

Kansas Libraries

Official Newsletter of the Kansas State Library

May 1997

FirstSearch update

by Marc Galbraith, Director of Reference Services

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FirstSearch appears highly successful. And, while one hates to mess with success, some change seems almost inevitable.

Kansas libraries began using FirstSearch via a statewide joint contract with Colorado in September 1996. Since that date, more than 700 Kansas libraries have signed on for FirstSearch passwords. FirstSearch was first introduced to a large number of Kansas libraries in late 1994 when the state joined OCLC in offering a three-month demonstration of the FirstSearch databases. Insufficient Internet access and increased telecommunication costs kept the demonstration from growing into a reality. Nevertheless, the demonstration

served as a good vehicle by which to introduce FirstSearch to Kansas libraries. A great deal of training was also initiated during the demonstration phase and a good deal more has been offered since.

FirstSearch use statistics give strong evidence that Kansas libraries have taken to FirstSearch in a big way. During September of 1996, Kansas libraries logged 7,612 searches. That number grew by about 300% from September 1996 to February 1997. Of all the databases available via the statewide contract, OCLC's WorldCat has proven the most popular, with over 36% of all searches occurring on WorldCat. EBSCOMags has proven to be the second most popular database. The EBSCO database includes 2,375 titles with approximately 1,000 titles in full

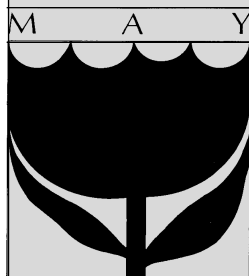
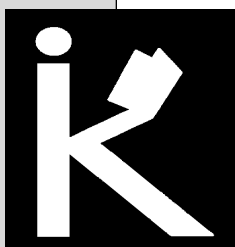
text. EBSCOMags is actually an add-on database that is not a part of the FirstSearch basic package of nine databases. Kansas libraries conducted 25.5% of all searches in EBSCOMags. Our Colorado partners, who have had more experience with statewide database contracts than we, have suggested that Kansas libraries are now in a ramping up period where database usage will grow rapidly before it begins to plateau.

While use of FirstSearch among Kansas libraries is growing rapidly, OCLC reports no "turn-aways" as of November. Turn-aways is OCLC language for blocked searches due to heavy traffic on available ports. Likewise, OCLC reported little or no turn-aways for Colorado libraries through November in spite of the larger volume of searches conducted by Colorado libraries.

The first anniversary of the statewide FirstSearch service draws near and renewal of the existing contract is therefore under consideration. As many of you are no doubt aware, we have recently learned the price quoted for continuation of the EBSCO portion of the statewide contract is dramatically higher for next year. Consequently, evaluations are under way for alternatives to EBSCO. There are a number of vendors and databases that are appealing and comparable to EBSCOMags. Among the available alternatives are Wilson's new Full Text Select database, IAC databases and UMI's Periodical Abs. And ABI/Info. Currently, UMI and OCLC are offering a demonstration of the UMI databases via FirstSearch.

In the last few days of the 1997 session, the Kansas Legislature agreed to fund a statewide database service, such as FirstSearch, for FY 1998. The appropriation is an acknowledgment of the value of this library service to all Kansans and a tribute to the effort of Kansas libraries to successfully implement the FirstSearch service during the pilot year of 1997.

An appreciated and necessary ingredient to the successful provision of this statewide service during FY 1998 will be an ongoing critical evaluation of the service from all corners of the Kansas library community.



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

by Shannon Roy

Couple works to put Kansas "On the Net"

One of the exciting things about Blue Skyways, the Kansas library community's Web service, is that it helps Kansas librarians form productive partnerships with Kansans in other professions. One of the most interesting of these partnerships is with a project called Kansas on the Net.

Kansas on the Net (KOTN), is run by John and Susan Howell. John and Susan are both computer professionals, with over 50 years of combined experience in both education and business. But KOTN really grew out of the one of their favorite hobbies. They love to explore Kansas.

"We spent a lot of time driving around Kansas, exploring Kansas towns, noting things down," John said.

"When the Internet became so active, it seemed like a wonderful place for Kansas community information."

"We are computer people," Susan added, "so naturally we think in those terms."

For two years, KOTN has been creating web sites about Kansas towns, counties, museums, poetry, organizations, colleges and historical markers. The Howells are trying to help Kansas communities place their unique identity in the online environment, with useful information available 24 hours a day.

