

Special points of interest:

Sept-Oct, 2010

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October is National Reading Group Month

National Reading Group Month is co-sponsored by ALA's *Booklist* and the Women's National Book Association. Each year, ten excellent book choices for adult reading groups are chosen. You can find descriptions of all these books here:

http://www.nationalreadinggroupmonth.org/ggr_selections.html

If a reading group in your library is looking for new suggestions, these books are proven discussion-starters. Or if you have thought that you might like to start a book discussion group at your library, this list or previous years' lists at the site above can get you off to a terrific start.

Great Group Reads

2010 Selections

[*Blame* by Michelle Huneven](#)

[*The Blessings of the Animals* by Katrina Kittle](#)

[*Cheap Cabernet: A Friendship* by Cathie Beck](#)

[*Eternal on the Water* by Joseph Monninger](#)

[*The Girl Who Fell from the Sky* by Heidi W. Durrow](#)

[*Little Bee* by Chris Cleave](#)

[*The Lotus Eaters* by Tatjana Soli](#)

[*Molly Fox's Birthday* by Deirdre Madden](#)

[*The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake* by Aimee Bender](#)

[*The Queen of Palmyra* by Minrose Gwin](#)

[*Room* by Emma Donoghue](#)

[*Safe from the Sea* by Peter Geye](#)

[*Up from the Blue* by Susan Henderson](#)

You'll also enjoy visiting Booklist's free one-stop resource for book groups: Book Group Buzz. This blog is a breezy and informative look at what's going on around the country in book groups:

<http://bookgroupbuzz.booklistonline.com/>



Director's Corner

by Roger Carswell



it's more likely
that both print
and e-formats
will co-exist
over the long
haul

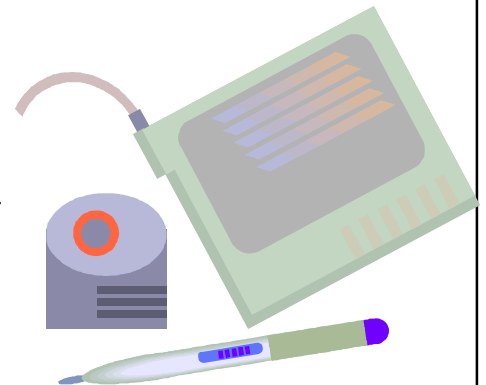
Are you ready for the e-book? Ready or not, to all appearances this is the “next big thing” that will profoundly affect libraries.

As far as I am aware, no SEKLS library currently has any e-book readers, although we have all had access to e-books for several years through “Audio Books, Music and More”. SEKLS currently has an older Kindle which was demonstrated at our “Trends and Toys” session a couple of years ago. We have recently acquired a Nook, a Sony e-Reader, and an iPad which will be available to look at during an e-books session at Westminster Woods next month.

We have been a little slow getting involved with current e-book technology, perhaps informed by our experience from a decade ago. In that first flurry of interest in e-books, we purchased a Rocket Book and a Softbook, gave a short program on them at a system meeting in 2000, and offered to loan them to libraries to explore. But there proved to be little content available, even less public interest, and both companies went bankrupt. I finally threw away both pieces of equipment last year while cleaning my office in preparation for our renovation.

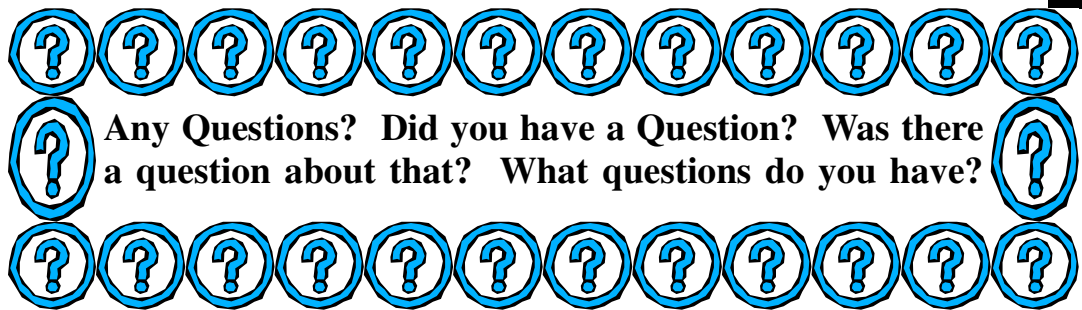
This time, it appears virtually certain that e-books are here to stay and could well remake the landscape for publishers and libraries. I'm not saying print books are likely to go away: certainly not in the next few years. I think it's more likely that both print and e-formats will co-exist over the long haul, with each used in certain circumstances and by certain audiences. Both have some advantages, both have some drawbacks. But I could be wrong, and if so, printed-on-paper books could be like vinyl records before I retire.

