



STACKS OF NEWS

Newsletter of the Southeast Kansas Library System

Southeast Kansas Library System
218 E. Madison
Iola, KS 66749

Nov-Dec. 2008

Consortium Libraries Go-Live with SEKnFind

On Nov. 4, 2008 Chanute Public Library, Coffeyville Public Library, Iola Public Library (with SEKLS) and the Independence Public Library shut down their old integrated library systems and turned on the new Koha system that is shared by the SEKLS Library Consortium. This was "Go-Live with Koha Day". In the following week, Bronson Public Library and Linn County Dist. #1, Parker Library went Live. Hamilton City Library

followed in the third week. Madison Public Library is scheduled to Go-Live the first week in December.

The new consortium is called **SEKnFind** — pronounced "Seek and Find." It allows all of the members to function as if they were one library with many branches but still keep their own autonomy.

Because cost is shared, small libraries are able to afford automation. SEKLS hopes to see more libraries joining in the near future. The financing for this part was partially funded by a Library Services and Technology Act grant, with matching funds from SEKLS and the Consortium libraries.

Besides becoming automated and sharing cataloging, SEKLS libraries will be offering more services to their patrons. Wherever they have computer access, patrons will be able to view the materials they have checked out; see a list of the books they have read in the past year: place a hold on material in their own library or any member library; or make a suggestion for



purchase. They can even renew their books at 2:00 AM, as they are going back to bed after a refrigerator raid!

The first four libraries to begin using SEKnFind were already automated. Their databases were migrated to Koha by LibLime, the company that SEKLS has contracted to manage the computer system. The shared catalog created by this migration has formed the backbone of the new catalog. As more libraries join the consortium, they will add their holdings to the catalog and our joint collection will grow.

The Savonburg, Howard, and Galena libraries are the last libraries to be added in this wave of new members. Before the end of 2009, SEKLS hopes to offer invitations to more libraries as we enter Round 2 of the project.

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2008 Annual In-Service Draws Record Attendance

Seventy-seven people attended this year's Annual In-Service at Westminster Woods on October 16. That is one of the largest attendances we have had for this workshop. We were all pleased the rains from earlier in the week held off to give us a great Fall day in the woods.

Nancy Pickard, author of the 2009 Kansas Reads selection **Virgin of Small Plains**, was the keynote speaker.



She kept us focused while telling about writing mysteries. Later she gave a session on Women Mystery Writers.

Harry Willems, former SEKLS Consultant and now the Director at Park City Library, returned to SEKLS to tell us how things are different when you are sitting in the Director's chair. One person who attended his session declared, "Every Director — especially new ones! — should hear this talk."

Robin Bowin, of Ingram Books, pulled on her experience as a vendor's representative for four of the big vendors to share with us the services vendors

offer. Librarians who caught this session were surprised what the vendors will do for even the smallest libraries.

Helen Rigdon, formerly from Coffeyville Public Library, gave a presentation on Disaster Planning that set a lot of us to thinking. How would we handle it if our community was hit with a disaster? Would we become the "clean well lighted place" where folks came for help and a few moments of calm? What would we do if our building caught fire or was hit by a tornado? What would we save first? How would we pick up the pieces? Helen gave us tips for writing our own disaster plans.

Cindy Stohs and Janet Birk of the Coffey County Library shared a wide range of ideas they use to keep their libraries visible and active in the lives of their communities. Most of their suggestions could be adapted to any size library and we went away with a fistful of new ideas.

Speaking of new ideas! Bev



Trogia, of Pittsburg Public Library, was very on-target with her presentation about serving "Tweens — the ones too young to be teenagers, and too mature for basic children's books. She gave us practical information we could take home and use.

Speaking of using things, Peter Haxton, from the State Library showed us how we could find information at the State Data Center that could help us and our patrons.

Susan Willis, Chanute Public Library, and Iris Jones, SEKLS, shared information on marketing. Susan had good ideas on how to get the word out, and where to find sponsors, such as the Emprise Bank which helps Chanute pay for their Summer Reading t-shirts. Iris got down to the details, explaining branding and showing us how we could design and use our own logos.

