

Kansas Libraries

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This month in Kansas Libraries

*Blue Skyways puts
Kansas Communities
on the web.....1*

*Community Con-
nections.....2*

CATALYST.....3

*Kansas libraries...
seventy years ago.....3*

*Friends luncheon-lecture
series.....4*

*Houghton Mifflin calls
for manuscripts.....4*

An invitation.....4

*African-
American
history
program...5*

*Rites of
passage for
African-
American
girls.....5*

*Johnson
County
Library
named as one of
nation's top public
libraries.....6*

*National conference on
library collection
development in
electronic environment
to be held in March.....6*

*Pittsburg public
celebrates 97 years.....7*

Library positions.....7

Kansas books.....8

Blue Skyways puts Kansas Communities on the web

—by Eric Hansen

The continuing success of Kansas Communities Connection is putting towns across the state on the digital map.

The project seeks to make it possible for the greatest number of Kansas communities possible to have a presence on the World Wide Web. It was originally made possible by a \$10,000

grant from the American Library Association in the form of a Loleta D. Fyan grant. The Fyan grant is named for a past president of the ALA (1951-1952) who bequeathed

funds for the award. The grant supports projects that will develop or improve public library services and will effect changes that are innovative and responsive to the future, while having potential for impact and application beyond a specific local need. Kansas Community Connections won the award in 1997.

As many Kansas librarians may know by now, the Fyan grant helped to fund two initiatives: statewide training workshops and establishment of a statewide mentoring system. The project was made possible

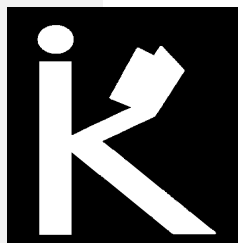
by the cooperation of several institutions. The Kansas Library Network Board, represented by then Executive Director Michael Piper, secured the award. The Kansas Regional Library Systems hosted the training sessions. The University of Kansas Medical Center provided the HTML training expertise of Jameson Watkins.

As a result of this statewide institutional cooperation, more than 100 Kansas librarians received training in web page development, and the statewide mentoring program system operates by means of an electronic mailing list for Skyways account holders, telephone consultation, on-site visits, and extensive training resources available on Blue Skyways.

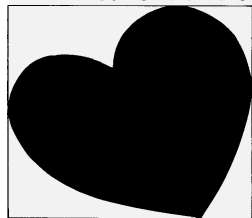
A survey taken to measure trainees' satisfaction with the training sessions indicates that over 92% felt the training was valuable. Survey questions and results are included in the Fyan grant final report, to be posted soon on Blue Skyways.

The good work made possible by the Fyan grant is continuing, thanks to the cooperation of the Boeing Corporation. Because of that corporation's Executive on Loan program, John and Susan Howell have been travelling the state of Kansas, helping local communities develop their own web pages. Boeing has generously agreed to extend the arrangement with the Howells through the end of 1999. Due to the Howells' tireless efforts, 203 Kansas communities are currently on the Web, and 65 of these maintain their own sites.

With the support of institutions like the ALA, the Kansas Library Network Board, the University of Kansas Medical Center, the Boeing Corporation, and individuals like the Howells, Kansas will continue to stake its claim to significance in cyberspace.



F E B R U A R Y



Community Connections

by Shannon Roy

Great Bend Library Teaches Internet Skills to Senior Citizens

For the past year, the Great Bend Public Library has been sponsoring classes on Internet skills for seniors. The first class was offered to celebrate National Library Week and they have been very successful ever since. Since the classes are small, there is always a waiting list.

The classes are taught by Public Relations Director Terri Hurley. "These classes are very basic," Terri emphasized in a recent interview. "They are intended for people who have NO computer experience. We teach people how to turn on a computer, how to handle a keyboard, how to handle a mouse. We help them lose their fear of technology. We help them learn about the Internet and teach them how to search the Internet. We teach them how to use e-mail and set up an e-mail account. We show them how they can make the Internet part of their lives—if they want to."

"They attend classes for four days and get seven and half hours of basic computer training. The classwork has to take place when the library is closed. They don't need any distractions and neither do I."

