

Notes from ALA...

By Emily Sitz, Director, Southwest Kansas Library System

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Thank you to the SWKLS members for supporting my trip to ALA's annual conference in Chicago. The conference was well attended, approximately 28,000, and offered outstanding opportunities to hear authors, meet with vendors, and learn from colleagues.

I attended several informative sessions but I want to share a few thoughts about one session in particular. The session was titled "State Academic Standards + Library Programs= Educationally Enhanced Children's Programs" and it was sponsored by ALSC (Association of Library Service to Children) and presented by staff from Baltimore, Pittsburg, and Howard County public libraries and from the Maryland State Department of Education. The program blurb sums the message up as "learn to match standards to what you are already doing, contribute to preschoolers' school readiness, and provide accountability for what you do as a children's librarian".

The conference session encouraged librarians to tie standards to 'what you are already doing' in storytime. If you take a look at the Kansas Early Learning Standards (see Early Learning Guideline and Standards under "Standards" at www.ksde.org) it is very easy to

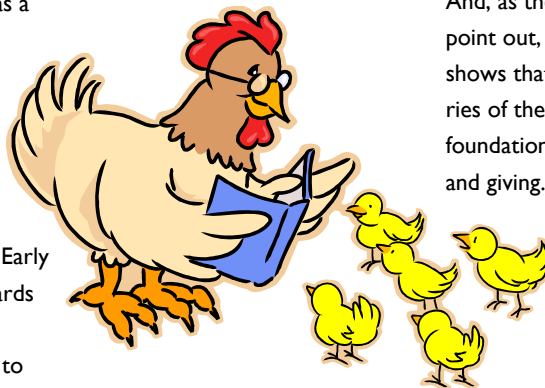
recognize ways that a public library storytime can increase school readiness. For example, in the Developmental/Content Area: Social/Emotional Development - Standard 4 is defined as "Participates in large and small group activities". Standard 4 has a benchmark (SE 4:1) of "responds appropriately during group activities". Anyone who has witnessed a preschool storytime unravel due to over-exuberant audience participation knows that responding appropriately in a group setting is a learned activity. It is an important skill for children's librarians to teach. And, thinking about group participation as a learning opportunity may help you view your storytime mob through a different lens.

Please take a moment to browse through these standards. The library community is certainly addressing standards within the

"Communication and Literacy" content area. So why don't we start promoting the fact that we are helping our children to get ready for school?

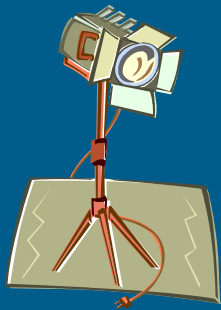
The session presenters brought up a few cons for emphasizing standards: pressure of accountability; loss of self-directed learning; teaching to the standards. They suggested negating those cons by following the interests of the children, taking advantage of teachable moments, and recognizing that learning occurs through a variety of activities and transactions. Sounds like good advice.

We know children's services are a cornerstone of library service and most of our public libraries, regardless of size, offer a storytime. Storytimes provide an opportunity to engender a love of books and reading and to create a welcoming social environment in which to learn and grow as an individual and as part of a group (—a child's "third space"!). And, as the administrator in me must point out, funding-related research shows that positive childhood memories of the library often provide the foundation for a lifetime of support and giving.



The Spotlight is On...

Dodge City Public Library



“The Spotlight Is On...” is a column in the *System Scene* where we will feature two libraries. We hope you will enjoy getting to know some of your neighbors!



First thoughts of a library in Dodge City took place on August 14, 1885 when a group of people met at the Union Church to plan a library organization. The newspaper records nothing else till when Judge E. H. Madison agreed to write Mr. Andrew Carnegie concerning his offer to libraries. Mr. Carnegie's reply said “If the City agrees by Resolution of Councils to maintain a Free Public Library at a cost of not less than \$750 a year and provides a suitable site for the building, Mr. Carnegie will be pleased to furnish \$7,500 to erect a Free Public Library for Dodge City.”

The first Public Library Board was organized May 9, 1905. The corner lot at 2nd & Spruce was purchased and an architect and contractor were hired. Various projects to raise extra money for the library fund were held. In one instance the City Council issued a license to Padgett & Parthmore to operate a Merry-go-Round inside the city limits providing 25% of the receipts were contributed to the library fund. The library was opened to the public on February 1, 1907. The first librarian's salary was \$30 a month.

