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

The College and University Libraries Section (CULS) of KLA will conduct their Summer Institute on August 2 at Kansas State University. The program title is "Copyright in the Digital Age" and will feature Dr. Laura Gasaway, a nationally recognized authority on copyright law.

The 2005 Tri-conference is scheduled for March 30-April 1, 2005 in Overland Park (Kansas City). The Trustee/Friends day sponsored by the Kansas Library Trustees Association and the Friends of Kansas Libraries is set for the 30th and will feature the themes trustee recruitment and orientation (KLTA) and library advocacy (FOKL)

Kansas is preparing to bid farewell to State Librarian Duane Johnson who is retiring at the end of this month after more than twenty years of service. Johnson will be honored at a reception on July 26th at the Kansas State Historical Society by his many friends and colleagues.

The Kansas State Library has launched a strategic planning initiative entitled "Kansas Libraries' 20/20 Potential." It will include a series of meetings throughout the state where librarians, trustees and library advocates can participate in the evaluation of current statewide services and provide input to help build a better vision of future services.

Two databases have been added to the list of online resources available to Kansas Library Card users. Grove Art Online presents the entire text of The Dictionary of Art and Grove Music Online includes the full text of The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians, The New Grove Dictionary of Opera and The New Grove Dictionary of Jazz. The databases are licensed for one year to test user demand.

A committee is currently reviewing and revising the state public library standards. Last updated in 2000, the new "Measurements of Quality: Standards for Kansas Public Libraries" should be released in 2005.

Ann O'Neill has been named as the new Dean of the School of Library and Information Management at Emporia State University. She takes the reins from interim dean Diane Bailiff. O'Neill will be in charge of the school's upcoming reaccreditation, a task with which she is familiar in her former position as Director of Accreditation for the American Library Association.

A new collaboration between the University of Kansas Audio-Reader Network and Kansas Talking Books will make more books, especially regional publications, accessible to the blind and visually impaired. During the past several months, Audio-Reader has provided 17 books recorded by Audio-Reader volunteers for Talking Books, including My Times, My Town by Walt Bodine and The Slow Air of Ewan MacPherson by Thomas Fox Averill. Audio-Reader volunteers record books that are not available through the Talking Books Service.

Dennis Wilson, a graduate of the first MPLA Leadership Institute at Ghost Ranch, has been named as the Director of the Southwest Kansas Library System. In addition, Paul Hawkins was named as the new Director of the South Central Kansas Library System earlier this year.