

Kansas Libraries

Official Newsletter of the Kansas State Library

November 2004

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NOVEMBER



LSTA Technology Grants awarded

—by Roy Bird

Federal Projects Coordinator/Library Consultant

In action by the State Library Commission and the LSTA Council in a joint meeting on Friday, October 8, 2004, a total of 20 out of 26 applications for technology projects were either fully or partially funded. A total of \$70,000 budgeted from federal funds under the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) was available for distribution. A total of \$134,838 was requested.

Included among the applications were projects for enhanced Internet access at a single library and for technology other than the Internet at a single library.

Contracts for the funded projects have been mailed to grant recipients.

Although all the applications were worthy, those libraries submitting applications which were funded by the Commission and Council include:

Abilene Public Library; Basehor Community Library; Bonner Springs City Library; Northwest Kansas Technical College, Goodland; South Central Kansas Library System, Hutchinson; Jewell Public Library; Kirwin City Library; Prairie View High School Library, LaCygne; Jordaan Memorial Library, Larned; Louisburg Library District #1; USD 456 Library, Melvern; Nortonville Public Library;

Myers Library, Ottawa University; Mabee Library, Washburn University, Topeka; Pioneer Memorial Library, Colby; Chapman Library, Neosho County Community College, Chanute; Goodland Public Library; Lawrence Public Library; Tonganoxie Public Library; and the combined application of the Kansas Library Trustee Association and the Institute for Continuing Education, Topeka.

Obviously not all the grants could be funded, but congratulations are due for the high quality of all the grant applications received for this round of LSTA Technology grants.

Correction to statistics book

—by Roy Bird

Federal Projects Coordinator/Library Consultant

The following corrections should be made in the *Kansas Public Library Services: 2003 Directory and Statistics* book which was recently mailed:

1. Marsha Stout is still director at Ford City Library.
2. Barbara Langston is now director at Formoso Public Library.

State Library staff apologize for the inconvenience this has caused.

Kanguard status report

—by Jeff Hixon
Director, Library Information Technology

Participation

As of October 7, 137 public libraries have requested Kanguard setup (an increase of 41 or 30% since April 2004).

Review Committee Activity

30 requests to modify the blocklist have been received and responded to since the beginning of the service (18 since April 2004).

Bandwidth Enhancement/Server Relocation

By May of this year, it was clear that the traffic to and from Kanguard participant libraries was causing serious problems with the speed of response. Even the addition of a second T-1 line at the NEKLS offices in July, though helpful, didn't restore an acceptable level of service.

Discussions with the staff and board of the Kansas Research and Education Network (KanREN) ultimately resulted in relocating the Kanguard server to KanREN headquarters, and increasing the allotted bandwidth to 6.0 Mbps.

The move was accomplished on August 13, and appears to have greatly improved the situation. Administrator Travis Graham reports that average bandwidth usage is around 3.8 Mbps, with normal peaks reaching the full 6 Mbps capacity. We are looking at ways to monitor the usage closely enough that we can anticipate increases in overall volume before they impact users.

It seems likely that short-term bursts of activity will be a more common (but less predictable) pattern of impact on service than the fast but steady growth over the spring and summer.

Small is beautiful!

—by Nann Blaine Hilyard
Director, Zion-Benton Public Library
Zion, IL

Do you work in or patronize a public library serving 10,000 people or fewer? You know firsthand not only the limitations of the small community but also the benefits:

- Giving a preschool storyhour on Monday and a book review to the Golden Years Club on Tuesday....
- Knowing not only your patrons but also all their relatives....
- Being asked at the grocery store if you could deliver a couple of books on your way home....
- Knowing that that same trip to the grocery will be observed by at least one person who wants to know why you're out in the middle of the day.

What's your perspective on any aspect of small public libraries? You are invited to share your thoughts with the readers of *Public Libraries*, the journal of the Public Library Association. Essays of 800-1100 words should be e-mailed by November 24 to the Perspectives co-editor.

Thank you for your consideration.

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Address comments concerning *Kansas Libraries* to the editor.





