



# NeCessary KnowLedge

## Library Legislative Day

by Fred D. Atchison, Jr.

There was no rain on our February 16th Legislative Day parade, but threatening weather did keep some people at home. Nevertheless, the turnout was good, considering the circumstances. The KLA governmental affairs committee was co-chaired by Sue Blechel and Pat Gaunce. The committee, together with the State Library and KLA Executive Director Rosanne Siemens, did a nice job of organizing the event. The State Library had an open house again this year, and there were three helpful briefings and great quantities of supporting handouts and background information. This year NCKL picked up the cost of sending a car and lunches for NCKL librarians and trustees making the trip. We hope to see increased attendance next year. As always, personal contacts with legislators are important, be they in person, by phone or by mail. It is important to inform legislators about the importance of what libraries do in their communities. Specific and timely information on legislative issues may be found on the KLA website.

Support for state funding for Grant-In-Aid for local public libraries is at the top of the KLA priority list. The Governor's budget and the house appropriations committee have recommended grant funding at last year's

level. Now the measure goes to the Senate side. These dollars are so important for public libraries and systems.

Library advocates are also supportive of the enhancements asked for in the State Library budget. We have received some encouragement on two of those items. The house appropriations committee approved a request for a \$75,000 increase to the Talking Books program. And the Governor recommended funding Tutor.com, a statewide database that will provide quality homework assistance to all Kansans. Both of these proposals need to be "worked" with legislators in the next few weeks.

Filtering and movie rating restrictions were attached to HB2581, which started out as a simple levy process bill for regional library systems. KLA believes that filtering and movie access are issues best handled by librarians and local boards.

S549 is a house-keeping bill which would combine the Kansas Library Commission and the Kansas Library Network Board into one board. This is an efficiency measure supported by KLA.

Librarians are also interested in S382 which provides grants to support after school programs. Libraries

should be a part of this worthy and important bill.

KLA would like to see libraries included in the list identified in S418 of places where concealed weapons may not be taken.

Finally, KLA supports funding for the Kan-ed Network. KLA is also working to improve communications with Kan-Ed and to advocate for network programs important to libraries.

The success of this annual effort to advocate for libraries does not rest on the shoulders of a few people in leadership positions. The real measure of success is dependent on how many local librarians, trustees, and library supporters take the responsibility to find out about the issues and make individual contacts. We have seen what motivated library advocates can accomplish. Please read up on the issues, by going to the KLA website or calling system headquarters. Write a letter, pick up the phone, and make a difference!

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## Trustee Time : Measuring Up

By Carol Barta

What does your board do to evaluate the progress of your library? Do you have written goals in your long-range plan? How about measurable annual objectives? If you think I'm speaking a foreign language here, you're not alone. Program evaluation is generally thought to be a tedious, painful process that should be put off as long as possible.

Evaluating your li-

brary does take time and effort, but it is essential to growth. If you don't have written goals and objectives, a handy place to start your evaluation is by measuring your library against the Standards for Kansas Public Libraries. These standards were written for 2000, and though they are beginning to look a little outdated, they can still be useful in measuring your

library's progress. Go to <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/KSL/development/standard2000.html> to read the standards. Each section contains a handy checklist to help you assess your library's progress.

More important than the tool you use, is getting into the habit of regularly—read annually—measuring your library's efforts toward your goals. Use a few minutes at your next board meeting to begin this process.

## Rotating Books Needs Your Input

By Kirk Hargett

In our continuing efforts to improve the Rotating Book Collection, we are planning to send out a survey to all libraries currently receiving deliveries of rotating books. For clarity, the survey uses the same classifications as those used when selecting books for delivery to your library. Over the past year and a half, the collection has been thoroughly weeded in order to focus on the most current and

popular books for readers of all ages. Now that the existing collection has been updated, we want to know what areas of the collection you feel need more attention. When you fill out the survey, be sure to include any comments you have about the current collection. Let us know if there are any kinds of books or classifications you want to have added. For ex-

ample - should we offer an expanded collection of graphic novels, or do you want more new readers books? Are there collections you feel are no longer needed? The survey will be mailed in early March, and Kirk will pick them up when he next visits your library. As always, call or email Carol or Kirk and we will be happy to answer any questions.

