

# System Scene

The Newsletter of the Southwest Kansas Library System

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February 2006

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## Calendar

Executive Board Meeting,  
March 10, Ashland

Summer Reading Workshop  
March 17, Dodge City

Tri-Conference  
Wichita, April 5-7

Spring Assembly  
(Full Board Meeting)  
Dodge City, April 21

KPLACE  
Emporia, May 15-18

## From the Director's Desktop...

by Emily Sitz

The Kansas Library Association's Legislative Day 2006 was held on February 16<sup>th</sup>. This year's theme was "Kansas Libraries: Lighting the Way to the Future". Several librarians from Southwest joined colleagues in Topeka to talk with their legislators about important library issues.

The vehicle used to communicate priority legislative issues is the "Push Card", a handy 3.5x11 card which lists each issue with a brief description. The push card for Legislative Day was developed by members of KLA's Governmental Affairs Committee. Volunteers delivered the push card and, this year, a small reading light to legislators prior to the Legislative Day.

You may have seen the push card or you may be familiar with our priorities for 2006. A request for funding for Grants-in-Aid (state aid) for local public libraries continues to be a priority and once again found a place on the push card. KLA supported the State Library of Kansas' enhancement package requests including enhanced funding for the Talking Books program, funding for online databases offered through the Kansas Library Card, important staff positions at the State Library of Kansas and funding to assist in automating small public libraries in Kansas.

The need for sufficient education funding to ensure that K-12 children have the necessary school libraries and licensed school media specialist is considered to be a legislative priority. Another education-related item, support for the State Library enhancement request for Tutor.com was also included on the push card. Tutor.com "connects students with expert tutors live via the web" to assist with the study of core subject areas. We hope to be talking a lot more about Tutor.com in the future!

Legislative support for the merger of the State Library Advisory Commission and the Kansas Library Network Board is being sought in order to provide for "more efficient and effective library operation and networking statewide."

While not included on the push card, support for stable funding for KAN-Ed's statewide broadband network was requested.

Kansas Library Association's Legislative Day is an annual event. It is a well-organized opportunity for librarians, library board members, library friends and patrons to meet with their legislators and let them know what is important to the library community. However, as Governmental Affairs Committee Co-Chair Pat Gaunce reminded participants in Topeka, advocating for libraries is a 365 day-a-year job.

# Southwest Kansas Library System Technology Grants

Starting in 2006 the Southwest Kansas Library System has budgeted \$25,000 for technology grants available to qualifying public libraries. The grants are divided into two types, Major Grants and Tech-Express Grants. Grant funds can be used to purchase items such as computers, fax machines, scanners, firewalls, wireless, CD/tape cleaning machines, digital cameras, printers, hubs, switches, routers, TVs, VCRs, DVD players, wiring, projector, telephone, copier, external storage devices, CD towers, video conferencing equipment, and software.

**Major Grant** – The Major Grant is intended to help public libraries in taxing counties and those libraries who contract for two or more services, one service being Consulting, purchase technology by providing a matching grant up to 50% or \$1,000. The first round of grants will be open March 1 – 31, 2006 and the second round will be open September 1- 30, 2006. Public libraries can receive only one Major Technology grant per year. Awards will be based on first come, first served with ½ the available money awarded each grant period. If a library applies for the first round and is not funded, the library must resubmit the application during the second round if the library desires that the technology still be purchased. The committee will not hold grant applications and carry them forward into the next round. Awards will be announced at the Spring and Fall Assemblies.

**Tech-Express Grants** – The intention of the Technology Grant Committee is to provide support to as many public libraries as possible with the funds available. Tech Express Grants are limited to \$250, do not require a cash match and are distributed on a first come, first served basis. SWKLS will purchase anti-virus software for each public library in a taxing county and each library which contracts for two or more services, with one service being Consulting. There are two categories of Tech Express Grants: Emergency and Non-emergency.

**Emergency Grants** – The Technology Supervisor for SWKLS can award Emergency funds to public libraries in taxing counties or those who contract for two or more services, one service being Consulting, without the consent of the committee. All emergency awards will be presented to the committee at the monthly meeting.

