



# Stacks of News

*Stacks of News*  
*Newsletter of the Southeast Kansas Library System*

May-June 2009

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

## New Format for System Meeting

The June system meeting will be held this year on Friday June 5. The format will be a little different than in previous years, in response to your evaluations. We will not have a book fair this year; instead we will be offering a range of continuing

education opportunities for library staff and for trustees. The system will be providing lunch, so please visit the website to register the number from your library who will be staying for lunch, or call us at 800-279-3219. The planned schedule is below.

8:30-9:30 am	Registration: meet SEK staff and mingle		
9:30-10:35 am	<p>Current Koha Users Meeting- <i>A follow-up session to re- view the proposed SEKLS Koha Vision Statement</i></p> <p>Location: Auditorium</p>	<p>Trustee/staff training: <b>Strategic planning</b></p> <p>Karen Tones Andover Public Library Trustee President</p> <p>Location: IHS Library</p>	<p>Using State Databases: <b>Health &amp; Medical</b></p> <p>Bev Troglia Pittsburg Public Library</p> <p>Location: IHS Computer Lab</p>
10:45-11:50 am	<p>Potential Koha Users Meeting- <i>A panel of current consor- tium participants answers questions on how Koha is working for their libraries</i></p> <p>Auditorium</p>	<p>Trustee/staff training: <b>Policies</b></p> <p>Karen Tones Andover Public Library Trustee President</p> <p>IHS Library</p>	<p>Using State Databases: <b>Novelist</b></p> <p>Bev Troglia Pittsburg Public Library</p> <p>IHS Computer Lab</p>
Noon-1:00 pm	LUNCH - Commons Area		
1:00-1:50 pm	<b>System Meeting-Everyone meets together</b> Auditorium		
2:00-3:00 pm	<p>Statewide Courier Update- <i>Roger Carswell reports on the latest news</i></p> <p>Auditorium</p>	<p>Trustee/staff training: <b>Copyright</b></p> <p>Kim Rutter SEKLS</p> <p>IHS Library</p>	<p>Using State Databases: <b>Best of the Rest</b></p> <p>Bev Troglia Pittsburg Public</p> <p>IHS Computer Lab</p>

**DIRECTOR'S CORNER**

BY ROGER CARSWELL



We are now six months into the SEKnFind consortium using the Koha automation system. Eight libraries which had existing catalog records went live in November and December, joined by Savonburg Public Library in February and Howard City Library early in May. Retrospective conversion (creation of catalog records) is underway in Galena Public Library, the last of the initial group of eleven libraries.

We have learned a lot in six months.

- ◆ Details of how the system works that we didn't know about or think about in advance
- ◆ How fast the pace of change and improvement is with Koha
- ◆ That the combination of a shared database and empowering patrons to place holds results in a lot of books being moved around between libraries
- ◆ That patrons really appreciate the possibilities opened up to them
- ◆ That patrons adapt to the new system more readily than library staff
- ◆ That library staff from libraries which have never had an automated system adapt to it more readily than those who are already automated
- ◆ How important good communication and cooperation are for the consortium to function at its best

We are now ready for the next phase, which is to open up the consortium to more members. Happily, the State Library has committed ongoing funding from the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) for automation projects in the seven regional library systems. We recently sent out an invitation to join SEKnFind. Those libraries interested in learning more can attend a session at the June 5 System Meeting.

**STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION**

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# The Amazing Catalogers !

The SEKnFind consortium probably offers libraries in southeast Kansas the least expensive and easiest road to automation that has ever been invented. That is because, through the SEKLS system office, a team of traveling catalogers visits the local library, sometimes for a period of several months, and begins the conversion process from paper catalog to computer catalog. For small libraries with small collections, the cataloging team may be able to convert most of the collection while they are on site at the library. The team may bring boxes of materials back to the SEKLS office to enter the records into the database. Before they leave the library the traveling team trains local library staff on how to catalog their own materials in SEKnFind, and other system staff visit to train on other consortium functions.

The members of this phenomenal team of catalogers from SEKLS are: Sally Huskey, Sue Tucker, Mary Lou Chard, Melissa Sponseller, and Kim Burns.



*Hey you! Wanna get your library automated?*

# Thinking about Libraries

## Talking about books to one another

by Kim Uden Rutter, Library Consultant

I love visiting all the libraries in southeast Kansas. As I get to see all the different ways our libraries are organized it is reassuring to see, as I do at each library, what we all have in common.

we never get to read everything we want: much less everything the library owns.

The most consistent comment I hear is “I just love books” and a lot of our patrons believe that we must have “read all of those books”, but between all the other things we do, we never get to read everything we want: much less everything the library owns.

We can’t read all day, but we can talk about books to each other. Sitting beside someone I didn’t know at a KLA Luncheon, I asked, “What have you been reading lately?” She told me about a wonderful book she’s excited about: *Power, faith, and fantasy: America in the Middle East, 1776 to the present*, by Michael J. Oren. Turns out, pirates off the coast of Africa have helped shape American foreign policy since George Washington’s time. Who knew? We had a great chat before the food was served and I came straight home and checked out the book.

