

# Kansas Libraries

Official Newsletter of the Kansas State Library

November 1996

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## Letters of intent solicited for construction grants

Letters of intent to apply for FY 1997 Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) public library construction and technology enhancement grants are now being accepted. The deadline for submission is Wednesday, November 20, 1996. Letters of intent should be written on local library letterhead.

Libraries wishing to apply for grants for public library construction and new technologies (Title II) should submit a letter of intent to Roy Bird, LSCA Coordinator, Kansas State Library, 300 S.W. 10th Avenue, Topeka, KS 66612-1593.

The letter of intent is the first step in the application process for a grant from LSCA Title II allotment to Kansas for new buildings, additions, renovations, remodeling or acquisition. Libraries which submit a letter of intent will then receive a copy of the application and Title II procedure manual.

The letter of intent should state that the library board plans to apply for partial funding in grant form from the allocation provided through LSCA in the FY 1997 allotment.

If your library is interested in federal funds for a construction project during FY 1997, submit your letter before November 20. The grant awards will be announced in spring, 1997.

For additional information about LSCA Title II grants, please contact the consultants of your regional system of cooperating libraries or call Roy Bird at 800/432-3919.

## Blue Rapids rededicates facility

On Sunday, October 22, 1996 — 121 years to the day after it was originally dedicated — the Blue Rapids Public Library rededicated its building, the oldest continuously functioning library structure in Kansas, completed in 1875.

Library officials conducted an open house at the library, marking the completion of a \$69,119 renovation project of the historic structure, which opened in October 1875. The renovation project has been financed by a \$25,220 grant from the Kansas State Historical Society. Local citizens matched the KSHS funding with \$39,173 in local donations.

The renovation has provided a new roof and tuck-pointing of the facade. Inside, the library's two main rooms have been replastered, and the original wood shelving has been refurbished, among other improvements. On the occasion of the building's original dedication on October 10, 1875, a brass band escorted the library board to the new structure, built by the Ladies of the Blue Rapids Library Association at a cost of \$2,000.

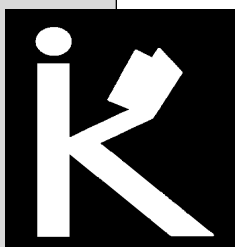
## Materials purchased with ILDP funds

Three bibliographies of items purchased with an ILDP Grant are now available from the Dodge City Community College Library:

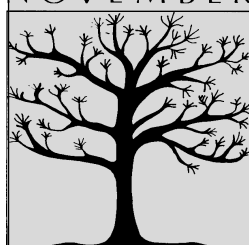
- Agriculture Bibliography
- Automotive & Diesel Mechanics Bibliography
- Secretarial & Office Professional Bibliography

To receive a copy of any or all of these bibliographies send an e-mail message Cathy Reeves at [clreeves@dccc.dodge-city.cc.ks.us](mailto:clreeves@dccc.dodge-city.cc.ks.us). Titles are also listed on the KLC.

A special thank you to the Network Board for making these funds available.



NOVEMBER



## ***HIV/AIDS information bank online***

The Kansas City Public Library, through a \$24,500 grant from the National Library of Medicine, now offers an easy, confidential method to find information about HIV and AIDS.

The HIV/AIDS Resources Online, accessible from the Kansas City Public Library home page (<http://www.kcpl.lib.mo.us/aidshiv.htm>), is a comprehensive clearing house of electronic information related to HIV/AIDS education, prevention and treatment. It covers such topics as health care options, drug information, clinical trails, statistics, organizations, educational information and much more. These resources can be accessed through computer sites at all of the Library branches and several local colleges and universities, as well as through dial-up connections from home and office or via the Internet.

Aimed at making HIV/AIDS information more accessible, this project enables the public to connect with over fifty online services. The subject areas are listed in brief, comprehensive headings: General Information and Reference; News/Updates on HIV/AIDS; Statistics; Treatment; Research; Prevention; Support Services and Projects; Resources for Caregivers, Family and Friends; Issues; Bulletin Boards and Listservs; and Kansas City Area Links.

Future plans include creating home pages for HIV/AIDS organizations in the library's Community Organization Bank; working with area groups to develop interactive services, such as e-mail, that will provide persons at risk with HIV an anonymous, confidential and private forum for discussion; and indexing local databases and making them searchable by keyword.

The HIV/AIDS Resource Online can be accessed 24 hours-a-day through dial-up connections from home or via the Internet. Library computer sites can be used during regular hours of operation.

## ***Disabilities Awareness Month at JCL***

October was designated as "Disabilities Awareness Month" at Johnson County Library. Several activities focused on how the library meets special needs by providing equipment, access and services for persons with disabilities.