When I asked who these seniors are, Terri laughed delightedly. "They are wonderful! Most of them are retired. Some are homemakers, others are retired professional women or retired businessmen or retired military people. We have had a number of couples take the class together. Some of them want to use the Internet to pursue hobbies or special interests. Some of them are bored and they think the Internet would be fun but they don't want to make the financial investment until they learn more about it. Some of them want to keep in touch with family members through e-mail. Others want to pick up the lingo so they can talk to their grandchildren. Sometimes they learn from their grandchildren and make very fast progress."

"Sometimes they have a few problems to solve. They have physical handicaps or they need to stop

for rest or snacks. But when the classes are limited to eight people we can be fairly informal and give some individual instruction. They also discover that their home computers are too old to be effective or that they need a second phone line. But most of them can buy better equipment if they decide to. Or they can come back to the library and use the equipment here."

"They have a variety of interests. They often have health concerns and health is a subject area we can use to teach them to evaluate Internet information. Gardening, cooking, home decoration, genealogy, travel and investments are other popular topics. Some of them really enjoy the Internet and it's obvious that they will soon know more than I do."

"Sometimes they just want to learn about the Internet rather than to make active use of it. Sometimes they just want to set up e-mail. But I think they all feel more confident about technology. They know how it works and they know they can use it if they need to."

"I have really enjoyed teaching these classes," Terri concluded. "The program seems to be genuinely valuable to Great Bend seniors. It has also made new friends for the library. Some of these people were regular library users before they took the class but others have learned a lot about the library's services. Our biggest problem is that the citizens under 60 want the same classes. We are a little understaffed right now but we will meet that need as soon as possible."

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Address comments concerning *Kansas Libraries* to the editor.

Catalyst

by Eric Hansen,
Executive Director
Kansas Library Network Board

January was an eventful month for your Network Board director. In meetings with the directors of the Topeka and Shawnee County, Wichita, Johnson County, and Kansas City public libraries I was informed of the very different circumstances, successes, and challenges of each. I am grateful to all for taking time out to meet with me. I also took my place on the Education and Technical Assistance Task Force of the Kansas State Historical Records Advisory Board. I will be acting as the task force liaison with libraries in the state as we make recommendations for projects to be funded throughout the state.

It was a particular pleasure for me to sit in on the January meeting of the regional system consultants in Abilene. KPLACE, online training for librarians, a conference in 2000, and the new

Kansas Library Catalog were among the topics discussed at this focused and effective meeting.

On January 21 I conducted ILDP application training workshops in Wellington and Hesston for Paul Hawkins of the South Central Kansas Library System. Participants were bright and very actively engaged, which made it a pleasure for me. I'm always interested in conducting training sessions anywhere in the state. To inquire or schedule, contact me at 800/432-3919 or 785/296-3875 (voicemail) or erich@ink.org (E-mail).

Also on the subject of ILDP, applications for competitive grants in FY 2000 are due between February 1 and March 31. The application is available on Blue Skyways at <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/KSL/KLNB/2000ildp.pdf>. Adobe Acrobat Reader is necessary to view or print the form. To access a downloadable copy of the free Reader software, point your browser to <http://www.adobe.com/prodindex/acrobat/readstep.html>. I will be happy to fax or mail an application to those of you without Web access. Just call me at either of the phone numbers above.

The next KLNB meeting will be Thursday, 2/11 from 1:00-5:00 p.m. and Friday, 2/12 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. The location both days will be the Koch Education Center, third floor Simerwel Room, at the Kansas History Center. The meeting is open to the public, so feel free to attend. Call me for more information.

Kansas libraries.... seventy years ago

—by Bill Sowers
Kansas Documents Librarian/
Tech Services Librarian

Gleanings from the Kansas Library News, January 1929 issue.

- A campaign for a county library in Pottawatomie County went down to defeat in the recent elections, but prime mover Mrs. A.S. Robson and other supporters are not giving up.

At present Pottawatomie County has no public library.

