

# Kansas Libraries

Official Newsletter of the Kansas State Library

October 1999

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## Plug into the power of KLA!

This is the 100<sup>th</sup> year for the Kansas Library Association, and we need YOU to reach our goal of doubling membership.

YOU shine the light in your library and community, and we want everyone—especially those in the legislature—to be blinded by the light we shine as we stand together.

If YOU are already a member of KLA, July is the renewal month for dues. Joining now will get YOU quarterly newsletters, reduced registration fees for sponsored events, AND the opportunity to apply for up to \$500 in continuing education grants.

If YOU are not a member, join now for ½ price during your first year. YOU also receive a complimentary membership in the New Members

Roundtable (NMRT) for one year.

If YOU believe in libraries, join us now. Together WE can be very powerful.

For a membership form, call 800/234-0529, ext. 114, or check out the web site at <http://www.skyways.lib.ks.us/KLA>.

## Letters of intent now being accepted for LSTA special populations grants

It's time again to submit letters of intent to apply for Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Special Populations grants. The deadline for letters of intent for FY 2000 awards is Monday, December 13, 1999. Letters of intent should be typewritten or word-processed on library, agency or institution letterhead.

LSTA Special Populations grants are open to libraries of all types. To apply, submit a letter of intent to Roy Bird, Federal Projects Coordinator, Kansas State Library, 300 S.W. 10th Ave., Rm 343-N, Topeka, KS 66612-1593.

The letter of intent is the first step in the application process for a grant from the LSTA allotment to Kansas for special populations. Libraries which submit a letter of intent will then receive a copy of the application and LSTA Special Population Grant Program guidelines.

A total of \$50,000 has been budgeted for FY 2000 Special Populations grants.

If your library is interested in federal funds to support a project serving a special population during FY 2000, submit your letter of intent by December 13.

Grant awards will be determined at the February 2000 joint meeting of the LSTA Advisory Council and the State Library Advisory Commission.

For additional information about LSTA Special Population grants, contact your regional library system consultant or Roy Bird at 800/432-3919; [royb@ink.org](mailto:royb@ink.org).



OCTOBER



## Senator McCain visits Johnson County Library

John S. McCain, U.S. Senator (Rep.) from Arizona, and candidate for President of the United States, visited the Johnson County Central Resource Library in Overland Park, KS, on Tuesday, September 21.

Senator McCain toured the library and presented a program to a standing room only audience of about 170, including students from two area high schools, while an additional 100 persons stood in the hallway outside the meeting room. McCain's program was about his recently published book, *Faith of My Fathers: A Family Memoir*. Senator McCain is the son and grandson of prominent Navy admirals. The book chronicles the way McCain was shaped by his grand- father and father and how their examples enabled him to survive difficulties.

McCain began his 22-year naval career as an aviator after graduating from the United States Naval Academy in 1958. He was shot down over Vietnam and held as a prisoner of war for over 5 years. In 1982, he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. After two terms he was elected to the Senate in 1986, where he has served three terms. He is Chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation. In 1997, Senator McCain was named one of the "25 Most Influential People in America" by Time magazine. He announced his candidacy for President of the United States on April 14, 1999.



Youth Services Supervisor Dennis Ross shows Senator John S. McCain, U.S. Senator (Rep.) from Arizona, the Johnson County Library's Kids' Page with guided sites to resources for children.

## Our Magic City

Starting Sunday afternoon, October 3, 1999, and continuing through Saturday, October 9, 1999, the Wichita Public Library hosted a multicultural festival entitled Our Magic City: A Showcase of Cultures. Daily events featured artists, exhibitions, and personal histories of Hispanic, Native American, Lebanese, Mennonite, Asian and African-American cultures and their unique relationship to Wichita. Originating at area libraries, the week featured a Hispanic car show at the Seneca branch library, a tour of the Indian Center, a Lebanese history lecture, a quilt exhibition at the Westlink library, a tour of the Kauffman Museum in Newton, a Korean art exhibit at WSU's Ulrich Museum and a tour of the Kansas African American Museum.

On Saturday, October 9 dancers, storytellers, and artists from many ethnic and cultural groups performed hourly on an outdoor stage. Ethnic foods and crafts were sold throughout the day.