The information organized by Kansas on the Net is useful in a number of ways. It can help community leaders plan their economic development strategy. It can help publicize tourist attractions. It can promote local schools and colleges. It can help students with social science projects. It can help chambers of commerce who want to establish a vital community presence on the World Wide Web. It can certainly help librarians, who want as much information as possible to be widely accessible.

"And don't forget historical information," John added to this list. "Most Kansas communities have local history, local lore, even regional poetry, that needs to be

preserved in the online environment. That kind of information gathering is a lot of fun."

Kansas on the Net started as a reflection of the Howells' love for Kansas and has grown gradually. At no expense, they will generate very basic community sites, add information to sites they have created as time permits, maintain the pages that tie Kansas Web sites together and record general Kansas facts and pictures. For appropriate expenses, the Howells will give presentations that show how communities can take advantage of the Internet and will help a community get organized to set up and maintain a Web site.

For a fee, they will train people to create and maintain community pages, create complex sites with multiple pages and links and maintain and expand existing Web sites.

The Howells say they have worked extensively with about 30 Kansas communities. But they have put up community homepages on KOTN for over 150 Kansas communities.

Once a library has established an account on Blue Skyways, a community can maintain a community homepage at no charge. The development and maintenance of a community homepage is an ideal project for civic partnership. Librarians can work with school faculty, local government, local business, representatives from the Chamber of Commerce. In some communities, high school students are the first ones who have the skills to do Web publishing. In others, a community leader might have a flair for utilizing the Internet. Or sometimes a retired person has the time and the interest to maintain the new project.

The KOTN community homepages can be viewed at [http://skyways.lib.ks.us/kansas/towns/\[.\]](http://skyways.lib.ks.us/kansas/towns/[.]) The Howells' e-mail address is howell@wichita.fn.net[.]

John and Susan Howell are confident that Kansas on the Net will grow in the next few years. Community homepages are going to be important information resources in Kansas and other states. What has impressed Kansas librarians is their obvious enjoyment of this work. Kansas, they say, is an endlessly fascinating state.

Disaster network formed

Devastating floods, such as those currently ravaging the Dakotas and Minnesota, will return to Kansas someday. These kinds of disasters return every few hundred years destroying homes and businesses. Disasters also destroy the documentary heritage of our state.

Emergency preparedness offices are ready to react swiftly to protect people across the state. Unfortunately, Kansas's historical materials are not usually part of these plans.

To save these precious documents we must be able to respond quickly. Mold growth can develop within 24 hours on damp materials that will destroy the item if left untreated. Photos are even more fragile than paper documents. Emulsion on microfilm, photographs, and motion picture film can begin deteriorating within 24 hours from excessive moisture.

For that reason, the Kansas State Historical Society is currently forming the Kansas Disaster Recovery Assistance Network (KDRAN) to prepare and recover from devastating catastrophes. KDRAN was organized during 1996 with a grant from the Kansas Library Network Board and support from the State Historical Records Advisory Board, Kansas City Area Archivists, Kansas Museum Association, College and University Librarians Section of the Kansas Library Association, Kansas University, Wichita State University, and Kansas State University. The mission of KDRAN is to develop a network of experts in the document preservation field to promote disaster preparedness efforts and coordinate disaster response efforts. The primary focus of the network is to provide information and a source of expertise for institutions to develop disaster preparedness measures and disaster mitigation techniques.

Members of the network will be available to help institutions around the state develop their own disaster plans and take immediate action to reduce potential damage. The secondary focus of the network is to provide support for recovery efforts as sources for emergency supplies, sources for emergency recovery funding, and coordination of response and recovery teams.

The network will address historical materials of all types including books, magazines, pamphlets, broadsides, journals/diaries, letters, ledgers, maps, architectural drawings, photographs, motion picture films,

videotape, and computer storage mediums. In the future, experts who deal with historical artifacts will be added to the network.

The coordinating office of KDRAN is housed in the Library and Archives Division of the Kansas State Historical Society. Through the state coordinating office, resources will be provided upon request or through the KDRAN web site. The address for the web site is <http://history.cc.ukans.edu/heritage/kshs/resource/kdran.htm>[.]

