

Reference Division Report

Cindy Roupe, Director

Reference inquiries this year to date have increased 29% over what they were last year for the same period.

As the marketing project for the Legislative Hotline and Ask a Librarian services closed at the beginning of March, Gimlet statistics show an overall increase of 11% in use of those services for the month of February. For the same period, the Hotline saw an increase of 88% over the same 30 day period last year and instant messaging or chat inquiries increased by 36%.

Orientations

New legislator orientation resulted in working one-on-one with many new legislators in using State Library resources.

Brett Rurode and Sarah Tenfelde-Dubois held an orientation in February for the Board of Healing Arts. This is the second one for this agency and was requested by the agency for new staff.

Cindy Roupe held an orientation for Kansas Veterans Affairs Commission staff in January.

Special Projects

Donna Casement has been doing research on KDHE Laboratory history for the future museum that will be in the Docking building. They contacted us last summer after becoming aware of our resources on KDHE in KGI.

In non-Reference news, a new committee for Kansas Notable Books has been organized and has begun reviewing books published in 2022 for award in 2023. Currently, there are over 100 books for the committee to review. Announcement of the final selection is usually soon after Memorial Day.

Talking Books Division Report

Michael Lang, Director

Calendar year circulation for 2022 totaled over 23,000 more titles than 2021 and almost 72,000 more than 2020.

Outreach

Launched a PSA with local My Town Media stations to promote the program.

Kansas Talking Books week was held March 6-10. This year we promoted the braille services available for our patrons. We hosted a webinar and book club during the week. We debuted our circulating braille awareness kit and promoted the Braille Enhanced StoryWalk that we partnered with Wamego Public Library to create.

We received our first patron the new NLS partnership with Veterans Affairs. The VA rapid sign-up allows trained VA staff to register veterans for talking books and BARD. We are then notified and add them as a patron.

Local Book Production

Three books were uploaded to BARD in January.

DBC17294 Raising the Dead by Phillip French

DBC17301 The Door in the Forest by Rod Townley (Kansas notable book)

DBC17313 The Other Side of Silence by Bill Pronzini

Statewide Services Division

Andy Shafer, Director

After the retirement of Jeff Hixon at the end of 2022, Andy Shafer was promoted to Director after serving for more than 4 years as Digital Collections Librarian.

Outreach

Online registration was added to the State Agencies landing page, allowing employees of the State of Kansas to obtain eCard access virtually.

Staff and partners at the Palace Project are working towards the full-scale launch and promotion of our collections via the app. That milestone is dependent on Lyrasis' development of several key features, namely a Kids Mode which would help younger patrons locate resources that are most appropriate for their ages, and functionality for patrons to download eBooks and audiobooks for offline use.

A three-year agreement with Biblioboard has been made for unlimited simultaneous access to a Kansas-specific collection of Arcadia Publishing's well-known local town histories. Patrons can access these eBooks from the Palace Project app.

As the KIC Council, the governing body that oversaw administration of KICNET, has been defunct for multiple years, and state statute indicated that the State Library Advisory board holds policy-making authority over the Kansas interlibrary loan network, Resource Sharing Librarian Nikki Hansen began the process of drafting a new membership agreement and application process for KICNET. Once the board ratifies the new agreement and process, the next step will be to notify member libraries of the change and have each library sign the updated version of the agreement.