Funding for these events was made possible by the Kansas Arts Commission, Arts Partners, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. For more information call Linda Martinez at 316/688-9361.

## Summer reading program at Stanton

The 1999 Summer Reading Program at the Stanton County Public Library, (Johnson, KS) was definitely one of the best this year, with 208 patrons participating by either counting the number of books read or the number of pages read. Many wonderful prizes donated by businesses were given weekly to ages 10-adult. Play money was earned by the children ages 3-9, to be spent in the library's summer reading store. The grand prize for the most books read and the most pages read was a free airplane ride donated by Gerard Aircraft of Johnson, KS.

For the first time ever, three eager readers (who tied for first place) took their plane ride on August 6. With wide grins and camera ready, these children went on a 20-minute plane ride. Gerard Aircraft has generously agreed to donate plane rides every year in the future for the library's summer reading program.

For more information call the Stanton County Public Library at 316/492-2302.

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# Catalyst

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by Eric Hansen  
Executive Director  
Kansas Library Network Board

I'm delighted to announce that Governor Graves has re-appointed Ed Burgess and Mona Carmack to the Kansas Library Network Board. Ed is chief of archives and deputy director of the Combined Arms Research Library at Fort Leavenworth. He is a member of the Special Library Association and the Kansas City Area Archivists. Mona is director of the Johnson County Library. She is a member of the Kansas and American Library Associations, and the Urban Libraries Council. Ed and Mona will each serve three-year terms expiring in June of 2002.

A number of events I attended in September emphasized to me the value librarians have for the people of Kansas.

I was pleased to attend Don Descy's presentation "Validity of Internet Information" at Washburn University (see photo). NCKLS and NEKLS cosponsored the event. Besides being a very good basic introduction to the topic of Internet evaluation, it made two points apparent: the veracity of Web information cannot be assumed, and librarians will remain useful to the public in part as evaluators of online information.



Don Descy of Minnesota State U. at his  
"Validity of Internet Information"  
workshop 9/22/99 at Washburn U.

The Kansas Digital Library (KDL) Executive Leadership Group (ELG) held a retreat that took the project a large step forward (see photo). The group was able to determine a governance structure, define its partners, and select a physical home for the KDL.

The prototype is ahead of schedule and is expected to be functional by the end of December.



(L. to R.) Bob Walters, KLNBS;  
Steve Adams, KSDE; Jim Bingham,  
UKMC at the KDL ELG meeting.

I taught a hands-on class in the use of search engines to participants in the Kansas Art Educators Association annual conference in Lawrence. At the rate of speed that Web tools appear, develop, and are acquired, keeping up is a challenge, but I always enjoy an opportunity to train interested professionals in other fields in the types and uses of search engines, and in search strategy formulation. Search training is one way librarians can reach out to organizations to encourage nonusers to become users. The course is available on Blue Skyways at <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/KSL/presentations/KAEA/cover.html>.

The state Department of Information Systems and Communications (DISC) held its 11<sup>th</sup> Hour Y2K Summit at the Expocentre (see photo). According to reports, the state's "assets" are well over 90% compliant at this point, with mission critical assets well above that number. For details regarding the state's Y2K readiness, point your browser to <http://y2k.state.ks.us/agystatus/default.htm>.



Don Heiman, DISC & Ken Orr, Orr Institute discuss Y2K

## Best public libraries in the nation

The Johnson County (KS) Library is listed in the September issue of *American Libraries* as one of the best public libraries in the nation according to American Public Library Rating Index (HAPLR). In an article released this week in *American Libraries* magazine entitled "Great American Public Libraries," Thomas J. Hennen, Jr. presented his rating system of 8,752 libraries for the second year. Johnson County Library ranked highest in the population category of 250,000—499,999. The Library's population service area is 307,634.

Johnson County Library, had an overall rating of 867 out of a possible 1,000. Not only was its ranking the highest in the 250,000—499,999 population category, but it scored higher than any library in the over 500,000 population category. It also scored higher than all libraries serving over 100,000 except for Naperville, (IL) Public Libraries which scored 889. This is the second year for the index. Last year Johnson County Library scored second (to Naperville) in a broader over 100,000 population category. This year there are ten categories.

