book Week each November. This year National Children's Book Week is November 16-22, 1998 and the theme is Books Go Everywhere.

## 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*.



A P R I L



## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

*This article by staff writer Olive L. Sullivan has been adapted with the permission of the Pittsburg Morning Sun*

### **Arma Library adds Touch of Romance for Readers**

The Arma Public Library has added a special room for those who like to lose themselves in love.

The Romance Room is the latest addition to the five year old library. It is one part of a plan to increase awareness of all the library has to offer.

Librarian Christie Wilson said that romance novels aren't necessarily the most popular books for Arma-area readers, but the collection was one of the fastest growing, due to donations. And those who do favor romances tend to be voracious readers.

Estimating the romance collection is up to almost 500 volumes, Wilson explained that the library board decided to open the new section to generate interest in the entire collection.

Dianne Reiken, a member of the library board, said the romance room was a way to bring something unique to Arma's library. While it serves Arma, the library considers the whole region—towns like Mulberry, Arcadia and Franklin—part of its service area. There is no fee for Kansas residents for a library card; residents of Missouri pay \$10.

The romance room is a seductive haven in the midst of a small but modern and well equipped library. The walls are a deep rose, accented with teal and rose striped wallpaper and a floral border. A rocking chair beckons those who can't wait till they get the latest Phyllis Whitney or Kathleen Woodiwiss offering home. Light from the lace curtain windows is augmented by a reading lamp.

"The library board members did the wallpapering and painting," Wilson explained, and the father of one of the board members built the rose colored shelves and the partition walling off the romance room from the rest of the storage space. "We worked on it for over a month," she added.

Readers could plunk down a lot of cash on the habit if they had to buy the books—new paperbacks cost \$5 to \$10 each—but Wilson says she is encouraging a trade-in program for romance novels.

Readers can bring in four or five books and trade them for others. "We get so many donations of romance novels we don't really have room for them all," Wilson said. The trading program helps readers and keeps new volumes on the shelves at no cost to the library. And of course, patrons don't have to trade a book in to check a book.

That allows the library board to focus on additions to other parts of the collection. "We're basically an entertainment library, but we do have some reference," Wilson said.

Besides the romance room, another new feature is public access to the Internet, free to library cardholders.

As part of the Southeast Kansas Library System, the library receives revolving collections. As a tax funded institution, the library pays Wilson's salary, and is able to buy new books and provide additional resources and programs.

"When we first started, it was mostly donations," Reiken said. "Now we have purchased thousands of books."

And all the investment of time and money seems to be paying off. Wilson said she spent a lot of time alone in the library last winter. This year, she says, "We've been busier than ever!"



*Kansas Libraries* is published monthly by the Kansas State Library, 300 SW 10th Avenue, Room 343-N, Topeka, KS 66612-1593 (785/296-3296; In Kansas 800/432-3919)

ISSN 0889-2709 Page layout: *Jana Bowers*

Editor: *Roy Bird*. Contributing editors: *Rhonda Moeller, Michael Piper, Shannon Roy, and Vikki Jo Stewart*.

Address comments concerning *Kansas Libraries* to the editor.

---



---



---



---

# Catalyst

by Michael Piper  
Executive Director  
Kansas Library Network Board

## ***KLNB's Tri-Conference programs focus on partnerships***

You're invited to the KAECT/KASL/KLA Tri-Conference at Century II in Wichita on 8-10 April.

The Tri-Conference is a collaboration involving librarians and library advocates from across Kansas. It is sponsored by three professional associations: the Kansas Association for Educational Communications and Technology, the Kansas Association of School Librarians, and the Kansas Library Association.

Every year, the Tri-Conference reminds us that we are all partners in a broad, cooperative enterprise: helping Kansans learn, create and live better than ever before. So this year's theme, "Partnerships," is a perfect choice, because the Tri-Conference is built on partnerships.

Partnerships are also a key theme for the Kansas Library Network Board. The Network Board's business is promoting partnerships to improve library services for all Kansans. At this year's Tri-Conference, the Board will sponsor several programs that focus on partnerships:

### ***Find out about new Skyways features***

What's the hottest spot in the Exhibits Area? It's the Skyways Room, booth 701. In the Skyways Room, you can check out the latest features on Blue Skyways, a collaborative Web service involving partners statewide.