The current library building is 27 years old. At one time SWKLS was housed in the library building and shared some staff with DCPL. There are currently 23 on staff with all but the five pages full time employees. Three of the staff holds MLS de-

grees. Other staff members have a variety of degrees.

The collection at Dodge City Public consists of a variety of materials on a variety of topics. Books and DVD's have the largest number of checkouts. Attendance and circulation have increased over the last year. There is a 20 % increase for the months of Jan-June of 2009 over the same time period in 2008. Traffic count and computer usage have similar increases.

A number of changes have occurred in the physical arrangement and appearance over the last couple of years. The adult reference materials were moved to a more visible location and a reading area was created for magazines, newspapers and special collections. A TV was also placed in this area so that patrons could stay current of news events and weather alerts. Other areas in the adult were rearranged to make for easy access by the patrons.

In the children's area we did away with the corral and moved shelves into that area. An area was created for the teens/YA. We were also fortunate in that we received memorial money and money from a will and were able to have the city carpenter's build a new circulation desk for the youth department. With the assistance of donations we were able to brighten up this area with some new tables and

chairs.

Thanks to the Gates Grant and match we replaced the 12 computers in our lab with 14 new computers and updated the stand up computers. We have also placed eight computers in the children's area and four in the teen area. Special software was purchased and through donations we were able to purchase new furniture.

Just like the beginning of the library in Dodge City, we are still involved in raising funds. This includes a variety of activities from placing a donation jar at the circulation desks to the Foundation's Wine and Cheese to being on the court services list for diversion donations. During Dodge City Days we sell popcorn and drinks during the parade in front of the library.

The staff at the library takes pride in the services and programs we offer the public. Every month all ages can find special programs. There are theme programs for children and teens. Adults have a variety of programs to choose from including “Coffee, Donuts & a Movie” to programs on history and current events, book discussions and literature programs, and a variety of how-to type of programs. We are also an ELMeR site. (Enhanced Library Meeting Room—a video conferencing web-based HDTV unit.)

As the staff would say, we are busy but isn't that great. We are here to provide entertainment and educational materials and programs to the public, and the public is starting to recognize that fact. We hear great things about the library in the community. As one little girl said after one of the summer reading programs when asked how the program was, she responded, “Perfect!” with thumbs up.

The Spotlight is On...

Finney County Public Library



day for young children, bull rider storytime, a visit from Magic the miniature horse, a murder mystery, a papier mache workshop, a magician and a teen lock-in. The Finney County Library is in the midst of a renovation project that includes new carpet, a new circulation desk, installation of two new statues and a new paint job for the library interior.

The Finney County Library was established in 1897 by the Ladies Library Association, which was funded by donations and a membership fee of \$2.00. In 1907 the city voted a tax levy. On April 17, 1909 a Carnegie grant for a building was made in the amount of \$10,000; it was received in 1916. On October 4, 1917 the library was completed and opened. In 1964, the library moved to 210 N. 7th Street which had been the Post Office. The library remained in this facility until 1986 at which time a new building was built specifically for the library. The new building increased the square footage from 9,376 sq. ft. to 27,000 sq. ft.

The most heavily used materials in the collection are the DVDs, children's fiction and new release books. The library has several collections of note: a Kansas subject and author collection, and extensive Spanish and Vietnamese materials. Erin Francouer, Director, wants to increase usage of the Reference Collection and the Kansas Room materials and would also like to further develop their foreign language materials - particularly Spanish, Somalian, and Burmese.

The Finney County Library has an average

of about 5000 patrons that utilize the library per week. Circulation is on the rise and the library has broken circ records the past four months!

Erin notes, "We have a great staff of 16, many with years of experience here at the library. This year three of our employees have been recognized as LSSI employee of the month: Carly Smith, Outreach Coordinator; Venus Rowland, Teen Librarian; and Analicia DeAnda, IT Technician. Analicia was also awarded 2008 LSSI Employee of the Year." The library has many volunteers helping throughout the library. They have a huge crew of teen volunteers who logged over 1,100 hours of service throughout the year.