NOTES

—by Eric Hansen
Executive Director



I am pleased to welcome the Topeka and Shawnee

County Public Library to the ranks of KANAnswer participating libraries. Staff from the library received training from me on October 11 and began staffing the service on the 28th of that month. For a complete list of institutions that participate in KANAnswer, see <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/KSL/KLNB/KANAnswerWeb/institutions.htm>.

KLNB Meeting

KLNB will meet on Thursday, November 4, at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library, Langston Hughes Room 205, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Some items to be considered by the board include KANAnswer and strategic plan updates, the draft annual report, the Executive Director performance review, and an update on the State Librarian search. For the complete agenda, point to <http://www.skyways.org/KSL/KLNB/meetings.html>.

Presentations

I traveled to Emporia State University on October 14 to participate in the CULS Vendor Fair as part of the section's annual conference. Several individuals approached me with questions about KANAnswer and the Kansas Library Card.

On October 22, I participated in "Collaborate and Go Virtual," a panel presentation about statewide virtual reference services at the Colorado Association of Libraries/Mountain Plains Library Association annual conference in Denver. My co-presenters were Sharon Morris of AskColorado, and Stephanie Weldon of the Dennison Memorial Library, a participant in Medical Live Reference. Stephanie kindly agreed to permit KANAnswer operators to refer medical reference questions to Medical Live Reference.

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



FoKL Board meets at Russell Public Library

—by Vikki Jo Stewart
Literacy and Volunteer Management
Coordinator

Fifteen members of the Friends of Kansas Libraries (FoKL) met Friday, October 15, at the Russell Public Library. Some items on the agenda were Committee Reports—Membership, Awards/Tri-Conference, Public



*FoKL members meeting at Russell Public Library
(photo courtesy of Carolyn Little)*

Relations, and Governance. Members of the FoKL board are library leaders. With that in mind the board chose to create a special award to be given annually at Tri-Conference. The award is called the Duane Johnson Leadership Award. The board also will make a \$100 donation to the Kansas Library Association (KLA) Educational Foundation in Duane Johnson's name. The donation is in appreciation of Duane's active and generous support for Kansas libraries and Friends.

If you have any questions, please contact your representative. Do you know your board representative?

Check out FoKL's website and find out more about FoKL awards and grants at <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/KSL/fokl/>.

Kansas libraries: 20/20 Potential

—by Vikki Jo Stewart
Literacy and Volunteer Management Coordinator

The summer of 2004 was a golden opportunity for the State Librarian and others to listen to stakeholder comments regarding current services and visions of future Kansas State Library and statewide library services. Folks in the Kansas library community were not bashful about voicing opinions that ranged from what services to keep and what to stop. The discussion document, an analysis of stakeholder comments, and the final report to the State Library Commission can be found in the What's New section of Blue Skyways at <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/KSL/20-20/>.

Duane Johnson, State Librarian, left the State Library prior to the completion of 20/20. The data collected was not a tool for planning purposes but was an opportunity to have a dialogue among library leaders. We are all library leaders. Further, the stakeholder data was analyzed by Cindi Hickey, I.C.E. Coordinator, to determine trends—stop Union List of Serials (update/revamp/or drop) and figure out an effective statewide courier system. 20/20, designed to be a simple, informed conversation between folks who do the work at all levels, captured some thinking about statewide library services as they existed last summer. 20/20 “listening posts” happened at system meetings, staff meetings, and board meetings thanks to system directors and consultants, library directors and staff, FoKL and KLTA board members, and others!

20/20 is a good first step. Who else can we “talk” to about the Kansas State Library and statewide library services?

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*.

Laura Bush Foundation grants open

—by Steven Hofmann
American Library Association

The goal of the Laura Bush Foundation is to provide print books to the school libraries and students that most need them. The Laura Bush Foundation will make grants of amounts up to \$5,000 to school libraries; funds are to be used to update, extend and diversify the book collections of those libraries. All Laura Bush Foundation grants are made to individual schools rather than to school districts, foundations, or other entities. Only one application per school is allowed.

The Laura Bush Foundation strives to fund grants with as wide a geographic distribution as possible. Preference is given to elementary, middle, or high schools in which 90% or more of the school population receives free or reduced lunch. High schools may use verifiable Free/Reduced Lunch (FRL) Price Data from feeder schools. Schools below 90% FRL will be considered only in the event there is a lack of acceptable proposals at the higher levels.