As I was helping to weed in a library recently, I asked the library director what her favorite genre is. She answered immediately, “fantasy”. I love fantasy too, and we had a great discussion of *Harry Potter*, *Eragon*, and her suggestion for something I need to read: *The Thomas Covenant Chronicles* by Stephen Donaldson. I came back to the library and found the first one in the series.

I was talking to another library director about recent book challenges, and he mentioned *And Tango Makes Three* by Richardson. When I discovered that it’s made the top of ALA’s most-challenged books list again this year, I found it on our library shelves and read it (it’s an easy picture book, and doesn’t take long).

Talking about books is so natural for us, and it



**SEKLS is cleaning house and we’re going to get rid of some of our excess good stuff at the June 5 system meeting.**  
**We will have two working microfilm reader/printers, many of our art prints, and many high quality books weeded from the rotation and interlibrary loan collections.**  
**A drawing for the reader/printers will be held at the system meeting in June, but only to members who are present to claim them.**

# AT RISK

with Diane Stines and Beckye Parker,  
Talking Books/ Special Needs Consultants

As many of you already know, I have taken another position and have left SEKLS. I have enjoyed my time spent with all of you. I have met some wonderful people—patrons and employees. I plan on staying in contact and using the library (especially the Special Needs Department) for the patrons at my new place of employment. I was able to train my replacement and she will be a great fit for the program. So for now it's goodbye and keep up the great work. Thank you for all of your help and friendship. *Diane Stines*

Hello! My name is Beckye Parker. I am the new Special Needs Consultant at SEKLS: the position previously held by Diane Stines. I am excited to have the opportunity to work with such a great program. I come from the great state of Oklahoma. I came to Kansas 4 years ago when my husband took

a position with USDA Rural Development in Iola. We have a 19-year-old daughter, Jessica, who lives in Hutchinson and a stepdaughter, Kim, who lives in San Antonio, Texas with my two grandsons, Richard and Kirk.

I received my degree from Oklahoma State University in Stillwater in 1993. Before coming to Kansas I worked for the State of Oklahoma Department of Human Services (SRS in Kansas). My case load included Food Stamp and Medical clients. I also did some outreach. Since coming to Kansas I have worked for the last 3 years for USD 257 with the "At Risk" students at Iola High School. Even though the BPH programs are new to me, I will do my best to help you with your needs. I look forward to meeting everyone and to having a positive working relationship.

## KANSASWORKS

is a summer youth program provided by the federal recovery act. Youth ages 16 through 24 who meet family income guidelines are eligible to work for libraries and other businesses, with the minimum wage of \$6.55 per hour to be paid by KANSASWORKS. Libraries can enroll as worksite partners by contacting the KANSASWORKS Center in Independence, (620) 332-5904. There are three separate offices in southeast Kansas, each with responsibility for a group of counties. The Independence office will direct you to the appropriate office.



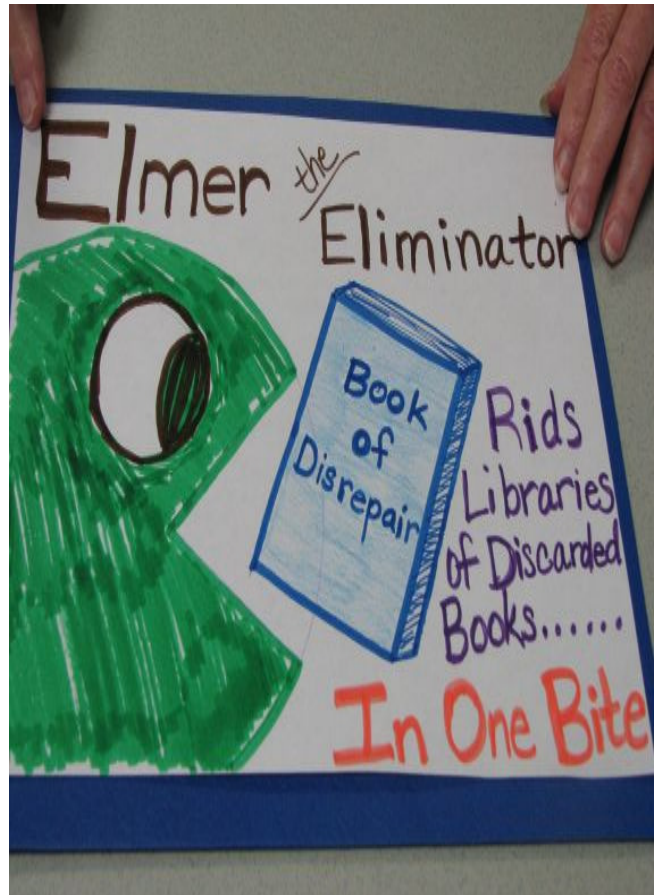
ART FOR THIS ISSUE IS PROVIDED BY  
SEKLS MEMBERS WHO ATTENDED THE  
BE CREATIVE! SUMMER READING  
WORKSHOP MARCH 24.

