
STACKS OF NEWS

AUGUST—SEPTEMBER 2006

SOUTHEAST KANSAS LIBRARY SYSTEM
218 E. MADISON
IOLA, KS 66749

DIRECTOR'S CORNER BY ROGER CARSWELL

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So many new things are happening in Kansas! I hope you have been keeping up with much of this by reading postings to kanlib-l, the Kansas library forum listserv. (As an aside: every Kansas librarian should subscribe to this; if you aren't subscribed, a subscription link can be found at <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/lists/>). The following sort of skims the new happenings.

Downloadable audio books and music from Overdrive are now available to Kansas residents at "Audio Books, Music and More!", which can be found on Blue Skyways. Your patrons may be asking about how to access and download audio books; be sure you're ready for that. If you need staff training, call Joe Tholen or Dave Blakesley at SEKLS.

WebJunction Kansas has just launched. WebJunction has existed since 2003, developed by OCLC with funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Kansas became a community partner in July. WebJunction provides online courses, discussion of library topics (somewhat like a listserv), and other online resources to support library staff.

Kansas Libraries on the Web (KLOW), provided by the Northeast Kansas Library System with state funding, is a resource which makes it easier for all libraries to have and maintain a web page. SEKLS staff will be learning about this shortly, and we'll provide training to SEKLS libraries this fall.

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DIRECTOR'S CORNER**DIRECTOR'S CORNER**

AROUND THE SYSTEM

(Continued from page 1)

HomeworkKansas will launch shortly. HomeworkKansas is an online homework help service, provided by the State Library of Kansas with funding approved by the Legislature in this year's session. Kansas students from elementary through early college will be able to connect, at home or at the library, to an individual tutor. The tutors are teachers with expertise in all kinds of subject areas. The service will be available during late afternoon and evening hours.

The draft of "Core Competencies for Kansas Library Directors" has been released for review by the Kansas library community. The core competencies will impact the future of continuing education in the state. You can find the draft posted at <http://www.skyways.org/KSL/development/corecompetencies2006.pdf>. Comments can be sent to Shannon Roy at the State Library (shanroy@kslib.info).

Each of these developments is only in its beginning stages, and more developments will be added to this list. It is important for libraries to keep up to date with what's going on. SEKLS will continue to help you and your library keep up with the changes through communications, consulting, and continuing education.

**CORE
COMPETENCIES
FOR LIBRARY
DIRECTORS**

**HTTP://
WWW.SKYWAYS.
ORG/KSL/
DEVELOPMENT/
CORE
COMPETENCIES
2006.PDF**

NEW SALES TAX EXEMPTION

While libraries have never had to pay sales tax on purchases, what they have sold to others has been subject to sales tax. A bill passed by the 2006 Legislature changes that.

Sales on behalf of publicly supported libraries and "not-for-profit organizations whose purpose is to raise funds for or provide services or other benefits to such libraries" (in other words, a Friends of the Library group or library foundation) are now exempt from sales tax. This includes not only book sales, but also sales of other merchandise, such as book bags, calendars, etc.

SEKLS AUTOMATION GRANT APPROVED BY JOE THOLEN

The Kansas State Library has recently restructured their method of administering LSTA (Library Services and Technology Act) grants, funded through the independent Federal Institute of Museum and Library Services agency, to encourage automation in Kansas libraries. Several region library systems in Kansas have since applied for and received those grants, and SEKLS was recently notified of their own grant approval.

Our grant involves something unique and exciting, and will expand the existing partnerships between Pittsburg State University and public libraries.

PSU currently hosts the powerful (and expensive) Dynix automation system for Axe Library at PSU, Pittsburg Public Library, Fort Scott Community College Library, and all the school libraries of the Pittsburg unified school district.

This is one of the more advanced automation systems available, and can be expanded to add more libraries. SEKLS libraries automating for the first time are Bronson Public Library, Sedan Public Library, Hamilton City Library, Eureka Carnegie Library, Howard City Library, Galena Public Library, Savonburg Public Library, and Madison Public Library. Additionally, the public libraries at Parker (Linn County District #3), Parsons, Chanute, Iola/SEKLS, and Coffeyville are upgrading to Dynix from their existing systems.