It was a full day, with lots of learning, lots of networking, lots of good food! Far too soon it was time to grab that box of ILL books and go home.



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State Statistical Report Becomes “One-Touch Annual Library Survey”

The seeds of change were planted last November when Bonnie Keim spoke to SEKLS Directors about the State Statistical Report. SEKLS librarians asked for explanation of some of the questions and expressed frustration with other parts of the form. This started a quest for improvement that led to a task force that developed an entirely new report called the **One Touch Annual Library Survey**.

The 2008 One-Touch Annual Library Survey is a combination of the State Grants-in-Aid Project Evaluation, the Interlibrary Loan Statistics for Public Libraries and the Civil Rights Certificate. There will no longer be a State Aid Application form. (They assume if you got it last year, you still want it.) Instead of giving pieces of information in several reports, librarians across the state will only have to enter it once, in one place, once a year — One Touch!

Bonnie will not be mailing forms to librarians this year. She will only give information about the report on KanLib-L. **The report is due Feb. 15, 2009. This is a FIRM DEADLINE.** There will be no extensions.

If you do not turn in the report, you do not get your State Aid or any monies that are tied to State Aid. The One-Touch Annual Library Survey will use the same Bibliostat reporting format as the prior Statistical

Report. The form can be found from Jan. 1 to Feb. 15 at <http://collect.informata.com>. The user ids and passwords are the same as in past years. If you do not know yours, contact your System Consultant for them. At present you can only access the report from Internet Explorer 6.0 or higher. Access from Firefox is planned to be available in Jan. 2009.

Although there is a comprehensive online video that explains the form, Bonnie gave the System Consultants a preview recently and explained some of the sections that might give librarians problems. Her pointers are shared below.

When you enter your login and password, the letters Pass are part of the password.

To allow pop-ups, hold the Control Key while you click the Login button with your mouse.

Instructions are located on the left, under Survey Navigator.

The first part of the form is filled in from information you submitted last year. **Only correct this if it has significantly changed (i.e. new director's name, new address.)**

All questions must be answered. NA is an acceptable answer.

You cannot use Yes/No in a number field.

Count your paid staff as Full Time Equivalents. Enter the number of hours worked. The math will be done for you when you click.

Section 3.3 covers all staff not covered in 3.1.

Under Salary, if you have two or more people with the same job title, list the number of workers and give a salary range.

Operating Income: you no longer need to give the levy rate; just enter the amount.

Employee Benefit Expenditures: If you have paid staff, the minimum listed will be Social Security.

Section 8: If you have a capital improvements fund, you must list the source of the funds.

Resources: The first question asks about BOOKS. Other material is covered elsewhere.

Services/Yr. Estimates are fine.

State Aid Project. Expenditures must match what you spent from State Aid.

When you are finished, click Status and Printing. You will be taken back to incomplete sections so you can finish them.

To explain the answers click on the little square to the far right of the line. You can then explain the reason for the difference, write “New Format this year”

(Continued on page 4)

One Touch *(Continued from page 3)*
or "Amount is OK"

When you are done, print a copy before submitting.

After submitting you should get a "Congratulations" screen to show it went through. If you don't get the "Congratulations" screen, check for problems, then submit again.

Please watch the tutorial and it will explain much of what is talked about above.

If you need assistance please contact your System consultant or Bonnie at the State Library.

One-Touch Task Force members included Marc Galbraith, Deputy State Librarian; Roy Bird,

Library Services and Technology Act Coordinator; Roger Carswell, Director of SEKLS and Iola Public Library; Carol Barta, System Consultant for NCKLS and Assistant Director of Manhattan Public Library; Pat Clement, Director, Pittsburg Public Library; Kim Priest, Director of Mary Cotton Library, Sabetha; Kay Osthoff, Director of Clay Center Carnegie Library; and Laura DeBaun, Business Manager and Library Services Consultant for NEKLS. We give them a big Thank You.

Have you checked out a puppet kit yet?

