

# Kansas Libraries

Official Newsletter of the Kansas State Library

March 1996

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## Put your library and community on the Web!

by Patti Mersmann

Several opportunities are scheduled for Tri-Conference this year which focus on libraries and communities. This is a theme which we are seeing both at national conferences and at regional conferences (such as the recent Eastern Kansas Technology Conference in Emporia).

If you're interested in creating a database of local community organizations which can be loaded into the statewide merged database—CLOUD—then you will want to attend the preconference on Tuesday, April 9, from 8:00 am—noon, WSU Computer Lab: *"Putting Your Community's Organizations on the Web."* This is a free workshop, but registration is required. Deb Ludwig and other members of the Community Information Taskforce will provide you with a free database program, designed by Deb, which will allow you to create records compatible with Blue Skyways and CLOUD.

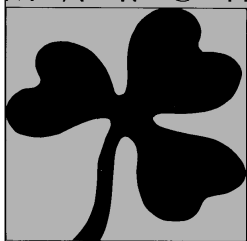
You will also learn about the types of information to collect, the correct formats and standardized fields, and how to collect this information from your local organizations. You will leave with LOTS of usable material, plus the software to get started at your local library.

For those who would like to begin creating home pages for their local libraries, featuring their own local community information, you won't want to miss the free preconference on Tuesday, April 9, from 1:00—5:00 pm, also at the WSU Computer Lab: *"HTML for Beginning Authors."* This workshop will teach beginning HTML (hypertext markup language), the basis of web documents. No HTML experience is required. Registration is required. Your instructors will be Deb Ludwig of Johnson County Community College Library, and Brig McCoy, Automation Consultant for Southeast Kansas Library System in Iola.

*"Authoring a Government Documents Homepage for Your Library"* will be offered on Tuesday, April 9 from 8:00 am—noon at Friends University. You will learn how to author your own web page, including basic HTML. The cost is \$10, registration is required.

*"CLOUD with a Silver Lining: The Statewide Community Information Database on Blue Skyways"* is a one-hour session on Thursday, April 11 at 1:30 pm. We now have the beginnings of a functional merged community information database on the web. Come see how we've grown since our debut last year! In 1995 you saw a mock-up demo—this year we've got the Real Thing! If you can't attend the preconference on *"Putting Your Community's Organizations on the Web"*, then be sure to attend this session to find out how your library can be a part of this innovative service for Kansas citizens.

M A R C H



### *PLA/Trustee Section*

It's coming!!! And before you know it...it's here! Tri-Conference, April 10—12, and through this reminder we encourage you to attend the seven most spectacular, unique, uplifting, and original programs sponsored by the PLA/Trustee Section. The purpose of PLA/Trustee Section is to provide programs of "Special Interest" to all of its members. Just look at what is planned.

1. **The Public Library and Homeschoolers:** A panel of librarians discussing the impact of and what services are being done with homeschooling families. Members of the panel will be Leslie Jackson, Corinth Public Library; Julie Joy, Winfield Public Library; Chari Lyons, Wichita Public Library; Julie Tomlianovich, Hutchinson Public Library. A Five Star Performance! Julie Tomlianovich to host.
2. **LSCA or What is Left Of It:** Federal, state, and local perspectives on the pros and cons of anticipated changes in focus and distribution of LSCA funds. Roy Bird's wisdom and a panel of contributing librarians will make this a Must-Be-There program. A Five Star performance! Jeff Hixon to host.
3. **Hindsight 20/20 (and PLA business meeting):** Library directors discuss remodeling tips, what to look for and what to avoid. A panel of six public library directors who have survived building or renovation projects discuss lessons they learned and things they would do differently. Do you have enough electrical outlets and storage? Why not? A Five Star Performance for all of us updating our 5 year planning projects!! Steve Read to host.
4. **Library Survey and Community Analysis:** Marty Hale and students of Emporia's library school will present a program on the do's and don'ts of surveying. Another Five Star Performance since the KLA theme is Partnerships: Libraries and their Communities. Jeff Hixon to host.
5. **"Home Pages on the Range":** Paul Hawkins, consultant for SCKLS, and Steve Read, McPherson, will do a "round-up of online information sites specific to Kansas. Presenters ride trail on reference resources right here in Oz". A Five Star Performance from Paul and Steve. Julie Tomlianovich to host.
6. **"CLOUD With a Silver Lining: The Statewide Community Information Database on Blue Skysways."** See a demonstration of Kansas Community Information via the World Wide Web. Kansas libraries are adding their holdings to a merged database. Be one of them!! A Five Star Performance at its best! Jeff Hixon will host.
7. **What To Say and Do With An Upset Patron:** Gail Evans, a service mediator of a large company will help participants understand how to deal with angry and upset patrons and making it a win/win situation. A Five Star Performance by someone who knows how to deal with a problem patron. Steve Read will host.

