

KANSAS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

April 8, 2000

TO: MPLA Board

FROM: Patti Butcher, Kansas Representative

Kansas State Library

The Kansas State Library automated its catalog and circulation process in 1999. The catalog is actually a combined collection incorporating the holdings of several Topeka libraries: Supreme Court Library, Kansas State Historical Society Library, Washburn University libraries, Menninger Foundation library, and Stormont-Vail Medical library. The combined catalog is named ATLAS, and is available on the web at <http://lib.wuacc.edu/search>.

The Library Development section of the state library, along with children's and youth librarians across Kansas have joined together in a campaign to promote the importance of reading—"I Love to Read: Kansas Libraries Help Families Raise Readers". The material includes "I Love to Read" Activity Guides, brochures and stickers.

March 31 marked the end of one of the state library's most successful partnerships, that of John Howell (Boeing Company) as a Loaned Executive working with communities and libraries across Kansas to develop local web sites. John and his wife Susan traveled thousands of miles, took hundreds of photos, taught countless HTML and web classes, and worked with Blue Skyways to enhance the Communities section on the web site. Their work can be viewed at <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/towns/>

As of this date, the fate of several initiatives in the Legislature is unknown. One proposal, KAN-ED, would fund a high-speed network for schools and libraries to support Internet access and distance learning. Part of the proposal includes additional monies for database purchases targeted to school children.

The future of funding support for public libraries is also unclear. Last year libraries gained an increase in state grant-in-aid money, with the promise of continued increases over three more years. That commitment is in doubt, until the end of the session.

Kansas Library Association

KLA will celebrate its 100th anniversary on April 13, 2000 with a Centennial Celebration. As of March 29, the association has almost reached its goal of 1500 members this year--membership stood at 1407. This is nearly double the membership in past years.

Money raised from a Centennial Quilt will form the basis for an endowment fund, which in the future will help with costs associated with a full-time association director/lobbyist.

The KPLACE Roundtable (a division of KLA) will host a two-day Fall Conference on Sept. 19-20 in Wichita. South Central Kansas Library System is the co-host.

The first Michael L. Printz Award went to author Walter Dean Myers, for excellence in literature for young adults. The award is administered by YALSA, and sponsored by Booklist magazine. It honors the late Michael L. Printz, a Topeka (KS) school librarian known for discovering and promoting quality books for young adults.

School of Library and Information Management (SLIM), Emporia State University

The American Library Association Committee on Accreditation announced on January 17, 2000, that Emporia State University School of Library and Information Management (SLIM) has been fully reaccredited. The letter stated in part "The Committee recognizes the faculty's diversity and research productivity. In addition, COA notes that the School demonstrates a sustained commitment to involving all constituencies in the planning processes; and, the design of the distance learning component of the MLS program produces student cohorts that operate in a highly supportive and successful manner." The next comprehensive review is schedule for Fall, 2004. The school will continue to submit annual statistical reports and biennial narrative reports to COA.

Kansas Libraries in the News

Wichita—The Forrest C. Lattner Foundation awarded \$50,000 to children's services at Wichita Public Library. The National Endowment for Humanities will match the gift with \$16,666, making the total contribution \$66,666. The money continues a pattern of support from the

Lattner Foundation, and is used to improve resources available to some 35,000 children who visited the library last year.

The Gates Foundation is providing two grants totaling \$98,000. One portion, \$35,650 of the grant, will provide funds for a computer training lab at the Central Library. The second grant will purchase 24 computers to be spread throughout six of the branch libraries in most need of technology.

An additional grant from the Fred. C. and Mary R. Koch Foundation will fund a computer network training academy. This grant will utilize the new computer lab to train low-income students to become certified computer network technicians. CISCO Systems and Communities in Schools are partners in this academy.

The other news from Wichita is the announcement of retirement this summer by Richard Rademacher, director of libraries for the city of Wichita for 24 years. Rademacher reflected on the many changes in librarianship during his career. His remarks are available in full at <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/KSL/admin/KLIB0400.pdf>.