I'll write more on the advantages and disadvantages of paper and e-books in the next issue, and what it will take for libraries to remain relevant in the e-book age.



STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

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Any Questions? Did you have a Question? Was there a question about that? What questions do you have?

Below are some of the questions we've had recently for which the answers may be useful to others.

Q. Does the library pay federal unemployment tax and file a Form 940?

A. No, the library only pays the state unemployment tax. Because cities and other units of local government are "political subdivisions of the state", they are exempt from the federal unemployment tax.

Q. Can the library board ask me as librarian to volunteer at different times?

A. No. Under the Fair Labor Standards Act, no employee may volunteer additional time for their employer. Employees may not waive their rights under FLSA even if they want to.

Q. Can the library decide to charge for video and DVD checkouts? We don't mean overdue fines, but charges at check-out time. If we do charge, would that affect any of our funding?

A. There is a Kansas library statute which says "Every library....*shall* [emphasis added] be free to the use of the inhabitants of the municipality". It is not optional, or up to local board policy. The only question raised is what must be provided free; it's generally accepted that such beyond-the-basics services as photocopy charges do not violate this provision. However, I cannot imagine that checkout of materials could ever be considered a service not covered by this provision.

Furthermore, when the regional library systems were established, a state regulation regarding free access was adopted. Libraries do not pay to receive services from the system; the only requirement is that the free service required by law for the inhabitants of the municipality must also be extended to all citizens of the territory of the regional system. That's, in essence, the price paid for being a system member. The language is even clearer in this regulation: to "borrow materials" is specifically cited as what must be free.

The guidelines for SEKLS allocations read "To receive a system allocation or grant, a library must:...2)Comply with all applicable state laws and regulations regarding public libraries; including composition of library board, provision of free library service..." Therefore, a library which charged for borrowing materials would not qualify for a system allocation.

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Beckye's View

by Beckye Parker



The digital Talking Books machine is a big success with half of the patrons now using them. The ease and convenience of the digital machine has inspired patrons to return their cassette machines and just wait on books to come out in the digital format. According to the Kansas Talking Books Library, 3500 cassette books and 2000 digital books were in circulation in August. When you add to that 780 downloaded books, you can see that within months we will have as many digital talking books circulating as talking book cassettes.

The popularity of downloading is growing every month. From only 100 books downloaded in June, the number grew to 780 downloaded in August. We have had successful downloading classes at Pittsburg Public Library and Iola Public Library during the last 3 months, which has helped add to these numbers.

Also helping with the numbers is the Bible. Patrons can now download the Bible onto a flash drive. No more turning cassettes or changing cassettes out. The cassette Bible used by most of our patrons is a seventeen-cassette version. Each cassette has four sides. With the digital downloaded Bible, there is no more cassette turning and users don't have to send back the Bible every three weeks since the downloaded Bible belongs to the patron.


If your library would like to host a Talking Book downloading class and can dedicate two computers for two to three hours; if you would like to have your staff trained; or if you just need more information on downloading Talking Books, please contact Beckye at 1-800 279-3219 or e-mail bparker@sekls.org.

within months
we will have as
many digital
books
circulating as
cassettes



AROUND THE SYSTEM

The newest
employee of
SEKLS is
technology
assistant
Melissa Parker

- # **Iola Public Library** reached a milestone on September 3—the one millionth checkout since Jan. 1, frequent patron, checked item at approximately 10:15am. Confetti bells rang, and noise-makers blew when the Momentarily bewildered viously unsuspecting covered and was all smiles presented to her. Friends provided funds for the gift a 2 gig MP3 player, Book DVDs, gift certificates to A&W and Dairy Queen, a \$2.00 gift certificate to the next Friends of the Library book sale, a T-shirt, munchies, and more. The 1,000,000 checkouts are an IPL-patron-only total; the figure excludes interlibrary loans to other libraries.
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- # **Sedan Public Library** has hired a new director. **Ellen Rushing** will take the place of **Kathleen McCorkle** upon Kathleen's retirement. Ellen originates from Pasadena, Texas where she worked in academic libraries for 32 years before her move to Sedan to be near her parents.
- # The new director of the **Chetopa City Library** is **Tiffany LaPee**. Tiffany became Chetopa's librarian this summer when the previous director, **Amy Wilkinson**, and her family moved out of the area.
- # The newest employee of SEKLS is technology assistant **Melissa Parker**. A native of Allen County, Melissa attended Humboldt schools, and Pittsburg State, before returning to live near family members and to work for us!