SEKLS offers over 50 different puppets, some packaged with related books. This is a great way to give your storytime a jump start. Interlibrary Loan one today!

Assn. for Rural and Small Libraries

Did you know there is an association for libraries just like yours? The mission of the **Assn. for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL)** is to provide a network of people and materials to support rural and small library staff, volunteers, and trustees to integrate the library thoroughly with the life and work of the community it serves.

Carol Barta, CKLS, and Laura DeBaun, NEKLS, were able to attend their conference this year. They came home bubbling about all the on-target things they learned there. They said it was hands-down THE BEST conference they had ever attended. The next one will be in Gatlinburg, Tenn. in Sept. 2009. That's only one state away. Hm...

Grant opportunities

The **We the People Picturing America Bookshelf** is again being offered for readers of all ages. Check out this link for more information

publicprograms.ala.org/bookshelf
Online applications accepted from Sept 2, 2008-Jan 30, 2009.

The Kansas Humanities Council (KHC) announces grant opportunities available to Kansas non-profits in spring, summer, and fall of 2009. Humanities and Heritage grants are designed to connect people with ideas and to strengthen community through book and film discussion series, oral history projects, or museum exhibitions. Grant guidelines can be found at www.kansashumanities.org. Deadlines for grants are: March

6, 2009, June 12, 2009, or October 16, 2009. For more information about Council grants, visit www.kansashumanities.org or call 785/357-0359.

Do you have ideas to create a Green School Library? The Kansas Green Schools Grant Program, developed through a partnership between the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education, is designed to encourage schools to develop creative, innovative, effective environmental projects that improve the environment; make schools a healthier place to learn, play, and work; and save money through reduced use of resources.

Grant projects must address air quality, climate change, solid waste reduction and recycling, or water management

through an integrated holistic approach emphasizing public health or environment-related issues. All school-based program initiatives must include direct environmental benefits and education as components of their integrated approach.

In fiscal year 2009 (July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009), any public or private K-12 school in Kansas may apply for a Green Schools Grant. Grant awards will be for a maximum of \$4,500 per school and will be limited to projects that can reasonably be completed within one school year. Schools must be registered on the Kansas Green Schools Network.

See the Kansas Green Schools Web site for complete program information, grant categories, and deadlines. <http://www.kansasgreenschools.org/kansas-green-schools-grant-program>

AROUND THE SYSTEM

📖 SEK's Head of ILL, **Brenda Cash** is a new Grandmother! She tells us Thomas is the most beautiful boy ever.



📖 **Keila Sherman at Hamilton City Library** reports they received a \$350 grant from the Libri Foundation for children's materials — then another \$350 from Libri for children's math and science materials. This will be a great boost to their Juvenile Collection.

📖 The **Fredonia Public Library Board** did their homework and found they

were woefully under-funded. They successfully asked the City to raise their mill levy and got double the budget they received last year. Congratulations, Fredonia!

📖 **Sedan Public Library** received the Picturing America Grant. **Kathleen McCorkle** says the first five pictures went up at the end of September.

📖 **Labette Community College** will be moving to the Koha integrated library system. **Scotty Zollars** says they will not be joining the SEKnFind Consortium but will have Koha as a stand-alone system.

📖 **Mary Meckley of W. A. Rankin Library** in Neodesha reports their Appreciation Dinner for Friends of the Library and Library Board members was a success. They honor their dedicated volunteers every year.

📖 Noticed in the Iola Register, Oct. 21, 2008 in an article about Thrive Allen County visiting Savonburg. "Savonburg has three big things going in its favor: A community that cares about its youth, a **library that is regarded as the hub of the community** and an active senior citizens group." 👍
Kudos to **Savonburg PL!**

Carol Palsmeier

Carol Palsmeier, Director of Fall River Public Library, passed away November 11, 2008, in Fredonia. She had been ill from cancer for some time but kept up her duties at the Library.



Carol was a loving mother; active in her church; a 4-H leader; and a librarian. She cared about her community and the Library. She knew what her patrons read and made a point to let them know when new materials were available. She worried about the future of the library. She wanted the library to be as important to the children as it has been to their parents. She will be missed by the people of Fall River and SEKLS.

