



# STACKS OF NEWS

*Newsletter of the Southeast Kansas Library System*

**Southeast Kansas Library System**  
218 E. Madison  
Toila, KS 66749

May-June 2008

## SEKLS SELECTS KOHA FOR ILS CONSORTIUM

The SEKLS Executive Board, based on the preferences of most of the libraries attending the recent integrated library system (ILS) demonstrations, approved developing a contract with LibLime and using the open source Koha ILS system. The board also approved a cost schedule for libraries joining the consortium.

The LibLime Koha system will provide member libraries with features some of us are already used to — an automated catalog; circulation; and cataloging — as well as extra features such as an online database that links all of the consortium libraries together; an automated acquisitions system that tracks materials spending; and serials control, which helps to track magazines and claim on the ones that do not arrive.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:	
Director's Corner	2
Shining Star Award	2
At Large	3
Unsung Heroes Award	4
Trustee Certification	4
Kansas Health Online	5
Around the System	6
CE Schedule Change	6
Buggy Encounter	6
Toot Your Own Horn	7
WA White Award	7
Sandy's Corner	7
5 Hot Picks	7
Storytime Sparks	7

Koha is an open source system, which means the basic software used is free — it is available for anyone to use and to modify. LibLime is the company we will contract to administer our database and supervise the running of the system. Use of open source not only lowers the per-library cost of running software, it allows us to customize what we want in the software and to benefit from customizations that other libraries have created — all without needing to become programmers. LibLime will do that for us.

Start-up costs for libraries in the consortium will be \$3072, and an additional cost for data migration for libraries with existing databases. The data migration will cost 12¢ per record for libraries which are part of the initial consortium, and 15¢ thereafter. For libraries which were part of the LSTA grant project, most of these start-up costs will be borne by the grant.

There is a schedule for the annual membership fee based on institutional budget, ranging from \$100 for libraries with very small budgets (under \$10,000 annually) up to \$1000 for libraries with budgets in excess of \$200,000. This annual fee may drop in the future if a large number of libraries join the consortium.

SEKLS must finalize the list of initial consortium members by July 15. It's anticipated the ILS will be up and running before the end of the year. Membership is open to public, school, and academic libraries.

For more information, contact Joe Tholen or Roger Carswell at SEKLS.

# DIRECTOR'S CORNER

BY ROGER CARSWELL



## These are exciting times for SEKLS!

The Executive Board just adopted a new long-range plan. Over the next several years, SEKLS will be working on accomplishing all of the following:

- Implementing an ILS consortium (SEKLS has selected Liblime/Koha for this consortium; see front page article.)
- Either subsidizing courier service for member libraries, or developing our own SEKLS courier.
- Beefing up technology services, including better dissemination of information about technology and trends; providing written documentation as appropriate explaining what was done when technology consultants leave a library; and annual assessment visits followed by a written report on a library's current use of



technology and suggestions for next steps.

- Re-designing the SEKLS web site
- Expanding continuing education grants so that very small libraries may receive funding for mileage and a substitute librarian when the librarian attends a workshop
- Developing a wiki or blog about children's and young adult books and authors, and also on programming
- Initiating an annual performer's tour geared towards young adults, following the model of our successful storyteller's tour (this is already beginning this summer)
- Try expanding rotation book service to academic libraries.

While there are other items in the long-range plan, these are the most important changes you may anticipate.

## Roger Carswell Receives Shining Star Award

by Vikki Jo Stewart,  
Special Projects Coordinator

Roger Carswell received the Shining Star Award at the Iola Public Library Board meeting Thursday, May 22, 2008, for outstanding service to Kansas libraries. Vikki Jo Stewart, Special Projects Director

for the State Library and coordinator of the Kansas Center for the Book (KCFB), presented Carswell with the special certificate of appreciation. Stewart expressed the sincere appreciation of State Librarian Christie Brandau for Roger's high level of service to Kansas

libraries, especially as chair of the 2007 and 2008 Kansas Notable Book Committees as part of the State Library's Kansas Center for the Book. Carswell's leadership maintained exemplary standards while vetting hundreds of titles written by Kansans or

*(Continued on page 3)*

### STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

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# At LARGE

with Jaime Prideaux,  
Talking Books/  
Special Needs Consultant



## Helping Those with Autism Through the SEKLS Special Needs Collections

If you've ever had patrons in your library looking for materials on autism, I encourage you to also refer them to the Special Needs and Recreational Therapy collections at SEKLS.

