

Kansas Libraries

Official Newsletter of the Kansas State Library

June 2005

This month in Kansas Libraries

**Kansas Reads to
Preschoolers!**.....1

**Continuing Education
needs will be
studied**.....2

**Libraries Win Certificate
of Excellence
Award**.....2

N O T E S.....3

**Hans Fischer received
first leadership
award**.....4

**Good library service in a
nutshell**.....4

**Successful KPLACE held
in Emporia**.....4

**Erie City
Public Li-
brary re-
mod-
eled**...5

**An
invita-
tion**...5

**BWI Summer Reading
Grant**.....6

Library position.....6

Kansas books.....7

**Kansas Libraries.... 10
years ago**.....8

J U N E



Kansas Reads to Preschoolers!

—by Vikki Jo Stewart
Literacy and Volunteer Management Coordinator

This One Book, One State project is out-of-the-gate and running with Governor Kathleen Sebelius as Honorary Chair! The Kansas Reads project highlights the importance of reading to preschoolers. We define preschoolers as children birth to age five. The goal is that all preschoolers will be read to the week of November 14-20, 2005, which coincidentally is National Children's Book Week! *All preschoolers*, all 226,453—we will need your help!

Vikki Jo Stewart, Special Project Director, Kansas State Library, is

Kansas Reads to Preschoolers project director. Vikki Jo and Christie Brandau, State Librarian, met May 18 with an early childhood specialist and others including representatives of the Kansas Humanities Council to

ask for their involvement in this project. Librarians, early childhood resources, social and service organizations, parents, grandparents, older siblings, and others will plan reading-to-preschoolers opportunities!

The Kansas Reads project has several committees and task forces already formed. The Book Selection Task Force is chaired by Julie Tomlianovich, South Central Kansas Library System. Serving on the task force with Julie were: Marquita

Boehnke, CKLS; Laura DeBaun, NEKLS; Tabitha Hogan, Arkansas City Public Library; Amy Bales, Newton Public Library; Carolyn Guernsey, SWKLS; Kay Russell, NCKLS; Joyce Steiner, Lawrence Public Library; Carol Barta, NWKLS; and Jean Hatfield, Johnson County Library. [Ed.: The chosen book is *No Matter What*, by Debi Gliori.]

Promotion and Public Relations committee chair is Cathy Newland, Morrill Public Library, Hiawatha. This committee's charge is to find ways to promote Kansas Reads to libraries and others—limited only by the imagination of the Public Library Section of KLA! Committee members are: Sharon Moreland, Tonganoxie Public Library, and Kim Beets, Bonner Springs Public Library and PLS President. You may contact Cathy at cnewland@hiawatha.lib.us for more information or to volunteer.

Toolkit/Website committee chair is Jean Hatfield, Johnson County Library. The mission is to create, assemble, and coordinate the tools necessary for celebrating Kansas Reads project and provide resources to aid parents, educators, child care providers and librarians with tools on reading to pre-schoolers. The domain name is Kansasreads.org (or Kansasreads.net); we are early in the process!

Jean and her committee—Joyce Steiner, Lawrence Public Library; Gayle Sheppard, Pittsburg Public Library; Kathleen Flanagan, KCKPL-West Wyandotte Branch; and Sheryl Davidson, Abilene Public Library—are in the process of assessing needs. So please help them! Look for more info on KANLIB-L.

Sponsor/Partner committee chair is Pat Gaunce, KCKPL-West Wyandotte Branch. The charge to this committee is to find sponsors and partners with dollars to support the project!

All the committees need your help. Watch KANLIB-L for updates and more information.

To get involved or for more information, please call Vikki Jo at 620/331-8218; e-mail vikkijo@kslib.info, or contact the chairs directly!

Continuing Education needs will be studied

—by Shannon Roy
Director, Local Library Development

On April 27th, the Kansas State Library hosted a Continuing Education Summit at the Manhattan Public Library. The thirty-five invited participants represented various parts of the state and a variety of constituencies in the Kansas library community.

Dr. Robert Grover facilitated discussions on the future of library education in Kansas. Dean Grover kept the focus on the future of library service, where a new generation of Kansas librarians will be serving Kansans of all ages.

The Summit was a great success, but it was only the first step in what will be an ongoing process of determining the training needed by library staff and trustees to serve the next generation of Kansans.