A Note from Iris



Last issue Jamie Prideaux said good bye to all of you. This month I am also saying farewell. Jaime left to take care of her young son. I am retiring December 19.

I have really enjoyed working with the people of SEKLS. I've worked with librarians all over the US in my 35 years of librarianship. Hands down, Kansas librarians are some of the best I know!

When I was young and dumb, fresh caught out of graduate school, I didn't understand what it took to run a small library. I sort of sniffed and didn't think of them as "real" libraries. A real library (whatever that was) would let me specialize and just be a cataloger, or just a reference librarian. Boy! Do I know better now. Rural libraries, especially one-person libraries, are the lifeblood of their communities. Rural librarians are generalists — they can catalog, perform at a storytime, handle the reference desk, whip out a bit of publicity, and go before the Board to discuss the budget, and it's all in day's work. They know their community's needs as well as the reading habits of nearly every patron. Wow! Those are Librarians!

Thank you all for letting me work with you. It's been an honor.



At LARGE

with Diane Stines,
Talking Books/
Special Needs Consultant

Hello! I am Diane Stines the "new" Special Needs Consultant. I am enjoying my job, even though there are days when my head spins with all of the knowledge that is shared with me. As the new consultant, I will not be making too many changes except that I will not be doing the "blog" that Jaime started. She will continue it.

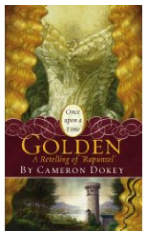
Now let me tell you a little about myself. I was born, raised and educated in the Piqua and Iola area. I have an associates degree from Allen County Community College in business and a Bachelor's degree from Kansas State University in Family and Consumer Sciences with an emphasis in retailing and marketing. Currently I am close to finishing my Master's in Social Gerontology thru the University of Central Missouri at Warrensburg. I also have 20 plus years experience working with the elderly and disadvantaged (socially, economically, physically, and mentally). In these many years of experience, I have helped people become familiar with the Talking Book program, BiFolkal programs, library on-line programs, and many other programs available in their own communities.

I am currently living on a farm with my elderly father near Piqua (hence the dusty car). My family (husband, 27 year old son and 16 year old daughter) resides in Edgerton, which is only about an hour drive from Iola so I can still attend to them as needed. My husband of 34 years is a mill truck driver for McCray Lumber. My son is a computer IT person at Sprint. My daughter, a Junior at Gardner Edgerton High School, is in band and is taking two advanced placement courses. She also throws a mean shot put and discus.

If I can be of service to anyone, just let me know.

Hot Picks

Janet Reynolds of Prairie View High School in LaCygne gives us her Hot Picks. She reports:



The books I can't keep on the shelves this year are part of **The Once Upon a Time Series**, written by several authors, published by Simon Pulse. I have several girls who can't wait to get their hands on the next book. They have actually fought over who got which one next!

One of the girls told me: **"The Once Upon a Time Series** is a good series for young adults because not only does it re-create classic fairy tales, but it uses a good vocabulary to help readers expand theirs. Many people read the 'classics' when they were very young, like Cinderella, Snow White, Sleeping Beauty, etc. However, they can read them again, only the stories have been revised, so that while it is the same tale, it takes different twists and turns, making the story that much more interesting."

Another book that is receiving rave reviews is **"Life as We Knew It"**, by Susan Beth

Pfeffer. It's not a new book, but it was on a list our sophomore English teacher gave and one of the girls chose to read it. She came back telling me what a great book it was: she stayed up late and got up early to read it. Then she recommended it to her Middle School sister who read it and loved it too. That's the kind of thing I like to hear my students tell me.

The series by Scott Westerfeld, **"Uglies"**, **"Pretties"** and **"Specials"** has been very popular this year; as well as the new books by Karen Kingsbury, **"Sunset"** and **"Every Now & Then"**.

My students have a wide variety of favorites. The boys like the graphic novels from the **Marvel Age** series and the **Capstone Graphic Library** series about real people.