You can use some of the latest computers from our sponsors, Apple Computer and Gateway. You can also explore Skyways and other Web sites via a high-speed ISDN connection from another sponsor, Kansas Web.

And be sure to investigate the products and services available from BCR, our other Skyways Room sponsor.

John and Susan Howell, our partners, will be in the Skyways Room at various times throughout the conference. They can answer questions about posting community and library pages on Skyways.

### ***Kansas Community Connections: Putting Your Town on the Web.***

On Wednesday, 8 April, at 2:45 PM, you'll meet three people who are working with the Howells to build civic pages on Skyways.

Rosetta Bartels (Inman Public Library), Carolyn Little (Phillipsburg PL), and Chris Rippel (Central Kansas Library System) will relate their experiences in creating community pages. You'll also meet John and Susan Howell, as well as Jameson Watkins, our Skyways Webmaster.

### ***Tell us your dreams about library services in Kansas***

At 1:30 on Thursday, 9 April, participate in the Kansas Library Network Board's focus group.

Kansas librarians have an impressive history of working together to solve problems. These partnerships have led to innovations such as the Kansas Library Catalog and Blue Skyways.

To serve Kansans better than ever before — to make our state an information leader — the Kansas Library Network Board wants to build on this tradition. So the KLNB invites you to join in a discussion about the future of library services in our state.

You can contribute by completing the planning survey on Skyways. You can also participate by attending the Board's focus group, at 1:30 PM on Thursday, 9 April at the Tri-Conference.

Results from this session will be a basis for the Network Board's action agenda in the 1998-99 fiscal year and beyond.

*You'll find more Tri-Conference info in the "What's New" section on Blue Skyways.*

## ***Exhibit, proclamation mark information week***

A special exhibit "Setting the Record Straight" can now be seen in the Center for Historical Research, 6425 S.W. Sixth, Topeka, as part of National Records and Information Management Week, April 5—11, 1998. Now in its fourth year, the celebration was begun in 1995 by the Association of Records Managers and Administrators, a professional, not-for-profit organization. The purpose of the week is to provide education about the field of records and information management.

Governor Bill Graves has proclaimed April 5-11, 1998, as National Records and Information Management Week in Kansas. For further information contact the Records Management Section of the Library and Archives Division at 785/272-8681, ext. 288.

## ***New traveling trunk***

Kansas students now have an opportunity to learn about the state's symbols with turtle handpuppets, a honeybee dance, and a furry buffalo. These hands-on learning activities are featured in a new traveling resource trunk, *Symbols and Images of Kansas*. Produced by the Kansas State Historical Society, the trunk is filled with items and ideas for young students to be used in libraries, classrooms, daycare centers, and community organizations such as scouting.

Designed for pre-kindergarten through first-grade students, the Symbols trunk explores the buffalo, box turtle, meadowlark, honeybee, sunflower, cottonwood, state seal, and Kansas songs with a fun-filled trunk of activities, games, and stories. The lesson book includes projects on the railroad, aviation, life of a cowboy, wheat, weather, and the mythical jayhawk.

*Symbols and Images of Kansas* is one of ten traveling resource trunks available for the cost of shipping from the Kansas State Historical Society. Each trunk contains a variety of resource materials including reproduction artifacts, books, photographs, recordings, audiovisual programs, a teacher's manual, and an activity book. The other trunks are *The African American Experience in Kansas*, *Archeology in Kansas*, *Carpentry in Kansas*, *Farm Family in Kansas*, *The Mexican American Experience in Kansas*, *People of the Plains: Native Americans in Kansas*, *Kansas Women and Their Quilts*, *Volga German Immigrants in Kansas*, and *Wheatland*.

For more information about traveling resource trunks or other education program available through the Kansas State Historical Society, contact the Education/Outreach Division, Kansas History Center, 6425 S.W. 6th Avenue, Topeka, KS 66615-1099; 785/272-8681, ext. 414.

## ***ILDP grant***

Pretty Prairie High School Library, in USD #311, received an Interlibrary Loan Development Grant for the purchase of science and math videos. Purchased with this grant is a collection of videos that are available for loan across the state. To receive a title listing of the videos, mail your request to Edna Ruth Kemp, High School Media Center, Box 326, Pretty Prairie 67570.

