

Director's Corner. . .

—by Roger Carswell

I know everyone is aware of the awful budget situation the state is in. I want to take a brief look at the current and potential impact on libraries.

The most vulnerable libraries are the State Library and school and academic libraries, since these are all state funded. The State Library is slashing its materials budget, eliminating the print version of *Kansas Libraries*, and making other reductions. State aid to public libraries, which is also part of the State Library budget, must also be reduced. Such services as KICnet probably will be spared, since they are funded through the federal Library Services and

Technology Act (LSTA), which is unlikely to see reductions.

For school and academic libraries, the squeeze is already on for materials budgets. Just how further reductions in state funding will play out for these libraries will largely be determined on a local basis. However, it's likely that materials budgets will take more hits, and staffing may, also. Now is the time to make the case for the importance of quality library services. Over the past several years, strong evidence has accumulated from several studies that quality school libraries are exceptionally strong indicators of academic performance. If school

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Search Engine Features: preferences, filters and follow the leader—by Harry Willems

Two search engines that I use frequently displayed new features that caught my eye recently. That, of course, led me to the already known features that can help control searches for pictures or videos that may not be appropriate for libraries. AltaVista is an excellent search engine that allows searching for pictures or graphics of anyone or anything on the web. (See figure 1, next page) Under the search bar is a list of pictures, graphics or videos that have been objects of searches recently.

Children might find it interesting to see what others have already found, making this a kind of follow the leader. The “refresh” link scrolls through the names/titles. Unless one has set the “Family Filter” (altavista) or “Preferences” (Google) to the level

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Filter setting

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that is

Real Searches:

Each day millions of people from throughout the world search for everything from Madonna to ZZ Top. Look below to see some Multimedia searches.

Image:

- [lauryn hill](#)
- [Christina Aguilera](#)
- [dubrovnik](#)
- [bald eagle](#)
- [pink panther](#)
- [afghanistan](#)
- [[refresh for more...](#)]

List of images with refresh

Aud

- [koto](#)
- [the r](#)
- [wild](#)
- [natu](#)
- [afric](#)
- [the c](#)
- [[refi](#)

acceptable for libraries (Figure 2), thumbnail pictures of all description will appear. AltaVista allows the settings to be saved and protected by password (which is only a cookie setting that can be deleted), but is better than Google's Preferences (figure 3) that has no protection at all. Librarians should check the most heavily used search engines and know the protections available to pass on to worried patrons and

Figure 1

AltaVista Family Filter settings

Password protecting

Choose your Family Filter preference.

- Multimedia Only** - filters image, video and audio search only.
- All** - filters all searches: web pages, images, audio and video.
Note: With the Family Filter set to "All", you can perform Web searches in only English, French, German and Spanish.
- None** - will not filter any search

Password Protection (Optional):

Figure 2

parents.

Figure 3a shows preference choice link, 3b shows choices of filtering



SafeSearch Filtering

Google's SafeSearch blocks web pages appearing in search results.

- Use strict filtering (Filter both explicit and implicit content)
- Use moderate filtering (Filter explicit content)
- Do not filter my search results.

Figure 3b

Google Search

- [Advanced Image Search](#)
- [Preferences](#)
- [Image Search Help](#)

Figure 3a

Google Preference link

Director's Corner, continued

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librarians do not already have this information on hand, you can contact SEKLS.

Most public libraries are not in a crisis situation at this point. They are funded almost entirely by local property taxes, which have been stable. They will see some reduction in state aid. However, the state contribution to funding library service is quite low, often 3-4% of the local library's budget. Obviously, a reduction in state aid of 3.9% or even more will not be catastrophic.

Local governments have experienced a loss in state funding through the elimination for the current fiscal year of demand transfers. However, I am not aware of any city, county, or township libraries which have been funded from this source, so this reduction should not affect most libraries. A cautionary note here is that libraries which are financed from the city general fund will be vulnerable to cuts made by local governments. Although the law specifies a separate library fund, there are several southeast Kansas communities which do not have this. The libraries in these communities have not wanted to rock the boat, since they often received more funding this way than would have resulted from a 2 or 3 mill levy for the library fund. This may be the year that those libraries are hurt.

