

# Kansas Libraries

Official Newsletter of the Kansas State Library

April 1999

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**Kansas Libraries** is available on Blue Skyways at [http://skyways.lib.ks.us/kansas/KSL/admin/kansas\\_libraries.html](http://skyways.lib.ks.us/kansas/KSL/admin/kansas_libraries.html).

Since many of you prefer the online version of the newsletter, we're updating our mailing list. Beginning with the July 1999 issue, we'll be sending printed copies of **Kansas Libraries** only to those who return this subscription form. Though there's no charge for either the printed or the online version, you'll need to return this form to continue your library's subscription for the printed newsletter.

If you want to continue receiving a paper copy of **Kansas Libraries**, please return the enclosed form to us by 30 June 1999. To conserve resources, please request only one subscription per library.

## Kansas Libraries Subscription Form

Yes, our library wants to continue receiving a printed version of **Kansas Libraries**. Please include us on the **Kansas Libraries** mailing list.

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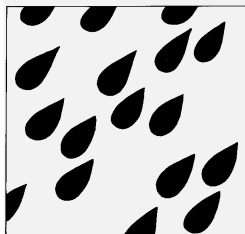
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To save resources, only one subscription per library, please. Send your completed form by 30 June 1999 to:

Eric Hansen, Newsletter Editor  
Kansas State Library  
300 S.W. 10th Avenue, Room 343-N  
Topeka, KS 66612-1593

A P R I L



## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

*Most of this column is adapted with permission from an article written by Wes Johnson for The Hutchinson News.*

### **McPherson Public Library gets special help for those with low vision**

Assistive technology for the visually impaired presents a difficult problem for public libraries. The target audience is fairly small but has critical needs, while the technology that could help is still out of reach for all but the large public libraries.

The McPherson Public Library has received special help from the community to solve this problem. The McPherson Lions Club donated a special closed-circuit television set (CCTV) that can magnify letters in a book, magazine, letter or bill up to three inches in height. The machine can also reverse the contrast so that the letters are white on a black background, making them far easier to read for someone with low vision.

Bob Tolle, president of the McPherson Lions Club, said that his group held fundraisers and accepted donations to pay for the \$1800 closed-circuit television system. Tolle added that Lions Clubs have been involved with helping the visually impaired since 1925 when Helen Keller met with Lions Club officials and urged them to become the "knights of the blind."

"A Lion invented the white cane, and the Leader Dog School in Michigan, also started by a Lion, is the largest guide-dog training school for the blind."

Even more unusual for a medium-sized public library is the Expert Reader that was donated by St. Anne's Episcopal Church in McPherson. The Expert Reader is a more technologically advanced device than the Kurzweil Reader that was developed in 1970s. The machine scans text and converts it by way of a computer into a digital "voice" that reads the document to the reader.

Pages can be scanned even while the machine is reading copy. The machine has some awkwardness with certain formats and pronunciations but about the only things it can't handle are hand-

written letters or pages that won't fit on the scanner.

It has a rate-of-speed knob that lets the user adjust how fast the words are read. As people become more familiar with it, they increase the speed.

McPherson's library director Steve Read, is delighted with the gifts. "We're really fortunate to have this technology in a library this size. There aren't any others in the area, except for Wichita, that have this. We want to spread the word that the machines are here for anyone to use."

"At first the usage was slow, but as word got out about what we have, more and more people are beginning to use these machines."

Mary Workman, a McPherson resident who serves as a resource person for the McPherson Area Low Vision Support Group, said that there are more than 100 people in the McPherson area who could benefit from the new machines, in addition to older people who may need help with very small print.

Workman commented that she had seen voice reader machines at national conferences for the visually impaired, but had never lived in a town that actually had one because they cost more than \$50,000 each.

"It's been very well received here," she said. "We've held our last two low-vision meetings at the public library just to help folks get acquainted with the machines. But transportation is the key to these things. It can be quite an obstacle for low vision or blind people to get to the library to use them."

Many public librarians are hoping that assistive technology will become more sophisticated and more affordable in the years to come so that they can better help the growing population that copes with disabilities. In the meantime, community fundraising may offer the only realistic hope for assistive technology in medium-sized communities. McPherson's Episcopal Church and local Lions Club should be highly commended for their concern and active help.