Response will be handled through the three regional networks. Each regional network was established to promote a quick response to major disasters. East region coordinators are located in Lawrence and Parsons, Northwest region coordinators are in Hays and Colby, and Southwest region coordinators are in Wichita and Dodge City. Every point in the state can be reached within two hours by a member of the network.

Brian Baird, a preservation librarian at the University of Kansas, is one of those in charge of persuading officials in eastern Kansas to prepare for the worst. On June 13, Baird will bring together officials from eastern Kansas for a one-day training session at the Coffey County Library at Burlington.

The network is also working to set up a team of experts who can provide on-the-scene support anywhere in the state within two hours in case of an emergency.

The regional networks are currently registering members and making plans for training workshops. Libraries, historical societies, state, and local governmental agencies will be surveyed to identify disaster plan needs. Representatives from all aspects of preservation will be part of the regional networks. If you are interested in helping, please contact one of the state coordinators at the state coordinating office.

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Do you want to continue your subscription to Kansas Libraries?

Kansas Libraries has been available on Blue Skyways for one year. To use the online version, point your Web browser to http://skyways.lib.ks.us/kansas/KSL/admin/kansas_libraries.html[.]

Now you can read the online version of *Kansas Libraries* before your printed copy arrives. And now you can choose the format that's best for you.

Since many of you prefer the online version of the newsletter, we're updating our mailing list. Beginning with the July 1997 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 1997. 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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Bonnie Keim, Library Assistant
Kansas State Library
300 S.W. 10th Avenue, Room 343-N
Topeka, KS 66612-1593



Tax lid extended

The 1997 Kansas Legislature has voted to extend the tax lid imposed under the reappraisal law for another two years, until 1999. This means that public libraries whose boards have not exempted from their libraries from the tax lid remain limited to the dollar amount the library received in 1988 or 1989, whichever was higher. Mill levies do not apply unless the library has been exempted by publication of a resolution by the library board and a 60-day waiting period has passed.

If your library board is considering exemption from the tax lid, contact your regional system consultant or Roy Bird at the Kansas State Library, 800/432-3919 at your earliest convenience to discuss the implications of or the steps for this exemption process.

New SWKLS system consultant

The Southwest Kansas Library System is pleased to announce that Holly P. Woo has been selected for and has accepted the position of Library Development Coordinator. Ms. Woo holds an MBA from the Chinese University of Hong Kong and has five years experience in administration, marketing, and strategic planning. She has also conducted and analyzed consumer research and prepared customer service plans.

Ms. Woo is fluent in three languages and is a resident of Dodge City. She is an avid public library user and articulated well the value of libraries in communities world wide. She will assume her responsibilities on June 1.

High school debate topic

Diane Goheen, the head media specialist at Topeka West High School has provided the 1997-98 High School Debate Topic.

RESOLVED: that the federal government should establish a policy to substantially increase renewable energy use in the United States.

E-mail ILL pilot project results

The Kansas Interlibrary Loan Board of Directors (KILBD) has completed the review of nearly 40 evaluations of the ILL by e-mail pilot project. The findings and recommendations follow:

KILBD endorses the use of e-mail as legitimate for ILL. Several advantages were cited for its use.

- E-mail levels the playing field for small libraries that cannot afford to use KICNET.
- KICNET requires the use of a PC-compatible to run cc:mail, leaving out the Mac users. Now Mac users can do online ILL.
- By 90%, the pilot project group of libraries agrees to continue using e-mail for ILL. This group includes most system centers.
- This is an interim step that precedes a fully-integrated system.
- KICNET does not have enough hours in the day to add many more new calling times, this will relieve the pressure. KICNET is not going away.

Before a library attempts to begin using e-mail for ILL, it must contact its system consultant or technology consultant for training and a list of protocols for using e-mail (use the protocols from the pilot project until updated protocols are completed by the KILD later in the summer). All libraries in the state have the right to designate how they will receive ILL. Not all libraries accept e-mail ILL. Consult the KILD on Blue Skyways for those that accept e-mail ILL.

A list will be developed for distribution that include libraries that accept ILL by e-mail. Check with your technology consultant or Bonnie Keim at the State Library for changing your information on the KILD to reflect that you will accept e-mail ILL.

E-mail ILL does not replace KICNET, and will change when a system integrated with the KLC is developed and tested. Full ratification of the KILBD recommendation will take place at the Fall KIC Council meeting. Templates using various mailers will be demonstrated at the KILR meeting that follows.

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*.