These are the seven programs PLA/Trustees Section have planned just for you. Plan to mark all of these as a "must see."

See YOU at Tri-Conference...

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# Catalyst

by Greg Zuck

Question: THE Best Way to Automate?

Answer: Community-Based Consortiums  
THE Automated Systems for the 21st  
Century in Kansas!

Attitudes of enthusiasm, a cooperative spirit, and "I can learn. I can take risks" are the qualities that promote successful automation projects.

We all know and believe that the libraries within a community provide unique, vital services that enrich our entire population. Consequently, a community-wide automated system can answer many of the questions of how to reach out and repackage the 21st century informational needs of the whole community.

However, typical questions that are too often asked more as barriers or as reasons why we can not automate are: 1) Where can my library get that kind of money to automate? 2) Why do I need to network with other libraries? I am so busy now serving my patrons, and 3) How can you possibly get the school, public, and higher education libraries to cooperate when they all have different needs, patrons, policies, administrators and financial sources?

## **The CowlNet Story**

In the early summer of 1992 librarians met in a local Pizza Hut. The time seemed opportune. One of the library directors from Winfield turned over a smudged paper place mat and said, "Sign up here. Let's get started. If each library commits a few hundred dollars, we can hire a good library consultant and see what it would take to automate our libraries." Consultant Joe Ford from Olympia, Washington conducted an excellent series of inter-

views and explanatory sessions with administrators and librarians of the school districts, city officials, public library trustees, and higher education representatives. A 23-page *The Cowley County Libraries Cooperative Automation Feasibility Study* (February, 1993) with appendices for each library subsystem recommended that we 1) work cooperatively, 2) share our resources to the communities benefit, 3) purchase an automated system jointly for leverage with the automation vendors and economics of scale, 4) network the system together, and 5) convert all library card catalogs to full MARC records.

Most importantly, the continued, cooperative, enthusiastic spirit of the librarians and the early community input and participation became the key elements in the success of CowlNet (Cowley County Network) library system.

Of course, no one library had the money for a quality, multi-module, shared system, telecommunications requirements, and Internet/WWW connections to the shared, online catalog.

Indeed, there were moments of fatigue and discouragement. Agreements, compromises, consortium bylaws, retroconversion of thousands of catalog records, a joint request for proposal (RFP), IRS application for non-profit status, and many, many meetings all took much time and energy.

Along the way, Winfield Public Library applied for and received a \$52,000 LSCA grant via the State Library Advisory Commission and the LSCA Advisory Council. Southwestern College was awarded \$48,600 by the U.S. Dept. of Education. In both cases the grants were a confirmation that communities are to be recognized as a valued basis for shared services and resources by cooperating libraries.

Just as the network was confronted with the costs and limitations of Southwestern Bell telephone line connections, Multimedia Cablevision—a new member to the community—offered near free installation and use of fiber optic cables.