I attended the System Consultants meeting at the public library in Council Grove on March 23. Items of interest discussed included the search for an effective yet affordable futurist speaker for a possible pre-conference for 2000 Tri-Conference. Training for librarians was the focus of a couple of discussions. Chris Rippel is exploring the possibility of creating online Web-based training modules, and Jeff Hixon is close to scheduling three daylong training sessions in ILL. Chris also is preparing to pursue funding to provide electronic books to libraries in Kansas.

On March 11 I attended a meeting at the Mabee Library at Washburn University for those

interested in creating a Kansas Digital Library. After a very enlightening presentation of existing digital libraries by Jim Bingham, we divided into committees to attach different aspects of the challenge. I was asked to serve on the executive committee, which is scheduled to meet again in early April. This could prove to be a significant project; I'll continue to provide updates.

*by Eric Hansen,  
Executive Director  
Kansas Library Network Board*

There's still time to apply for a Network Development Grant. For an application and

budget form, point your browser to <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/KSL/KLNB/netdevhome.html> and follow the links. I'm happy to answer any questions, by phone toll free at 800/432-3919; fax at 785/296-6650 or email at [erich@ink.org](mailto:erich@ink.org).

### ***Liberal featured in national newspaper***

The Liberal Memorial Library was featured in *The Washington Post*. In the January 10<sup>th</sup> article, the library was the lead-in for a story about how the arrival of new technologies, especially the Internet, has rejuvenated many libraries. The focus was activity on a weekday afternoon, when children were gathering for a project as other patrons were queued up to check out videotapes, CDs, or audiobooks. At the same time, several adults were concluding an introductory Web class, and some people were reading or checking out books.

All of this points up the fact that libraries like the Liberal Memorial are still helping patrons pursue information, just in different ways than they did when Liberal Memorial's present site was completed in 1953, and even more than when it was established in 1905.

### ***Invitation to reception***

KLA invites librarians, trustees and friends of libraries to attend its reception April 8 from 8:00 pm—10:00 pm at the Salina Art Center, 242 S. Santa Fe. Tickets will be sold at the door for \$5 or can be purchased through the KLA office or at the registration desk of the Tri-Conference. Attendance at Tri-Conference is not a requirement.

There will be a sumptuous dessert buffet, wine, music, award, prizes and lots of enthusiasm.

KLA is embarking on a very ambitious course for the next century. We will be hiring a paid executive director and moving our offices to Topeka.

Come join us on April 8th in Salina and be a part of the new movement.

## Literary award presented

June Rae Wood, author of *The Man Who Loved Clowns* and *When Pigs Fly* accepted the 10th annual Edgar Wolfe Literary Award from the Friends of the Library in Kansas City, KS on Sunday, March 28 at the West Wyandotte Library, 1737 N. 82nd Street in Kansas.

June Rae Wood grew up in Versailles, MO, the second of eight children. The third child, Richard, was born with Down's Syndrome. After Richard died at the age of 36, Wood wrote an article about how much he had meant to her family for the magazine *Family Circle*. The story was later reprinted in *Reader's Digest*.

As a result, Wood received mail from adults all over the United States who had been touched by Richard's life story. Hoping to reach children as well, she began work on her first published book, *The Man Who Loved Clowns*. She created the character "Punky," a man with Down's Syndrome, in hopes that kids might better understand people who are different.

*The Man Who Loved Clowns* received 16 honors, including the 1995 William Allen White Children's Book Award. Her subsequent books include *A Share of Freedom* (6 honors, including the Kansas State Reading Circle 1995-96), *When Pigs Fly* (9 honors, including the 1997-98 William Allen White Award Master List), and *Turtle on a Fence Post* (3 honors, including the 1999-2000 William Allen White Award Master List). Her next book, *About Face*, will be published next fall.

## DCPL and community college libraries combine resources

The Dodge City Public Library and the Dodge City Community College Learning Resource Center have selected Sirsi Corporation's Unicorn™ Library Management System to provide library users with easy access to the resources of both libraries. The libraries will introduce their new system to users during National Library Week, April 11-17.

The libraries currently have a reciprocal borrowing agreement and work closely together.