**Non-emergency Grants** – Non-emergency requests will be reviewed and granted monthly by the committee.

For more information on these grants or to print the guidelines or application, visit the Southwest Kansas Library System web site at [www.swkls.org](http://www.swkls.org) and click on the Technology Grants link.

## Kansas Library Conference April 5-7 in Wichita

Tri-Conference, the annual conference of the Kansas Library Association (KLA), Kansas Association of School Librarians (KASL), and Kansas Association for Educational Communications and Technology (KAECT), will be held at Century II in Wichita April 5 through 7.



Alan November will be the keynote speaker at the General Session Thursday morning. November is recognized internationally as a leader in education technology. As practitioner, designer, and author, Alan has guided schools, government organizations and industry leaders as they plan to improve quality with technology.

November is well known for applying his humor and wit to inspire others to think about applying technology to improve learning. His areas of expertise include information and communication technology, planning across the curriculum, staff development, long-range planning, building learning communities and leadership development. November was co-founder of the Stanford Institute for Educational Leadership Through Technology and is most proud of being selected as one of the original five national Christa McAuliffe Educators.

The conference schedule, as well as registration information, is available at <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/tricon/2006/index.html>.

## CE Grants Available

Have you applied for a Continuing Education Grant to attend Tri-Conference? Application forms are available on the System's website [www.swkls.org](http://www.swkls.org). Click on "Forms" to find the application forms and criteria for eligibility. Those who have not attended Tri-Conference before are given first priority for these grants. KPLACE attendees are also encouraged to apply. Please submit your application as soon as possible (by March 10 if you can). Applications will be reviewed during March and checks for Tri-Conference grants will be distributed in April.

## Interlibrary Loan – Beyond Kansas

Southwest Kansas library patrons received 584 items from OCLC in 2005. How many of those went to your patrons?

OCLC stands for the Online Computer Library Center in Dublin, Ohio. This is a worldwide database of all materials cataloged on OCLC. The System Interlibrary Loan department can request these materials for those libraries that use our Interlibrary Loan Service.

Don't forget if an ILL request comes back unfilled on AGent, that you can send it on to the System Headquarters to be requested out-of-state. Or perhaps you couldn't find the item on AGent. All of these can be sent to the System to be requested on OCLC and we will see if we get the item for your patron. Almost any format can be requested, from books to cassettes, CD's to DVD's, or photocopies.

When something comes back as unfilled on AGent, delete anything that is in the "Lender's List" and send it on to us by adding "KKV, 4," and approve the request. Or if you prefer, send the request via email to [ill@swkls.org](mailto:ill@swkls.org). Just put one request per email and make sure you add your library's mailing address.

Let's make sure we try to fill all of **\*your\*** library patron's requests! If you have any questions, contact Patti by phone at 1-800-657-2533, or via email at [ill@swkls.org](mailto:ill@swkls.org).

## SWKLS Welcomes New Staff Member

Janelle Jarboe joined the System staff in February as Assistant Technology Consultant/Trainer. A Lakin native, Janelle's first library work experience was as a library aide in high school and college. She earned a degree in Computer Information Systems at Kansas Wesleyan University in Salina. Janelle comes to us from Finney County, where she worked 3½ years as system administrator.

In addition to some on-site work in member libraries, Janelle has been keeping busy preparing for web cam training in March. She is looking forward to visiting the libraries and getting acquainted with librarians and staff.

### Summer Reading Workshop

March 17, 2006

Dodge City Public Library

Presented by Joyce Slater, Storyteller

Please contact Tandy at 800-657-2533 to register.

## Lions and Tigers and Bears

... and lizards and parrots and dogs. Animals of all shapes and sizes are the focus of the summer reading theme Paws, Claws, Scales and Tales!

Would some of the wonderful Folkmanis animal puppets help you implement the summer reading theme in your library? SWKLS would like to help you get a good deal on these great puppets. You can order them from [www.puppetjungle.com](http://www.puppetjungle.com) for a 20% discount and free shipping on orders over \$60. **Or**, we will send in the order for you and, depending on the response, get an additional 5% discount! To be included in our order, browse the website below and come to the Summer Reading Workshop on March 17 with the list of puppets you want us to order. We will distribute the puppets at Spring Assembly and other convenient opportunities. We will bill your library when the puppets are delivered.