### Grants for Continuing Education are available

Don't forget that the Executive Board authorized more uses for system CE grants to libraries. Small libraries (those with budgets of \$18,000 per year or less) may apply for grants to cover attendance at SEKLS sponsored events. The grant may pay for wages for a substitute librarian for hours the library is normally open during which the librarian would be attending the CE event, and/or mileage for the librarian to attend.

### ARE YOU A SUCCESSFUL GRANT-WRITER? OR NOT?

In today's tight economy, many libraries who apply for grants don't get their projects funded. Many times, it is not clear why a grant was refused. If you applied for an equipment grant in the most recent cycle of SEKLS competitive grants, and if your application failed, you may request a copy of a few successful grant applications (with all library-identifying information removed, of course), so that you can compare your application with successful ones. Improve your chances next time! Call Kim Rutter at the SEKLS office to request samples of successful grants.



### Be Creative Express Yourself



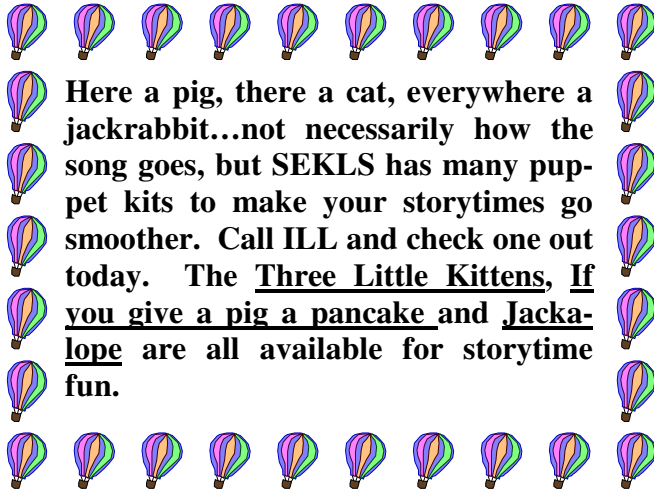
TOP, L to R: Shirley Myers, Cedarvale; Stephanie Stephens, New Strawn; Mary Barker, Lebo; Cathy VanGilder, Columbus; Amelia Hill, Columbus



BOTTOM, L to R: Amanda Teal, Garnett; Leah Oswald, Iola; Monty Harper, Presenter; Nancy Mechling, McCune; Arlene Hasty, Chanute; Susan Galvan, Howard; Cindy Powell, Coffeyville

Just a reminder to all you busy librarians -- **The retirement reception for State Librarian Christie Brandau** is Wed., May 27 from 3 to 4:30 at the State Library. Hope you can join us. Also, an electronic guest book is set up at <http://tinyurl.com/best-wishes-Christie>. Leave her a note!!

# STORYTIME SPARKS



Here a pig, there a cat, everywhere a jackrabbit...not necessarily how the song goes, but SEKLS has many puppet kits to make your storytimes go smoother. Call ILL and check one out today. The Three Little Kittens, If you give a pig a pancake and Jackalope are all available for storytime fun.

## Announcements

The CSLP website has a new look. Check it out today! [www.cslpreads.org](http://www.cslpreads.org)



The top five series at Iola High School, supplied by Marilyn Kipp:

- 1) Stephenie Meyer, The Twilight Saga
- 2) James Patterson, Maximum Ride Series
- 3) Scott Westerfeld, Uglies Series
- 4) Eoin Colfer, Artemis Fowl Series
- 5) David J. Pelzer, A Child Called It Series

## Sandy's Corner

by Sandy Wilkerson



I love summer. I love unlimited sunshine and cold lemonade on a hot afternoon. To me summer means bike rides, popsicles, sandals and summer reading. As a child I always looked forward to the summer reading program. We had all types of readers at our house: the kind that reads for the prize they could receive, the kind that reads to see how many books she can finish by the end of the summer, the kind that reads for money, the kind that only reads tractor books and the kind that doesn't want to read. Guess which one was me? You are right; I was the goody-goody who tried to read as many books as I could. I know one summer I read over 100 books. This summer we will all be painting, singing, dancing and music-making; doesn't that sound like all kinds of fun? I hope you get creative with your younger patrons and enjoy the summer reading theme. Strive to interest all types of readers, even the kind that doesn't want to read. Lure them into the library with an activity and encourage them to try an audio book. Find an incentive that will reach those patrons who need small rewards along the way to keep them reading. You might try to locate a big prize for the end of the summer. Don't forget about including the whole family to support your "read to me" program. As a mom of a toddler, I can tell you that those little ones count too! There are many options out there depending on your community. Search for the ones that work for you and the summer readers might dance right out with smiles on their faces.



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## STACKS OF NEWS



### SEKLS Calendar

#### MAy

**15**SEKnFind Vision committee (Chanute)

**18**Executive Board (Iola)

**19**Koha Explorers (great Bend)

**21**Bibliographic instruction in the academic library (Chanute memorial building)

**25**memorial day

**27**state librarian Christie Brandau's retirement luncheon (Topeka)

#### June