## LaDonna Clark Joins NCKL Staff a Tech Trainer

Meet LaDonna Clark. LaDonna joined the NCKL staff in January and is working to develop technology training workshops for librarians and trustees. She taught her first workshop on February 8th and received very positive feedback. This is how LaDonna introduces herself:

“Computer training and the field of technology is my “vocation” and “avocation,” you could say. I worked 15 years for Kansas Farm Bureau, Information Technology (IT). (Except one year I worked in Finance and Accounting.) I began teaching computer classes to an audience of over 500 in-house employees, over 350 agents across the state of Kansas, and seven regional claims offices. Other responsibilities included hosting conferences, assisting in seminars, facilitating other learning events, software support, and intranet.

The field of technology is my “avocation,” as I continue to teach computer classes at Manhattan Area Technical College, Adult Education, in the evenings.

In my off hours I enjoy volleyball. For two years I coached Konza Volleyball, age 9-11, and I enjoy watching home KSU volleyball and basketball. I enjoy gardening, traveling, spending time with my friends and family. My German shepherd wins my heart at home. My husband and I enjoy dancing and spending time together.”



## Think **before** you click.

By Richard Miller, NCKL Tech Consultant

Have you ever “received” an unsolicited email from a bank or e-retailer asking for verification of account information? Did the email or the web page it linked to look genuine? If so, then you know first hand what a “phishing” attack is. Like a fish in the sea, if you take the bait on the hook, then you’ll get caught. The bait, of course, is the email message asking you to click on a link to the company web page where you give or confirm account information. Your best defense is to assume that EVERY ONE of these email messages is a scam to steal your personal information and NEVER click on the link to the offered web page.

[www.computerworld.com](http://www.computerworld.com) offers this definition:

**Phishing** is a technique used to gain personal information for purposes of identity theft, using fraudulent e-mail messages that appear to come from legitimate businesses. These authentic-looking messages are designed to fool recipients into divulging personal data such as account numbers and passwords, credit card numbers and Social Security numbers.

A source for more information is <http://www.antiphishing.org/> where they offer consumer advice on “How to Avoid Phishing Scams” ([http://www.antiphishing.org/consumer\\_recs.html](http://www.antiphishing.org/consumer_recs.html)) and “What To Do If You've Given Out Your Personal Financial Information” (<http://www.antiphishing.org/>

[consumer\\_recs2.htm](http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/pubs/alerts/phishingalrt.htm)). The Federal Trade Commission also has good advice on its web page “How Not to Get Hooked by a ‘Phishing’ Scam” (<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/pubs/alerts/phishingalrt.htm>).

The problem is that these emails look very, very good with good grammar and real company logos. Just keep in mind that legitimate businesses and financial institutions would never ask for personal information via e-mail. If you receive such a request and are tempted to respond, call the organization and ask if it's legitimate. Better yet, just delete the email and move on. Don't get hooked: think before you click.



Don't get hooked by this kind of e-mail scam



*Editor's note: Marcy is beginning a new column for NeCessary KnowLedge. She will review and recommend a new book that she thinks is required reading for all in each edition of the newsletter.*

## Required Reading

By Marcia Allen

We've all heard the stories about the difficulties of living on the Great Plains during the Dust Bowl. Now, thanks to the careful research of Timothy Egan, we have both the causes of the situation and the effects on the inhabitants. Egan's new

book, [The Worst Hard Time](#), is a chilling tale of hardship that begins in the 1920s and extends into the 1930s. Hazel Shaw, for example, lost both her young daughter and her grandmother within days to dust pneumonia. Ike Os-teen spent those difficult

years living in a dugout with his widowed mother and his many siblings in Colorado. Egan's efforts to personalize the experience give us pictures of heroism and tragedy in the midst of environmental disaster.



