Gratitude and Optimism

By Linda Knupp

As we approach the holidays, once again, I’d like to acknowledge our gratitude to Carol Barta for her work over the last 15 years at NCKLS. We appreciate her service, and wish her the very best in her new adventures.

Dawn Krause has accepted the position of Assistant Director of NCKLS and will begin work after the first of the year. She brings a unique set of skills and experience to the job, and she is eager to learn more about NCKLS libraries and service needs. Dawn moved to Manhattan, KS in 2012 and worked at NCKLS as the Youth Services Consultant for a period of time. Prior to moving to Kansas, she was a consultant at the Texas State Library and Archives Commission where she served as a Library Management Consultant and as the manager of Consulting and Continuing Education. She managed the small library training programs, including the Texas Reading Club, early literacy and weeding with the CREW method, among other duties.

She brings grant writing skills from her work as the Director of Continuing Education and Corporate Training at the Manhattan Area Technical College, and additional consulting and planning experience from her most recent job as a Content and Program Coordinator for NACA DA: The Global Community for Academic Advising.

In addition to a Masters of Library and Information Science from the University of Texas, Dawn has a Master’s of Science in Human Resource Development, also from the University of Texas. She begins work at NCKLS on January 2, 2021.

Here’s to a new year with changes ahead! NCKLS libraries continue to do a phenomenal job of balancing service with safety during this most challenging year. “Normal” services will not resume for most locations for the foreseeable future, but there is reason for optimism as we continue to work through challenges in 2021.
“Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much” – Helen Keller.

TAILS AND TALES IN 2021

Time to get ready for summer reading!

Instead of one summer reading workshop, NCKLS will host 4 sessions around the summer reading theme of animals. The webinars will be recorded and available for librarians to watch until May 1, 2021.

Will Stuck will kick off the webinar series focusing on children’s programming ideas. Next will be a session by Jennifer McCulley, who will share teen programming ideas.

These workshops will be followed by an idea share on adult programming and a craft sharing session. Registration is currently open on the NCKLS website.

The State Library of Kansas is continuing to sponsor Reader Zone in summer 2021. This is an online tracking system for readers to track books read this summer. It is open to all Kansas libraries. Contact Sandy Wlkerson to participate in this opportunity. Training will begin in March.

NOTES FROM THE ACQUISITIONS CORNER

By Kirk Hargett

By the time you’re reading this there will be close to one week remaining to place orders with Baker & Taylor because the last day to order is December 11. Let me know if you have any questions about existing orders and Marcy can help you if you have last-minute questions about selecting books or creating carts in B&T online.

THE END OF 15 YEARS OF SERVICE TO NCKLS

By Carol Barta

Who could have imagined that fifteen years flew by so quickly and finished on such a strange note? We were challenged to find new ways of doing everything and we met that challenge.

The system libraries have come a long way – we’ve all gotten better at using technology, from automating the catalogs, to websites to Zoom meetings, everyone in the NCKLS family has learned and grown.

Through programs like ApPLE, Book Fair, NeCessary KnowLedge, workshops, users groups, ARSL and KLA, the directors and library staff have grown in their knowledge and confidence that they can give their communities the libraries they want and need. You are rock stars!

Over the years, I’ve had a chance to spend time with many of the library boards in our system. Board members have a hard job balancing the needs and wants of library patrons and staff against the desire of their neighbors for lower taxes. It has been a real privilege to work with our dedicated volunteers. I hope I have helped and made this difficult job a bit easier.

And finally a huge thank-you to the NCKLS staff. They are a great team and have truly worked together to solve any situation that has come our way. 2020 has been a difficult year. We were just planning a “farewell tour” out to the system libraries, when we had to close the office. Everyone did their best to keep up the services to the libraries, making changes and staying flexible. They have been a wonderful group to work with over the years. The system is in good hands.

For the time being, I will be staying in the area. Having more time to devote to my little farming endeavor has long been my dream. Don’t hesitate to call for a friendly chat, but I won’t be able to answer the hard questions.
TELLING TALES THIS SUMMER

Stories, stories, everybody has a story! Tails and Tales is the summer reading theme for summer 2021. Telling Tales and hearing stories will be a highlight of the summer program. Writing activities are fun with school age kids. One such idea is to pass a paper around the group, and when the paper comes to each child, they add another sentence to the story changing and bending the story to each person. Another great idea is to have one child tell a story of something that happened to them and other children illustrate his/her story. This can also relate to how authors and illustrators work together to tell the stories we enjoy. A third activity is to have a picture or photograph and the children will craft a tale with that picture as the main character. All of these activities relay how important it is to listen to the details of how we each live and feel, and that is where the story lies. You might consider starting a storytellers club this summer to see how many children and adults you can get involved in your community with stories. We all see things differently and come from different places, and the stories we can tell will be a wonderful summer to share.