This process will be somewhat complicated by Axe Library's own upgrade. Dynix has just recently released the latest version of their Horizon automation system and the existing libraries in the PSU "consortium" will be upgrading their installations before any new libraries are added.

Although some elements of this project will be starting very soon, the actual "online date" for the new libraries will be sometime in 2007.

For more information, visit www.sekls.org/horizon and explore the links you'll find there.

**SEKLS HORIZON
GRANT**

**HTTP://
WWW.SEKLS.ORG/
HORIZON**

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

**ONE BOOK, ONE STATE
KANSAS READS...THE LEARNING TREE**

Coming in Spring 2007, Kansans will have the opportunity as a state to experience Kansas author Gordon Parks' first novel, "The Learning Tree", as the Kansas Center for the Book's initial project for One Book, One State.

The semi-autobiographical story of the late Fort Scott native's early childhood and boyhood has been chosen by State Librarian, Christie Brandau, for Kansas' first state-wide adult reading project.

Libraries may participate in programs of their choice, January through April, with a variety of projects available through future additions to the KCFB website. Southeast Kansas, and Fort Scott, in particular, is fortunate to have the Gordon Parks Center for Diversity and Culture at Fort Scott Community College. Jill Walford, Center Director, has a wealth of information there and at the Center's website for program and display planning.

Beyond book discussions, additional components of the spring event will be found at the Kansas Center for the Book website in the coming months. Traditionally, February is Black History month, and book discussions of this and other works by African-American authors could be featured.

A display could feature additional books by Gordon Parks, or downloaded KCFB web materials, local reprints of articles from Parks' March 2006, Fort Scott funeral and burial. Although promoted as an adult program, this coming of age story would appeal to teens as well. A YA event might choose one, or both, of Parks' most well known movies, *The Learning Tree* and *Shaft* to view. A children's book, *Gordon Parks: No Excuses*, by Kansas author Ann Parr, might appeal to younger or reluctant readers.

Talking Book readers may participate in this project by ordering, *The Learning Tree*, RC 33832 for the sound recording on 15/16 4-track cassette. Braille users may order BR 00005 directly from NLS Braille services in Utah (800) 453-4293).

-by Liz Nix, Special Needs Consultant

KANSAS CENTER
FOR THE BOOK

**HTTP://
SKYWAYS.LIB.K
S.US/ORG/
KCFB/**

GORDON PARKS
CENTER FOR
CULTURE AND
DIVERSITY:

**HTTP://
WWW.GORDONP
ARKSCENTER.O**

KANSAS BOOK FESTIVAL SEPTEMBER 29-30

The first-ever Kansas Book Festival will be held this fall at the Lawrence –Dumont Stadium in Wichita, Friday, September 29, 9:00 AM—3:00 PM, and Saturday, September 30, 9:00 AM—5:00 PM. Created to showcase our state’s rich literary talent, this family-friendly festival is free and open to the public.

KANSAS BOOK FESTIVAL

[HTTP://WWW.
KANSASBOOK
FESTIVAL.KS.GOV](http://www.kansasbookfestival.ks.gov)

The festival will celebrate Kansas by exploring the books, arts, films, and history of this great state. Three stages will showcase continuous performances, readings, and workshops. A special activities area will provide hands-on learning opportunities for students and families.

The State Library of Kansas and the Kansas Center for the Book at the State Library will host a large pavilion under canvas with informational booths, bookseller vendor booths, and author appearances.

Friday events will emphasize education and entertainment activities, especially for school. The “Black, White and READ All Over Ball” will honor notable Kansas authors on Friday evening at Exploration Place. Friday events also include the announcement of 2005 Notable Book Awards.

The 2006 Kansas Book Festival is the signature event of the Countdown to Kansas Statehood and is produced by the Governor’s Cultural Affairs Council and the Kansas Center for the Book in cooperation with state and local organizations.

For more information about the 2006 Kansas Book Festival, visit www.kansasbookfestival.ks.gov.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

AROUND THE SYSTEM

AROUND THE SYSTEM

Welcome to SEK Youth Services Consultant

Sandy Wilkerson, new Iola resident and bride, joins the SEK staff as youth services consultant and electronic reference. She comes to SEK from Missouri with 12 years of school library experience. She is excited to be working with Kansas librarians again! Make plans to attend the Children's librarian meeting, August 25, at Pittsburg Public Library and meet her.