## DVDs Coming Your Way!

The Bookmobile will be delivering its new DVD collection to participating libraries beginning in March. The collection was started with year-end 2005 funds and, while it is still relatively small (we anticipate your first delivery will be 7-8 DVDs) it will be growing each month. The collection contains a wide variety of materials, from family fare to R-rated movies. Each library will determine whether they wish to circulate the R-rated materials. Because security systems vary from library to library, the System has developed circulation procedures to protect the materials from theft. The process will be reviewed at upcoming System meetings as well as upon delivery of the first set of DVDs to libraries.

## Kansas Statewide Library Services in 2010 – The State Vision

“In one search... books, articles, images, video, audio and more...Statewide online card catalog with real time holding information and self-initiated interlibrary loan.”  
Christie Brandau, State Librarian.

This is the vision of the State Library of Kansas. How can we make this happen? The first step is to strengthen the KLC (Kansas Library Catalog). Of the 325 public libraries, only 156 are automated. The goal of the State Library is to increase the number of automated libraries to at least 80%. To assist in achieving this goal, LSTA funds for three or four years will be dedicated to automating public libraries on a regional basis. In 2006, \$150,000 will be available to the seven regional library systems to automate public libraries within their regional boundaries. In southwest Kansas there are 39 public libraries. Currently 26 public libraries are automated. Seven libraries have been identified as potential candidates for automation.

Of the 26 automated libraries, 22 are using Athena software. Athena is a “dead technology”. This means that Athena has been replaced by InfoCentre and will not be updated in the future. There will be no enhancements or in all likelihood any problems fixed. It is recommended that Athena libraries migrate to a different automation system in the next three years.

On February 10, librarians from 27 libraries attended a demonstration of Auto-Graphics’ Verso automation system. After the demonstration, these libraries consulted on various features of Verso and filled out a questionnaire about Verso and the library’s plans for automation or migration. There were many features that libraries liked on Verso such as federated search capability, being connected to Agent, having everything on one screen, and the ASP model. Features that libraries liked least were depending on the Internet (ASP model), no item history, screens were too busy, and the price. The features mentioned as lacking were the ability to print barcodes and item status history. There were 12 libraries that planned to automate or migrate in the next three years and eight others did not have plans but were interested. Only two libraries felt that we needed to look at other automation systems and three others ranked looking at other systems as a 4 (with 5 being yes we should).

At this point in time, we are getting specific questions and concerns answered from Auto-Graphics. A demo site has been set up so that people can play with Verso. This demo has limited cataloging function and circulation. An e-mail will be sent out to libraries with the username and password to access the demo. In the short term, we will be investigating pricing alternatives with Auto-Graphics and preparing for the LSTA grant application process. Any library that is interested in pursuing automation or migration should contact Charlene McGuire at the System office. A formal letter of intent will be available in the near future.

## Mail-A-Book Give-Away

It is that time of the year (and the final year) to start distributing the 2005 Mail-A-Books. The same format as last year will be used to get the books evenly dispersed to each participating library. The 2005 catalogs have been sent out, so please mark the books that you need for your collections and return the catalog back to the system office by Tuesday, February 28. Happy Selecting!!!!

# Kansas Virtual Library

"I would like to personally invite you to join the State Library of Kansas in creating the **Kansas Virtual Library**, a project which will bring online audio books and music to Kansans! This shared virtual library collection of audio books and music is offered through a company named OverDrive and will be available to all Kansas residents online using the Kansas Library Card. This two-year pilot project will be managed and partially funded by the State Library with the titles purchased by libraries in the state.

"We are undertaking this pilot project in order to provide a new format of library resources for Kansans and to create a cost-effective for libraries to offer music and audio books. The **Kansas Virtual Library** is an exciting idea and we hope you will participate!"

Christie Brandau, State Librarian of Kansas  
*Kansas Libraries*, December 2005

The Kansas Virtual Library materials will be accessed via the internet at a website OverDrive is developing especially for Kansas. This site can be linked from your library webpage and will be linked via Blue Skyways. Using their Kansas Library Card, patrons will be able to download the titles to their computer and then to a portable mp3 player or to disk (one chapter per disk). At this time, the titles are not compatible with an IPOD.