- The formal opening of the Salina Public Library building which was closed for remodeling occurred on November 1.
- For the first time in the history of the Kansas State Teachers Association meeting there was a place on the program for a meeting of the high school librarians.
- The second floor room at Ottawa Public Library, known as "Library Hall," has been redecorated and equipped for reading and reference.

Houghton Mifflin calls for manuscripts

The editors of Houghton Mifflin's anthology *Leaning into the Wind* (June 1997) are preparing to publish a new anthology to be titled *A Tough & Tender Kinship: Writing by Rural Women about Women*. They have issued a call for manuscripts for the new anthology. Here is an idea of what they're looking for.

"We are preparing a selected collection of writings concerning the kinship between rural women in the West. We want to hear from women who live in the Interior West of the United States and Canada (Eastern Washington, Eastern Oregon, Idaho, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, West Texas, Alberta and Saskatchewan)."

"Tell us about women who have influenced you: friends, neighbors, relatives, women you've observed. Send true personal stories in prose or poetry form; no fiction, please. The women who will write it will shape the content of the book

(see *Leaning into the Wind* as an example). The editors will make a special effort to present a book that reflects the ethnic and cultural diversity of women in the rural West."

"Selected story starters and suggestions:

- Tell us about a valued woman friend.
- How do women influence other women in the West?
- Tell us about an unfriendly relationship with a woman.
- How do your friendships with women in the West differ from other types of kinship?
- Are connections between women in the West different from those of women elsewhere?
- Remember to show the reader the action rather than telling about it.
- Try writing in the form of a letter or a poem."

The deadline for submissions is April 1, 1999. Manuscripts should be sent to Women Writing, P.O. Box 169, Hermosa, SD 57744-0169. For submission requirements and other information contact Gaydell Collier, Director, Crook County Public Library, 414 Main St., P.O. Box 910, Sundance, WY 82729-0910, 307/283-1008, 283-1008, Fax: 307/283-1006.

Friends luncheon-lecture series

The Friends of the Wichita Public Library Luncheon-Lecture will be held on Thursday, February 11 from noon-1:00 pm at the Wichita Public Library (223 S. Main). The featured speaker, Dr. J.C. Combs, professor of percussion at WSU, will demonstrate a variety of percussion instruments from around the world. Dr. Combs will also show a video on the origins of the instruments. The lecture is free and lunch is available for \$7 per person. Call Margot Skinner at 316/681-1400 for reservations.

Lectures will continue on the second Thursday of each month through May. This year's eight part series is "Showing Off the Arts in Wichita." Featured guests will include a musician, a poet, a painter, two theater directors and a film reviewer.



Happy President's Day, February 15

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*.

African-American history program

The Wichita Public Library's 11th annual African-American History program will feature storyteller Marvell Davis, a local storytelling group, and a Nigerian dance troupe. The following performances and storytelling workshops are free and open to the public:

Tuesday, February 23	Friday, February 26	Saturday, February 27	Sunday, February 28
Storytellers The Griots & Wazobia Dance Troupe	Storyteller Marvell Davis & Wazobia Dance Troupe	Storytelling Workshop by Marvell Davis	Storytellers The Griots & Wazobia Dance Troupe
7:00 pm	7:00 pm	7:00 pm	7:00 pm
Westlink Branch 8515 Bekemeyer	Angelou-Northeast Branch 3051 E. 21st	Kansas African American Museum - 601 N. Water	Central Library 223 S. Main

Marvell Davis is from Indianapolis, Indiana where she is a performer and creative writing instructor. She has been sharing her unique style of storytelling with audiences of all ages since 1991. Her storytelling workshop is appropriate for anyone interested in learning more about the art of storytelling.

The performances by the Griots always inform, motivate, educate, uplift, and inspire audiences of all ages.

The ten children, ages 5-12, and the five adults of the Wazobia dance troupe will perform Nigerian dances Tuesday and Friday nights and again on Sunday afternoon. The Wazobia Dance Troupe began just two years ago as a way for parents to teach their children about their own Nigerian culture.