For most libraries, summer reading brings lots of fun events, and Finney County Library is no exception. Events included a water works play

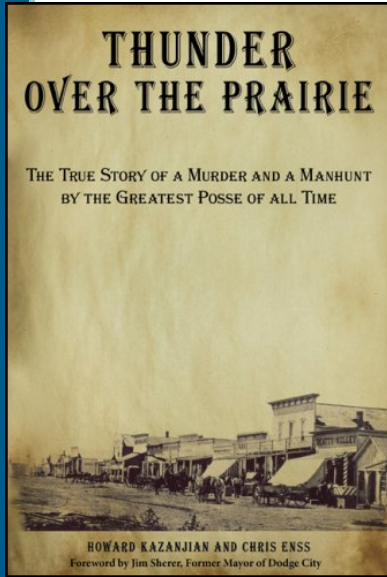


"Journeys of Imagination"
by Gary Price
One of the two new statues
donated by the Friends of
the Library

Teen Volunteers!

Thunder Over the Prairie

By Cathy Reeves, Director, Dodge City Public Library



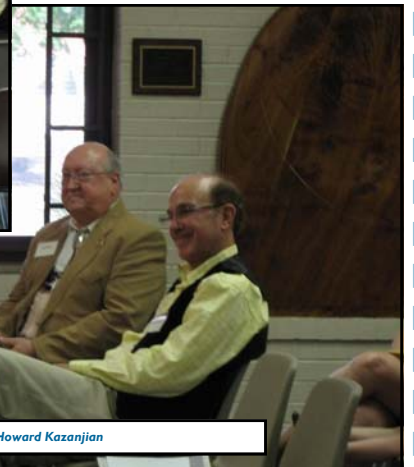
Authors Howard Kazanjian and Chris Enss spoke at a book launch at Dodge City Public Library on June 5th. Approximately 80 individuals gathered to meet the authors, hear them speak about the book, and purchase their own copy and get it signed. The book, *Thunder Over the Prairie*, tells the story of the death of Dodge City Entertainer Dora Hand and the posse who was sent after the man accused of killing her. This most intrepid posse was composed of Wyatt Earp, Bat Masterson, Charlie Bassett, and Bill Tilghman.

The authors have coauthored three other books for the publisher, Two Dot/Globe Pequot. Kazanjian is an award-winning producer and entertainment executive who for three decades has produced television programs and feature films including *Raiders of the Lost Ark*. Enss is an award-winning screenwriter and the author or coauthor of more

than a dozen books on the subject of the Old West. Jim Sherer, who wrote the foreword, is former director of the Kansas Heritage Center where much of the research for the book was done.



Chris Enss speaking to crowd



Jim Sherer & Howard Kazanjian



Chris Enss & Howard Kazanjian

ARSL—On the Road to Gatlinburg, TN!

Plans for the bus trip to the Annual Conference of the Association for Rural & Small Libraries (ARSL) in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, September 11-13 are continuing to develop. As of this writing, the Southeast Kansas Library System and the Northeast Kansas Library System are partnering to charter a bus from Wichita to Gatlinburg, TN, via Lawrence, KS. It will leave Wednesday evening, September 9 for the 18-hour trip. It will return in the early morning hours of Monday, September 14.

The cost of the bus will be \$150 round-trip for SEKLS and NEKLS members. Non-members of these two systems will be charged \$175 for riding the bus. The conference cost is \$270/non-members of ARSL until August 1, and that includes a Thursday night luau, 3 breakfasts, 2 lunches, and 4 breaks. Hotel rate is only \$70/night and there will be no tax. We will be in the hotel Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights: \$210 total hotel cost. If you join ARSL at this website you can sign up at the member rate and save even more: <http://www.bcr.org/ARSL/membership.html> Remember that you can apply for the third round of CE Grants in the third round starting August 18 – August 31.

This has the potential to be a truly useful and even inspirational conference. It is aimed at trustees as much as for staff. The opportunities for interaction with people who share your interest in libraries with the same problems and possible solutions will be abundant not only during the conference, but during the bus ride to and from Tennessee. AND the whole thing is happening in the Great Smoky Mountains, so it's not your usual kind of urban conference! Here are a few of the topics listed on the program:

- Reaching out into the community with children's services
- Gaming in libraries
- Community leadership – it's not a spectator sport
- Librarians as first responders: triaging social services.
- Getting IT online
- Helping your community get back to work
- Keeping your head by going green: the North Carolina Green Libraries Project
- How a non-techie librarian purchases a new library automation system – and likes it!