District libraries and SEKLS itself do receive funding from one of the demand transfer programs, known as the Local Ad Valorem Tax Reduction (LAVTR) fund. District libraries should examine their budgets to see what the impact of this loss will be for them.

Although the immediate situation for public libraries is not grave, they may face considerable pressure to reduce budgets in 2004. As local governments cope with shortfalls in state funding, they will likely raise taxes. Some will eye the library fund as a place to reduce the mill levy to partially offset increases elsewhere.

SEKLS will lose revenue we had included in our budget for 2003 in two ways. We expected to receive \$30,985 from LAVTR this year. We have

evidently lost half of that already, and if the Legislature continues to eliminate demand transfers for the next state fiscal year (beginning July 1), we will lost the other half. In addition, a higher percentage of our budget is state aid, so we are more vulnerable to losses in state aid than most

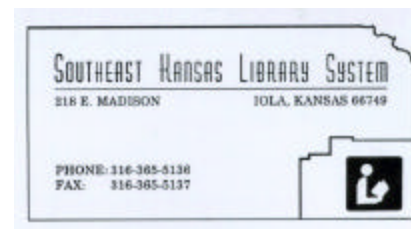
libraries. Still, we are not panicking just yet. We have a very healthy balance carried forward from 2002, tax revenues have consistently exceeded the budget (even in 2002), and we have the cushion of a transfer to the capital improvement fund which could be eliminated rather than cutting services, while still leaving enough for capital expenditures for the near future.

If there was ever a time for librarians to be aware of both the way their local budget is funded, and of statewide legislative issues, this is the time. Call us if you need consultation about these matters.

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Around the System

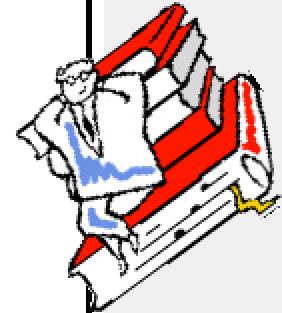
Pittsburg Public Library wrapped up its one hundredth year with a reception on December 31st honoring those persons who completed the library's centennial reading program, *100 Years/100 Books*. **Leatha Bolinger**, a staff member of the Reference and Adult Services Department, entertained the group with a short presentation on reading before **Carol Ann Robb**, Reference and Adult Services Librarian handed out special certificates. The forty-one people, including three couples, also received special Pittsburg Public Library denim shirts in recognition of their efforts. The Friends of the Library sponsored the reading program as well as special centennial activities throughout the year, including an historical retrospective of the past one hundred years and programs on Kansas Carnegie libraries, preservation architecture, and Kansas literature. Over 600 people attended eighteen events in 2002.



SEKLS PROFESSIONAL COLLECTION ADDITIONS

PC 025.1974 Reed, Sally Gardner. *Small Libraries: A Handbook for Successful Management*. Jefferson, NC. McFarland. 2nd ed. C 2002. PP. 170. Index.

PC 021.7 Hill, Ann et. al. *Tooting Your Own Horn: Web-based Public Relations for the 21st Century Librarian*. Worthington, OH. Linworth. C 2002. PP. 129. Charts. Screen shots. Index.



New PC Collection Periodical for Routing

The Shy Librarian: Promoting Libraries, Librarians and Books. Josepy J. Cadieux Publisher. Editor. Marcia Trotta. Published quarterly March-June-September and December. <http://www.shylibrarian.com> Contains reviews of books for children and teens. Call the System office to be added to the routing list.

Tri-Conference Grants

Tri-Conference will be held in Salina April 9-11 this year. From vendors to workshops to informal librarian networking, the experience is totally worth your time and effort to attend. TC packets will be mailed out soon. If you miss getting a packet with registration information, go to the KLA web site at <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/tricon/2003/index.html> where registration information will be posted soon. A program will also be available as soon as it's ready. Most SEKLS librarians know that a TC grant is available in the amount of \$150 for traveling, lodging and registration. Copy the CE grant application page from section 3 of your red **System Handbook** and send it the System as soon as possible.