## 2005 Book Prices

By Evan St. Lifer, SLJ Editor -- 3/1/2005

Book prices are up, budgets are flat. How are you positioning yourself?  
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The average price of a hardcover children's and young adult book continues its inexorable climb, inauspiciously topping the \$20 mark for the first time. At \$20.52, the average hardcover price for 2005 has increased by six percent, a gain of \$1.21 over the 2004 average.

This year's increases reflect a 25-year trend of escalating book prices. Case in point: from 1990 to 1995, average book prices jumped by 9.5 percent; from 1995 to 2000, they increased by 12.3 percent; and from 2000 to 2005, the increase was even steeper, 14.4 percent. Overall, we have seen book prices increase by more than 35 percent in the last 20 years.

Examining this year's numbers more closely, the average hardcover price for the "preschool to grade four" category is up to \$18.92 from \$17.51, a 7.5 percent increase. Meanwhile, fiction for grade five and up stayed virtually the same, from \$16.84 in 2004 to \$16.85 in 2005. In fact, the average price of fiction for grade five and up has remained relatively steady since 2002. However, grade five and up nonfiction rose more dramatically—by more than \$1.50 per book—a 6.7-percent hike, versus a 1.2-percent bump the previous year.

Rising book prices, coupled with a flat budget year, translate into fewer book purchases, certainly no reason to celebrate. However, given the fiscally austere landscape in which most school and public libraries currently operate, the fact that many libraries were able to hold the line on materials budgets is encouraging. Our information comes courtesy of the 500 librarians nationwide who responded to our Book Buying Survey (see "[SLJ's Book Buying Survey](#)," September 2004, pp. 42–46) last spring. The majority of them anticipated spending the same amount of money in FY 2004–2005 as in the previous year.

You now have the challenge of stretching your dollars a little further, a challenge that you will undoubtedly share with fellow educators seeking to enrich their classroom collections. Your skills of discernment have never been more essential. You'll need to use those skills to embrace the challenge of maintaining your school district's growing commitment to books directly linked to the curriculum, while continuing to cultivate a diverse collection that provokes reading engagement, fosters critical-thinking skills, and evokes wonder.

<b>SLJ's Average Book Price 2005</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
<b>Hardcover (children's and YA titles)</b>			
Average price (all titles)	\$19.18	\$19.31	\$20.52
Preschool to grade four	\$17.45	\$17.51	\$18.92
Grade five and up (fiction)	\$16.77	\$16.84	\$16.85
Grade five and up (nonfiction)	\$22.99	\$23.25	\$24.92
<b>Paperback (children's &amp; YA titles)</b>			
Trade paperbacks (excluding mass market)	\$20.26*	\$18.88*	---
<b>Hardcover (adult titles)</b>			
Fiction (excluding special editions, etc)	\$26.02*	\$24.81*	
Nonfiction	\$40.64*	\$41.07	---
**Nonfiction	\$74.48*	\$73.64	
<b>Paperback (adult titles excluding mass market)</b>			
Fiction	\$17.23*	\$14.95*	
***Nonfiction	\$32.82	\$27.38	
*Preliminary Prices. ** Price includes single-volume reference titles. ***Prices include reference and related resources. Source: School Library Journal, Bowker's Books			



## Title Source 3 Now Live

By Marcia Allen

Acquisitions was switched from Title Source II to Title Source 3 a few days ago. At this point, all orders must be added to carts in Title Source 3. Many system librarians attended workshops designed to familiarize users with Title Source 3, and most felt the transition would be a smooth one.

For those of you who have not yet had the opportunity to try the upgrade:

- You enter the service at <http://publiclibrary.btol.com>
- You must disable your popup blocker to be able to dup. check
- You'll be able to see book covers and large list and discount prices when you pull up titles
- You may send carts to Rosie by selecting the cart, selecting transfer function, clicking the "go" button, and

then using the same set of steps as those used in Title Source II

- The logout button is on the upper left screen

If you have concerns with ordering, be sure to call Rosie or me. We want to make this upgrade as easy for you as possible.



Baker & Taylor —  
The Library Cats



Lyon County Library District #1 is expecting the Cat in the Hat to make his annual visit on March 1. This photo is from his 2005 appearance.