Summer reading program manual online

Kansas statewide Children's Consultants, representing the seven regional library systems and the Kansas State Library, announce the addition of the online summer reading manual for the "97 Bazillion Ways to Read" summer reading program. The manual, developed and produced by Chris Lutt, graphic designer, is available to the children and adults through Blue Skyways. The URL is: <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/kansas/slp/>.

In addition to the online version, the manual is available in the traditional print format and disk format. It consists of five modules: fiction, nonfiction, fantasy, fables and folklore, and mystery. The manual has a wide variety of materials ranging from print bibliographies to websites based on the five modules. The manual is an example of the seven systems' cooperative efforts creating successful summer programs for Kansans. The systems will evaluate the online manual this fall and have already begun working on the 1998 program.

Morton County Library celebrates diamond anniversary

The Morton County Library, Elkhart, celebrated its 75th anniversary in conjunction with National Library Week during April 1997. The library held a reading lock-in at the park with a parent accompanying each child.

Jim Cunningham entertained with storytelling and puzzles which were enjoyed by all who attended. Books were read by the staff and refreshments were served. Parents and their children shared in a special reading time together. This event was a well-attended activity and the library hopes to try it again in the future.

The children in storyhour shared in the 75th Anniversary activities by drawing chalk pictures on the sidewalk in front of the library. The 75th Anniversary Salad Luncheon was lovely and the salads were great. Time was spent recognizing the Coterie Club, P.E.O. Club, former librarians and guests. Cake and coffee were served throughout the afternoon.

The current staff at the library are: Virginia Johnson, Director; Chris Colborn, Assistant Director; and Linda Mitchell, Carrie Williams, Toni Bressler and Cheryl Morisse, support staff; Cindy Hittle, Branch Director and Amanda Dunn, Assistant.

Adults can travel using books

Book-A-Trip for the whole family at Emporia Public Library. This summer the reading program isn't just for kids. Adults are encouraged to participate in the discussion series focusing on travel books.

On May 28, readers will discuss the first book in the series, *Drinking the Rain* by Alix Kates Shulman. The second book is *A Year in Provence* by Peter Mayle on June 18. Next will be *Road Song* by Natalie Kusz on July 30. The last book is *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* by John Berendt on August 27.

Other special programming includes Jack and Mary Melhorn showing slides of the "Fjords of Norway" on July 16 and Mel Storm discussing the "Star, Cross and Crescent: The Many Faces of Israel" on August 13.

Open House

An Open House was celebrated at the Partridge Public Library, 23 South Main, Partridge, in South Central Kansas Library System on May 18, from 2:00—4:00 pm. Refreshments were served and everyone was welcome.

Seneca Library reception June 1

A reception was set for Sunday, June 1, to celebrate the new Seneca Library. Cookies and punch were served from 1:00—4:00 pm that afternoon, and tours of the new building and the remodeled former library were offered.

"Everyone has worked so hard and they have done a really great job," said Head Librarian Karen Holthaus. Financing for the project includes a \$35,000 L.S.C.A. grant. Remodeling that will add two fully accessible restrooms, storage space, and a 50-seat community room is almost finished in the 130-year-old former Universalist church that had housed the library since 1931. That work started when the 5,200 square-foot new building opened in January.

Patrons have been quick to take advantage of the new facilities, with use of the library up by one-third compared to this time a year ago, Karen said. "We're getting as many people in here now as we usually get in the summer, when we hit our peak."

The single biggest improvement is the extra room available for all of the library's services, she said. Casual readers have soft chairs and a quiet nook, apart from children's and teen's areas, while a separate room is provided for local history and genealogical research.

A computer with Internet access is available for use by library patrons in another area. Karen says she is looking forward to starting a story hour and expanding the summer reading programs this year, including offering craft-type activities. "We had to quit story hour, and kids in the summer reading program had to sit outside on the grass. There was just no room to sit inside, before."

Videos available

Nemaha Valley High School Library received a grant during 1996-97 to purchase videos on leaders. With this grant a collection of 63 videos have been purchased. These videos cover a wide variety of world leaders.

All of these videos are available for use in schools and libraries across the state. They may be requested utilizing interlibrary loan either through a school library or public library for a three-week loan period. A copy of a complete bibliography of these titles is available upon request by writing: Marcia Philbrick, Librarian, Nemaha Valley High School, 214 N. 11th, Seneca, KS 66538-1798.