After much discussion, participants chose five key issues for further study and development. Kansas State Library staff asked for volunteers to serve on the five task forces. The response to these priorities has been very exciting. A wide variety of talented librarians and trustees will be working on recommendations for future development.

The five key issues chosen for task force exploration are:

1. Prioritize the scope and sequence of statewide curriculum, defining desired outcomes and necessary content.
2. Examine what is needed for the administration, coordination and marketing of continuing education.
3. Consider the need for a statewide certification program.
4. Study delivery modes for continuing education.
5. Determine future trends in library use and library training.

Recommendations of the five task forces will be reviewed by the State Librarian and assembled into a single report by the State Library staff. The report will be submitted to the Kansas State Library Advisory Commission for endorsement. The implementation of the recommendations will begin before the end of 2005.

Several years of very important development for the Kansas library community will come out of this exciting new project. The ultimate goal is that Kansas library staff and trustees will have easily available and affordable continuing education that meets their needs and enables them to provide outstanding library service to the citizens of Kansas.

Libraries Win Certificate of Excellence Award

—by Jennifer Heinicke
Special Projects Librarian
Wichita Public Library

At a luncheon held on May 10, 2005, the Central Plains Area Agency on Aging awarded the public libraries of Sedgwick County with a Certificate of Excellence for their work to support caregivers and their charges entitled Caregivers Lifeline: Link Up to Resources. Through a grant from the Library Services and Technology Act, Sedgwick County libraries, including the Wichita Public Library, cooperatively purchased materials, held programs, and displayed information to highlight the importance of caregiving and alert caregivers to resources available to them. The libraries' efforts began in October 2004 with multiple programs held during November, National Family Caregiver Support Month. A bibliography of materials available throughout Sedgwick County is available at <http://www.sedgwicklibraries.com>.

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

ISSN 0889-2709 Page layout: *Ruth Appelhanz*

Editor: *Eric Hansen*. Contributing editors: *Roy Bird, Rhonda Machlan, Shannon Roy, and Vikki Jo Stewart*.

Address comments concerning *Kansas Libraries* to the editor.





NOTES

—by Eric Hansen
Executive Director

State Library Merak IceWarp training

Following on-staff training in Outlook 2003 last month, I have begun training State Library staff in the functions and uses of our Merak IceWarp server, with a user manual I created from screen captures. At this writing I have trained about one-half of the staff. As with the earlier Outlook 2003 training, I am grateful to Jeff Hixon and Steve Roach for their advice. The Merak IceWarp server functions as the State Library's groupware, making it possible to share calendars, tasks and notes electronically. These functions plus e-mail are all available to state library staff for password-protected remote access from any computer with a functional web browser. This is a significant step forward from the paper-based shared desk calendar we used to rely on.

State Library Wireless Public Internet

State Librarian Christie Brandau is making a serious effort to get a wireless computer network installed in parts of the State Library for public Internet access. The rollout target is next fall. I have enjoyed participating in meetings with colleagues from the library and representatives from other state agencies and commercial vendors who are involved in this project. When completed, this will mark a major step forward in State Library computer service to our on-site users.



In April, KANAnswer hosted 697 user chat sessions, a record number since our debut in late January, 2003. May statistics will be available in about a week. I am grateful

to all the library workers in Kansas who serve as operators for KANAnswer: their skills, flexibility and patience make KANAnswer a valuable service to Kansans online.

Patti Butcher

It was a pleasure to attend the Toast & Roast sendoff party for colleague Patti Butcher on May 25 at the Lawrence Public Library. Patti, a library consultant with the Northeast Kansas Library System, has accepted the position of State Librarian in South Carolina. My best wishes go with Patti in her move.



*Patti discusses her new position
with Eric Hansen
(photo courtesy of NEKLS)*

For information about the Network Board, contact Eric Hansen, KLN Board Executive Director, at 785/296-3875 (eric@kslib.info).



Hans Fischer received first leadership award

—by Vikki Jo Stewart
Literacy and Volunteer Management
Coordinator

At Tri-Conference March 30th, Carolyn Little read the following and presented Hans Fischer an inscribed plaque honoring his work with the Friends of Kansas Libraries (FoKL):

Everyone knows his name. He's a library supporter like no other. He served seven years as President of Friends of Kansas Libraries. He is a founding member of Kansas Library Trustees Association. He was recognized by the American Library Association as an "Extraordinary Library Advocate of the 20th Century." He serves on the Kansas Library Association Council. He serves on the KLA Educational Foundation board. He was instrumental in the decision to move the KLA office to Topeka and to start the KLA Educational Foundation campaign. He is working to help establish the Hughes Carnegie Center in Lawrence. He is widely sought for his advice as a library designer and consultant in library planning. He is currently working with seven libraries on structural issues. He is advising the state library on re-arrangement of office space. He's helped many, many, many, many, many libraries with space and building issues.