## Talking Books News

By Ann Pearce

The LSTA Special Populations Grant awarded to NCKL in May 2005 will be completed on September 30, 2006. The assistive technology purchased with grant funds is available to NCKL libraries to use for the remainder of the grant period. The following is a listing of available software and hardware:

- Big Keys keyboard  
low vision, cognitive impairment
- Vertical Mouse 2  
alternative mouse, physical impairment
- Roller II Trackball  
alternative mouse, physical impairment
- Neo keyboard  
learning disabilities
- Talking dictionaries (5)  
learning disabilities
- Book Ports (2)

Portable Reading Device (Daisy)  
low vision, blind

Reading Pens (2)  
learning disabilities

SOLO  
reading/writing program;  
learning disabilities

ReadPlease 2003 Plus (3)  
text-to-speech; low vision,  
learning disabilities

LUNAR  
screen magnification; low vision

I am available for presentations on assistive technology if you would just like to know what is available for patrons. I am also available for training staff in the use of assistive technology. Librarians interested in knowing more should contact me at [annp@manhattan.lib.ks.us](mailto:annp@manhattan.lib.ks.us) or call 1-800-432-2796 ext. 143.



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## Vermillion Public Library News

By Audrey Broxterman



In January, the Vermillion Public library hosted a demonstration on digitizing images of old newspapers. The demonstration was conducted by Debra Gillispie of Kansas Correctional Industries. Most of the library board, as well as Axtell Librarian Diane Tate and Richard Miller from NCKL, attended the demonstration. The Vermillion library decided to send some of their newspaper microfilm with Debra so the cost of moving the film images to CD's could be determined.

The library is anxiously awaiting the results.

The Vermillion Public Library now has a new look, as we've traded office space with the city clerk.

The library board is recruiting three new members due to resignations and illness in the past year.

The librarian, Audrey Broxterman, and board member Marylyn Wenzl read to the preschoolers at the USD 380 school. Carl Sommer's books

are being used this year for the "Story Hour".

The library applied for a Libri Foundation grant. In order to raise the matching funds necessary for the grant, photos of historic Vermillion places have been made into magnets, key chains, note cards and post cards. The local bank is collecting the money for the fundraiser. The items will also be available during the alumni banquet and the Vermillion Days.

## Ogden Public Library

By Virginia Shepard

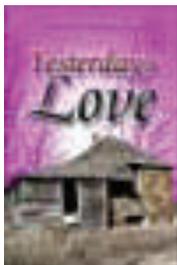
At Ogden Public Library we are still having our preschool story time each Wednesday and the winter holidays have made choosing books easy. We are moving from Valentines into a Presidents' theme to finish up February. The preschoolers from our school have been able to attend each week, and they are easy to please and enjoy sharing their versions of the stories.

During spring break we always have a lot of children flock to our Community Center (which also houses our library), and we have decided to present a little more structure to our week of influx for children, 1st grade through 6th. We are offering an hour on Monday, Wednesday and Friday of that week for the children to pick a time each day in cooking, sports, first aid, dancing or library activities. I am excited about participating

in this week of events, but know that reading for some will be TOO similar to school. So, we are offering three different themes that we think will be lots of FUN. One day we are having Laugh Out Loud Poetry, another day will be Light Drama (Giggles Permitted) and the final day will be Storytelling With Humor. With the help of Shel Silverstein, we have the poetry covered. The rest will come along...

## Solomon Public Library

By Connie Avery



Karilea Riling Jungel, author & poet from Salina, made history in Solomon on January 28th, by having the first book presentation & book signing for the Solomon Public Library.

Karilea greeted everyone at the library, and then continued the presentation & signing of her book, Yesterday's Love, at the Methodist

Church across the street from the library.

While we didn't have any idea what kind of turnout we would have, more than 30 people attended and Karilea sold over 20 books. She gave a very good presentation with just enough about the book to made you want to read it.

If any library would be interested in having her do a pres-

entation and signing, just let me know, and I'll put her in touch with you.