Summer Institute for School Librarians

Plans are being finalized for the 7th annual Summer Institute for School Librarians. This year we will be looking at the topic "Understanding by Design" incorporated with assessment and No Child Left Behind. A team concept will be the focus of the institute and will be reflected in the cost. Single participants cost will be \$85, 2-3 from one district \$75 each and 4-6 from one district \$65 each. Lunch is included and as a bonus and any group bringing an administrator to the institute, the administrator's fee would be free. Date of the Institute will be June 4 & 5, 2003 and the location is Blue Valley Schools. Look for a brochure in the spring, but any questions can be emailed to me. So start getting a group together and get ready for some fun!

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Instant Messaging in Libraries

By Nick Fleury, Technical Consultant, Southeast Kansas Library System

Instant Messaging (IM) is fast becoming a part of the mainstream use of the Internet. AOL and Microsoft have just released an Enterprise version of their services, which will let companies host their own service. Many of the help and support pages on the Internet are moving to live chat to answer questions instead of email or phone. Internet-based learning systems use it as a classroom where the students can participate in real-time. Employees on the road are using IM to contact their home offices. Many of us use IM to stay in touch with friends and relatives. IM is quicker than an email and cheaper than a long-distance phone call.

The policy on patrons using IM services vary from library to library. Some absolutely ban the use of IM services, while others have it installed by the staff on every patron machine. The Gates Foundation patron machines are particularly interesting to deal with because even with Centurion Guard off, you can install BUT CANNOT RUN any of the standard IM services without walking through changes with the Gates Foundation Tech Support.

There are alternatives to use that don't involve installing software on your computer. These are web-based clients for *Yahoo! Messenger*, *AOL Messenger*, and *ICQ Messenger*. On the Gates Foundation machines, this is a reasonable alternative to installing the software on the computer, and gives your patrons another service to use on the Internet. They still have the option of saving the logins and settings with these clients, but with Centurion Guard on, you just reboot and it's all removed. It is astounding that a person would ask software to keep these things on a public machine, but many of our patrons do.

IM also allows a new way for viruses and unsecured files to make it onto the computer. The library has to make sure that they have anti-virus software installed and update it regularly on ALL COMPUTERS in their library.

Internet access is fast becoming another service that our patrons are expecting when they enter the library, just like they expect the latest edition of the local paper. IM is just one use of the Internet, and use is increasing. So, let's be prepared for the patron that uses it as a cheaper form of communication with others, and turn them into library supporters instead of detractors.

Where to find the web-based Instant Messaging Clients:

- ICQ Messenger
 - <http://go.icq.com/>
- Yahoo! Messenger
 - <http://messenger.yahoo.com/>
 - Click "Java" under the Quick Download links.
- AOL Messenger
 - http://www.aim.com/get_aim/express/aim_expr.adp?aolperm=h
 - Click the "Start" button

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**Partly Nonsense by Harry Willems
Of Prognosticators and Pundits**

- ▷ Have you ever noticed how every magazine has to have a designated columnist that writes about “the year in review?” Pundits with a sharp tongue and quick wit to skewer popular personalities and add perspective to the years events? I wish I could write like that.
- ▷ And oh how I love those prognostications by soothsayers that tell us where we’re headed in the future. The end of the year “double issue” (another pet peeve of mine) of *U.S. News* has a list of what will happen next year. Some of the best are: “Fast food will go gourmet” - yeah when pigs fly. “Moscow crashes” - why? Can’t they print money like we do? “Paris bids adieu to TV porn” - with 1000 hours a month of the stuff, we’ll see what’s/who’s paying the bills. “You’ll sell your house and rent” - what and ruin the American dream? I don’t care how much value my home has accumulated, I won’t cash out and wait for the real estate market to tank before purchasing another (besides moving is grounds for divorce).
- ▷ Vicky Hallett in an article titled: “Oops, we’ll do it again” laments that 2003 will be the year for nostalgia. Maybe “The Beaver” and “The Skipper and Marianne will finally replace the “unreality TV” we’re gassed with now. (Hallett. *U.S. News*. Dec. 30, 2002-Jan. 6, 2003. P. 84)

SEKLS CALENDAR

January—May, 2003

(*) Cyberseries

SEKLS

Stacks of News

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