During the month displays in all library locations demonstrated the range of county and library services for persons with special needs. The library also distributed information about special services (including library service to the homebound, large print books, books on tape, closed caption videos, etc.) with the Johnson County Meals on Wheels program.

On October 14, from 2:00—4:00 pm, a Whole Person Workshop, was held at which presenters with disabilities discussed public attitudes, answered questions and offered feedback on issues concerning the treatment and abilities of the disabled.

Over the past four years the library developed and implemented an ADA plan that included facilities improvements as well as the acquisition of equipment that would benefit those with vision, hearing and mobility limitations including accessible parking and entryways, automatic doors, Braille signs and visual emergency equipment; lowering of drinking fountains and check out desks; widening of the aisles between book shelves; and remodeling of restrooms. Special equipment now available in the libraries include wheel chairs, computer screen enlargers and synthesizers, hand-held magnifiers, assistive listening devices, TDD's, closed-caption decoders for check-out, a motorized cart, and an Arkenstone Reading Machine, that scans printed material and translates it to an audio format for the visually impaired.

Recently the Johnson County Library's ADA committee met with a focus group of individuals with disabilities to determine what additional steps the library could take to provide greater service and information. The meeting was beneficial to both the library and participants, each learning more and agreeing that continued two-way communication is necessary to improving and promoting library accessibility.

*Kansas Libraries* is published monthly by the Kansas State Library, 300 SW 10th Avenue, Room 343-N, Topeka, KS 66612-1593 (913/296-3296; In Kansas 800/432-3919)

ISSN 0889-2709 Page layout: *Jana Ealy*

Editor: *Roy Bird*. Contributing editors: *Rhonda Moeller, Michael Piper, Shannon Roy, and Vikki Jo Stewart*.

Address comments concerning *Kansas Libraries* to the editor.

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# Catalyst

by Michael Piper  
Executive Director  
Kansas Library Network Board

## ***Blue Skyways puts Kansas on the global digital map***

Last December, the Network Board launched Blue Skyways (<http://skyways.lib.ks.us/kansas/>), the Kansas library community's World Wide Web service. A year later, Skyways has become a key element of our library service environment in Kansas. And the best is yet to come. This month in Catalyst, I'll describe how you can put Blue Skyways to work for your community.

### ***Skyways is a terrific way to publicize your town to a global audience***

As an expression of their love for our state, John and Susan Howell, two volunteers from Wichita, have developed home pages for 125 Kansas communities (<http://skyways.lib.ks.us/kansas/towns/>).

Thanks to the Howells, Kansas communities can tell their story to a worldwide audience on Blue Skyways. Like the communities they represent, each listing on Skyways is unique. A typical community home page includes information about the town's school, its library, names and addresses for city officials, and descriptions of special events. You can tailor the entry for your town to reflect your community's distinct identity.

Chances are, we have a page for your community on Blue Skyways. If we don't have one already, the Howells can help you develop one (their email address is [howell@wichita.fn.net](mailto:howell@wichita.fn.net)). Once we put up your town's page, we'll invite you to take ownership of the page and keep it current.

Maintaining your town's page on Skyways is easy. Here's how it works:

- 1) We'll provide you with a free account so you can load information on Blue Skyways. To obtain an account, you'll need to sign an agreement affirming your willingness to subscribe to the Blue Skyways content guidelines (<http://skyways.lib.ks.us/kansas/content.html>) and Publishing Template (<http://skyways.lib.ks.us/kansas/publishing.html>). All Skyways documents must conform to these standards.
- 2) Once your account is established, you and your community partners can maintain the page on Skyways at no charge. Librarians are generally the primary points of contact for Blue Skyways accounts. So we encourage librarians to work with others in their community to maintain pages for their towns on Blue Skyways.

### ***Your Blue Skyways home page is a great partnership opportunity***

Maintaining your community page on Skyways can be the basis for an effective civic partnership. One approach is to set up a committee with librarians, school faculty, and representatives from organizations such as the chamber of commerce. With your partners, you agree to keep your home page current so it accurately portrays life in your town.

Maintaining your community's home page can be an ideal assignment for a computer class, for instance, because students can readily learn how to do Web pages. Or you can work with other volunteers who want to tell your town's story to a worldwide audience. The key is to recruit dedicated partners who want to pick up valuable Web authoring skills while they provide a useful service to your community.

### ***What equipment and skills will you need?***

To maintain your page on Skyways, you'll need the a computer with Internet access and a Web browser such as Netscape. To revise pages, you'll need HTML (HyperText Markup Language) editing software. To load pages on Skyways, you'll also need FTP (File Transfer Protocol) software. Much of this software is shareware or freeware, so the costs are reasonable.