The Hennen American Public Library Rating (HAPLR) Index uses six input and nine output measures and measures library efficiency as well as public support. The ratings are calculated from the 1997 Federal-State Cooperative System (FSCS) public library data, which is published in by the Department of Education. Each factor is weighted and scored. The factors include:

- Expenditure per capita
- Percent budget to materials
- Materials expenditure per capita
- Periodicals per 1,000 residents
- Volumes per capita
- Cost of circulation
- Visits per capita
- Collection turnover
- Circulation/FTE staff hour
- Circulation per capita
- Reference per capita
- FTE staff per 1,000 population
- Circulation per hour
- Visits per hour
- Circulation per visit

In the HAPLR index, the Hays (KS) Public Library ranked second in the 10,000 to 24,999 population

category. In the state averages, Kansas public libraries ranked 6th.

More information about the tabulations in the HAPLR index can be found on the Web at [www.haplr-index.com](http://www.haplr-index.com). The American Libraries article can be found at <http://ala8.ala.org/aloneline/archive/hennen2.pdf>.

## Beginning Braille readers collection

Southeast Kansas now offers a unique collection of children's Print/Braille/Picture books for beginning Braille readers. The 60-piece collection is housed in the Children's Room at the Iola Public Library.

Individuals within families of the visually impaired now have materials on hand locally to share beginning Braille reading experiences, be it blind children with sighted parents, blind parents with sighted children, or adults with worsening low vision needing to evaluate the possibility of using Braille.

Print/Braille/Picture books include the entire text of the book, with a clear overlay of the Braille equivalent. Original pictures are included also. Many of the beginning reader board books also include textures and music as well.

Titles include favorites such as, "Good Night, Moon," "Feely Bugs," "The Very Busy Spider," "Pooh All Year Long," and "Touch and Feel" book series.

A separate collection of Print/Braille books for young readers is included in this collection as well. Print/Braille books have lines of Braille with text duplicated below, but have no illustrations. Beginning reader classics are represented in this collection of popular children's book titles. Titles in the Print/Braille collection include authors Dr. Seuss, Marc Brown, Arnold Lobel, Cynthia Rylant and Marjorie Weinman Sharmat.

The collection was purchased with a special populations grant through the Library Services Technology Act. The collection is available to all library patrons through Southeast Kansas Library System's Interlibrary Loan Department.

For more information about any of the library services for special needs, contact SEKLS Talking Books Consultant Liz Nix at 316/365-5136 or 800/279-3219.



## *Isn't someone you know deserving of an award?*

This is your chance to nominate that wonderful librarian or support person who has made a difference to you and/or to our Kansas library profession. The College and University Libraries Section of KLA has several categories that might fit that great person you work with. Please send your nominations or questions to Sherry Backhus, CULS Past President ESU/NDN Library, 1127 Chestnut St., Emporia, KS 66801 backhusz@emporia.edu or 316/343-6800 x650.

### *Here are the award guidelines:*

**Distinguished Service:** To a CULS member with a record of outstanding contributions to the library profession, development of CULS libraries in Kansas, or exemplary service for an extended period of time. In the case of retired individuals, the nominee may be a past CULS member.

**Contribution Award:** To an individual or organization exhibiting distinguished contributions to a CULS library or the larger CULS community.

**Beginning Professional:** To a CULS member who within the first five years after receiving a library degree has made a positive impact on the quality and role of library service. Factors such as innovative programming and planning, use of resources, and special projects will be considered. (If someone of merit is not a current CULS member, they can be considered as long as they are members of KLA and CULS by October 1.)

**Legislative Leadership:** To an individual or group in recognition of exemplary legislative leadership or support for growth and development of CULS libraries within the last two years.

**Support Staff:** To a CULS member with a record of notable contributions to their institution, or to support staff development in the larger CULS community, or notable contributions to the library profession.



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

## *Kansas State Library Has program to assist ADA compliance*

*—by Shannon Roy*

Nearly ten years have passed since President Bush signed the Americans with Disabilities Act that the disability community had endorsed for so long. The predicted wave of lawsuits never arrived. Those with disabilities have preferred to negotiate for their necessary accommodations. But as the Baby Boom Generation grows older and develops covered health conditions, ADA compliance will remain an important issue.