*The CowlNet Story* is this: At every turn and at every challenge the school superintendent,

*continued on page 8*

### International Special Librarians Day

Reflecting the partnership that special librarians have with the other members of their organizations' staffs to put knowledge to work, the theme for International Special Librarians Day this year will be "Partners in Global Information Management." The event, which occurs during National Library Week, takes place April 18, 1996.

Sponsored by the Special Libraries Association, the event provides an opportunity for information professionals to promote their



libraries' services and accomplishments within in their organizations and to promote the profession within their communities.

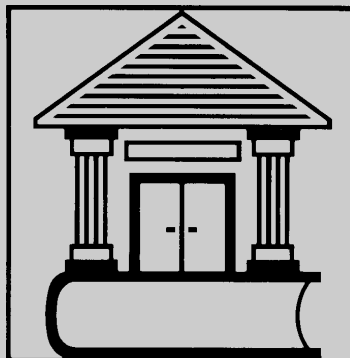
SLA has produced a free publicity kit, containing a sheet of camera-ready logos, a poster, and information that can be incorporated into an article for company publications or presentations. This free kit can be obtained by faxing a request to "ISLD Kit" at 202/265-9317.

### New librarians

**Susan Knight** is the new librarian at the Alma Branch of the Pottawatomie-Wabaunsee Regional Library having started her duties on January 16. Susan succeeds Julia Flach who resigned to pursue other career goals.

Mrs. Knight is from Eskridge and has worked for the Pottawatomie-Wabaunsee Regional Library for five years. She is looking forward to meeting the patrons of the library and to helping satisfy their library needs.

She reminds the community that the Alma Branch is located at 114 1/2 West Third (immediately behind the offices of Bill Baldock). The library is open Monday, Tuesday, and Friday from 9:00 am—7:00 pm. The library is closed Thursday. She also reminds everyone that the story-time for three-to-five year olds resumed on February 6 at 10:00 am.



**Sally Miller** is the new librarian at the Onaga Branch of the Pottawatomie-Wabaunsee Regional Library having started her duties on February 13. Sally succeeds Denise Simkins who also resigned to pursue other career goals.

Mrs. Miller is from Onaga. She and her family live on a farm outside Onaga. Sally is looking forward to meeting the patrons of the library and to helping satisfy their library needs.

She reminds the community that the Onaga Branch is located at 313 Leonard. The branch library is open Monday, Tuesday, and Friday from 8:30 am—4:30 pm and on Wednesday from 8:30 am—8:00 pm, except for being closed from noon—12:30 pm for lunch. The branch is closed on Thursday.

She also reminds everyone that the storytime for three-to-five year olds is held each Tuesday at 10:00 am.

### Internet initiative grants

The Southeast Kansas Library System (SEKLS) announces a new grant program designed to encourage community initiatives in developing local Internet access and/or community computer networks in communities where none currently exist, and to help libraries be a key player in these projects.

Up to eight grants of up to \$500 each will be awarded for the purpose of enabling community groups to *plan* undertaking such a project. Any group applying for this grant must include the local public library as a participant. The grant may be used for printing publicity materials, postage, paying consultant fees or mileage, advertising, and other expenses directly connected with the planning process. There is no matching requirement. SEKLS staff will be available to advise your planning group at no charge.

To apply, request a planning grant application from SEKLS. Applications which in the judgment of SEKLS staff match the purpose outlined above will be funded on a first-come, first-serve basis until grant monies are exhausted. No applications will be accepted after September 1, 1996.

Communities ready to *implement* an Internet access or community network project may apply for a grant of up to \$2,000, regardless of whether a planning grant has already been awarded. At least three implementation grants will be available. Grant funds may be used for hardware, software, administrative expenses

directly related to the project, telecommunications costs, etc. If you apply for other grants to fund your project, this grant may be used as matching funds if the second granting agency will accept it as such. You will no doubt need to raise additional funds beyond the grant amount to implement the project, but there is no specific matching funds requirement.

To apply, request an implementation grant application from SEKLS. Applications which in the judgment of SEKLS staff match the purposes of this grant and are for viable projects will be funded on a first-come, first-serve basis until grant monies are exhausted. Applications will be accepted after September 1, 1996.