We will surely find no one in Kansas that has had more dedication to library causes. Until now, we had not found a way to recognize and honor his contributions to the Kansas Library community. Friends of Kansas Libraries has established an award suitable for recognizing such tireless efforts, the Duane Johnson Library Leadership Award. The first recipient of this award is Hans Fischer. The award symbolizes Duane Johnson's leadership to libraries in Kansas especially the care given to Friends groups—state and locally.

For more information about Friends of Kansas Libraries check out the FoKL website: <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/KSL/fokl/>.

Good library service in a nutshell

—by Christie Brandau
State Librarian

Once I was asked to help judge letters for a contest called "How the library changed my life." It was a joy to read notes from young and old that relayed the impact their hometown libraries had on their lives. One of my favorite letters came from a little boy who wrote in a child's scrawl: "When I came in, I saw the book I wanted. Then I went to go get it and I couldn't reach the book, so the librarian helped me. That's why I like to come to the library."

Now, that's good library service in a nutshell! We have information that our customers want. And if they can't "reach" it, we help them.

What are some things that the residents of Kansas can't reach? Visiting with librarians and trustees in Kansas, several themes have come through loud and clear. In order to help today's library customer and the customer of tomorrow, we need:

- continuing education for library staff and trustees that is affordable, available and close by
- the tools to allow Kansans to locate and receive what they need easily
- equitable access to library resources across the state
- marketing and publicity to raise awareness of library services

My few months here have given me the overwhelming impression that the library community works together and wants to provide the best library service possible. Together we can make Kansas the leader in library services!

Christie Brandau

Successful KPLACE held in Emporia

—by Shannon Roy
Director, Local Library Development

KPLACE 2005 was held at the Emporia State University Memorial Union from May 16th through May 19th.

The KPLACE One class studied personal working styles, community study, community networking, trends in library technology and customer service. The KPLACE One program was superbly coordinated by Pat Gaunce

and Laura Loveless of the Kansas City Kansas Library System. They recruited the talents of Vikki Jo Stewart, Gene George, Patti Butcher, Cindi Hickey and Tim Rogers.

The KPLACE Two class studied personnel administration and personnel law, effective library administration, trustee development, legal issues and library funding. Roy Bird, Susan Moyer, Tiffany Hentschel, Seana Vece and Pat Wagner were the instructors.

The KPLACE Three class studied collection management, marketing, policy development, salary negotiation and leadership styles. Marcia Allen, Kay Russell, Sue Blechl, Rosanne Siemens, Patti Butcher and Toni Boyles were the instructors.

The KPLACE Class of 2005 called themselves the KPLACE Survivors and celebrated their KPLACE certification with royal blue class shirts, a variety of gifts from the Kansas library community and candid comments on their KPLACE experience. State Librarian Christie Brandau gave them a special "library blessing" and presented their KPLACE certificates.

"This is a relatively quiet class that has a wonderful attitude and makes very few complaints," said Shannon Roy, KPLACE Coordinator. "But don't let their good manners fool you. They have chosen well to call themselves the Survivors. They have a sense of humor, they have a tough realism and they have a wide variety of talents. They intend to survive and they intend to flourish. Their libraries will be very lucky to have them."

The following librarians graduated from KPLACE in 2005:

Candace Boardman of SLIM
 Katherine Clark of Kansas City Kansas
 Anne Damme of the Kansas State Library
 Esther Delimont of Lebanon Community Library
 Carla Feigal of Jewell Public Library
 Vicky Ferbert of Haysville Community Library
 Stephanie Fisher of Scott County Library
 Jennifer Greenlee of Kansas City Kansas
 Michelle Hulse of Fredonia Public Library
 Kayla Kreller of Phillipsburg City Library
 Shawna Lenard of Yates Center Library
 Willie Markham of Parsons Public Library
 Mary Newkirk of Manhattan Public Library
 Kay Osthoff of Clay Center Carnegie
 Debbie Peck of the Kansas State Library
 Alice Smith of Carbondale City Library
 Ellen Steen of Coffey County Library