The African-American program seeks to demonstrate how the arts can play a role in building bridges of understanding, and to increase knowledge and appreciation for African-American culture and history. For more information, contact April Kessler at 316/262-0611, ext. 224.

Rites of passage for African-American girls

The Emporia Public Library is sponsoring **Rites of Passage for African-American Girls** on Thursdays from 4:00 - 5:30 pm at the library through April. The session began on Monday, January 18 (Martin Luther King Day).

The 13-program series is geared for young girls ages 9 to 18 of African-American heritage. Issues to be covered include peer pressure, dealing with racism, juvenile offenders, experience with God, drug and alcohol addictions, gangs and youth violence, sexuality, and teen pregnancy. Speakers, videos, and discussion make up the sessions. Parents are welcome to attend.

Rites of Passage was begun in 1993 with a series for African-American young men. The American Library Association recognized the program as an outstanding example of customer service for youth in libraries.

Nadine Terry, of The Farm, Inc., is the program coordinator. Sue Blechl, Library Director, is the library contact.

Rites of Passage is free and is open to the public. Registration is appreciated. To register call 316/342-6524.



Johnson County Library named as one of nation's top public libraries

The Johnson County (KS) Library reports that it has been named one of the best public libraries in the nation according to an American Public Library Rating Index. In an article in the January issue of *American Libraries* magazine, Thomas J. Hennen, Jr. presented his rating system of more than 7,100 libraries. Johnson County Library ranked second on the index of public libraries serving populations of more than 100,000 persons. Naperville Public (IL) library ranked number one in the category and serves a population area of 100,422 while Johnson County Library's service area is 307,634.

The Hennen American Public Library Rating (HAPLR) Index uses six input and nine output measures. They are calculated from the latest Federal-State Cooperative System (FSCS) public library data, which will be published in final form by the Department of Education in March. Each factor is weighted and scored.

Johnson County Library had an overall rating of 873 out of a possible 1,000 for the 404 libraries serving a population of over 100,000. Three additional rating categories were provided for libraries serving populations of 10,000 to 99,999; 2,000 to 9,999; and under 2,000.

County Librarian Mona Carmack was pleased with the report. "This index takes into account how efficiently and effectively public libraries operate," Carmack stated. "Johnson Countians are getting a lot of bang for their buck when it comes to library service. The results not only indicate how well library staff are providing service to the community, but how well the community is using and supporting their library. I think this points out that Johnson County Library is doing many things right and that it is the best library in the nation serving more than 100,422 people."

Mr. Hennen is one of the first to point out that data measurement alone cannot define excellence in library service. According to Carmack, the personal touch and one-on-one service is critical in measuring good library service. "The statistics are valid measurements," Carmack stated, "but the service each individual receives from library

staff is what's most important. Providing each person with the resources, information or materials needed for daily lives is what makes the library meaningful and essential."

More information about the tabulations in the HAPLR index can be found on the Web at www.haplr-index.com.

National conference on library collection development in electronic environment to be held in March

The rapid worldwide increase in the use of electronic information has forced libraries to reconsider how they develop and adapt collections to serve their universities. To promote discussion of issues in this area, the University of Oklahoma Libraries and the University of Oklahoma Foundation will present a national conference March 4-5 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Oklahoma City.

The conference, titled "Collection Development in the Electronic Environment: Shifting Priorities," will feature presentations dealing with ideas such as staffing, new models for collection development and working with faculty and book-sellers.

University Libraries has held national conferences since 1982, addressing issues such as reference service, fund raising, electronic formats and vendor evaluation.

Registration deadline is February 19. For more information, to register for the conference, or for accommodations on the basis of disability, call Donald C. Hudson at 405/325-2611.



Pittsburg public celebrates 97 years

The Pittsburg Public Library held a special program commemorating 97 years of operation on Saturday, January 16. Pittsburg State University English professor Charles Cagle presented a program on Pittsburg native Vance Randolph, noted Ozark folklorist. Cagle was assisted by Jan O'Connor and Don Viney who performed folktales and songs collected by Randolph.

