WHAT CAN NCKLS DO FOR YOU?

By Linda Knupp, NCKLS Director

The annual system board meeting and budget hearing of the North Central Kansas Libraries System (NCKLS) takes place on the first Thursday of each August. Each member library in the NCKLS region designated a representative from their library to review and vote on the system plan of service for 2020, as well as the annual budget that supports the plan’s goals and activities.

Everyone’s participation is important to insure that NCKLS is working for you. A copy of the meeting agenda, the 2020 Service Plan and Goals, and the proposed budget was mailed to the representative appointed by each library and the governor’s appointees from each of the taxing counties. The plan and budget are also available on the NCKLS website.

The 2020 Service Plan and Goals focus on 6 service areas including:

Consulting services: NCKLS librarians and board members may call on NCKLS staff for information and assistance in areas of library governance, operation and services.

Youth services and program support: A dedicated NCKLS staff member is available to help plan programs and maintain collections that encourage a lifelong love of reading and learning from birth through the teen years, including summer reading activities.

Continuing education and training for library staff and trustees: There is a lot to learn about running a library. NCKLS provides workshops and grants for training to meet the individual needs of librarians and trustees, whether it’s online, in person or at a conference.

Technology support: Two full-time staff members provide technology support to NCKLS libraries, including assistance with purchasing, troubleshooting, planning, and support for maintaining networks and instruction.

Resource sharing: A rotating collection of books, centralized processing and cataloging of materials for individual library collections, support for access to digital resources, and interlibrary loan are essential to extend library services.

Grants and financial support: Grants for building collections, technology, service improvements and programming are available for public libraries to help support local service and meet the needs of individual communities.
FRONT PAGE STORY CONTINUES...

The 2020 budget was published in the newspaper of record in each of the 8 taxing counties in the NCKLS region prior to the annual meeting. No increase in the mill levy rate will be required to support the 2020 plan and budget, and the mill levy rate is projected to decrease from 1.451 in 2019, to 1.431 in 2020.

The 2020 budget allows for increased support for continuing education and training to support several outstanding workshops and conferences that will be offered next year.

Public libraries in taxing counties can also look forward to receiving grants of up to $1,000 each for technology and service improvements with a reduced matching requirement of only 10%.

If you have questions or comments about the 2020 Service Plan or budget, contact Linda Knupp, NCKLS director at lknupp@mhk.library.org.

YOUTH SERVICES NOTES

As school-age kids return to the classroom, storytimes and little ones return to libraries for sharing stories and chanting rhymes. Fall is a great time to reinforce pre-reading skills. Here are a few reminders:

Read—Hearing words helps to build a rich network in a child’s brain. Kids who are frequently read to know more words by age 2 than children who have not been read to. Kids who are read to during their early years are more likely to learn to read at the right time.

Write—Point out the words to young children. This helps them to identify what you are reading, the difference between the pictures and the print. They begin to be aware of the letters and learn that the letters make words.

Play—By five months of age, a baby shows excitement when a toy or book is placed in front of them. They can move eye muscles to examine things of interest, identify color and are generally interested in looking at a toy or book. Have fun with books.

Talk—Language enhances everything for young children. Make sure you have lots to talk about as you describe the toy, read the book or talk about the illustrations. Choose toys and books that have contrasts in color and pattern, texture, and sound, as well as flexibility in movement so you have opportunities to describe using varied and rich vocabulary.

Sing—Believe it or not, by the time babies reach their first birthday they will have learned all the sounds needed to speak their native language. The more words you sing, the more words the child will be exposed to and the better he or she will be able to break down the sounds to talk.

Repetition—The more you read a book, the stronger the connection. The repetitive storyline of stories that appeal to young children makes the book fun, engaging, and easier to remember. Reading to babies and young children is not only a way to inspire a love of books from infancy, but also an important way to grow a baby’s vocabulary – first their understanding vocabulary and later their speaking vocabulary.

Reading to babies can be a soothing, comforting activity but don’t be surprised if it takes a few sessions before you and your little ones get into a rhythm with the right books and the right routine. Enjoy every storytime as an adventure in learning with your youngest patrons.
LABOR LAW UPDATES

Teri Belin, Administrative Services Associate Director, Manhattan Public Library

There are a few pieces of proposed legislation to watch. Although they are not laws yet, think about how they would impact your library operations if they should become laws.

The U.S. House of Representatives passed the Equality Act by a 236-173 vote on May 17. The act would prohibit discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation and gender identity in employment, housing and several other areas of federal law. The Senate will now consider the bill but isn’t expected to pass it. Republican representatives expressed concern about religious freedom. The Trump administration doesn’t support the bill.

A new overtime rule was proposed by the U.S. Department of Labor on March 7, 2019. Workers who do not earn at least $35,308 a year ($679 a week) would have to be paid overtime, even if they’re classified as a manager or professional. No changes to the duties tests were proposed. The Department of Labor intends to propose an update to the salary threshold every four years to ensure that these levels continue to provide useful tests for exemption. Updates would not be automatic and would continue to require notice-and-comment rulemaking. The proposed rule is expected to become effective in January 2020.