In order to be funded, implementation projects should:

- involve partnerships between local libraries and other community organizations or agencies.
- have a strong likelihood of resulting in the establishment of local Internet access and/or a community computer network
- include the provision of Internet access to all local libraries (school, public, academic, etc.) participating in the project, and public access in the public library.

SEKLS staff will be available to advise you on the project. Successful grant recipients will need to submit summaries of expenditures with supporting documentation (invoices, etc.) and a project evaluation.

### Oscar shorts

The 10th annual *Academy Award Short Subjects* program will be held at the Wichita Public Library at 1:15 pm on Sunday, March 17, and Sunday, March 24. The program includes current Academy Award nominees in the Documentary Short, Animation, and Live Action short categories. Due to the length of this year's nominees, the Documentary and Animation categories will be screened on March 17, and the Live Action and Animation categories on March 24.

Academy Award Short Subjects gives Wichitans an opportunity to see non-feature films nominated for awards before the Oscar presentations on March 25.

The program is free and open to the public. For additional information contact Sondra B. Koontz, Head, Art, Music, and AV Services at 316/262-0611 x 255.

### Staff introductions

Hi, my name is **Patti Lang**. I am the regional librarian at the Kansas State Library Talking Book Service at Emporia State University. The Talking Book Service is a special program for anyone who is blind, physically handicapped or has a reading disability.

As the statewide consultant, you will find me just about anywhere. I am often out and about promoting this program. I am constantly talking to various people about the program.

During my off-hours I am on the go with my four year old son, Ryan. He is a busy preschooler at Butcher School on the ESU campus. His endless energy gets me up on the early hours of the morning. Some of the favorite people in his life are his grandparents in Illinois and Wisconsin which he looks forward to seeing every holiday.

I have been married to my husband, Bob, for seven years. One of the most important members of our family is Hampton, our Springer spaniel who was named after a former Chicago Bears player. In 1990 we found out that we were getting a son and a spaniel within a few weeks of each other. Two special gifts that have blessed our relationship continuously.

A pop-up camper has just been purchased for those famous family camping trips that everyone looks forward to. Maybe you will see the Langs camping in your neck of the woods later this year.

Greetings. I am **Lois Snoe**, the Administrative Officer for the State Library. Although 1996 marks my 30th year at the State Library, much of what I have done has been behind the scenes. Thanks for this opportunity to introduce myself.

I came to the Kansas State Library in 1966, working originally with the Kansas Information Circuit (KIC). Interlibrary loan requests were sent to the State Library where I verified them and put them on the teletype. At that time the State Library was in a building (since demolished) at the corner of 8th and Harrison streets.

In 1970 I began working part-time in the State Library business office. I am now full-time in the business office, managing those operations as well as serving as personnel officer for the agency. My department includes Lois Ware, Mickey Osborn, and Bonnie Keim who is shared with Library Information Technology.

Working in libraries run in the Snoe's family. My sister, Denise, works at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library in the automation department. She'll be 40 years old on March 12—I'm 8 years older than her. I have a son, Peter, who is in the Navy stationed in New London, Connecticut at the base.

I've enjoyed working with librarians at the state and federal levels over the years and look forward to doing so in the future. If you get to the State Library, drop by to say "Hi"!

### Kansas Libraries is now on Skyways!

*Kansas Libraries* is available on Blue Skyways, the Kansas library community's shared World Wide Web information service. We're posting new issues as they are published. That means you can read the latest issue on Blue Skyways several days before your printed copy arrives.

To use the online version of *Kansas Libraries*, you'll need the Adobe Acrobat reader, or the Amber Reader plug-in if you are using Netscape 2.0. Both are available free on the Web at <http://www.adobe.com>. To view the online version of *Kansas Libraries*, point your Web browser to [http://skyways.lib.ks.us/kansas/KSL/admin/kansas\\_libraries.html](http://skyways.lib.ks.us/kansas/KSL/admin/kansas_libraries.html).