The Pittsburg Public Library first opened its doors on January 18, 1902, in its first location in the west wing of the city administration building. It quickly outgrew that space and in 1908 Library board members approached Andrew Carnegie for \$50,000 to build a free-standing facility. Carnegie responded with a gift of \$40,000 and plans were made to construct a library. Area coal miners

protested, saying that Carnegie's fortune was made from the blood of fellow miners. To appease local citizens, the board agreed not to place Carnegie's name on the building's exterior. On January 1, 1912, the newly constructed library building was opened to the public. Built in the Prairie Style architecture made famous by Frank Lloyd Wright, the facility was noted for its beauty and was later listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

In 1994, the citizens of Pittsburg passed a half-cent sales tax to pay for three city projects, including the renovation and addition to the library. The firm of Glenn Livingood Penzler Architects of Lawrence was awarded the contract to design the addition and oversee the renovation at a cost of \$3.85 million. The dedication of the new and improved facility was held June 12, 1998. The addition was pictured in the December 1998 architectural issue of ***Library Journal***.

Library positions

Automation Services Supervisor Kansas City, Kansas Public Library

Responsible for management and planning of automation services including the DRA/Inlex integrated online system, local area network(s), Internet access, telecommunications, and implementation of the next generation of integrated automation software. Will supervise 6 FTEs. The KCKPL automation system serves the public library, USD #500 school libraries, and the Donnelly College Library. ALA/MLS, 3-5 years of experience with library automation systems and current computer technology and demonstrated ability to quickly learn new technology and specialized applications. Experience with staff supervision, client-server applications and NT desirable. Salary range: \$32,327.00-\$48,063.00. Expected hiring range: \$40,000.00-\$45,000.00 d.o.q. w/benefits. Cover letter with resume and three references may be sent to: Tammie Sharp, Personnel Coordinator, KCKPL, 625 Minnesota Avenue, KCK 66101. Visit our web site at <http://www.kckpl.lib.ks.us> for additional information about the library system. Application deadline is February 15, 1999. EOE.

Automation/Technology Consultant Southeast Kansas Library System

This position will be based in the Pittsburg Public Library. Duties include advising and assisting member institutions with library automation and technology, maintaining Web site, maintaining computer lab, and computer training. Persons with any combination of education and experience commensurate with responsibilities will be considered. The successful candidate will have strong skills in several of the following areas: computer troubleshooting, automated circulation/catalog systems, Web page design, LANS, computer training, and library software applications. Prefer Windows NT certification or willingness to obtain. Salary \$30,000, full health insurance paid, other benefits. The Southeast Kansas Library System is a multi-type regional library system serving 15 counties. Send letter of application and resume with at least 3 references by Feb. 28 to: Roger Carswell, Southeast Kansas Library System, 218 E. Madison, Iola, KS 66749.

Kansas books

—by Roy Bird

For All Mankind: The Secret of Thomas Edison (36 minutes) and **Forget Me Not: The Anne Frank Story** (60 minutes). Videocassettes. Order From: Grace Products Corp., 1761 International Pkwy., Suite 135, Richardson, TX 75081. Toll-free 800/527-4014. 1998. \$99 each.

Two more videocassettes in the acclaimed and Emmy-award winning series "In Search of the Heroes" from Grace Products, these titles will appeal to upper elementary and middle school age young adults. Especially appropriate for school library media centers, this may also fit into children's collections at public libraries or even young adult education collections or academic libraries.

For All Mankind tells the story of two girls who compete in a science project for the space program. They must not only learn the importance of cooperation but also be inspired by Thomas Alva Edison through a time traveling librarian. It features Apollo 16 astronaut Charlie Duke and space shuttle scenes. Edison's secret was "teamwork."

Forget Me Not tells the story of the Holocaust through the eyes of a modern schoolboy with a swastika tattooed on his arm. During a field trip to a holocaust museum he stumbles into a mysterious library from which he is transported to the Netherlands of 1944. There he experiences the Nazi occupation and persecution of Jews. By living with the family of Anne Frank he learns what a hero is. Both are entertaining as well as informative. Recommended for young adult collections.

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