In addition to a combined collection of 130,000 books, periodicals and videotapes, the Dodge City Public Library offers an extensive Spanish language collection, while the Dodge City Community College Learning Resource Center houses a collection of more than 30,000 volumes and 200 newspaper and magazine titles and serves as a Federal Depository Library.

According to Rosanne Goble, director of the Dodge City Public Library, "We wanted to create a catalog where the patrons of either library would have easy access to the collections in both libraries. We also wanted the ability for other libraries to collaborate with us later if they choose." The two libraries will share a union catalog on a single server, enabling library users to limit their searches to the holdings of a particular library or simultaneously search the holdings of both. Through WebCat's Information Gateway, users will also be able to search other Z39.50 databases, such as the Kansas Library Catalog, which includes all the holdings in the state.

Cathy Reeves, director of the Dodge City Community College Learning Resource Center, commented, "The SIRSI system has the features we want and they are available now. It is a highly sophisticated information system for an affordable price."

## State grants-in-aid mailed

The State Grants-In-Aid payments were mailed the week of March 12, 1999. Some of the payments were made using warrants and some were made using electronic fund transfers.

- If your library received the grant-in-aid payment by electronic fund transfer, check with your bank for receipt of the payment.
- If your library receives the grant-in-aid payment by warrant, watch the mail for a slightly smaller than a business size envelope with perforated edges. Return address will be the State Library.

If you do not receive your library's payment, please contact Bonnie Keim through one of the following methods: 800/432-3919, fax: 785/296-6650 or e-mail: [bkeim@ink.org](mailto:bkeim@ink.org).

## Kansas books

—by Roy Bird

***Behind the Facade of Fort Riley's Hometown: The Inside Story of Junction City, Kansas, Including a Supplement Honoring the 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments***, by Susan Lloyd Franzen. Order from: Pivot Press, 1216 Scott Avenue, Ames, IA 5001-4040. Paperback, 8 1/2 x 11, 229+, xxiv pp. 1998. ISBN 0-9663362-0-8.

Susan Lloyd Franzen is a native of Junction City and a teacher of European history. In her preface she wrote that she “began this book in the hope of creating interest in preserving the Bartell House,” an historic hotel she was interested in “because it was my home from 1939 to 1948, when my parents were its managers and then its owners.” Ironically, in 1997 the Junction City municipal government voted to negotiate with the contemporary owner for its demolition. But the book became far more than the story of the building.

The scope of ***Behind the Facade*** covers much of the history of Junction City in a series of about 35 vignettes. From the inception of Fort Riley to the Gulf War, stories of individuals, both military and civilian, provide invaluable snapshots of life in this unique Kansas town. Part of the great value of the work is its multiculturalism: there are stories of African-Americans, Filipinos, Vietnamese, Hispanics, women, soldiers, artists, writers, businessmen, waitresses, bellhops, desk clerks, railroaders and cooks.

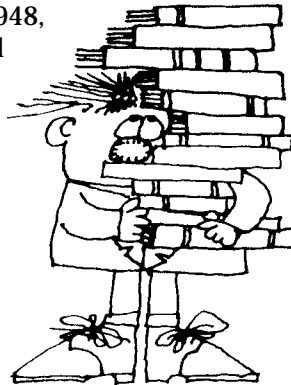
Franzen has captured a portrait of a Kansas town which revolves around the hub of the historic hotel. It belongs in every Kansas library. Recommended for Kansas and adult nonfiction collections, as well as secondary school libraries.

### 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*.**

***Backyard Visionaries: Grassroots Art in the Midwest***, by Barbara Brackman and Cathy Dwigans (eds.). University Press of Kansas, 1998. xiv + 146 pp., 8 1/2 x 11, hardcover \$39.95. ISBN 0-7006-0904-0.

In a work with nine chapters written by 14 authors, ***Backyard Visionaries*** describes some of the best known local grassroots art and artists not only of Kansas but of Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri and Oklahoma. All of the authors are members of the Kansas Grassroots Art Association—the oldest organization in the US dedicated to preserving folk art—and they share stories of “makers,” which is a better description of the untrained creators than “artist.”