Kansas librarians have worked hard in the past ten years to create barrier-free facilities and user friendly services. But the Kansas library environment is still not ideal for those with disabilities. There are often hazards and obstacles that the library staff doesn't see because they are too familiar with their own workplace.

The Kansas State Library has offered a program of ADA compliance reviews to supplement the training and consulting done by regional system personnel. This is a three part process:

First, the ADA compliance coordinator examines the exterior and interior environments of the library with a checklist, a notepad and a tape measure.

Second, there is an informal conference with staff on ways to make the library more compliant. Often the recommendations are simple and inexpensive. But if the library facility cannot be made barrier free without a building program, the staff discusses ways to strengthen the library's outreach services and public relations. They also discuss ways to become more proactive in assisting those with disabilities and fragile health.

Third, the state library sends a detailed report listing the strengths and weaknesses of each area of the library. The director and trustees are free to use this report as they think best.

Since 1993, a number of these ADA "walkabouts" have been done, most of them in eastern Kansas. The state library consultants want to publicize this program to central and western libraries that may be ready to review their ADA Compliance Plan.

If any library director is interested in an ADA compliance review, they should contact Shannon Roy at 785/296-3296 or [shanroy@ink.org](mailto:shanroy@ink.org).

## Allie Beth Martin award

Do you know a librarian with an extraordinary range and depth of knowledge about books and library materials—fiction, nonfiction, reference, children's books, video, or serials? Does that person have an outstanding ability to share that knowledge—through booktalks, presentations to community or professional groups, or written reviews?

The Public Library Association's Allie Beth Martin Award honors such a person every year. The award provides recognition and a \$3,000 honorarium which are presented at the PLA President's Reception at the summer ALA conference.

Nominate a deserving colleague today! The deadline for nominations is December 1, 1999. Nomination forms are available from the PLA Office in Chicago (50 East Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611) or on the PLA website at <http://www.pla.org/awards/allibeth.htm>.

## Vikki Jo on ballot

Vikki Jo Stewart, Literacy Director at the Kansas State Library, has been placed on the ballot for chair of the national board of the Literacy Volunteers of America for the annual meeting to be held at the LVA's national conference in Nashville November 10-13, 1999. Vikki has served on the board for almost six years—chairing the Curriculum/Field Services Committee for two years and serving for the past year as vice-chair of the board. During the past three years the LVA has developed a program accreditation designed to improve the quality of volunteer programs that help adults and families improve their reading skills.



Vikki's focus for the next two years will be to help the board transform itself from a program-based board to a vision-based board. Responsibilities of the chair are to chair board meetings, provide leadership and help guide and mediate board actions with respect to organizational priorities and governance concerns.

Vikki has been active with the LVA since 1984. Her experience includes serving as liaison for Missouri Valley, national trainer as a management and instructional VITA (volunteer in technical assistance), and program chair for two national conferences, 1992 in Denver and 1997 in Charlotte, NC.

## Kansas books

—by Roy Bird

***The Rath Trail***, by Ida Ellen Rath. Dodge City: 1961. Order from: Pioneer Book, Ford County Historical Society, P.O. Box 131, Dodge City, KS 67801. Hardcover, 204 pp., \$29.95.

Forget Wyatt Earp and Bat Masterson...even Matt Dillon! Here's the true story of a real man who tamed the West. Librarians have little in common with treasure-hunters, but occasionally one turns up a rare and forgotten gem. On a recent expedition to Dodge City, just such a long-lost treasure was unearthed. ***The Rath Trail*** is a biography of Kansas pioneer Charles Rath.

And pioneer he was! Born in Germany, he came to Kansas before it was a state determined to make his fortune. A pioneer is one who breaks new trails, and Rath did so both literally and figuratively. He was always at the cutting edge of frontier business—he was an Indian trader, freighter, land speculator, railroad builder, buffalo-hunter and hide-buyer, storekeeper, outfitter of buffalo hunters and buyer of hides, meat and bones. He literally pioneered a trail from Dodge City south deep into the heart of Texas to Rath City, a town named for him. He was a founder of Dodge City and until his death one of its most prominent citizens and businessmen, and at the same time is remembered as a frontiersman and friend of the Plains Indians. The book mentions the Kansas towns of Osage City and Council Grove as well as Dodge.



