


## Director's Corner . . .

—by Roger Carswell

The Kansas Library Trustee Association has made improved library salaries one of its priorities and will be trying to raise awareness of the importance of this issue in the future. This is certainly needed and welcome, and goes hand-in-hand with the Kansas State Library's development of guidelines for public library director compensation.

A look at salaries paid to library directors in southeast Kansas illustrates the issue. Approximately 1/3 of all public library directors earn \$6.00 per hour or less. The middle



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1/3 earns from \$6-\$9, and only the top 1/3 earns over \$9 per hour. Only a few libraries pay enough to attract a director with a master's degree in library science. For those with the M.L.S., pay averages about \$17 per hour. Most of these directors have years and even decades of experience, yet earn less than many professionals straight out of college with a bachelor's degree. To make matters worse, benefits are close to non-existent for many libraries. Only a handful of SEK public libraries offer health insurance or are members of KPERs, the state retire-

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## Public Domain: The goal of copyright — by Harry Willems

I can hear some of your comments now: I thought that public domain was where old stuff is parked, or that's where all the free stuff is, or that's where the junk ends up. Until the "Shrinking Public Domain" workshop given by the University of Maryland, those were my feelings. A closer look at this "ugly sister" of copyright might change your mind. Copyright, or protecting the intellectual property of creative people had its beginnings in 15<sup>th</sup> century England, and then to protect publishers. The invention of the printing press in the 1450's made copying much more lucrative and even takes some credit for the Refor-

The pejorative term "fall into the public domain" indicates that the public domain is considered to be the graveyard of intellectual property

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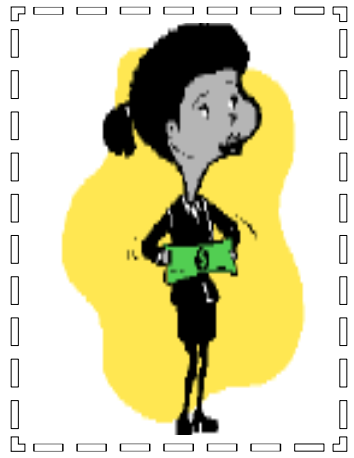
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ment system. Many have no paid vacation, and some have no paid leave of any kind. Based on my knowledge of SEK libraries, I don't believe that in most cases the

problem is that there is too much spending on other items that could be channeled into

better salaries and benefits. Rather, the budgets are just plain inadequate. To correct the problem, budgets will have to rise. Library boards, rather than librarians, will have to take the lead in raising budgets to provide adequate compensation for their employees.

In the next issue, I'll return to this topic and suggest arguments which can be used with funding authorities in support of the need for increased salaries.

**The Savonburg Public Library and Community Room** invites SEKLS librarians to their open house Saturday Oct. 6 from 12 noon to 5 p.m. Lunch will be served, 12-1:15, door prizes given.

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mation and age of Enlightenment. The U. S. Constitution provides for the protection of intellectual property but for a different reason than has become the rule today. Article I, section 8 states: "To promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries." This was interpreted to mean that the short duration (initially 14 years) was to encourage creativity by compelling artists, writers and the like, to literally "publish or perish." The starving artist had real meaning then. A second line of thinking by Jefferson, and even the inventor extraordinaire, Ben Franklin, looked on the public domain as the well of works to draw on for new creations. The Digital Millennium Copyright Act, the Berne Convention, the Sony Bono act, the Copyright Act of 1989, all seek to turn the concept on its ear. Each act lengthened the duration of copyright protection. The pejorative term "fall into the public domain" indicates that the public domain is considered to be the graveyard of intellectual property by the current crop of writers and producers. Filling in this well of creativity, that is the public domain, bodes ill for future generations.

**For More Information:**

**Baron, Robert A. *Reconstructing the Public Domain.*** <http://www.studiolo.org/IP/VRA-TM-StLouis-PublicDomain.htm>

**Bollier, David. *Why the Public Domain Matters.*** <http://www.publicknowledge.org/resources/conference-archives.php>

**Litman, Jessica. *The Public Domain.*** <http://www.law.wayne.edu/litman/#recent>

## SOUTHEAST KANSAS LIBRARY SYSTEM HOSTS FIRST TRUSTEE AND FRIENDS CONFERENCE

A conference for southeast Kansas Friends of the Library members and trustees was held in Chanute on July 27. Forty-nine people attended, excluding SEKLS staff and presenters from outside SEKLS. This included 25 Friends of the Library members, 19 trustees, and 5 librarians.

The morning general session began with a very entertaining and motivating talk by Vikki Jo Stewart of the State Library about leadership. It continued with a role playing panel, with panelists representing a local library board president, Friends president, and library director. They acted out several scenarios in which the three dealt with problems or had disagreements. The morning session concluded with information from representatives of several organizations and agencies, including Friends of Kansas Libraries, Friends of Libraries USA, Kansas Library Trustee Association, Southeast Kansas Library System, and Kansas State Library.