## ***Derby public library celebrates 40th***

The Derby Public Library cordially invites the public to celebrate the library's 40th anniversary and to honor the retirement of Ken Mulanax, Board of Trustees President.

The celebration will be held at the Derby Public Library, 611 Mulberry on April 21, 1998 from 6:00—8:00 pm. Director Judy Bennett would like to see a large turnout for this celebration.

It will include the new Dynix Express integrated automation system—including OPACs, increased searching capabilities, Kids Catalog, and dial-in opportunities from homes and businesses—recently installed thanks to the last LSCA Title II grants.

Congratulations to Derby Public Library and to its board chair, Ken Mulanax.

## ***Emporia hosts discussion***

On Thursday, April 2 at 7:00 pm, Ann Birney was the featured speaker in the "A Woman's Place" discussion series at the Emporia Public Library. Ms. Birney discussed with interested readers *A Lost Lady* by Willa Cather.

Copies of the book were available to check out and were available on Thursday evening. The program was sponsored by the Kansas Humanities Council and the Emporia Public Library. The program was free and open to the public.

### ***Book drive benefits TSCPL***

The Topeka Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. held its second annual book drive in celebration of March, Women's History Month. This national project promotes donations of books for all ages by and about women of African ancestry.

All books were given to the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library. Anyone interested in purchasing a book in tribute to, or in memory of, a friend or family member was encouraged to join this celebration.

Donors were honored at a reception and program, March 22, at the International House on the Washburn University Campus. New York author, Lolita Files read from her best-selling novel, *Scenes From a Sistah*; and Topeka author, Monica Jackson King, spoke about her romance writing career and her book *Midnight Blue*. Books were available for sale and autographing, and a reception followed.

Delores Collins and the Antioch Baptist Church Holy Steppers presented musical selections. The event was co-sponsored by the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library.

For more information, contact Susan Marchant, Public Information Librarian, at 785/231-0548.

### ***New endowment helps Holton***

The Jackson County Community Fund early in 1998 completed setting up its first endowment fund. The \$2,523 endowment will benefit the Beck-Bookman Library in Holton, the only public library in the county. The funds came from the Jackson County Literacy Council, which disbanded in 1997.

The Literacy Council's by-laws said that at its disbandment any funds in its account must be contributed to a 501 (c)(3) corporation. The library does not have a 501 (c)(3), but that was exactly the type of situation for which the community foundation was created.

The contribution will be "seed" money for a permanent endowment. Setting it up took several months because it was the first and foundation board members were unfamiliar with the paperwork and the process. The foundation expects a large portion of the endowment's funds to come from estates, but others may contribute through its long-term growth, to be built over the years.

### ***TSCPL Friends contribute gift***

The Library Foundation announced a gift of \$100,000 to the Library Endowment Campaign from the Friends of the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library. The Library Foundation is in the planning stages of a campaign to raise \$3.5 million by July of the year 2000.

The funds are needed to support essential programs, services and collection enhancements that will accompany the completion of the fully renovated Library; and the Friends' gift will add to that amount.

Library Foundation Board Chair, Don Chubb, Jr., remarked, "It is thanks to the Friends that we have such a good start in creating a culture of giving that embraces the Library." He notes that the Friends launched the Library Foundation in 1983, and thanked Friends Board President Gaylord Ukena for the organization's leadership.

The Friends of the Library was organized in 1971, to support Library programs, purchase materials, and raise money for unbudgeted items that would enhance Library services. Its annual Book Sale and the Friends Book-tique, a shop for gently-used books currently located in the Fairlawn Mall, are their major sources of revenue.

Mr. Chubb also announced the receipt of a bronze sculpture by Dennis Smith from Drs. Mark and Bette Morris. The work captures the radiant expression of a child looking up from reading a book. The bronze, entitled *First Reader*, will be displayed in the Youth Services area of the newly renovated Library. Mark and Bette Morris stated, "The gift is in appreciation for the role the Library played in the education of our children—Mark, David and Cynthia Lynn."

