

ST-3

Kansas Library Association
Mountain Plains Library Association Report, January 24, 2004
Submitted by Susan Moyer, KLA Representative to MPLA

The Kansas Library Association has identified its legislative priorities for the upcoming session that begins in January. It includes the recurring items for full funding for the KAN-ED program and an increase in state funding for public libraries. Among the new items is the renewal of the exemption for patron records from open records scrutiny which sunsets this year and support for Smart Start, an early childhood literacy project.

The KLA Legislative Committee has also been working with the Attorney General's office and individual legislators to develop a palatable proposal regarding Internet content filtering. It will likely have some connection to a library's eligibility for state funding and the extent of the restriction will likely be the key issue. KLA, in an effort to be both proactive and responsible to its constituency, is opting for a CIPA-like restriction that would prevent an "unfiltered" library from utilizing state money for Internet-related projects.

In December of 2003, the Kansas State Library renewed its contract with LivePerson, Inc. for another year of service to KANAnswer, the statewide virtual reference library collaborative. More details about KanAnswer are available at the website <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/KSL/KLNB/KANAnswerWeb/>.

The Kansas State Historical Society Western Trails Web site is now up and functioning. The Historical Society digitized photographs, printed materials, and maps that document several facets of transportation across Kansas. The site includes online collections ("Railroads and Immigration" and "The Advent of Automobiles"), photograph collections ("Alexander Gardner, Across the Continent on the Union Pacific Railroad, Eastern Division" - stereographs showing the Union Pacific Railway, Eastern Division's progress across Kansas and "L.W. Halbe Collections" - photographs documenting the change from horses to horsepower in the small agricultural community of Dorrance, Kansas) and printed pamphlets, maps, etc. pertaining to immigration, automobiles and roads: <http://www.kshs.org/research/collections/documents/online/westertrails/index.htm>

Kanguard, the Internet content filtering service, made its public debut in December 2003. The State Library, in cooperation with the Northeast Kansas Library System (NEKLS), and with assistance from technical staff of the Kansas Regional Library Systems, sponsors this free service to public libraries in the state as a low-cost option to help them comply with the Children's Online Protection Act (CIPA). The product is being promoted as reliable, low maintenance, easily disabled or reactivated by library staff, minimally disruptive to the user's online work, and available to the library at no charge. It is also said to have no negative effect on the performance of the library's computer, uses decisions on site blocking made by Kansas librarians, and meets the technology protection measure requirement of CIPA. For more information see: <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/KSL/libtech/kanguard/>

Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius encouraged state employees in Topeka and Shawnee County to participate in the countywide reading program, "On the Same Page" sponsored by the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library. State employees, led by staff from the Kansas State Library, were community partners in this project. Governor Kathleen Sebelius said, "I have always enjoyed reading and am very excited to see 'On the Same Page' get under way in Shawnee County."

Kansas welcomes an experienced and accomplished young adult novelist, Jane Kurtz, to its ranks of authors. Although her setting of choice is not Kansas but Ethiopia—she spent her childhood there and has written both fiction and nonfiction books about that east African country—her exciting fast-paced writing style and skillful characterization will certainly make her as popular here as she is nationally, and internationally. Her latest work is *Saba: Under the Hyena's Foot*. It is part of the American Girl's series called *Girls of Many Lands*. *Saba*, which is also the name of the main character, is set in Ethiopia in 1846. This title is available from education wholesalers and Amazon.com and is recommended for upper elementary, middle school and high school library media centers and young adult collections in public libraries.

KAN-ED's new network infrastructure, aka KAN-ED Live!, brought the JASON Project to classrooms throughout the state on January 13. JASON is uniquely structured to utilize distance learning technology to engage science and mathematics educators and students in world class learning experiences locally. This month, the Kansas JASON Project and KAN-ED hosted an interactive webcast designed to inform the educational community, parents, and the general public about JASON through a very powerful and effective collaborative learning program. The JASON Project began as the dream of Dr. Robert Ballard, the scientist and oceanographer who discovered the wreck of the RMS Titanic in 1986. Dr. Ballard believed that enabling students and their teachers to do field work from the classroom was a powerful concept. The JASON Project was born on the basis of this idea and has since grown into the world's premier real-time science teaching and learning program. <http://www.jasonproject.org/>. The Kansas JASON Project offers students and teachers in grades 4 through 9 a comprehensive, multimedia approach to enhance teaching and learning in science, technology, math, geography, and language arts. The project delivers its educational content through a print curriculum, videos, fully interactive Internet programming, and live satellite "telepresence" broadcasts. <http://webs.wichita.edu/facsme/jason.htm> .

The School of Library and Information Management (SLIM), Emporia State University, has announced its intention to start a second Master of Library Science degree program in Idaho with classes to start in Boise in the fall semester of 2004. The first program began in the fall of 2001 and will graduate ten students this May. The Idaho State Library sponsors the program and hosts the class meetings.

SLIM also recently welcomed four visiting faculty members from three universities in Nigeria as part of its ongoing Nigeria Project. The project which is funded by a 3 year-grant from the U.S. State Department was originally scheduled to end in June 2003, but is now in its 4th and final year after a one year extension.

The exchange visitors included Professor Matthew Ajibero, who is University Librarian at the University of Ilorin, Nigeria. Professor Ajibero serves as coordinator of the project in Nigeria and previously visited SLIM in the spring of 2001. The others are Mallam Abdullahi Ibrahim Musa, assistant professor at Ahmadu Bello University in Zaria; and Mallam Sani Gwarzo and Mr. Ezra Gbaje who are assistant professors and information technology lab managers at Bayero University, Kano and Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria respectively.

Per SLIM, the Nigeria Project has had a significant impact on the international component of the Master of Library Science degree program curriculum at Emporia State. All students are required to take at least one class that addresses the international nature of the information society. The project has also been instrumental in the establishment of information technology laboratories in the three Nigerian schools, thanks to the donation of used computers by SLIM. The visiting faculty members undertake technology training while here and incorporate what they learn from the classes as well as visits to U.S. public, academic, and special libraries, particularly electronic information services, into the Master of Library Science programs in their home schools.