The website for the ARSL conferences is: <http://www.bcr.org/ARSL/conf09/index.html>. You can check out the complete Program-at-a-Glance and other travel and conference information. If you have any questions, or want to sign up for the trip, please contact me, Sara McFarland, at smcfarland@swkls.org or 1-800-657-2533.



Kansas Notable Books 2009!

On May 28 State Librarian Christie Brandau and Roy Bird, Director of the Kansas Center for the Book at the State Library of Kansas unveiled the 2009 Kansas Notable Books List. This fourth annual roll of honor includes fiction, non-fiction, adult and children's books, each of which was published during 2009 and identified as outstanding for different reasons.

A committee of the KCFB identified the titles and submitted them to the State Librarian Christie Brandau, for the final decision. The 2009 Kansas Notable Book advisory committee included representatives from academic, public and school libraries, authors, booksellers, publishers, and the media. Press releases were sent out across the state to daily and weekly newspapers on May 28. The authors of the 15 Kansas Notable Books will be honored at a reception hosted by the State Library of Kansas later this summer.

Begun in 2005, with the first titles announced in 2006, the Kansas Notable Books List has quickly become a highly respected honor among the state's writers. The project was singled out along with others in the citation for the Kansas Center's 2008 Boorstin Center for the Book Award, the highest accolade a state center for the book can receive. Authors, booksellers, publishers and librarians have featured Notable Books in presentations, displays, and literary events around the state. Authors have appeared at many venues in the state as well. The summer 2009 issue of *Kansas!* magazine listed Kansas Notable Books as number 12 in their list of "13 Reasons We Love Kansas."

The 2009 Notable Books List continues to raise awareness of writing by Kansans and about Kansas.

Amelia Earhart: The Legend of the Lost Aviator by Shelley Tanaka, Ontario, Canada, and illustrated by David Craig
Amelia Earhart's life was one adventure after another from her early days as a wartime nurse to her triumphant solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean. This book celebrates the life and achievement of Kansas' and history's most amazing woman. Richly illustrated with family photos and photos seen worldwide, this book is an amazing look at her life. (Children's book)

Artfully Done Across Generations: An Art Cookbook by Friends of the Wichita (KS) Art Museum
Artfully Done is a cookbook filled with art, good food and stories; the pages reflect creativity and a joy for living. Compiled in memory of a special member of the Friends of the Wichita Art Museum, this oversized book features beautiful works of art from the Wichita Art Museum, 538 recipes from individuals of local notoriety.

Burn by Kathleen Johnson, Baldwin City
A book of poetry so hot it could only be named "Burn." Kansas poet Kathleen Johnson's collection ranges from life on the frontier to memories at her parent's home to tornados. There's no real way to describe the eclectic and memorable voice of her verse.

Charlatan: America's Most Dangerous Huckster, the Man Who Pursued Him, and the Age of Flimflam by Pope Brock, New York, NY
Brock's colorful account of the infamous 1930s goat-gland doctor John Brinkley matches his outsized subject. In the 1930s, Doc Brinkley, the ultimate snake oil salesman, hustled his pseudoscience over the radio, promoting astrologers and country music while he hyped his cures for impotency. But for the election laws of 1920s Kansas, he would almost certainly have gone down as the only human in history to be elected to public office after the government took away his medical license.

A Curse Dark As Gold by Elizabeth Bunce, Lenexa
This is a dark, re-telling of "Rumpelstiltskin," set in England at the start of the Industrial Revolution. The miller is a woman who worries about debt and bankruptcy as her mill keeps most of the village around it employed. The mill, and her family, seem to be cursed. A first novel for Bunce of Lenexa, it plays off her interests of embroidery and historical costuming. (Young adult)

The Guide to Kansas Birds and Birding Hot Spots by Bob Gress and Peter Jenzen, both of Wichita
Summarizing the birds most likely to be seen in Kansas, the book gives each bird a full page with photo and helpful information on recognition, locations, etc. New birders will quickly find a species without sorting through the clutter of a larger field guide.