Grassroots art is “characterized by the use of common, unconventional, or castoff materials; hodge-podge styles; ambitious scale; whimsical expression; and a creative impulse concerned more with the artist’s own pleasure than with critical reception of the work itself.” The examples in this book include sculptures, paintings, and assemblages (collection of common or discarded materials). Sites in Kansas include S.P. Dinsmoor’s “Garden of Eden,” Lucas; the objects assembled and arranged by Dave Woods in Humboldt; and the sculpture of Ed Root, Inez Marshall, Ed Galloway and others.

With 165 photos, 40 of which are color, this could be written off as a coffee table book. But it is much more—thoughtful essays about the unusual individual expressions which were often considered eccentric by their contemporaries capture the energy and spirit of the fascinating and rare groups of creators. ***Backyard Visionaries*** provides a glimpse into a part of our culture that is often ignored. Recommended for adult and secondary school art collections.

## Library positions

### **Children's Access Network Coordinator**

Providing technical assistance in developing statewide data resource for services to children and families. Provides leadership support to the contributing partners to establish the organizational structure of CAN. Identifies resources & methods of marketing. Qualifications: College degree, prefer Masters, preferably experience in not for profit organization or educational environment. Interested: Contact CAN-HR, P. O. Box 517, Wichita KS 67201 or fax to: 316/943-9995.

### **Library Director**

#### **Finney County Public Library, Garden City**

Annual budget of \$650,000 and 13 FTE staff. Serves a population of 35,000. This community is located in the historic wild west heart of Southwest Kansas surrounded by sweeping vistas on the high plains. 55 miles from Dodge City, 6 hours from Kansas City and Denver. Position requires the following qualifications and skills: MLS from an ALA accredited program, 3 years progressively responsible experience in library or information related work, and experience in sound fiscal management required. The successful candidate will demonstrate an ability to effectively communicate in a variety of formats with individuals and to groups, must possess skills in complex problem solving, and demonstrate effective leadership in short and long term planning. Expertise in electronic information systems, leadership in employee, board, Friends, and local government relations, and experience in facilities planning and management preferred. Starting salary \$39,769 - \$42,000 depending on experience and qualifications. Send letter of application, resume, and three references to Linda Kueker, Search Committee, Finney County Public Library, E. 605 Walnut, Garden City, KS 67846 by April 30. Finney County Public Library is an equal opportunity employer.

### **Coordinator of Adult Services Emporia Public Library**

Classification/Status: Librarian/Professional 40 hrs/wk including evenings and weekends. Reports to Director. Under general supervision by the Emporia Public Library Director, assumes

primary responsibility to develop, implement, and supervise information and reader services for adults. The department includes young adult, homebound, and genealogy programs. Job Duties and Responsibilities: Essential Functions: 1. Oversee general operation of adult services, 2. Serve as member of management team and assist with library service planning, budgeting, automation and collection development, 3. Manage the adult materials collection, including selection and weeding, 4. Develop information services, using print and electronic formats, 5. Supervise and train adult services staff, 6. Plan and carry out programming of community interest, 7. Manage gifts and memorials related to adult services, 8. Supervise building and library staff at assigned times, 9. Develop and maintain relationships with community organizations, schools, and agencies, 10. Assist patrons in using the library's collection, equipment and Internet, 11. Perform other duties as assigned. Additional Functions: 1. Write book reviews, press releases, or articles as assigned, 2. Submit monthly department report to Director and Board, 3. Give talks, demonstrations and tours, 4. Catalog materials and advise cataloger as needed. Required Minimum Qualifications: 1. Master's Degree in Library Science from an ALA accredited library school, 2. Excellent oral and written communication skills, 3. Ability to manage support staff and to work in a team-oriented environment, 4. Access to reliable transportation, 5. Ability to maintain effective relationships with public, staff, and library board, 6. Ability to work within library's policies, guidelines, and procedures. Desired Qualifications: 1. Ability to work with standard computer applications and software, 2. Knowledge of general library operations, 3. Experience working in a public service environment, 4. Experience in library information or reader services, 5. Ability to plan and handle several projects simultaneously and to be a self-starter. Note: Lyon County residency is preferred, but not required. Salary range and fringe benefits: \$11 to \$19 per hour, dependent on qualifications; Kansas Public Employees Retirement System; Single membership in group health insurance program; Sick leave - one day per month. Annual leave - 12 to 22 working days, dependent on experience. Optional health, life, and retirement programs. Application Procedure: Submit the following 1. Library application form, 2. Cover letter, 3. Resume, 4. List of at least three references, with current addresses

and phone numbers to Sue Blechl, Director, Emporia Public Library 110 E. Sixth Ave., Emporia, KS 66801-3960. For more information contact: Sue Blechl, Director 316/ 342-6524; E-mail: blechls@carrollswb.com.