The DOL’s first shot at raising the salary levels, which would have more than doubled the pay required for most overtime exemptions to $47,476 a year ($913 a week), was blocked by a federal court in Texas shortly before its December, 2016 effective date. By the time it was blocked, most employers had already adjusted salaries or job duties so that workers could be classified as non-exempt.

The full text of the Equality Act can be found at: https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/5.

More information on the overtime rule is available at: https://www.dol.gov/whd/overtime2019/.

STATE LIBRARY NEWS

State Library of Kansas Announces New Resources for Students

TOPEKA – Back to school means back to homework and the State Library of Kansas is ready to help. New five-year contracts for online resources went into effect on August 1, 2019. The State Library is pleased to provide access to more than 60 online databases to all Kansans at no charge. All Kansans can access these resources online at https://kslib.info or via their local library’s website.

“We’re excited to maintain subscriptions to resources that our patrons and Kansas libraries have come to expect, while also adding several new topic areas and key collections,” said State Librarian Eric Norris. “Kansas students now have a wider variety of resources to help them with their research needs.”

These new resources provide Kansas residents and students with reliable, high-quality content that supports education, lifelong learning, and personal enrichment.

To access all databases provided by the State Library of Kansas, visit https://kslib.info/databases.
CONTINUING EDUCATION NEWS

KLA Conference Information

The Kansas Library Association (KLA) Conference Planning Committee is excited to announce the 2019 conference at the Overland Park Convention Center, Overland Park, Kansas on October 23, 24, 25.

The 2019 KLA Conference theme is Libraries Build Communities – Healthy, Wealthy and Wise, and focuses on how to innovate, inspire and connect the library community across Kansas. We are expecting this year’s conference to be one of the best yet, with programs that apply to all levels of library work; from front line staff to directors.

Registration information found here: https://kslibassoc.org/KLA_Conference_2019

Best Small Library Award

Is your library doing wonderful things in your community? Apply for the KLA/Auto-Graphics award for the best services, programs or activities in small Kansas public libraries. This award provides recognition and a monetary honorarium to public libraries serving a population, i.e., “taxing district,” of less than 5,000 for describing creative and excellent library service, program, or activity that can be replicated in other libraries.

Application and more information found here: https://kslibassoc.org/Best_Small_Library_Award

UPCOMING TECHNOLOGY TRAINING

LearningExpress (LE) Session Description: In this hands-on workshop, participants will go in-depth into the state library resource of LearningExpress. It is an introduction and review for any level of staff. Participants will:

* Navigate the 10 centers
* Take practice tests and access tutorials
* Understand how to download eBooks
* Access the tool "My Center"
* Direct patrons to end-user video guides and all resources
* Become familiar with over 1000 resources

State Library Resource Review Description: Participants will become familiar with the State Library of Kansas website and available resources. We will cover topics relating to the Kansas Library eCard, digital book eLending, Cloud Library, Enki Library, Freading, RBdigital, and BookFlix. This course is an introduction to each database and a review of the State Library offerings for any level of staff.

Sunflower e-Library Session Description: Participants will explore the Sunflower consortium and understand the basics of the dashboard including the help feature and “my account”. The Libby app will be discussed and librarians will learn to checkout e-books, digital audiobooks and videos. This course is an introduction for any level of staff

Please register at: http://know.nckl.info/
Seasonal books will be added to the library deliveries in mid-August. Halloween titles will be followed by Thanksgiving and Christmas books.

Currently, there are 18 care homes in 6 counties that receive 342 books every 2 months.

**BOOK VAN NEWS**

Did you know that the rotating collection provides books to long-term care institutions in our system?

**SPOTTED AROUND THE SYSTEM**

Clockwise from Lower Left:
- PWRL—Alma Branch,
- Hope Community Library,
- Council Grove Public Library,
- Burns Public Library,
- Marion Public Library
WEEDING 101: LARGE PRINT BOOKS

By Marcy Allen

Large print collections can be neglected over time. Those titles aren’t given the same serious nature as some of our nonfiction collections, and so their maintenance can sometimes be delayed. But they, too, deserve thoughtful consideration, and experienced weeder suggest titles should be weeded every year! Let’s think about what needs to disappear in order to make our collections attractive and timely.

**Titles with color-coded covers indicating genres.** Remember when we ordered these? They were published some years ago and often displayed some rather unattractive cover art, in addition to the wide bands of color. Now, they are dated, and readers don’t really want to pick them up, since the books seem to scream that they are large print editions. Large print readers expect covers that are very similar to regular print covers, and we should not disappoint.

**Branded westerns.** We’ve all got them: These are the westerns that have the individual markings made by western fans who don’t want to pick up the same book twice. Let’s face it: the books are defaced and are often faded and soiled from heavy use. Vendors like Gale Thorndike and Centerpoint routinely supply new lists of westerns for purchase.

**Large print copies of older bestsellers.** Your large print collection should really mirror your regular print collection. If you’ve eliminated a title from your fiction shelves, why would you retain it in large print? This applies to nonfiction as well as fiction titles, so think about what your readers deserve in the way of current demand.

Let’s be honest: There are more of us using large print titles all the time. Let’s keep that print collection clean and appealing for those with visual problems, as well as for those who just prefer large print. This will keep the titles circulating the way we want them to do so.