

KANSAS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION REPORT

The Kansas Library Association has hired their first-ever paid Executive Director to oversee the operation of the organization. Roseanne Goble has served as the Director of the Dodge City Public Library and the Southwest Kansas Library System since 1998. She has also worked as the consultant for that system as well as a children's librarian. She will direct KLA from their new office in the Topeka/Shawnee County Public Library. Prior to this, the organization's administrative functions were handled by contract with the Hutchinson Public Library.

The College and University Library Section (CULS) conference will be held October 10-11 at the Holidome in Salina. The theme for this year's event is "The Art of Change through Collaboration, Unity, Learning, and Service." The program includes the preconference "Collection Development Using Vendor Databases and Services" and a keynote address by Dr. Jerry Niebaum, Planning Coordinator for the KAN-ED Project on "The Future Has Changed: Challenges for Higher Education."

The next Kansas Triconference (Kansas Library Association, Kansas Association of School Libraries & Kansas Association for Educational Communications and Technology) will be held April 9-11 in Salina. Program proposals are due by November 1. More information is available at the web site at <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/KLA/>.

The Kansas State Library has launched a new project on library services to seniors. It will target those in their 50's-70's who are still active and vigorous as well as those who have had their health and lifestyle affected by old age. Tentative plans call for the project to canvass libraries for existing services geared toward older patrons and to create a website that will include active links to information and resources that librarians can access to better serve seniors. Plans also call for a preconference at Triconference 2004 as well as other training events as requested by individual libraries and systems.

The Kansas Children's Forum, a group of children's librarians and consultants from the regional library system and the Kansas State Library, is sponsoring young adult workshops for librarians at five locations throughout the state. Patrick Jones, author of *Connecting Young Adults and Libraries, Do It Right: Best Practices for Serving Young Adults in School and Public Libraries*, and *Running a Library Card Campaign Connecting Young Adults and Libraries: A How-to-Do-It Manual*, will be the workshop presenter. Jones runs <http://Connectingya.com>, a firm dedicated to consulting, training, and coaching to provide powerful youth services, including library card campaigns and web projects. He was the Youth Services Coordinator for the Houston (TX) Public Library when it planned, developed, and implemented the award-winning Power Card Challenge program to register every child for a library card, and ASPIRE, the after-school program for at-risk middle school children which was named by YALSA as one of the top five programs in the nation serving young adults. Workshop dates are November 18, (Salina), November 19 (Liberal), November 20 (Quinter) November 21 (Topeka) November 22 (Neodesha).

The Kansas Library Network Board is one of eight institutional partners in a project to digitize murals in Kansas. With funds from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Kansas Arts Commission, the project seeks to raise awareness of the murals, some of which are not well known to the public. There are currently more than 350 public art works available in digital form on the project web site at: <http://www.kansasmurals.org>.

The Network Board also recently received approval to pursue a statewide virtual reference pilot project. The goals of the project are to test whether a sustainable, statewide consortium for real-time, online reference service via the Internet can be successfully created among Kansas libraries and other institutions and to assess the effectiveness of such a service in meeting the informational needs of online patrons. The plan is available at: <http://www.skyways.org/KSL/KLNB/KLNBapprovedVRplanweb.htm>

The Institute of Continuing Education (ICE) at the School of Library and Information Management, Emporia State University, is sponsoring the second Food for Thought professional development seminar and book discussion. The topic is "Turning to One Another: Simple Conversations to Restore Hope to the Future," by Margaret J. Wheatley. Food for Thought provides an opportunity for those associated with the library profession to share ideas over lunch

and through discussion groups. The schedule for this seminar includes a dutch-treat lunch followed by group discussions. This program will be held on October 24 from 1:00 pm - 4:15pm at Room 319F White Library preceded by lunch at Merchant Street Barbeque, 607 Merchant St. from 11:30-1. The registration fee is \$15 and online registration is available at: <http://slim.emporia.edu/forms/ice/reg.cfm>.