ILDP grant awarded

Rose Hill High School Library and Rose Hill Middle School Library in U.S.D. #394, Rose Hill, Kansas were awarded a 1997 Interlibrary Loan Development Program grant from the Kansas Library Network Board in Topeka in the amount of \$5,085. The grant was written by Jane Williamson and Martha Helzer, library media specialists.

The title of the grant was **Caring for Self and Others** and was written to address the needs of our teenagers today. The two libraries have purchased books with the grant funds that are designed for use by students grades 6-12 and by adults. Books purchased with the grant are listed on the Kansas Library Catalog and available to any library patron in Kansas who requests them through interlibrary loan. A bibliography is available and contains recent titles that address current issues such as: peer pressure, bigotry, academic anxiety, health problems, AIDS, death, etc.

Please call 316/776-3391 or 316/776-3355 for a bibliography of individual titles.

"Any Time is Book Time"

Any Time is Book Time is the Children's Book Council's theme for its 78th annual observance of National Children's Book Week, November 17—23, 1997. Award-winning authors and illustrators have created lasting images to help promote Book Week in your library. Peter Sis has created a clever cat poster; Chris Raschka has produced a frieze; Robert Sabuda crated pop-up and cut-out items for kids; and Brian Pinkney, Ellen Stoll Walsh, and Nadine Bernard Westcott have created Book Week streamers.

To request a Children's Book Council catalog, call 800/999-2160; fax your request to 212/966-2073; or visit their homepage on in the Internet at: <http://www.CBCBooks.org>[.] or write to: Children's Book Council, 568 Broadway, Suite 404, New York, NY 10012.

1997 White award

Mary Downing Hahn's *Time for Andrew, A Ghost Story*, has been named the winner of the 1997 William Allen White Children's Book Award. *Time for Andrew, A Ghost Story* was published in 1994 by Clarion Books, Houghton Mifflin Company. It is the story of Drew, a 12-year-old boy, who changes places with his namesake and look-alike. Andrew, who was the same age in 1910. Drew fears that he will be trapped in 1910.

A Time for Andrew, A Ghost Story also received the 1996 California Young Reader Medal, the 1997 Georgia Children's Book Award, the 1996 Maryland Children's Choice Book Award, the 1996 Texas Bluebonnet Award, the 1996 Utah Children's Book Award and the 1996 Dorothy Canfield Fisher Children's Book Award.

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Address comments concerning *Kansas Libraries* to the editor.

Library Positions

Emporia State University Director of Library Services and University Librarian

The Director will provide dynamic leadership and vision to all library services into the 21st century, and oversee the continuing move to Internet and CD-ROM accessible databases, the migration to a new Integrated client/server library automation system, and the creation of accessibility at remote sites. Applicants must have an ALA-MLS and doctorate in library science or related field with 5-8 years of academic/research library administrative experience. Qualifications must merit a tenure track appointment as full or associate professor. Applicants with university teaching experience, understanding and commitment to resource sharing, networking, library automation, new information technologies, successful grant acquisition/administration, and a record of scholarly and professional achievement, are especially invited to apply. Screening will begin February 24, 1997 and continue until the position is filled, no later than June 15, 1997. Send letter of application, vita, names, telephone and e-mail addresses of

3 professional references who are submitting letters to John O. Schwenn, Academic Affairs, Campus Box 4045, ESU, Emporia, KS 66801-5087. E-mail: schwennj@esu.emporia.edu[.] AA/EOE.

Assistant Librarian/Instructional Technician Pratt Community College

Full-time, 12 month position w/some evening and weekend work. Will assist Director with activities related to college library and distance learning, i.e., reference collection, overdues, circulation, public relations, daily ITV operations, and satellite downlinks. Minimum one year experience in a library or distance education setting required. Experience with satellite systems and distance education preferred. Computer skills and audio-visual equipment knowledge a plus. M.L.S. degree or M.L.S. degree-seeking candidate from an A.L.A. accredited institution required (Bachelor's in Library Science, Instructional Technology, or related field with 1-3 years experience will be considered.) Send resume, transcripts (unofficial), and references to: Personnel Director, Pratt Community College, 348 N.E. SR 61, Pratt, KS 67124-8317 or call 316/672-5641 or <http://www.pcc.cc.ks.us>[.] AA/EOE.

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