STORYTIME SPARKS

Sandy's Corner

by Sandy Wilkerson

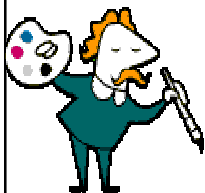


Here are two great storytime ideas for Winter.

January is all about snow and cold, so how about a warm story about a lost mitten and the animals that find it? This puppet kit includes the book, The Mitten by Jan Brett as well as a large white mitten and the 8 animals of the story. Also included with this kit is the DVD of the story. This kit is available to ILL from SEKLS.

Then — How about an old classic? Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak is available in a puppet kit. We have Max and the Wild Things along with the book for your storytime enjoyment! Call ILL to check-out.

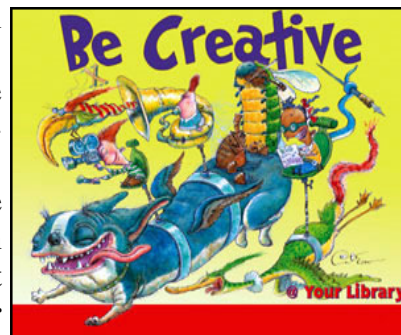
LOOKING FORWARD TO SUMMER?



Mark your calendars for the **Summer Reading Workshop, March 24 in Iola**. Details pending and will be announced in a flyer.

The manuals have been deployed. Have you seen yours?

Be Creative @ Your Library is the 2009 Summer Reading theme. It focuses on the arts: Painting, Drawing, Dancing and Drama. We will be crafting and creating all sorts of fun stuff this summer. The Young Adult theme is **Express Yourself @ Your Library**. Teens all across the region will be discovering their voice.



Are you ready for the fun to start at your library? The performer tour is scheduled for June 22, 23, 29, 30 and July 1st. Due to scheduling conflicts I have split the tour into two weeks and will only be able to allow 15 shows. I will take the first 15 libraries that sign up with me through email, fax, phone or mail.



And who is the featured performer??? **Teresa T, the Magicianess**. She will be sharing her magic show with kids all over SEK land. Call early to book your show.

What are you doing on December 5th? **Independence Community College** has an amazing opportunity for you. Newberry Award winning author, **Lois Lowry** will be presenting a talk on her book trilogy (*The Giver*, *Gathering Blue* and *The Messenger*) beginning at 11:30 AM in the Memorial Hall on campus. A book signing will follow. This is in celebration of the premier of the musical *Gathering Blue* that will be running that weekend. Please contact **Marcel LaFlamme at ICC** for more information. mflamme@indycc.edu.



SEKLS will offer 1 hr of CE to any librarians that attend the talk. Contact Iris Jones at SEKLS to confirm how you will document your attendance. ijones@sekls.org

Did you find the Summer Reading order form?

The glossy order form was tucked inside the Summer Reading Manual. Check the shipping deadlines and turn in your orders in a timely manner for the delivery date you desire.

Sign Up Now For Performers Tour

Magician Teresa T is the featured performer this summer. She will be touring SEKLS land June 22, 23, 29, 30 and July 1st 2009. We are limiting it to 15 libraries this year. Contact Sandy Wilkerson by phone (800.279.3219) or email (swilkerson@sekls.org) to sign up.



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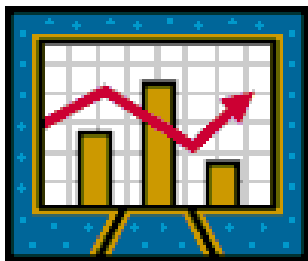


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STACKS OF NEWS



SEKLS CALENDAR



DECEMBER

- 1** Cyberseries: Graphs for Your Annual Report (Savonburg)
- 8** Executive Board (CNB Bank, Iola)
- 9** Social Networking (Humboldt)
- 12** SEKLS Directors Meeting (Chanute)
- 16** Cyberseries: Graphs for Your Annual Report (Independence)

JANUARY

- 12** Genealogy Workshop (Allen CC, Iola)
- 16** Allocation Worksheet deadline
- 26** Genealogy Workshop snow day