In the afternoon, participants attended three breakout sessions, choosing among topics such as fundraising, book sales, current and future library trends, and advocacy.

Feedback from participants ranged from favorable to enthusiastic. Based on the response, it's anticipated that there will be additional conferences of this sort organized in the future.

### Adult Programming in SEKLS Libraries

Several months ago the System sponsored a programming workshop held in Girard. Some of the libraries requested that adult programming ideas be shared with the wider SEKLS community. Carol Ann Robb, Adult Services Librarian from the Pittsburg PL, has these programming ideas to share. Eventually they can be collected and placed in a format similar to the children's programming binder.

- ⇒ "Kansas, Raw, Rough and True: A Gallery of Notorious Kansans" presented by Max McCoy (<http://maxmccoy.com> or contact Mr. McCoy at 620-231-2379.) He also has done a program on Jesse James.
- ⇒ "Letters From Slaves" presented by Lemuel Sheppard (<http://www.lemuelsheppard.com> or contact him at 620-231-2379.) He also does a program with music, on black cowboys.
- ⇒ "Black Soldiers in the Civil War" given by Arnold Schofield at the historic fort in Fort Scott (contact 620-223-0301 or write P.O. Box 918 Fort Scott, KS 66701.)
- ⇒ "Carnegie Libraries in Kansas" given by Roy Bird (contact the State Library at 800-432-3919).
- ⇒ "Preservation Architecture" by Vance Kelly. Vance was the project architect for our project and is currently overseeing the Capitol renovation. Contact Treanor Architects, 1715 SW Blvd., Topeka, KS 66612. Phone 785-235-0012.



Graphic Novels  
by Shirley Douglas

As the result of a 2001 Collection Development Grant given by the Southeast Kansas Library System, the Oswego, USD 504 school district is enjoying graphic novels. Approximately 70 titles were ordered and divided among three buildings. A wide variety of subject matter, from humorous to fantasy to life issues, was selected to appeal to a wide variety of readers. Wow!!, Cool!! and Awesome!! were the words students use to describe graphic novels. The grant targeted male, reluctant readers and they have been the most consistent patrons of this format. Graphic novels in the library offer an alternative to full length books. This is a wonderful format to develop positive feelings about reading. They can be read in a short time and they are fun to read. As a result, the patron comes back in to check out more titles. As with all new formats, media specialists should exercise caution when exploring purchasing avenues. Because scenes can be more "graphic" than words, a media specialist needs to physically see and explore some of the titles. Best of all, read them yourself when the titles arrive.

Shirley Douglas is the library media specialist for the Oswego High School/Middle School.

**Around the System**

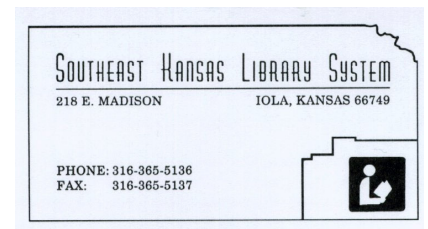
**Arma.** The Arma City Library is working with Hans Fischer, library architect from Lawrence, to improve their library facilities. This might mean adding to the present location or moving to a new location.

**Erie.** The Erie City Library is also using Hans Fischer to give them ideas on improving the use of the present facility or making an addition to the building.

**Parker.** The Linn County District #1, Parker, has had Hans Fischer draw plans for and do a study for replacing the present building.

*Libraries wishing to use Hans Fischer to do a study for remodeling, expanding or building, may contact him by:*

*Telephone:* 785.841.4106  
*Email:* hjfischer@earthlink.net  
*Letter:* 4 Colonial Ct.  
Lawrence, KS 66104



*Hans is a retired architect from Illinois, now living in Lawrence. He is past chair person of Friends of Kansas Libraries (FOKL). He has consulted on many Kansas library projects. His greatly reduced fees make it possible for smaller libraries to use his valuable consulting services.*

## SEKLS PROFESSIONAL COLLECTION ADDITIONS

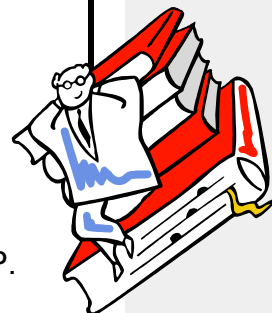
PC 016.92 *From Biography to History: Best Books for Children's Entertainment and Education.* NJ. Bowker. C1998. Indices . PP. 508

PC 025.52 Dewdney, Patricia. *Conducting the Reference Interview.* NY. Schuman. A How-To-Do-It Manual for Librarians. Number 117. Index. PP. 241

Meola, Marc. *Starting and Operating Live Virtual Reference Services.* NY. Schuman. A How-To-Do-It Manual for Librarians. Number 118. Index. PP. 165

PC 025.1978 Stein, Barbara L. Et al. *Running a School Library Media Center.* NJ. Schuman. A How-To-Do-It Manual for Librarians. Number 121. Index. PP. 179.