### ***Department on Aging moves***

Effective April 1, 1998, the Kansas Department on Aging occupied the first three floors of the new England Building, 503 S. Kansas Avenue, in Topeka. The phone numbers currently in use transferred to the new building, although the e-mail addresses will change. To e-mail any member of the Kansas Department on Aging, simply type their first name and last initial followed by @aging.wpo.state.ks.us (example: alicek@aging.wpo.state.ks.us). All KDOA staff will be able to receive Internet e-mail.

## Kansas books

by Roy Bird

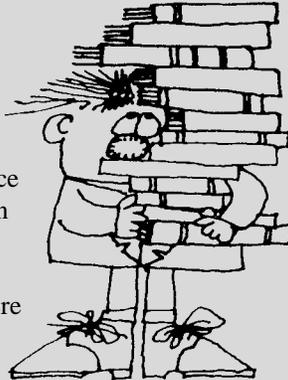
### ***War to the Knife: Bleeding Kansas, 1854-1861.***

Goodrich, Thomas. Stackpole Books, April 1998.  
ISBN 0-8117-1921-9, 320 pp., \$29.95. Reviewed by  
Edwin B. Burgess, U.S. Army Combined Arms  
Research Library, Fort Leavenworth, KS

The guerrilla war that developed after the 1854 between proslavery men and freestaters living in and around the Kansas Territory was a precursor to the Civil War. The Missouri Compromise, guarantor of peace between free and slave states, was repealed in 1854, and both sides were determined to add Kansas to their lists of sympathizers, by the ballot where expedient, and by the torch where not.

Goodrich tells a violent tale of insurrection, rioting, drunkenness, principle, politics, and self-interest. His technique is to use mostly the voices of contemporaries, and he quotes extensively from diaries, newspapers, and letters from the fray; colorful language unsurpassed in modern political vitriol.

Goodrich lives near Topeka and is the author of *Scalp Dance* (1997) and *Bloody Dawn*. He has made effective use of sources from the state's archives to present a coherent and credible vision of the dress rehearsal for the Civil War. Recommended for most libraries.



### ***Harvesting the High Plains***, by Craig Miner. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas. ISBN 0-7006-0874-5, 240 pp. \$29.95.

Using a single success story as a microcosm, Craig Miner of the Wichita State University history department either provides the exception that proves the rule or the exception that proves the rule is wrong. Miner argues against the assumption that large, corporate, technology-based agriculture is detrimental to the ecology.

The book tells the story of former field hand John Kriss and his management of G-K Farms for Wichita entrepreneur Ray Garvey. Drawing from correspondence between Kriss and Garvey, Miner illustrates how large, mechanized, and specialized farming on the high plains of western Kansas and eastern Colorado struck a balance between profit and ecology.

The value of *Harvesting the High Plains* is the human countenance it gives to the faceless statistics of many other agricultural works. In it, Miner lets the reader see that farming really has always been and still is—first and foremost—about people. Recommended for adult and Kansas collections.

## Johnson County gets YA librarian

—adapted from *School Library Journal*, March, 1998

The Johnson County Library now has its first young adult librarian, thanks to the fact that Program Services Manager Jean Hatfield and youth services staff used statistics persuasively.

Jean and youth services staff successfully used attendance and circulation figures to convince their board to hire a young adult specialist.

For years, the library had kept program attendance statistics for children and adults, but unfortunately, young adult attendance had never been broken out from children's attendance. So, staff started to collect separate YA statistics.

That information allowed them to determine that, at their current staffing levels, they could provide programming for only 200 young adults, or less than one-half of one percent of the community's approximately 61,000 10- to 19-year-olds. In its report to the board, staff argued that without a YA librarian, the library would not be able to make a dent in the services it wanted to offer teens.

Also, YA circulation spiked in 1995, but in 1996, circulation dropped. One of the library board members had a teenager. That the staff felt, helped to spark the interest of the board.