Hometown Appetites: The Story of Clementine Paddleford, the Forgotten Food Writer Who Chronicled How America Ate by Kelly Alexander, Chapel Hill, NC and Cynthia Harris, Wichita, KS
Clementine Paddleford is not a household name. Nevertheless, she is the guru of culinary chronicles, to the

Kansas Notable Books 2009! (cont.)

delight and edification of millions of readers over a career that spanned nearly a half century. A Kansan, Paddleford earned a journalism degree in 1921, and went to New York to begin her career as a writer. When that didn't work out, she moved to Chicago, moving along until in 1936, she became Food Editor at the Herald Tribune, a position she held until 1966. She traveled the country reporting on the best fried chicken and other gastronomic delights.

Kansas Opera House: Actors and Community Events 1855-1925 by Jane Rhoades, Wichita

From the communities, to the buildings, to the performers, *Kansas Opera Houses* takes a look at a grand age in theater. The extensive research, gathering of historical photos as well as current photography are the foundation for a thoughtful look at the social, as well as theatrical, significance of the community opera house.

Making History Quilts and Fabric From 1890 – 1970 by Barbara Brackman, Lawrence

If you want to learn to date fabrics found in quilts and cotton clothing, then this book is the book to have. The book gives a great deal of information by combining period fabrics used for clothing, interiors furnishings, and quilts with interior and architectural design schools and wraps them into a synopsis of their influence on patterned fabric's scale, color, weave and print. Kansas author Barbara Brackman presents the sequel to her book, *AMERICA'S PRINTED FABRICS, 1770-1890 s* (2004) .

Marco Polo Didn't Go There: Stories and Revelations From One Decade As A Postmodern Travel Writer by Rolf Potts, Gypsum

For the past 10 years, Potts has taken his keen postmodern travel sensibility into the far reaches of five continents for such publications as *The New York Times Magazine*. His portrayal of his life on the road is captivating with some stories that are hilarious, and others that are absolutely terrifying. His reflective essay on visiting a county museum in Minneapolis, KS shows just how wrong preconceptions can be.

The Nature of Kansas Lands by Beverley Worster, Lawrence

Explore the richness and depths of Kansas as never before in "The Nature of Kansas Lands." The book is a visually stimulating masterpiece, designed to encourage Kansas residents to look beyond their back yards and fences and to invite visitors to explore the back roads of this memorable state. Readers will learn about Kansas' native flora and wildlife and witness the wild beauty and ecological complexity. Waterways, woodlands, grasslands, farmland and high plains are captured in stunning photographs with essays and sidebars accompanying the interpretative essays with facts about wildlife and weather, forests and farming.

A Passion for Nature: The Life of John Muir by Donald Worster, Lawrence

An extensive and well-researched biography on the great conservationist John Muir. The book uses Muir's personal correspondence, published and unpublished journals, and other period sources to place Muir in the social and political context of his times, including a history of the conservation movement. Muir is revered for introducing fellow Americans to the spiritual fulfillment found in natural beauty, as well as founding conservation as we know it today.

The Pizza Hut Story by Robert Spector, Seattle, WA

On the eve of its golden anniversary, this book looks at Pizza Hut and how Wichita founders Dan and Frank Carney turned "pizza" into a household word and took the brand to the corners of the globe. The book is a fun, insightful, inspiring and beautifully packaged story of the brand, the company, and its people, including rarely seen photographs, advertising, artifacts and other pieces of Pizza Hut history. True to its entrepreneurial beginnings, the book includes the business side of making it 50 years in the food industry.

Seeding Civil War: Kansas in the National News, 1854-1858 by Craig Miner, Wichita

This is a study of media coverage devoted to the beleaguered Kansas territory in the years leading up to the Lecompton Constitution. The work is considered to be a great contribution to literature that helps understand the Kansas conflict's broad political and cultural impact. Author is Craig Miner, Willard Garvey Distinguished Professor of Business History at Wichita State University.

Survival of Rural America: Small Victories and Bitter Harvests by Richard E. Wood, Denver

Rural communities need more than jobs or money to survive, they need to become valued as a place to live and work. In this book, Wood takes a closer look at what has happened in Kansas farming towns and how they have rebounded with different strategies. It's a book about community, lifestyle and the grass roots of America.

JULY 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 ^{ALA}	10 ^{ALA}	11 ^{ALA}
12 ^{ALA}	13 ^{ALA}	14 ^{ALA}	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Schedule of Events

} August 14 — SWKLS
Executive Board Meeting
Dodge City Public Library
10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

} Aug. 14 — Basic Introduction:
How we can serve our
Latino Community
Dodge City Public Library
1:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m.