We have a wide variety of items that are appropriate for individuals with autism. Many of the items in the Special Needs collections are "sensory-type" items, intended for sensory experiences and sensory activities, which are ideal for children with autism. In general, items I would recommend from the collections are those with lights, sounds, or fun textures. Some of these items include: a set of rhythm musical instruments; the eight-note hand bell set with songbook, the

eight-note xylophone; any of our plush puppets (dogs, cats, bunnies, birds, etc.); the stamp sets (using lots of vivid colors when stamping); the flomotion tubes where you can watch the swirling water; the lite-up squirmy wormy; the rapper snappers (expanding plastic tubes that make cool noises); and the sensory soothers where you can listen to/watch the water and glitter inside a tube; use the "tangles" or "textured tangles" to keep your hands busy. The rainbow ribbon hoops; squeeze tubes; a roving toy hamster, "shivers" frogs and mice; a rainmaker; and bouncy



rainbow balls are other sensory favorites.

You can find a list of these items and all items in the Special Needs collections at <http://www.sekls.lib.ks.us/bph/specialneeds2008.pdf> You can also go to the SEKLS website at <http://www.sekls.lib.ks.us> and click on "Talking Books – SEKLS Special Needs Collection," then click on "Special Needs Collections 2008." Pages 9 and 10 list many of the items I mentioned.

If I can be of further assistance in selecting items from the Special Needs collections for your patrons, please feel free to have them contact me directly at 1 - 8 0 0 - 2 7 9 - 3 2 1 9 or [jprideaux@sekls.org](mailto:jprideaux@sekls.org).

### Shining Star *(Continued from page 2)*



about Kansas competing for Kansas Notable Book status.

Roger Carswell and the Southeast Kansas Library System

are Charter Affiliate members of the Kansas Center for the Book. Carswell is also a KCFB Fellow. Other outstanding efforts by Roger included volunteering for the KCFB at the 2006 and 2007 Kansas Book Festivals and Kansas Library Conference in Wichita.

The Shining Star Award was developed by the State Library of Kansas to recognize outstanding service to Kansas

libraries. Roger is a power-house advocate for library services and is recognized by Kansas library leaders and others. The Shining Star Award most recently was given to Governor Kathleen Sebelius for her support of the Kansas Reads to Preschoolers reading initiative, public and school libraries.

Please visit the Kansas Center for the Book's website at: [www.kcfb.info](http://www.kcfb.info)

## Kansas Librarians are MPLA Unsung Heroes

Three Kansas Librarians received the first ever MPLA Unsung Hero Awards. Rosanne Siemens, of the Kansas Library Association, Roger Carswell, Director of SEKLS, and Liz Turner, Director of the Oswego Public Library, received the Unsung Hero Award at the Mountain Plains Library Association (MPLA) Conference held in Salt Lake City 28 April – 2 May, 2008.

Roseanne received the award for her leadership in the Kansas Library Association that reorganized the association and guided it to offering full service to the Kansas Library community.

Roger and Liz received the award for the Make-Over

Project that put a life-sized tree in the Children's Area of the



**Roger and Liz display their Unsung Hero Awards**

Oswego Public Library and spruced up nearly every public area of the building.

The Unsung Hero Award is a new award for MPLA. The

award is given to any library individual(s) or group(s) in the MPLA region who have worked on a special project that has some significance to a community but which has not been eligible for a library award or which has for other reasons not been recognized, to the degree that it merits, by any library organization. The MPLA region contains so many small libraries that are often not recognized for their achievements, and so many librarians who are

not recognized even at the state level, so there is a need for MPLA to recognize these unseen, but very important achievements.

## Kansas Has Thirty-Five Certified Trustees in New Program

By Shannon Roy, Continuing Education Coordinator, State Library of KS  
Thirty-five Kansas library trustees from twenty-one libraries have completed training in all five trustee core skills and are now certified library trustees. The trustees gave up two beautiful Saturdays in May and put in eight solid contact hours of training at the first Statewide Training for Trustee Certification.

The Kansas Library Trustee Certification Program is

unlike the continuing education programs for librarians that have been sponsored by the State Library of Kansas and the School of Library and Information Management (SLIM). The librarians have selected the training topics that met their current professional needs and their achievements are based on meeting quantitative training requirements. Trustees have a need for common information on Kansas public librarianship and governing board management. The trustee core skills were designed to give them that common ground. There is no deadline for completing the certification requirements and

trustees who had conflicts in the spring of 2008 will find a variety of training opportunities available to them in the years to come.

The good news is that once trustees achieve their initial certification, they can renew their certification fairly easily and they are free to study the topics that will best help their library with its current projects.

Southeast Kansas Library System members completing certification were: **Helen Barnes** and **Naomi "Skip" Childress**, Mound City; **Linda Haverfield**, **Barbara Hines**, **Glenn Kerr**, **Cheri Dunlop**, Linn County District #1 - Parker; **Virginia King**, **Helen Rigdon**, Coffeyville; **Janet Lewis**, Coffey County Library and **Iris Jones**, SEKLS.