Only online applications are accepted through the website found at <http://www.laurabushfoundation.org>.

Applications that are faxed, e-mailed or mailed in print form will not be accepted. Free online access is available at most public libraries in the United States and territories. Applicants will be notified of receipt of the grant application to the e-mail address you provide in the application. It is anticipated awards will be made during or before May 2005.

Deadline for receipt of application:
December 1, 2004, 11:59 p.m. EST
(8:59 p.m. Pacific Time)

The application site closes at 11:59 p.m. EST, December 1, 2004. Foundation office closes at 5 p.m. EST. Questions regarding the application must be received by e-mail no later than November 20, 8 a.m. to insure a response.

Kansas libraries in 2004 HAPLR

—by Eric Hansen
Editor

Kansas libraries placed well in Thomas J. Hennen, Jr.'s *Hennen's America Public Library Ratings (HAPLR) 2004*. The latest rating is based on data filed by libraries in 2003 reflecting 2002 activities. *HAPLR* scores are based on six input and nine output measures, each of which is weighted and then scored. Libraries are only compared with other libraries serving similar sized populations. The state of Kansas placed 8th in overall state rankings. The Kansas City, Kansas Public Library placed among four other libraries serving populations of 100,000-249,999 in electronic resource use. In the general rankings, the Johnson County Library took second place among libraries serving populations of 250,000-499,999, the Morton County Library took tenth place among libraries serving populations of 2,500-4,999, and the Seneca Free Library took second place among libraries serving populations of 1,000-2,499. Congratulations to Kansas's outstanding public libraries. The complete ratings for 2004 are available in PDF on the American Library Association Web site at <http://www.ala.org/ala/online/selectedarticles/hennen2004.pdf>.

Two grants utilized by Johnson County Library

—by Patricia L. Hassan
Development Projects Coordinator
Johnson County Library

Utilizing funding from two grants, the Johnson County Library and the Johnson County Museums will scan for Internet access 10,000 Johnson County Museum photographs, as well as 2,500 from Olathe Public Library and 1,000 from the Johnson County Archives. The materials will be accessible via JoCoHistory.net, one of a family of Webpages developed by the Johnson County Library and its partners. The two grants that enable this photo digitization project and the expansion of JoCoHistory.net are a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to the Johnson County Museum, with the library as a partner, in the amount of \$90,724 and a grant from the Johnson County Heritage Trust Fund to the library in the amount of \$26,000. The Johnson County Archives and Olathe Public Library, as well as the Museum, are partners with the library in the latter grant application.

William Allen White Award student presenters selected

—by Jean Schlegel
Director, Ness City Public Library

Ness City Public Librarian, Jean Schlegel was asked by the Southwest Kansas Library System to select two local students to present the William Allen White Awards to the 2004 winning authors.

Mrs. Schlegel and Coline Marcus, Ness City School Librarian, invited all students who had read at least two of the 2004 nominated books and had participated in the voting for this coveted award to apply for this honor. The applications were reviewed and Gage Kepple, son of James and Valerie Kepple of Ness City, and Allison Young, daughter of Steven and Marilyn Young, Utica, were chosen to represent not only their school and communities, but all Kansas students at the annual William Allen White Awards Ceremony in Emporia on Saturday, October 2.

Gage, a seventh grade student at Ness City Elementary, had the honor of presenting Andrea Warren, author of *Surviving Hitler*, her award. Ms. Warren's book was voted most popular by students from all over Kansas as the 2004 WAW Award winner in the 6th through 8th grade level. Gage wrote in his application, "I learned that



Students Gage Kepple and Allison Young presented William Allen White Awards (photo courtesy of Jean Schlegel)

it is important to study history, so that we never allow something like that (Holocaust) to happen again. This book makes kids want to learn more about Hitler and World War II. I think it is amazing that Mandelbaum survived and was willing to tell his story."

Allison, a sixth grader at Ness City Elementary, was selected to present the William Allen White Award to Peni Griffin, author of *Ghost Sitter*, which was voted the best book in the 3rd through 5th grade level. Allison stated in her application, "I was so absorbed in the book and stayed up way past my bedtime. I love ghost stories, and this is one of my favorites."