} Aug. 28 — YA Day!!!
Finney County Public Library
Garden City, KS
9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS:

} Sept. 25 — Tech Day!!!
The Learning Center
Dodge City, KS
9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

AUGUST 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 ^{SWKLS} Executive Board Meeting	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28 ^{YA Day!}	29

Preferred Lender Lists



Now that we have the Courier system (hurrah), we may have to change the Preferred Lender List occasionally. Here are the instructions on how to do this:

An email will come to the courier representative in your library from Carolyn Little in NEKLS. It will tell you that you need to change the preferred lender list in AGen and she will have included an attachment.

Open the attachment and highlight and copy all the codes. The codes are listed vertically with no spaces, but they will work in the list. Once highlighted, copying can be done by using a right click on the mouse, and choosing copy; by using

Ctrl C; or by going to Edit listed at the top of the notepad and selecting Copy.

The next step is to go to ILL Admin and click on Maintain Participant Record in the box on the left. The Preferred Lender List is labeled as such, and is directly under Days Open. Delete everything out of that list. Then with your cursor located in the top left of the empty box, paste in the codes. This can be done by right click on the mouse, and choosing copy; by using Ctrl V; or by going to Edit listed at the top of the notepad, and selecting paste.

You may not see anything when you finish pasting. Check this by using the up arrow to see if the codes are listed. If you have empty lines at the end, don't worry about them, they will disappear the next time you open up the Participant Record.

By Patti Cummins, ILL Librarian

Look for your code in the list. You will want to delete, or cut, this out of the list, and delete the extra space. Type in, or paste, your code at the very top of the list, above SWKLS. That way if you own the item you are requesting, you will see this immediately. This may be especially useful as you begin to do Patron Requesting.

Remember to click on Update when you're finished to save the new list.

If you have any questions, give me a call at 800-657-2533.

Scott City—Young Author Contest

By Millie Deardon, Scott County Public Li-

The Young Author Contest began in 1992. The idea was conceived by Librarian, Marilyn Miller, and Friends of the Scott County Library representative, Patsy Graham, with several other people in the community offering input, including SCHS English teacher, Nanon Claire.

Any student (grades first through twelfth) in any school in Scott County is eligible to enter the contest. It begins January 1 of the current year with the manuscript deadline on the last day of February. A list of rules is available at the Library and is sent to all of the teachers in the county schools.

The sponsorship of the contest has changed during the years. The PEO club now helps with the sorting of manuscripts, securing of judges, and the reception held for the winners. Judges chose one winner

and may include several honorable mentions from each grade level. It is left up to the discretion of the judges to determine if each grade level has a manuscript worthy of the award. The winning manuscripts are then sent to a bindery to be bound into books and accessioned into the Library.

A reception for the winners, their families and friends is held on a weekend in conjunction with National Library Week (except for this year, 2009, it has held along with the open house for the "new" Library). An author is invited to come and speak at the reception about their experiences as an author and to encourage the winners to continue writing. The Young Authors get to see their bound books for the first

time, autograph them, and check them out. The authors are given the opportunity to have a color copy made and bound of their book to keep.



L.-R.: Carson Haupt, Tyrah Dirks, Megan Smith, Olivia Prieto, & Brittany Varnado.

Skippyjon Jones Tour — A Success!

By Sara McFarland, Consultant, SWKLS



Heather Augustine

The Skippyjon Jones Summer Reading Program sponsored by SWKLS was a wonderful success – at least from my standpoint! Twenty-eight libraries signed up for the program, and we were able to visit each one of those libraries in a nine day time frame! There was even one day in which we travelled over 300 miles and performed at four separate libraries! (We had several days consisting of four libraries, but not quite the

mileage ...).

Heather Augustine, the 3rd – 6th grade music instructor at the Hugoton Schools (also a Stevens County Library Board Member), did an absolutely incredible job of reading the Skippyjon stories to all of the children. We were so privileged to have Heather share her talents and skills as a storyteller – and as a volunteer at that!!!! It was also a great relief to have Emilyjane Pyle, a Dodge City High

School student, play the role of Skippyjon for three of those nine days. It really is quite taxing to be in 'Skippyjon's paws' so to speak, and that was a great break for me!

All of the libraries warmly welcomed us (and I'm not talking about the triple digit weather we encountered!), and everything seemed to work like clockwork! Thank you to all of you that helped make this a successful program!