The Rath Trail is not great literature because of its weak grammar, punctuation and redundancy, but Ida Ellen Rath, the author, was Rath's daughter-in-law, and she recorded a good story when she heard it. A treasure-trove of copies are available from the Ford County Historical Society, even though it was published during the Kansas Centennial year, 1961. Check your catalog. If you don't own it, maybe you should. Suggested for all Kansas collections.

## Library positions

### ***Library Director Andover Public Library***

The Andover Public Library in Andover, Kansas is accepting applications for the full-time position of Library Director. Andover is a rapidly-growing town of approximately 5,200 people just east of Wichita, Kansas. The library director is responsible for all administrative and managerial duties for the public library of approximately 30,000 volumes. This includes staff supervision and training; collection development; public relations; reference; budget & finance work; library automation, computer maintenance and troubleshooting, and working in a team environment with library staff, board of directors, and city administration. The library is currently in the process of automating, and is planning a library needs assessment in the near future. Prior library experience or MLS preferred. Salary will be based on education and experience. Please send cover letter, resume, and references to Terrence L. Huelskamp, 104 Dogwood Ct., Andover, KS 67002. The Andover Public Library is an equal-opportunity employer.

### ***Head of Access Services Emporia State University***

Emporia State University seeks an experienced and innovative individual to administer and provide leadership in access service areas of the university library. Responsibilities: Manages operations of the circulation, interlibrary loan, media resources, and periodicals public services departments. Provides leadership and expertise in providing document delivery services to library users, both on and off campus. Understands and maintains current knowledge of copyright and intellectual property issues. Serves on the reference desk several hours a week, possibly some nights and weekends. Participates in selecting books and periodical titles. Qualifications:

### ***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*.**

ALA- accredited M.L.S.; three to five years professional academic library experience demonstrating increasing responsibilities in management and supervision. Work experience in interlibrary loan/document delivery or circulation/reserves preferred, as well as an active interest in media resources. Salary and rank: Position is a 12-month, tenure track appointment at the rank of assistant professor or above with a competitive, negotiable salary and a comprehensive benefit package. Salary commensurate with experience. Range: 31,000-37,000. Applications will be reviewed beginning October 15 and continue until position is filled. Please send letter of inquiry, resume and the names of three references with addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail address to: Dr. Jud Copeland, Director of Library Services, William Allen White Library, Emporia State University/Box 4051, Emporia, Kansas 66801; questions to copelanj@emporia.edu or 316/341-5208. Visit <http://www.emporia.edu/esu/searches.htm> and <http://library.emporia.edu> for more information. Emporia State University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer.

Position announcements are available on the KLA portion of Blue Skyways at <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/KLA/helpwanted/index.html>.

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Address comments concerning *Kansas Libraries* to the editor.



## Kansas libraries.... thirty years ago

—by Bill Sowers

Kansas Documents Librarian/Tech Services Librarian

### ***Gleanings from the Fall 1969 issue of The Kansas Library Bulletin:***

- Mrs. Mary Margaret Allard, librarian of the Beck-Bookman Library, Holton, has been included in the 1970-71 edition of Who's Who of American Women.
- A memorial service was held November 17, 1969, at the Alma Branch Library in memory of Ann Umbehr, the first librarian of the Alma Branch Library.
- Mrs. Vera Murphy has recently been named head librarian of the Abilene Free Public Library.
- The Hays Public Library Board has announced the appointment of Mrs. David Witchger as the new head librarian.

For more about Blue Skyways, the ILDP, or any other Network Board initiative, contact Eric Hansen, KLNK Executive Director, at 785/296 3875 ([erich@ink.org](mailto:erich@ink.org)).

2001 Interlibrary Loan Development Program grant proposals are due by 31 March 2000. For complete information about the ILDP, go the Network Board pages in the State Library section on Blue Skyways.



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