Gay Sykes of Nickerson Public Library
 Jon Terrill of Stanton County Library
 Lynn Thompson of Caldwell Carnegie Library
 Patricia Timm of Kearney County Library
 Margaret Wilson of Plainville Memorial Library

Erie City Public Library remodeled

—by Kindra Holland
 Erie City Public Library

On December 13, 2004, the Erie City Public Library began a remodeling project that would double our size. We added an entry way, new book room, genealogy and reading room. All of this became possible with a Block Grant of \$155,000 and matching funds from the city of Erie. Upon receiving notice we had gotten the grant, we decided that our community room, which is part of the library, needed to be bigger also. As this was not part of our grant, we asked for private donations. As of this date, we have received over \$55,000 to help us complete our project. On April 14, 2005, we had our final walk through. The contractors are gone. It is quiet again. We are now waiting for new shelving and furniture to arrive to complete our remodeling.



Remodeled Erie City Public Library
 (Photo courtesy of Kindra Holland)

With the support of our city, patrons, and supporting families, we have completed our project. We had an Open House May 22 from 2-4, but our final completion date of all furniture, shelving, odds and ends will be during our Reunion Week July 16.

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*.

BWI Summer Reading Grant

—by Anitra Steele
ALSC/BWI Summer Reading Grant Committee
Mid-Continent Public Library

As you are deep within preparations for your summer reading program, is there some segment of your service population or area of town that you wish you could serve but don't have the funds? Perhaps you even requested funding to initiate or enhance this service but were denied. Well, now is the time to think about applying for the ALSC/BWI Summer Reading Grant.

This grant of \$3000 is awarded annually to a librarian to underwrite a creative, innovative summer reading program. You might have a housing project where a bilingual story program would attract an audience but can't afford the bi-lingual storyteller or additional materials or know of shelter for battered women or homeless families where incentive paperbacks for reading program participation would give children with nothing something.

The 2005 winner, Janice Greenberg of the Jersey City Free Public Library, for example, designed a program to reach students entering 5th-8th grades—a time when many children lose interest in reading and library activities. The Jersey City Library will develop a separate Summer Reading Club geared towards these middle grades with specially-targeted arts and crafts, movies based on popular middle-grade books and other programs. The program recognizes that these children have different literary, learning and social needs than younger children, and will respond to those needs by offering age-appropriate incentives and activities. Books will be made available in a variety of formats, including graphic novels, bilingual and audio books and to encourage participation from this age group, library staff will visit neighborhood schools to promote it. In addition to detailing an innovative program, the winning application included demographic and statistical information to reinforce the need for the program.

Now is the time, while you have all your planning materials out, to get an application (on the web at ALA.org under Awards & Scholarships-Grants & Fellowships), read it over and determine what areas you should collect reinforcing information from this summer to give you a stronger proposal.

It's time to order your ducks for the BWI Summer Reading Grant!

Library position

Assistant Director North Central Kansas Libraries System

The North Central Kansas Library System (NCKLS) is accepting applications for the position of Assistant Director. NCKLS is a regional system serving fifty-two member libraries in a twelve-county region. The Assistant Director consults with NCKLS member libraries on all areas of library service, working with library staff and board members to develop and improve library service. Evaluates and develops the delivery of services from NCKLS to member libraries, including continuing education activity, a rotating book collection, mail-a-book service, Talking Books, and processing of materials for system members.

Required qualifications:

Enthusiasm and energy to travel and work with a variety of people in the region and across the state; excellent collaborative and interpersonal skills; listening skills with the ability to communicate with librarians, staff, board members, governing officials, and patrons; ability to plan and coordinate the work of others; ability to evaluate services and take initiative in making constructive suggestions for the improvement of services; tact, courtesy, good judgment. Knowledge of current applications of technology in library services. Must have a Masters in Library Science degree with a minimum of five years of progressive job experience in libraries including administrative and management skills. A valid Kansas driver's license and safe driving record are necessary.

Preferred qualifications:

Knowledge of public relations and network building techniques; knowledge of Kansas library law; experience with small and rural libraries.

Application deadline:

Open until filled.

Contact information:

Send resume to: Linda Knupp, North Central Kansas Libraries System, 629 Poytnz Ave, Manhattan, KS 66502 or email to lknupp@manhattan.lib.ks.us. EOE.