Rolla Public Library



Emilyjane Pyle



Spearville Township Library





Skippyjon helped out at the SWKLS offices too! He answered phones, helped pack books into crates for the Bookmobile, tried — and the key word is tried — to help with the copier, cataloged, helped Steve with the computer stacks and other odd jobs!



Twitter!

By Janelle Jarboe, Assistant Technology Consultant

Do you Twitter? Several of you may have heard of Twitter through friends, coworkers, the media, or patrons. Twitter (www.twitter.com) has recently increased in popularity. It was created in 2006 and according to Wikipedia :

Twitter is a free [social networking](#) and [micro-blogging](#) service that enables its users to send and read messages known as tweets. Tweets are [text-based](#) posts of up to 140 characters displayed on the author's profile page and delivered to the author's subscribers who are known as followers. Senders can restrict delivery to those in their circle of friends or, by default, allow open access. Users can send and receive tweets via the Twitter website, [Short Message Service \(SMS\)](#) or external applications. While the service costs nothing to use, accessing it through SMS may incur phone service provider fees. (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twitter>).

Why should you Tweet?

With so many sites available for social networking it seems like it's hard to find the time to fully take advantage of them. Before you start using Twitter it's good to figure out how it might benefit you. Twitter doesn't benefit everyone and that's ok, too. Here are some ways some librarians in Southwest Kansas use Twitter:

Ruby Martin, Lane County Library follows these Twitterers:

[Recordedbooks](#) - to see what is new and the upcoming releases.

[StockTwits](#) - I belong to a stock club here in the library, and I see what stocks to research.

[KSNWeatherLab](#) - the storm shelter for the Dighton is here in the courthouse by the library, so I feel I need to be warned ahead of time if the bad weather is coming.

[HarlequinBooks](#), [BestSellerBooks](#), [iread-kidsbooks](#), and [BordersMedia](#) - to check on new releases and new authors.

[Silkbog](#) - this is state library blog.

[TheFlyLady](#) - to help with the chaos in my life.

As a librarian you have to know a little about everything and I have many people ask me about twitter so I feel I need to stay current on social networking to keep other people informed.

Denise Smith, Stanton County Library had this to say about Twitter:

I enjoy twitter because on the days that I don't have time to catch the full half hour of local news or the national news, I can follow the channels I want on twitter. That way I can at least catch the highlights of what is going on locally and nationally.

Tami Erwin, Hamilton County Library is also a regular Twitter user. Here is what she has to say about Twitter.

Twitter is a quick, easy way to keep in contact with libraries nationwide, to share ideas and resources that wouldn't be available otherwise. I also use it to keep current on new books through tweets from publishers, book stores and reviewers.

The only downside I've found is the same as with any networking service - there are those who use it for scams and inappropriate content.

I personally have found Twitter to be priceless both personally and professionally. Like others, I follow several news channels and newspapers for both local and national news updates. Most newspapers and news channels will post headlines with links to the stories if you would like to read more or watch video. I find this very easy and a big time saver. I have also used it several times to keep up with weather when a radio or TV were not handy. Here are some news channels and papers I follow: CJOnline (The Topeka Capital-Journal), NorthWestKansas (Hays Daily News), Nightline, kansasdot.com (Wichita Eagle), HutchNews, KAKENews, GCTelegram (Garden City Telegram),

I have found Twitter to be most valuable in my professional life. Like Tami, I also get ideas or find solutions for problems quickly. I follow many other fellow techs including those from the Northeast Kansas Library System, librarians from across Kansas and the United States,

Twitter! (cont.)

Getting Started:

- Go to www.twitter.com and sign up for a username. The shorter your username the better. This will make it easier to follow you and for followers to retweet you. More about retweeting later.
- Watch the Twitter Video on the Twitter site.
- Follow people you know have been using Twitter for a long time,

a few news sources, library related tweeters, or a few celebrities.

- Be patient. Twitter has somewhat of a language of its own. It's take awhile to get the hang of it. That's why it's good to follow those that have been using it for a while. You can lurk on Twitter and get the hang of it by watching your other followers.

If you have any Twitter questions ask the librarians I mentioned or feel free to ask me at any time. We will be glad to demo it for you at anytime. My username on Twitter is J_Nellie, Please feel free to follow me, and I will be happy to help you. Also watch for more on Twitter in our next Newsletter article. I will discuss Twitter terms, ways to make Twitter easy, and more.