The State Library has arranged with OverDrive to offer a series of interactive "Webinars" that will provide training to every librarian at every location. An OverDrive trainer will be demonstrating and training librarians prior to launch of the service.

OverDrive will also provide a variety of marketing and PR services for Kansas. These include press releases for the Kansas Virtual Library or individual libraries to use with local press and media. OverDrive will provide logos, links, art, sample posters, bookmarks and training on how to get the word out.

Eric Hansen, State Library of Kansas, anticipates that the virtual library of audio books and music will be up and available by May 1, 2006.

## MP3 Player Formats & Capacities

The digital content made available through the Kansas Virtual Library project may cause many of you to make your first foray into the realm of mp3 players. These players come in different formats and have a wide

variety of available features. Two of the main features you need to look at when considering an mp3 player are format and capacity. The two most popular formats for mp3 players are flash-based and hard drive-based. Capacities range from 128 megabytes up to several gigabytes.

Flash-based vs. Hard drive-based – Flash-based mp3 players such as the Creative MuVo store digital content on flash memory chips. These units are small, and light weight. Although slightly more expensive per megabyte than hard drive-based players, flash-based drives have the advantage of having no moving parts. This makes them less vulnerable to shocks and vibrations that can damage hard drive-based players. If you're a runner, bungee jumper, or rugby player (or have patrons who are) you might want to consider a flash-based player for this very reason.

Hard drive-based players, such as the i-Pod, have the advantage of offering larger storage capacity. These units also tend to be larger and have bigger displays. On the negative side, these players are less durable than their flash-based counterparts, and many of these players also have non-replaceable rechargeable batteries.

Capacity – How much storage capacity do you need? That depends on the content you'll be loading on the player. Alissa Griesmer, Group Product Manager for Overdrive, the company being utilized for the Kansas Virtual Library project, lists the following average file sizes for their digital content:

*Adobe eBook* - 3,709 KB

*Mobipocket eBook* - 536 KB

*OverDrive Audio Book* - 72,496 KB (note that these downloads are broken into parts, so the user does not have to complete a download of this potentially prohibitive size in a single attempt)

*OverDrive eMusic* - 31,202 KB

As can be seen, with an average Audio Book size of 72.5 megabytes, even a 128 MB mp3 player will do the job in most cases. That said, the prices are quickly falling on flash-based players. 1 GB players are now available for as little as \$69.00.

Charlene, Brett, or Janelle at the system office are available to talk with you about other features to look for in mp3 players, and to make specific recommendations for your library.

# Follow-up Webcam Training in March

The System is planning a few small hands-on classes in March as follow-up training to the webcam training held earlier this year. This will help libraries perfect their online video conferencing skills using Murrattech software. In these classes the participants will use webcams and be chatting online with the other participants. Librarians will be able to do from their own library! Each participant will meet online in an online meeting room at a designated time and practice using webcams and headsets. The system will also offer a few small hands-on classes here in Dodge City for those who were not able to attend the other webcam training or want to learn more about using the webcam. If coming to the hands-on Dodge City classes, please bring your own webcam, headset, and laptop if available. The system also has a few laptops, headsets, and webcams that can be used during the training. Librarians are welcome to sign up both for the hands-on training and the online meeting room training.

Prior to the online training class I will send out more information about how to get into the online meeting room and some basic setup tips. If you need help installing your software or webcam please let us know prior to the workshops. Questions? Call me at 1-800-657-2533 or email me: [jjarboe@swkls.org](mailto:jjarboe@swkls.org). Registration coming soon!

## Class Schedule:

### **Hands-on Training** (Limit 5 participants per session): March 7

10 – 12:30 SWKLS meeting room, Dodge City  
2 – 4:30 SWKLS meeting room, Dodge City

### **Online Training** (Limit 5 participants per session): March 9

10 – 12:30 Online Meeting Room  
2 – 4:30 Online Meeting Room

### March 13

10 – 12:30 Online Meeting Room  
2 – 4:30 Online Meeting Room

### March 22

10 – 12:30 Online Meeting Room  
2 – 4:30 Online Meeting Room

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