Welcome to SEKLS, Ellen, Tiffany and Melissa!!!



Sandy's Corner

by Sandy Wilkerson

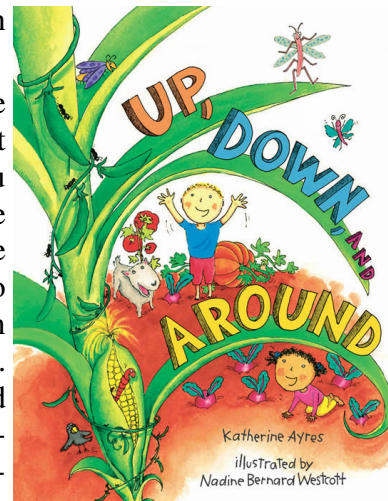


Up, Down and Around is the selection for Kansas Reads to Preschoolers in its sixth year

Fruits, Vegetables and Fun; that is what Kansas Reads to Preschoolers 2010 should focus on this year. The Kansas Center for the Book and the State Library of Kansas are promoting good nutrition and the importance of reading in the Kansas Reads to Preschoolers program on November 15-19, 2010. Katherine Ayres' book *Up, Down and Around* is the selection for the annual event in its sixth year.

Good nutrition is the theme for the week and your story-timers will enjoy activities that have to do with different foods and the food groups. Have you tried a food tasting? It doesn't have to be far-out foods: just have the children eat a bite of apple or banana and then name the fruit. Planting seeds doesn't have to be reserved for spring; this story would be a perfect introduction to planting beans in a cup.

Take a look at the website <http://www.kcfb.info>. The toolkit will soon be filled with ideas you can use with your preschoolers. The website also lists many read-alike books. These titles can be used to supplement your storytime with other great stories about nutrition. Nutrition is a very broad topic and food always interests young children. Have fun with your preschoolers and try something nutritious in November!



Participants in the recent **Healthy Kids Workshop** at **Parsons Public Library** took away awesome goody bags for their libraries. The activity kits included a variety of plush vegetable and fruit toys, colorful cones and scarves for active play and dancing, felt packs and beads for crafts, and a large basket of plastic fruits and vegetables for pretend play. It was a rewarding day for everyone. The workshop was sponsored by the **United Methodist Ministry Fund**, the **State Library of Kansas**, and **SEKLS**.

Read for the Record in October!

Thursday, October 7, 2010 is the day to Read for the Record. This year's selection is Ezra Jack Keats' *The Snowy Day*. Begun in 2006 Jumpstart's Read for the Record is a world-wide endeavor to bring children and librarians, teachers, parents, daycare providers and others who will read the same book, on the same day and discover the power and importance of reading. Last year, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle was read to over 2 million children on the same day all around the world.

For more information visit the website: www.readfortherecord.org



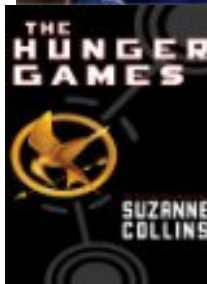
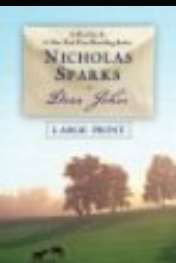
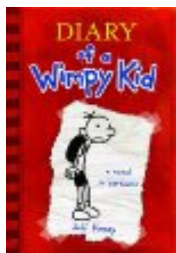
Storytime Sparks

Nuts to You! is a wonderful storytime kit to use in the fall. It includes a squirrel with a nut, as well as the story of the same name by Lois Ehlert. Preschoolers can mimic the squirrel's actions to increase their physical activity; librarians can talk about seeds and how a small acorn produces the mighty oak. Email to borrow this wonderful story today. sekill@sekl.com.



Top Five for YAs

1. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series by Jeff Kinney
2. *Twilight* series by Stephanie Meyer
3. *Dear John* and *The Last Song* by Nicholas Sparks
4. *A Child Called It* and *Lost Boy* by Dave Pelzer
5. *The Hunger Games* series by Suzanne Collins



Submitted by:

MJ Dent, Girard High School and Girard Middle School