**Youth Information Specialist  
Johnson County Library**

Looking for a fun part-time job? Johnson County Library has an immediate opportunity for a part-time Youth Information Specialist at our Central Resource Library. This position provides reader's advisory service specializing in juvenile materials, instructs patrons in the use of resources in all formats, plans and present children's programming and informs patrons of library services and programs. Qualified candidates will possess a Bachelor's Degree and one year of library experience. Experience working with children and children's literature, good communication skills and the ability to work with patrons of all ages is preferred. Minimum starting salary is \$12.29 per hour. Interested applicants may send a resume to or complete an application at: Johnson County Human Resources, 111 S. Cherry, Ste. 2600, Olathe, KS 66061. M/F/D. EOE.

**Head of Architecture, Planning, and Design  
Library  
Kansas State University**

Kansas State University seeks applicants with a strong public service commitment and technological orientation for a 12-month, tenure-track, faculty position which reports to the Chair of Social Sciences/Humanities Libraries. Responsibilities include: 1) providing leadership and direction for the Paul Weigel Library of Architecture, Planning and Design, a branch of the KSU Libraries; 2) supervising a staff of 1.5 FTE and student assistants; 3) working in partnership with the Dean and faculty in the College of Architecture Planning and Design, related departments including the Visual Resource and Learning Center, alumni, and design professionals; 4) managing collections in architecture, landscape architecture, interior design, and planning; 5) providing quality reference service and instruction; 6) developing professionally. Qualifications: Required: ALA-accredited MLS or

equivalent; education in or knowledge of subject literature in architecture, planning, landscape architecture, interior design or art; reference experiences; proven leadership abilities; familiarity with library automation including the WWW; strengths in team-based work, verbal and written communication, and interpersonal skills; potential to be tenured. Preferred: work experience in an architecture, art, branch, or special library; degree or course work in architecture, art or related discipline; additional graduate degree(s) in related discipline; supervisory experience; ability to utilize rapidly evolving digital information technologies including production of digital publications; knowledge of book trade and acquisitions processes; experience as participant in the process of library design and renovation. Salary and Benefits: Upper \$30s to low \$40s; 22 days of annual leave and excellent benefits. Screening begins April 1, 1999 and will continue until position is filled. On-campus interviews anticipated to begin in late April. Interviewees will be asked to make a presentation to library staff, academic faculty, and students. Send cover letter (indicating source of announcement); vita; and names, postal and e-mail addresses, phone and fax numbers, of three work-related references to Ms. M. Jean Darbyshire, Director of Administrative Services, Kansas State University Libraries, Manhattan, KS 66506-1200. Phone: (785) 532-7465; e-mail: jdarby@ksu.edu; fax: (913) 532-7415. KSU Actively seeks diversity among its employees. Minorities and women are especially encouraged to apply. KSU is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. For more information see this ad on the KSU Libraries' homepage at <http://www.lib.ksu.edu>.

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Address comments concerning *Kansas Libraries* to the editor.

### Gleanings from the Kansas Library Bulletin, March, 1959, issue

[Editor's note: In 1959, the *Kansas Library Bulletin* was issued quarterly.]

- The two new wings for the public library at Liberal have been constructed and Miss Mahan and her staff have expanded both ways to fill up much needed space.
- Miss Luella Varner, public librarian at Iola Public Library since 1927, retired last September. Miss Lucille Wagner has been appointed to take her place.
- The State D.A.R. library is now housed in a section of the Dodge City Public Library. Public library director Lois Flanagan has agreed to house the collection and provide it through the mail to members around the state.
- Miss Olga Burns has been appointed new library director at Clay Center Public Library following the retirement of Mrs. Leone D. Miller.

434-10

### High school debate resolution 1999-2000

Diane Leupold of the Topeka Public Schools furnishes the high school debate resolution for 1999-2000. RESOLVED: that the federal government should establish an education policy to significantly increase academic achievement in secondary schools in the United States.

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