PC025.1 Swan, James. *Fundraising for Libraries: 25 proven Ways to Get More Money For Your Library.* NY. Schuman. C2002. PP. 409. Index.



## Recipients of the SEKLS 2002 Facilities Improvement Grant

Eight libraries shared in the \$30,000 offered by SEKLS for improving facilities. Each year for the past 7, the executive board of SEKLS chooses the amount and purpose of the grant money. This year the recipients were:

Bronson Public Library.	\$5000	Carpet and furnishings for new library
Edna Public Library	3500	Addition
Grenola Public Library	2660	Roof repairs
Johnston Public Library (Baxter Springs)	5000	Ceiling and light fixtures
Prescott City Library	5000	Lead paint abatement
Savonburg Public Library	5000	Carpet and furnishings for new library
Toronto Public Library	3840	Heating and AC



**Successful Fundraising Principles and Practices  
By Wayne E. Groner, Vice President for Finances,  
Friends of Kansas Libraries**

1. Principles of giving
  - a. People give to meet their needs not the needs of your library.
  - b. People give when they understand your library's vision and mission.
  - c. People give to support your library's programs not its budget.
  - d. People give to people—that is, they give to an individual asker and to programs that benefit specified groups.
  
2. The Process of Fundraising
  - a. Identify your prospective donors.
  - b. Investigate their ability to give and their propensity for giving to other community organizations and to your library.
  - c. Inform them of your library's programs.
  - d. Involve them in the life of your library as volunteers, board members, and advisors.
  - e. Invite them to make a contribution of a specified amount for a specified program.
  
3. Types of Fundraising Campaigns
  - a. Annual fund, for current operations
  - b. Capital campaign, for physical improvements
  - c. Endowment campaign, for using investment earnings for current needs physical improvements, or special programs
  
4. Ways to Ask for the Gift (in order of most effective)
  - a. Face-to-face
  - b. Telephone
  - c. Direct mail
  - d. Group meetings
  - e. Internet
  
5. How to Ask For Gifts
  - a. Memorize this and you will always be ready to ask anyone, for any Amount, for any purpose, at any time. "We were wondering whether you could consider a gift of INSERT DOLLARS to INSERT PURPOSE?"
  
  - b. After you've asked the question, be silent. You must not say anything. Let the prospect speak first and what the prospect says will guide you to an appropriate response.
  
  - c. Your response if the prospect says no: "We're not here today to get your commitment. We just want to share information. We know you will want to think about how you can help. May we meet with you again next week or would the following week be better?"

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- e. Your response if the prospect says yes: "Thank you. Would you prefer to take care of that this year or spread it out over several years?"
- f. Always follow-up your contact with a hand-written thank-you note.

Wayne Groner is a Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE), co-author of *The Pastor's Guide to Fundraising Success*, and executive director of the Labette Community College Foundation, Parsons.

#### STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

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 ROGERCARSWELL@ALLTEL.NET OR  
 HARRYW@ALLTEL.NET

### Partly Nonsense by Harry Willems Taking a Break

- ⇒ Ever notice that stuff brought into the break room by employees are things their family won't eat. I think it's part of librarianship.
- ⇒ I've decided that quick breads can be made out of anything biodegradable.
- ⇒ I'm waiting for someone to bring dandelion bread, or milkweed bread or even bindweed bread.
- ⇒ Beware when that sweet tasting, nice textured cake you're eating has green things in it. Who knows what kind of vegetables are being disguised as cake.
- ⇒ To solve the ecological crisis in the future, watch someone like Martha Stewart make cake out of radioactive waste and old car tires.
- ⇒ I suppose bananas, even if black beyond recognition, carrots and zucchini can be made edible. I'm suspecting someone will use artichoke, eggplant or other disgusting pseudo-vegetables in a delicious tasting cake and fool me.

# **SEKLS CALENDAR**

## ***October—December, 2002***

*(\*) Cyberseries*

Oct. 7	A Morning With Crescent Dragonwagon	Iola
Oct. 8	6th Annual In-service	Westminster Woods
*October 17	Spectrum Overview	Pittsburg
November 1	SEKLS Annual Meeting	Iola
*November 12	Desktop Security	Pittsburg
November 22	YA Workshop w/Patrick Jones	Neodesha
December 9	Executive Board Meeting	Iola

# **SEKLS**

## **Stacks of News**

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