The book is fiction and contains a small portion of her poetry as well as the story of a woman who followed clues and journals to uncover an unsolved mystery from more than 100 years ago. It is a very good book.

## Triconference 2006

The Tri-Conference represents the combined efforts and resources of the Kansas Library Association, Kansas Association of School Librarians, and the Kansas Association for Educational Communications and Technology to bring you outstanding programming, speakers, and professional activities.

Keynote speakers for this year include:

**Alan November**, an internationally recognized leader in education technology, will speak at the **General Session** on Thursday, April 6th, at 8:30 a.m. in the Mary Jane Teall Theatre.

Kansas author and poet **Max Yoho** will be the guest speaker at the **CULS Luncheon** on Thursday, April 6th, at 11:30 a.m.

The featured speaker at the **KASL Luncheon** on Friday, April 7th, at 11:30 a.m. will be children's author, **Angela Johnson**.

You can **Bee a part of KLA history** by taking part in the in the third and last Give KLA a Leg Up Bee experience on Thursday, April 6th. The Bee is a fundraiser for the Kansas Library Association Educational Foundation. Winners get to display the coveted "Leg Lamp" at their library until Triconference 2007.

Following the BEE will be the **Kansas Authors Dinner** sponsored by the Kansas Center for the Book.

On Tuesday, April 5th, there are several interesting and free preconferences.

Wednesday is the 2006 Trustee/Friends Day sponsored by

April 4-7, 2006  
Century II  
Wichita, Kansas

KLTA And FOKL, with programs of special interest to library trustees.

The 100+ programs scheduled on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday promise a bit of something for everyone.

For more information on the preconferences, programs and special events go to <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/tricon/2006/>

You will also find a link there for online registration.

One more link to check before you go is <http://www.nckl.info/appl.html>, where you will find information and an application for the NCKL continuing education grant. Librarians and Trustees may apply for grants to cover Triconference registration. Please submit these applications by March 15th.



## Herington Public Library News

By Susan Carlson

The Herington Public Library has recently completed a remodeling project. The goals of this project were to improve handicapped accessibility to the library and to improve the appearance of the

main floor of the building. The project included painting and adding new carpet to the main floor of the library.

In the process, the shelving units behind the circulation desk were spread

apart to meet accessibility requirements. Other bookshelves have also been rearranged in order to meet accessibility standards. The library has a more open and inviting appearance after these changes.

## Council Grove

By Anne Tegtmeyer

Council Grove Public Library is pleased to introduce our new Children's Librarian. Her name is Kinsey Rankin. She was born and raised in Council Grove and is enjoying her new position.

Council Grove Public Library now has an online catalog, accessed by going to

our home page at: <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/norcen/cgrove/>, and clicking on the: Use the new **Council Grove Online Catalog** to browse the library's collection. you will be able to see our collection. If you have a card with the library and know your number, you can go in and see what you

have checked out as well.

Carol Barta presented a program on Board Orientation at the February Board Meeting. The Board Members were given a good introduction to their duties and responsibilities and homework. The Director learned a lot as well!



Use the new  
**Council Grove  
Online Catalog**  
to browse the library's  
collection.



# North Central Kansas Libraries System

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## Calendar

March 22	Summer Reading Workshop
April 4-7	Tri-conference in Wichita
April 19	Resource Sharing Workshop
May 4	Book Fair
June ???	Grant Writing
August 3	Full System Meeting



Unleash the hounds, the cats, the parakeets, the hamsters and the turtles. You'll find they are heading to the public library for the Summer Reading Program: Paws, Claws, Scales and Tales.

**NCKL's Summer Reading Workshop will take place on March 22nd, from 9 until 3 in the Manhattan Public Library Auditorium. There will be a pizza bar for lunch.**

**Lunch is \$5. Please bring a craft or program idea to share.**

Joyce Slater, storyteller, actress, visual artist and teacher, will help you discover new ways to bring the summer programs to life with puppets, music, play-acting, origami and more. We will draw on our experiences with the creatures we love to love and even the ones we love to hate to create programs for all ages.

**Register online at [www.nckl.info](http://www.nckl.info)**

See you later,  
Alligator.