## *Library positions*

### *Interlibrary Loan Librarian Wichita State University*

Responsible for the overall planning, management, and operation of a very active and service-oriented inter-library loan service. Supervises a staff of 2.5 full-time paraprofessionals and 1 FTE student assistant in a unit handling approximately 24,000 transactions annually. Requests items using a variety of commercial and non-commercial delivery services including UMI, CARL FirstSearch, EBSCOdoc, and the OCLC ILL subsystem. Works in a highly automated environment and keeps abreast of advances in document retrieval and delivery technologies. Coordinates ILL services with the Library's unmediated document delivery service. Maintains relationship with state and regional consortial partners. Represents the Library in state, regional, and national arenas. Engages in scholarship and professional service. Librarians at WSU enjoy faculty rank, privileges, and responsibilities. Required Qualifications: ALA-accredited MLS. One year's ILL experience using the OCLC ILL subsystem. Knowledge of a wide variety of document delivery services. Knowledge of and ability to use Internet and other electronic bibliographic and document delivery services. Ability to work effectively with colleagues and a diverse clientele. Effective written and oral skills. Strong analytical skills. Desired Qualifications: Supervisory experience. Experience with personal computers especially with database and spreadsheet programs. Additional graduate degree. Starting salary \$27,500—\$32,000 for 12 months depending on experience and qualifications. Tenure eligible. Choice of retirement plans and health insurance, 22 days vacation. Send letter of application, resume, and names, address, and phone numbers of three references by May 1, 1998, to: Kathy A. Downes, Chair, ILL Librarian Search Committee, Wichita State University, Wichita, KS 67260-0068. Noncitizen must be eligible to work in the United States at time of appointment. Finalists will be invited for an expense-paid interview. Wichita State is an urban, Doctoral II institution with an enrollment of over 14,000 and has a commitment to improving the diversity of its faculty by actively seeking applications from a broad spectrum of individuals. Wichita State University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

### *Science Librarian Wichita State University*

Responsible for all aspects of public service for the sciences in both print and electronic formats; assists users at a general reference desk including nights and weekends; and provides library instruction, database searching, and collection development of the sciences. Serves as liaison with the faculties of Biology, Computer Science, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Geology. Helps implement reference automation projects including homepage development and Internet training. Participates in department, library, and university activities. Engages in scholarship and professional service. Required qualifications: ALA-accredited MLS. Undergraduate degree in a field related to this assignment. Strong oral, written communication and teaching skills. Knowledge of electronic resources, including the Internet and databases; STN and DIALOG search skills. Familiarity with trends in academic library reference and instructional services. Desired degree in a scientific field. Librarians at WSU enjoy faculty rank, privileges and responsibilities. Appointment range is \$27,500—\$32,000 for 12 months, depending on experience and qualifications. Tenure eligible. Choice of retirement plans, including TIAA-CREF. Send letter of application, resume, and names, addresses and telephone numbers of three current references postmarked by May 1, 1998 to: Philip Howze, Chair, Science Librarian Search Committee, Wichita State University, Wichita, KS 67260-0068. Noncitizens must be eligible to work in the United States at time of appointment. Finalists will be invited for an expense-paid interview. Wichita State University is an urban institution with an enrollment of over 14,000 and a commitment to improving the diversity of its faculty by actively seeking applications from a broad spectrum of individuals. Wichita State University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

*For additional job postings, please check either the Kansas Library Association's Help Wanted Index at <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/kansas/KLA/> or the American Library Association's Library Education and Employment page at <http://www.ala.org/education>.*

### *State Library staff, spouse honored*

Congratulations are in order for Mark and Cindy for the honor that has been bestowed on the Roupe family.

For the work that Mark has given to the development of web pages for the United Way and several additional charitable agencies in Topeka, he has been given the 1998 Volunteer of the Year award.

In their annual report, the United Way stated, "We entered cyberspace with a web site designed and maintained by volunteer of the year Mark Roupe. The site

reinforces our commitment to convenient access for everyone to find needed services and programs of our 32 member agencies.

It also creates another method for staying in touch with our donors. The web site contains a listing of 260 free programs available in the United Way at Work Community Speakers Bureau and has received national attention."

Way to go Mark and Cindy!

434-10

Bulk Rate  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 157  
Topeka, KS

Please route to  
• Library Director

*Kansas Libraries*  
Kansas State Library  
300 SW 10th Street, Room 343  
Topeka, KS 66612-1593  
913/296-3296  
Toll Free in Kansas 800/432-3919