# Kansas Health Online

## New consumer Health information website for Kansans

[KansasHealthOnline.org](http://KansasHealthOnline.org) is a new consumer health website librarians can access for reliable health information. The website is a collaboration between the State Library of Kansas, Dykes Medical Library at KU Medical Center, the Kansas Health Policy Authority and interested public libraries. Kansas Health Online recognizes the significant contribution public libraries can make to public health issues.

Public libraries and the Internet are often the first place consumers turn for medical information. Consumers who use the library as a health resource bring new information to their health care providers, make lifestyle changes, ask additional questions, and reduce their anxiety levels. Consumers report that health information found through libraries is valuable and affects their health care decisions. In focus groups conducted by the Reference Point Foundation, all groups reported using libraries for general health information needs, and 60 percent of the participants said that libraries were among their preferred sources of health.

Kansas Libraries will be able to contribute local information to the website through the Go Local Project. Mary Lou Chard of SEKLS will be entering local data to the Go Local Project for our region.

## Health Facts: Kansans' Health is Getting Worse

by Julie Broski, Consumer Health Project Manager, Dykes Medical Library

In 2007 the report from United Health Foundation, American Public Health Association and Partnership for Prevention was dismal for Kansas.

### Changes in health in the United States From 2006-2007:

- 30 states in the United states reported overall gains in health;
- 20 states reported overall declines in health.
- **Kansas was at the bottom of the list.**
  - ◊ Smoking increased from 17.8 percent to 20.0 percent
  - ◊ Obesity increased from 23.9 percent to 25.9 percent.
  - ◊ Rate of uninsured population increased from 10.3 percent to 12.3 percent

Kansas Health Online empowers Kansans to make more informed decisions by providing information on health and health care in an easy to use and easy to understand format. Consumers will find tools, links, and information to compare hospitals, find doctors, compare health plans, analyze symptoms, get the latest information on medical conditions, make healthy lifestyle choices and learn more about health policy.

Information on Kansas Health Online is reviewed by Medical Librarians to ensure reliability and relevance to Kansas consumers. More information will be added in the coming weeks and months, including information on health care costs and on local health resources such as hospitals, clinics, associations, and support groups.

Kansas Health Online will be touring Kansas during the next several months meeting with librarians as well as conducting consumer health focus groups in various communities throughout the state. Southeast Kansas Library System will be hosting one of the first workshops in the series on July 16, 2008 in Iola at the Community National Bank. It is open to librarians and health professionals.

# AROUND THE SYSTEM

📖 **Labette Community College Library** is under construction. **Scotty Zollars** reports that the staff is enjoying their Summer Branch in Conference Room 1 on the second floor of the Student Union. Whenever a patron needs material, a staff member has to put on his or her Indiana Jones hat, and venture into the old library to excavate for the lost data. Aren't summers fun?

📖 **The W.A. Rankin Memorial Library** in Neodesha has new carpeting and a fresh look thanks to the SEKLS competitive grant and the efforts of city staff, library

staff and volunteers. **Mary Meckley** says they also received \$1000 from the Golden Living Center to purchase large print books.



📖 Bees are bugging the **Weir Public Library**. **Stephanie**

**Arbuckle** tells us readers will cover the walls with honeycombs as they log their reading.

📖 **McCune Osage Township Library** asked the Men's Honor Camp for help moving bookshelves and laying carpet when they put in their new flooring. The prisoners were

happy to help (and to get a home cooked meal.) After they moved the shelves, they noticed the walls needed painting. "If you will get us a bucket of paint, we'll do that for you, too." The Library now has new carpet AND freshly painted walls!

📖 **Mary Sommerville Library, Mound City**, has purchased an old church to be their new library. They won't be ready to move until 2009, but they are able to use part of the new space for Summer Reading. It's great to finally have a real meeting room when your children's area has been in an old bank vault!

## CONTINUING ED. SCHEDULE CHANGE

Two of the workshops scheduled for September have had their dates changed. This may make it easier for some of you to attend.

**Cyber series: Troubleshooting Basics** will be offered three times in September. Joe Tholen and David Blakesley will be your trainers.

The new schedule is:

Sept. 4, 2008 1:00-4:00

Fredonia Public Library

Sept. 8, 2008 1:00-4:00

Garnett Public Library

Sept. 30, 2008 1:00-4:00

Pittsburg Public Library.

Registration will open in July.

## Close Encounter of the Buggy Kind

Cathy Van Gilder of the Columbus Public Library shares a story of a sons and bugs.