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

Kansas books

—by Tom Roth
ILL, Kansas State Library

Walking in the Flint Hills, by Steven Hind. 2004. Recorded in Greenjeans Studio, Wellington, KS. 39 minute CD. Order information: Steven Hind, 503 Monterey Place, Hutchinson, KS 67502, or e-mail Shind4444@aol.com. For print copies of poems send \$4.75; for the CD, send \$10.00, postage included.

For the past two years Kansas poet Steven Hind has traveled back and forth from his home to help take care of his aged parents. He used audio books a lot during his driving time, and decided it might be nice to have a CD of some of his poems. This was an excellent idea on Mr. Hind's part. This group of poems, some of which were previously published in the book of poems, *A Place With No Map*, and some in poetry journals, gives a very clear and vivid view of the land and people of Kansas. This collection of poems is like a vision from *PrairyErth* (William Least Heat-Moon, 1991) and *Roadside Kansas: A Traveler's Guide to its Geology and Landmarks* (Rex Buchanan, 1987). We are given a beautiful picture of Kansas from ancient times to the present — visions of Native Americans, ranchers and farmers. We are told of a Kansas that has been continuously inhabited from ages long past. These poems represent the quiet Kansas of the Flint Hills and the prairie, not fast-paced city life. From such poems as "Fall Morning at the Santa Fe Tracks" and "Tired in Dodge" we get a glimpse of bringing the past and present visions of Kansas together. In "Summer Night" (previously published in "The Earth Says Have a Place..." by Thomas Fox Averill), we are given a beautiful tribute to William Stafford, a great poet who came from Kansas and is much loved by many. From beautiful morning sunrises, to visions of starry night skies, there is something that will appeal to everyone in this collection. In fact, this collection reads like a history book, a modern-day saga of life in Kansas. During one of Mr. Hind's poetry readings a man stood and said, "That is the most 'Kansas' Kansas poet I have ever heard." I would agree. Mr. Hind's poetry brings Kansas to life.

Mr. Hind has published three previous collections of poems: *A Place With No Map*, *Familiar Ground*, and *That Trick of Silence*. This would be a great addition to any collection, from school libraries to public and academic libraries. This is a great classroom tool to show students how a good poem should be read, and would be a good resource in any class on Kansas history or Kansas literature or modern day Kansas. Highly recommended.

Life, I Think, is Like a Watermelon, by LeNore Stumpf. Baltimore: Publish America. 2003. ISBN: 1413704344. 190 pages. \$19, or \$18 for library purchase, plus \$1.50 shipping. Order from the author, 107 State Street, Box 227, Axtell, KS 66403, cactuspatches1@juno.com.

LeNore Stumpf spent her early life as a Kansas farm girl until age 18, whereupon she lived in seven states, New York City, and Tokyo. Back in Kansas for 18 years, she wrote a humor column in the Marysville (KS) *Advocate*. Later she wrote for two other newspapers in Kansas.

Her stories are short true stories (90 in all) from her newspaper columns, that tell about her early life in Kansas, and how that life compared to rearing kids in the 1970s and 1980s, and what it is like to be part of a military family who is shifted hither and thither, never really having time to put down roots. Her stories are very "down home" Kansas tales, and reminded me of Erma Bombeck. It is a very humorous look at raising children and working through life's problems with your partner. There is something for everyone here. Most people will find a story or more that they can identify with, or find similar things in their lives. This would be a good travel book or weekend read, and is recommended for all public library collections. So, if you want to find out why life is like a watermelon, get the book and find out.

Branded by Love, by LeNore Stumpf. Baltimore: Publish America. 2002. ISBN: 1591294742. 193 pages. \$19, or \$18 for libraries, plus \$1.50 shipping. Contact for purchase same as above.

This is a modern romance set in western Kansas, suitable for young adult women. Mori, the heroine, is trying to hide from the world and her problems. She lives in Topeka, and feels the need for a big change in her life. She has a romantic idea of what the "old west" is, and moves out to western Kansas where she meets a handsome rancher, Mase Bailey. He woos her. She is not interested in him and resists his pursuit. She is interested in horses, the western way of life and Sunday barbecues. Mase is resourceful and keeps up his pursuit of Mori. This is a short romance novel that would be a good read for junior through high school levels, and all public libraries.