Welcome to new librarians in Southeast Kansas

Blue Mound (Linn County Library District #3): Brenda Curtis
Coffeyville Public: Helen Rigdon
Coffeyville Community College: Marty Evensvold
Hepler Public Library: Denise Kirby
Moline Public Library: Kristi Laney
Pleasanton Lincoln Library: Kim Simons
St. Paul (Graves Memorial): Kathie Grosdidier

Farewell to SEK Special Needs Consultant

Liz Nix will be leaving Kansas soon for the deep South, as her husband, Bill, accepts a position as technical director at Mississippi State University Riley Center, Meridian, MS.

MSU RILEY CENTER

HTTP://
WWW.RILEYCENTER.MSSTATE.E

STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

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FROM THE FISHBOWL BY DAYNA WILLIAMS-CAPONE

There has been quite a bit of media attention lately to new web technologies such as MySpace, YouTube and Flickr with cover articles in Time (3-27-06) and Newsweek (4-3-06) about children and technology and user-generated sites. Much of the new technology that is currently being used and developed in being labeled as web 2.0 or "social software". During May and June I had the opportunity to join 50 librarians in an online course sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA 2.0 Bootcamp) which allowed me to play with and learn more about the new web 2.0 tools in a library context.

My main focus was how these technologies can be used in small to medium-sized libraries to improve library service. My involvement in this course reinforced several things. First, that it is important for the library to allow you, our patrons, as many avenues as possible to interact with us, us with you, and your, our patrons, with each other. Second, that we the library staff need to be aware of new technology and social software and decide how we can incorporate it so that we are in a better position to go to our users, instead of always expecting our users to come to us.

One major hurdle that we need to overcome is upgrades and changes to our library catalog and the system we use to check in and out library materials. We want our users to be able to search the library holdings anytime of day or night; we want to give our users the power to renew their own books, place their own holds and request new books. At this point we plan to move to a new system next spring which will allow all of these things, plus more, to happen. It will require a lot of changes for staff, but we are looking forward to providing this service.

We will be relying on our blog (<http://parsonslibrary.blogspot.com>) more and more as another way of communicating with you, and we hope that you will use the blog to communicate with us as well. There are several ways for you to do this. You can leave a comment on our blog or send us an email by clicking on the link on the right side of the blog page. If you are interested to read more about what I learned during my online course go to <http://daynawilliamsapone.alablog.org>. As of this writing I am still editing my first podcast, an online audio recording that can be downloaded from the internet and listened to in a manner very similar to a radio broadcast. The podcast should appear on my course blog very soon.

-from the Parsons Public Library Newsletter July-September 2006

PARSONS PUBLIC
LIBRARY BLOG

[HTTP://
PARSONSLIBRARY.
BLOGSPOT.COM](http://parsonslibrary.blogspot.com)

DANA'S ONLINE
ALA BLOG

[HTTP://
DAYNAWILLIAMS
CAPONE
ALABLOG.ORG](http://daynawilliamsapone.alablog.org)

**SEKLS CALENDAR
AUGUST—NOVEMBER 2006**

AUG. 15	SEKLS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING	IOLA
	SEKLS PROFESSIONAL COLLECTION	NEW TITLES
AUGUST 25	CHILDREN'S LIBRARIANS MEETING	PITTSBURG
	STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION	
SEPT. 13	RURAL SUSTAINABILITY WORKSHOP	GARNETT
SEPT. 14	RURAL SUSTAINABILITY WORKSHOP	NEODESHA
	CALENDAR OF EVENTS-WORKSHOPS	
SEPT. 22	DIRECTOR'S MEETING	FIREKA
	INSERTS-WEBSITES OF INTEREST	
SEPT. 25	SEKLS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING	IOLA
	SCHOOL LIBRARIAN COLUMN?	
SEPT. 29-30	KANSAS BOOK FESTIVAL	WICHITA
OCT. 12	SEKLS IN-SERVICE	WESTMINSTER WOODS
NOV. 3	SEKLS ANNUAL MEETING	IOLA

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