Allison and Gage, along with the authors, led the parade from the Emporia State University to the downtown auditorium. Jack Mandelbaum, who survived a Nazi death camp for three years and who is the subject of the book *Surviving Hitler*, was also present. Allison and Gage attended the book signing, had lunch with the authors and Mr. & Mrs. Mandelbaum prior to giving their individual speeches and presenting the awards.

New public library grant available

—by Stephanie Gerding
EqualAccess Libraries Coordinator
Arizona State Library

Here's news of an exciting grant opportunity for your library. Libraries for the Future, with support from MetLife Foundation, is sponsoring Get Real, Get Fit!, a program of library-based activities and discussions focused on physical fitness and healthy eating for teens and their families. Public libraries of all sizes and types are eligible.

Get Real, Get Fit! was developed by Libraries for the Future in response to MetLife Foundation's interest in how libraries could be helpful in educating teens and their families about healthy lifestyles, based on good nutrition and physical fitness. The program is intended to provide a valuable addition to the exemplary work that so many libraries are already doing with families and teens.

Libraries are invited to submit proposals for participation. Forty libraries across the United States will be selected for Get Real, Get Fit!. Winners will receive a cash grant of \$1,500 to \$2,500. **The deadline for proposals is December 10, 2004.**

The RFP and application are posted on Libraries for the Future's website at www.lff.org. You can go directly to the grant information by clicking here: http://www.lff.org/news/GRGF_rfp.html. If you have any questions, please contact Marilyn Ratner at mratner@lff.org or at 914/723-7923 or 914/523-8801.

Public Broadcasting & IMLS Announce New Initiative

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) today jointly announced the creation of a broad initiative to spark collaboration among local public broadcasters, museums and libraries, harnessing community educational resources in new and more meaningful ways.

Partnership for a Nation of Learners, a multi-year, \$3 million initiative, will provide resources to bring together libraries, public broadcasters, and museums to leverage community assets and create new pathways to learning, discovery, and exploration. The initiative will offer competitive grants to support existing collaborations and to create new ones, encourage professional development, and conduct project evaluations to measure effectiveness. Grant application guidelines and more information about the initiative are available as of October 31, 2004, at <http://www.cpb.org/partners/>.



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

Book reviews

—by Tom Roth
ILL/Kansas State Library

The Jungle, by Upton Sinclair. Tucson: See Sharp Press, 2003. Contact See Sharp Press, Att: Charles Bufe, PO Box 1731, Tucson, AZ 85702. \$12.00. ISBN: 1884365302. Phone/Fax: 520/628-8720.

This is a revised edition of the classic by Upton Sinclair. There is a very good foreword by Earl Lee, a librarian at Pittsburg State University. The forward and introduction gives a lot of background as to why the original commercial edition of *The Jungle* was censored by the publishers, and a lot of information on the outcry caused by the novel, concerning the treatment of immigrant workers, and conditions in the meat packing industry in Chicago in the beginning of the 20th century. This new and enlarged edition, with much material that was left out of the original, comes at a good time, coinciding with the publication of *Slaughter House Blues* and *Fast Food Nation*, both of which discuss problems in the meat and poultry industries and the treatment of workers.

If you have read the two above-mentioned books, this new edition of *The Jungle* is a must read. Recommended for all public, academic and junior through senior high schools.

Kiss My Left Behind, by Earl Lee. Chula Vista, CA: Aventine Press, 2003. 229 pp. Contact Aventine Press, 2208 Cabo Bahia, Chula Vista, CA 91914. \$15.95. ISBN: 1593301065.

Earl Lee, a librarian at Pittsburg State University, has written an interesting and unique parody of the *Left Behind Series* by Tim LaHaye. This novel parodies the popular literature of "End of Times" made popular by LaHaye and others. This novel reminded me of the type of parody that was produced by *Mad* magazine in the sixties and seventies. While it is not necessary to have read the *Left Behind Series*, it does help if the reader has some familiarity with them or this genre of Christian fiction literature, i.e. rapture, end of times and second coming novels. In fact, if you have read any of the Tim LaHaye books and have a sense of humor, you will enjoy this book. A good read for those who can appreciate the art of good parody.

Recommended for high school, all public and academic libraries.