Visit Blue Skyways, the Kansas Library Community's World Wide Web information service, at <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/kansas/>

### Kansas books

*Dying and Living on the Kansas Prairie*, by Carol Brunner Rutledge. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas. 1995. \$15.95 hardcover. —from *CKLS Post*

“Between my home in Topeka on the eastern edge of the Flint Hill sand Hope on the western side, there are 100 miles of prairie and sky. This tall grass land has sheltered my people for generations. It has taunted us and calmed us, broken us and nurtured us, starved us and fed us. It is our span over birth, growth, and death. Death, which beckons now to my Mother.”

So begins Carol Brunner Rutledge’s diary, *Dying and Living on the Kansas Prairie* of the three months preceding the death of her mother, Alice, whose entire life was lived in the Flint Hills of Kansas. It unites a profound reverence for nature with a moving testament of a daughter’s love for her dying mother.

Rutledge vividly describes the people and the seasons of the prairie, providing insight into how generations of tall grass people have related to the land. She offers nostalgic memories of her childhood and family history, as well as reflections on the Kansas pioneer spirit and its special brand of humor.

One reader wrote: “*Dying and Living on the Kansas Prairie* captured better than anything else I have ever read the spirit of the Kansas prairie...but more than that, it has helped me understand and come to term with the death of my own father.... [This book] was among the most touching I have read in years.”

*Gathering Reunion: Poetry and Prose*, by David Leo Tangeman. The Woodley Press, Washburn University, Topeka, KS 66621. 115 pp. \$17 paperback. ISBN 0-939391-21-X.

The Kansas Authors Club, readers in Topeka and the Washburn University community are familiar with the poetry of David Tangeman. Now the rest of the state can have the opportunity to read his work.



*Gathering Reunion* is divided into three distinct and seemingly unrelated parts: “The Family Pastures” in which Tangeman tells of growing up in rural 1950s Kansas; “Dialogues in the after Nam,” in which he relates deep emotions of a Kansas soldier in the Vietnam war; and “The Chosen,” which reveals a deeply spiritual poet routed in a strong Catholic upbringing with a distinctive literary and historical bent.

The sections are linked by *gathering* the collected work of a talented Kansas poet reflecting three facets of his character and of his poetry. They are also a *reunion* of three parts of Tangeman’s life which makes both him and his work a whole.

Tangeman is also a rare poet—one who reads poetry as effectively as he writes it. Hearing him recite is as delightful as reading his poems. So acquire the book for your adult poetry collections and consider the author for an eventful reading!

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### Highlights of the upcoming MPLA/ Tri-Conference

For those interested in innovative approaches for document delivery and interlibrary loan, you will want to attend the panel discussion on Thursday afternoon, April 11, entitled "Picking up the Pace: Meeting Patron Expectations for Timely Delivery of Materials." Panel members include Michele Reid of South Dakota, Deborah Hagemer, and Patti Mersmann, Kansas State Library. Topics of discussion will be: full-text campus delivery, tri-state courier service; and state library catalogs and ILL possibilities via the Web.

On Friday morning, April 12, Patti will be presenting a one-hour KAECT-sponsored session, "Web Wizards in Kansas: Setting up a state library Webserver." You will want to attend if you're interested in the key decisions about policies, guidelines, content and responsibilities that go into a service like this. This is an updated version of the presentation Patti did at the 'Computers in Libraries 96' conference held in Washington, D.C., February 26—March 1.

434-08

—Catalyst continued from page 3

the city manager, the local newspaper, private businesses, and the general public, that is, the whole community supported **their** libraries financially, administratively, politically, and personally.

Community-based library consortiums are the way to automated libraries in Kansas!

**Please route to**

*Library Director*

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Kansas State Library  
300 SW 10th Street, Room 343  
Topeka, KS 66612-1593  
913/296-3296  
Toll Free in Kansas 800/432-3919