

Kansas Library Association
Mountain Plains Library Association Report July, 2005
Submitted by Susan Moyer, KLA Representative to MPLA

No Matter What by Debi Gliori has been chosen for the "Kansas Reads...to Preschoolers," One Book, One State project. This program of the Kansas State Library was created to highlight the importance of reading to children, and also to highlight the library as a renewable resource of reading material. The goal is that every Kansas child between the ages of 0 – 5 (all 226,453 of them!) will be read to during National Children's Book Week, November 14 – 20, 2005. Governor Kathleen Sebelius is the honorary chair of the project. A website is currently under construction for the "Kansas Reads" project at www.kansasreadstokids.org. This site will eventually include reproducible bookmarks and posters; information about the book and the author; ideas for story times and programs based on the book; tips for reading to children; etc.

The Kansas Center for the Book (KCFB) has been transferred from the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library to the Kansas State Library. A ribbon-cutting for KCFB's new home at the State Library is scheduled for Wednesday, September 14, at 2:00 p.m. Governor Kathleen Sebelius, John Y. Cole of the Library of Congress Center for the Book, and Jonathan Holden, Kansas Poet Laureate have been invited. As part of a three-pronged approach to participation in and funding for the Center, the State Library is inviting individual librarians, authors, booksellers, educators and others involved in literacy, reading promotion, and literary efforts in Kansas to join the Fellows of the KCFB. The Fellows will provide a pool of volunteers for the newsletter and other projects under way or contemplated in the future. First among these will be "Letters About Literature" a program for readers in grades 4-12 held in cooperation with the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress and Target Stores.

The potential merger of the Kansas Library Network Board and the State Library Advisory Commission moved forward with a meeting of the KLNB/SLAC Merger Task Force on June 15. At that meeting, the group formed recommendations as to the function of the combined board, including the research and development emphasis of the KLNB, terms of service, and library representation. A formal proposal regarding the merger will be presented to the Network Board at its next meeting on September 1, 2005.

State Librarian Christie Brandau recently called two statewide summits, one on continuing education and one on resource sharing. Each resulted in the creation of a series of task forces to study particular issues within their topics including:

- Resource Sharing: content, delivery, interface, statewide catalog & ILL, marketing, KANAnswer and digitization.
- Continuing Education: scope & sequence, coordination, administration & marketing, statewide certification program, delivery modes, and future trends in library use and training.

Patti Butcher, Library Development Coordinator for the Northeast Kansas Library System since 1997, and long-time MPLA member was appointed South Carolina State Librarian, effective July 1, 2005. Patti served NEKLS and the Kansas library community with intelligence, dedication, and good humor for more than 10 years. About her new position, Patti said: "I am really excited about the possibilities waiting in South Carolina. The state library board and current state librarian, Jim Johnson, have worked very hard to increase state support for public libraries. Visibility of libraries in the state is at an all-time high. While I regret having to leave Kansas in order to pursue this opportunity, I am hopeful that I will find an equally wonderful group of librarians, trustees and friends to work with in South Carolina. Working with Kansas librarians has been a great joy and honor!"

In other people news:

- David L. Leamon, Director of the Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library, retired at the end of June. During his tenure in Topeka, Leamon was instrumental in assisting the Board with the 1992 referendum issue that was passed by Shawnee County and Topeka voters to combine city/county support for the library.

He also worked closely with the Board and the community in seeking a \$23 million bond issue for the purpose of expanding and remodeling the library. The new building tripled the size of the library to 178,000 square feet complete with 10 meeting rooms, 175 public computers with Internet service, the Millennium Café, the Chandler Booktique with used books and new gifts, the Alice C. Sabatini Gallery for art, and a children's and teen library five times larger than before.

- Dennis Wilson, MPLA Leadership Institute alum, has announced his resignation as Director of the Southwest Kansas Library System to pursue his new position as Director of the Hedberg Public Library in Janesville, Wisconsin. Dennis is set to take the helm of HPL on August 22.
- Kim Patton, Young Adult Specialist at the Lawrence Public Library, has been appointed to the 2005-2006 Coretta Scott King Award Jury and Tabitha Hogan, Youth Services Librarian at the Arkansas City Public Library, has been appointed to the 2005-2006 Caldecott Medal Award Jury. Patton has been employed at the LPL since 1990 and is a member of the Young Adult Library Service Association (YALSA) Quick Picks for Young Adults Committee, which chooses the best books for reluctant teen readers. Hogan has been employed at ACPL since 2002 and is also an MPLA member.

The School of Library and Information Management (SLIM), Emporia State University, is expanding its distance education program in Portland, Oregon to allow students to start the Master of Library Science degree program every summer. Classes are held at Portland State University in a program that began in 1994 and that has seen nearly 300 residents of the Pacific Northwest earn their MLS degrees.