Your page developer will need to learn HTML, the computer formatting code used for Web documents. Contact your regional library system for details about

*(continues on page 8)*

## Searching the Web Alta Vista

The World Wide Web is huge and growing all the time. How can we find what we want?

Alta Vista (<http://www.altavista.digital.com/>) is a new search engine that indexes more than 22 million Web pages (11 billion words).

Fortunately, Alta Vista offers powerful "Boolean" searching to zero in on relevant Web pages. "Boolean" searching can reduce wading through mountains of irrelevant Web pages.

Alta Vista offer "Simple" and "Advanced" searching.

### "Simple Searching"

- 1 Type search terms in box.
 

nothing	= "or" is the default setting
"+" before important words	= include this word
"-" before a word	= "not"
"*" after part of a word	= "find any words beginning with these letters"
"two or more words"	= " " around two or more words searches words as a phrase

- 2 Click on submit button.

### "Advanced Searching"

- 1 Type search terms. Use Boolean operators. (See below.) Searching 22 million Web pages with single terms easily retrieves many thousands of items. Boolean operators focus on relevant items.
- 2 Retype most important term(s). Even combinations of terms easily retrieves thousands of items. Retyping the most important terms here brings the most relevant items to the top on the list.
- 3 Click the "Submit Advanced Query" button to start search.

## Boolean Operators

- and = *nuclear and electricity* retrieves items containing both words anywhere in item
- near = *nuclear near electricity* like *and*, but search terms must be within 10 words of each other
- " " = "*nuclear energy*" like *near*, but retrieves phrases; good for names (When middle initial or middle name is probable, use *near*. *John near Kennedy*, *Richard near Nixon*.)
- or = *power or energy* retrieves items containing either word, good for synonyms
- not = *nuclear not waste* excludes items mentioning *waste*; reduces irrelevant material in retrieval
- \* = *electric\** retrieves all words beginning with *electric*; e.g., *electricity* or *electrical*.
- () = *nuclear near (power or electric\*) not waste*; parenthesis group words together for clarity. The above statement retrieves times on *nuclear near power* or *nuclear near electricity* or *electrical*, while excluding items mentioning [nuclear] *waste*.

produced by  
Chris Rippel  
Central Kansas Library system  
Great Bend, Kansas  
May 1996

### ***Welcome to Talking Books***

The Kansas Talking Book Service consists of the headquarters and central Talking Book collection in Emporia, six subregional service libraries, two consultant locations, and approximately 7,500 blind and physically impaired readers. The State Library is a regional library of the National Library Service for the Blind, the Library of Congress (NLS). Service centers at Great Bend, Hutchinson, Manhattan, Norton, Topeka, and Wichita each serve a multi-county area and are identified as subregionals.

The State Library contracts with the National Library Service (NLS) to use Talking Books and cassette players which are circulated to readers. Talking Books are delivered to readers from a subregional library via the mail as Free Matter for the Blind. Eligibility for the service is set by the NLS and is limited to individuals who cannot read or use printed materials because of blindness or other physical disability.

#### ***State Library - Regional library to the National Library Service for the Blind***

The regional library headquarters is housed in the student union at Emporia State University. The headquarters houses an extensive backup collection of Talking Books for mailing, as needed, to the subregionals. Headquarters staff duplicate tape copies of about 30 magazines which are mailed directly to patrons throughout the state. The headquarters is responsible for coordinating information and policy received from the State Library, state government

and the NLS. The Director works with subregional library staff for effective statewide service.

#### ***Subregional libraries***

The subregional libraries are operated from six strategically located public libraries. Wichita Public Library and CKLS, NCKLS, NEKLS, NWKLS, and SCKLS regional library systems are the contracting agents. Each subregional maintains its own staff but operates the Talking Book Service according to policies of the State Library and the NLS. In addition to the subregionals, consultants supported by the regional library system work from Iola and Dodge City to support readers in the southeast and the southwest.

#### ***Services provided by both regional and subregional***

Some of the services provided by the Regional and Subregional divisions include circulation of books to readers, communication with readers through newsletters and telephone calls, readers advisory assistance, home visitation, publicity coordination with and referral to other related institutions and agencies, provision of sample aids and appliances, reference, interlibrary loan, tape duplication, equipment assignment, and publications distribution.

For further information contact: Kansas State Library, Talking Books, Emporia State University, Box 4055, 1200 Commercial, Emporia, KS 66801 or 316/343-7124 or 800/362-0699.