When my son was born, two years ago, he weighed 6 pounds. He was perfect. He smelled like a baby, he cooed, and he gave me his first smile. I held him and loved him and he has been an unexpected joy in my life. Not so long ago, however, changes began in my perfect baby boy. It started out with an occasional "NO" and then turned into growling as response to unwelcome advice. He throws rocks and chases cats and runs from me when called. His sweet baby powder smell has turned into a sweaty, dirty, stinky boy smell. He is only truly happy when covered in mud or rolling around on the ground. He eats anything. He eats sticks, grass, rocks, and last Saturday evening he ate a bug. A shiny little black beetle crawled up his finger. He looked at it for a minute and then down it went. I supposed I should have made an effort to retrieve it, but I didn't.

I just sat there and looked at him and wondered where my perfect 6-pound baby boy had gone.

See you at the library,  
Cathy

—From the Columbus Public Library Newsletter

# 5 Hot Picks

Lisa Leiker of Southeast High in Cherokee, Kansas reports that her students LOVE books in series. These are their top five:

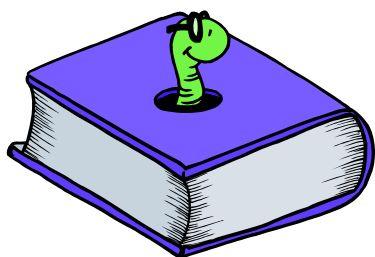
1. **Midnighter** Series, by Scott Westerfeld
2. **Jacky Faber** Series, by L.A. Meyer
3. **Gossip Girl** Series, by Cecily von Ziegesar
4. **Twilight Saga** Series, by Stephenie Meyer
5. **Cirque Du Freak** Series, by Darran Shan

## STORYTIME SPARKS

Olympics—Go for the Gold. With the Olympics starting in August stories that focus on summer sports will be a big hit. Swimming, Diving, Softball and Soccer will all be showcased at this Olympics.



Slow and steady wins the race. Try this puppet kit to teach sportsmanship, [Tortoise and Hare](#) includes a brown bunny and a tortoise to share this story with your younger patrons.



## Sandy's Corner

by Sandy Wilkerson



What does it mean to be a Tween? This term is thrown around the library world and loosely refers to those patrons aged 10-12, caught between child and teen. I often include the middle school ages into this Tween term for the young people no longer reading children's titles but not yet ready for many of the young adult themes. The ages of 10-14 are between playing with Barbie and wanting to look like Barbie; they are dependent on parents for direction and transportation but showing self-reliance that will blossom and learn to drive.

Serving Tweens in our libraries is an important venture because the average American adult reads fewer than three books per year for pleasure. Isn't that a disturbing fact? Librarians need to strive to catch these Tween readers and hook them with books that transport them into the magical world that reading brings.

Series books have a huge appeal for this age; they want to read all the books about the character. Pull out all the stops to grab these "almost" YA readers: horror, graphic novels, romance and humor, whatever it takes to catch their attention. Promoting books to them is all about making a connection with the student. When you do, you could have a Friend of the Library in the making.

I have a few lists of good titles for this age group. I challenge you to put up a display, use the metamorphosis theme (because the Tween years are all about change) and create a stir about reading.

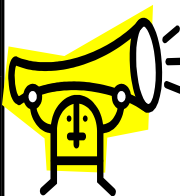
Information and stats taken from [Naked Reading: uncovering what Tweens need to become lifelong readers](#) by Teri S. Lesesne.

### 2008 W.A. White Awards

Third-fifth grade winner: **A Dog's Life: The Autobiography of a Stray** by Ann M. Martin

Sixth-eighth grade winner: **Airball: My Life in Briefs** by L.D. Harkrader

For more details please visit the William Allen White Children's Book Award website: <http://www.emporia.edu/libsv/wawbookaward/index.htm>



### Toot Your Own Horn!

Toot your own horn. Calling all librarians to send notes, comments, photos about the summer reading program in their community and how much impact it makes on the kids and the library. Please send any and all information to Sandy at [swilkerson@sekls.org](mailto:swilkerson@sekls.org).

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## SEKLS CALENDAR

### June 2008

25 ERIE CITY LIBRARY 9:00-12:00 Budgeting for Public Libraries

7 PARSONS PUBLIC LIBRARY 10:00-12:00 Director's Meeting

### July 2008

10 GARNETT PUBLIC LIBRARY 1:00-4:30 Cyberseries: Creating our Library's Website with KLOW

16 COMMUNITY NATIONAL BANK, IOLA 10:00-12:00 Kansas Health Online

24 OSWEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY 1:00-4:30 Cyberseries: Creating our Library's Website with KLOW

### August 2008

6 INDEPENDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY 1-4 p.m. Workplace Health/Ergonomics

12 GIRARD PUBLIC LIBRARY Aug. 12 1-4:30 p.m. Track Spending with MS Excel

15 SEKLS, IOLA 10 a.m. Executive Board meeting System headquarters

19 HUMBOLDT PUBLIC LIBRARY Aug. 19 1-4:30 p.m. Track Spending with MS Excel