Being Creative @ the Cimarron City Library

By Candis Hemel, Director, Cimarron City Library



Be Creative @ Your Library included being creative with ceiling tiles at the Cimarron City Library. The ceiling tiles were donated by the by USD 102 – Cimarron Schools. The district renovated and remodeled some lighting in the elementary school and brought down some tiles that were extra. The kids decorated and painted them, and we then entered them into open class at the Gray County Fair. They are now being proudly displayed in our children's area in the Library.

Liberal Memorial Library Certifies Entire Board

The seven members of the board of the Liberal Memorial Library have completed training in all five trustee core skills and are now certified. The trustees who have received their certification are:

- Juneil McQueen
- Randy Scantlin
- Don Hill
- Jane Balman
- Jody Holt
- Kenneth Thompson
- Olga Cisneros

Director Jill Pannkuk commented, "I am really proud of our board and their willingness to put forth the extra time and effort needed to achieve certification. They are a great group who work well together and bring an array of talents and skills to the board."

The library has completed a number of capital improvement projects in the past two years including remodeling the staff area, installing new shelving and signage in the adult section and replacing three air conditioning/heating units. And at the end of the month new handicapped accessible doors will be installed.

Over the next few months members of the board will be continuing to learn more about libraries and their role as trustees by viewing and discussing *Trustee Trouble: The Misadventures of a New Library Board Member*. They are also working on a strategic plan and are reviewing the library's policy manual. Future plans include renovation of the lower level of the library and installing a new roof.

Shannon Roy, Trustee Certification Coordinator at the State Library, commented, "It is wonderful that this board was able to certify all its members in a timely fashion and it is wonderful that they will be studying more and doing strategic planning. We will be hearing more about Liberal's accomplishments."



The SCENario

Upcoming SWKLS Workshops:

Basic Introduction: How we can serve our Latino Community

August 14, 2009
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Dodge City Public Library

Vicky Ortiz, Bilingual Coordinator, Dodge City Public Library, will be exploring issues involving the needs of the Latino Community. Topics will include: community needs, undertaking a community analysis, looking at the cultures and their differences, and developing a Spanish Collection Policy. Vicky will also address Outreach Services to the Latino community.

YA DAY!!!

August 28, 2009
9:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Finney County Public Library
Garden City, KS

Come join us for a day of learning and fun at the YA Day!!! in Garden City!

The morning session, presented by Vicky Town, member of the National Storytelling Association, will be exploring ways to engage our Young Adults in creative thinking, speaking and writing. Vicky holds a BFA in Theatre from Adelphi University in N.Y. and an M. ED from Cabrini College in PA. She has presented workshops throughout Pennsylvania and surrounding states and currently resides in Great Bend, KS.



Upcoming Workshops (cont.):

The afternoon session will be presented by Joe Coles, Student Services Coordinator for the Southwest Plains Regional Service Center #626. Joe has previously presented a workshop on Bullying for SWKLS, and will be concentrating on issues regarding the education of boys and young men.

TECH DAY!!!

September 25, 2009
The Learning Center
Dodge City, KS

(Look for more info soon! BTW – the funds we’ve received from the recycling of printer cartridges are going toward door prizes – so be sure to keep this date free. You never know what you may win!)



SLK Gadget Proves Popular!

The State Library of Kansas has some very tech-savvy staffers. They created our very own [iGoogle Gadget](#) - which you can use too.

iGoogle is a personalized start page. It can be used on your desktop or as a personalized web page that you can access from any computer by logging into your Google account. iGoogle uses gadgets to populate your personal page.

The State Library’s gadget allows you to search the resources of the State Library just as you would from our home page only you launch the search from your iGoogle personal page.

To add the widget:

- Login to your iGoogle account.
- Click on “Add Stuff” in the upper right side corner under the banner.
- On the Add Stuff page, search for “State Library of Kansas”. When you see the gadget, click on the “Add it now” button and it will be added to your iGoogle desktop.

Lots of folks seem to like it - we have over 100 users! Check it out.

Thanks to Eric Gustafson and Cindi Hickey for their work on the gadget.



Skippyjon — all tired out! Believe me, he wasn’t the only one!



System Scene

Southwest Kansas Library System
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Dodge City, KS 67801-4953

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