### ***Bestseller list on college campuses***

The Chronicle of Higher Education recently produced a bestseller list of what students are reading on college campuses. The Chronicle's list of best selling books was compiled from information provided by college bookstores. Among 61 colleges surveyed was Wichita State University.

1. *Snow Falling on Cedars*, by David Guterson
2. *The Green Mile: Night Journey*, by Stephen King
3. *The Dilbert Principle*, by Scott Adams
4. *Emotional Intelligence*, by Daniel Goleman
5. *From Potter's Field*, by Patricia Cornwell
6. *A Time to Kill*, by John Grisham
7. *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, by Stephen R. Covey
8. *Falling Up*, by Shel Silverstein
9. *The Runaway Jury*, by John Grisham
10. *Reviving Ophelia*, by Mary Pipher

### *In Memoriam*

Mike Printz, librarian at Topeka West High School for 29 years until his retirement in January 1994, died on September 27, 1996, of complications following heart surgery. Mike is remembered for his many accomplishments including being named U.S.D. 501 "Teacher of the Year" in 1988 and "Distinguished School Library Media Specialist" by KASL in 1989; implementing Topeka West's Kansas Oral History project, initiating that school's author-in-residence program; and winning the 1993 Grolier Foundation Award for stimulation and guidance of reading by children and young adults.

But Mike will much longer and much better be remembered for the impact he had as an educator, mentor and friend to his many students and

colleagues in Topeka, around Kansas and across the nation. In addition to his work at Topeka West, he was an adjunct faculty member for ESU's graduate library school and taught young adult literature for Washburn University's English department. More than a few librarians used Mike Printz as a model for our careers. "Michael Printz exemplifies what a librarian should be," said the chair of the ALA Grolier award jury in 1993, "caring, informed and using technology to get information to students."

A memorial service will be held at Topeka's Grace Cathedral. Memorial contributions can be made to the Washburn University Endowment Association.

We'll miss you, Mike.

### *Kansas books*

*by Roy Bird*

*A Harvest of Memories*, by Randy Penner. Order from: The County Store, Suite 3586P, Box 990, Greendale, WI 53129 (specify item 20390). 11" x 8," hard-cover, 116 pp. 1996. \$17.99 + 2.50 p&h

It came as no surprise that upwards of 60 people showed up at the Hillsboro Public Library on Saturday morning, October 5. They stopped in to visit with an old friend, artist Randy Penner, who grew up on a farm three miles northeast of Hillsboro. Penner was visiting from his home in Wisconsin and exhibited 10 or more of his paintings while autographing the 52 copies of his new book, *A Harvest of Memories*, sold during the three hour signing.



Penner's art, much of it now reproduced in his book, touches people in a very special way—his realistic style makes the viewer feel part of the painting. Indeed, many of the local patrons from around Hillsboro actually recognized sites and events depicted in Penner's art. One such painting recalled Randy riding a horse past an auto mired in a Depression-era Marion county mud road. Another is of a young Randy "wandering" away from home, wagon in tow and dog by his side.

The book contains more than 60 full-color reproductions of watercolor and acrylic paintings and 100 black and white sketches depicting scenes from his childhood. Recommended for adult collections.

### *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*.**

(continued from page 3)

HTML workshops in your area. Refer to the Skyways Train Station (<http://skyways.lib.ks.us/kansas/central/training/internet.html>) for more on HTML, as well as information about hardware and software requirements for loading information on Blue Skyways.

**Skyways tells the Kansas story to a worldwide audience**

After only a year of operation, Skyways has already provided a host of inspirational success stories. In partnership with others in your town, you can create your own success story by putting your town on the Web. Contact me (email: [KSSTL2LB@INK.ORG](mailto:KSSTL2LB@INK.ORG)) for more about how we can tell your town's story to a worldwide audience on Blue Skyways.

**Kansas Libraries online**

**Editor's note:** Jeff Hixon, NCKLS system consultant, brought an article to our attention from the *Junction City Daily Union*, Sunday, October 6, 1996. Thanks, Jeff.

Folks besides librarians are reading *Kansas Libraries* on Blue Skyways. Bob Honeyman, columnist for the *Junction City Daily Union* mentioned a Kansas Books article in the following lines:

I'm indebted to Paul Gwin, Jr. for providing me with a blurb from the August edition of *Kansas Libraries*, which included a positive recommendation to read and acquire "They Made the Best Better: Building the Farm Bureau/Extension Service in Geary County, Kansas."

A copy of that 292-page paperback book had been provided to me several months ago, but I must confess, it laid idle in a bottom desk drawer until I read the report by Roy Bird in the monthly publication *put out via the Internet by the Kansas State Library*. (editor's emphasis)

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