FROM THE STATE LIBRARY

From Eric Norris, State Librarian of Kansas

Included below is the Kansas Department of Health and Environment guidance for libraries which I received this afternoon.

The document offers considerations for libraries dealing with operational issues of health and safety.

Though I am sure your library is taking a measured and considered approach to the well-being of your staff and how to best serve your community, this statewide advice can serve as a benchmark or a frame of reference to help you and your board continue to make the best decisions moving forward.

Located at the end of the document is a reference list of online resources KDHE used to shape this guidance which will prove useful to those creating a more robust or detailed local policy.

This information is also available online here: https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1633/KDHE-Guidance-for-Libraries

More information is available at the State Library website here: https://kslib.info/1442/Covid---19-Resources

If you are looking for this information from the KDHE Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response website, it is buried and rather difficult to find.

From the main COVID page – https://www.kdheks.gov/coronavirus/index.htm – click on “Businesses and Employers” towards the middle in the Toolkits section. Then click on the “Operational Guidance” tab and there you will find the link labeled KDHE Guidance for Libraries.
OUTSTANDING BOOKS FOR THE COLLEGE BOUND LIST

The new Outstanding Books for the College Bound & Lifelong Learners list is now available. The books on this list offer opportunities to discover new ideas and provide an introduction to the fascinating variety of subjects within an academic discipline. The list is separated into the following five categories:

- Arts and Humanities
- History and Cultures
- Literature and Language Arts
- Science and Technology
- Social Sciences

View and share the list with your teens.

‘AMONG US’ GAME PROGRAM IDEA

Among Us is a popular game similar to Wink Murder or Mafia. Because of its popularity, library workers are clamoring to create programming, crafts, and meet-ups before a new video game takes over pop culture.

If you have heard of Among Us, but aren’t sure where to begin, our Programming HQ and other teen library workers are here to help; click here to get started.

If you have a successful Among Us program or craft, share it with fellow colleagues by submitting your program to the Programming HQ.

ROTATING BOOKS 2021 CALENDAR

The 2021 rotating book van calendar will soon be complete. We will go back to Tuesday and Thursday deliveries with 3 libraries per day. Please check it out on the NCKLS website and see if you have conflicts that we will need to address. Email questions or comments to dcoon@nckls.org
By Denise Coon

Am I the only one ready for some snow? With winter knocking on our doors, please remember that if the weather is bad (such as ice and snow), I might not be at your library on the day you are scheduled for your rotation. I always do my best to make the missed rotation up within the next 1-2 days, if at all possible. If I’m not able to do your rotation on your scheduled day, you will get a phone call or text from me that morning letting you know.

TECHNOLOGY SPOTLIGHT

**Health Reference Center**
from the State Library of Kansas
is an award-winning database giving educators, students, and researcher’s facts on essential health topics.

For teachers and students, the information is easy to understand with more than 11,273 short videos, 3,320 images and numerous diagrams aiding in a visual experience for middle/high school curriculum.

Within Health Reference Center is a conversion calculator located in the upper right-hand corner. This calculator gives options to convert many things i.e., angles, force, temperature, time, length, and much more.

The Read Aloud feature in this database allows students to listen as articles are read. This feature is perfect for ESL students or other readers.

Access to this database and others is 365/24/7. Please add it to your website and promote to parents and teachers. The URL is [https://kslib.info/HealthReference](https://kslib.info/HealthReference)

Contact LaDonna Clark for more information on this and other databases.
New Holiday Books of Note

By Marcia Allen

Stumped about new adult titles to purchase for the holidays? Here are a few that might really appeal to your readers during a holiday season that will be unlike any other:

**Christmas at Holiday House by RaeAnne Thayne**
Widowed Abigail Powell, a registered nurse hired to care for elderly Winnie, discovers that Winnie really wants help decorating her mansion for a fundraiser.
Winnie’s grandson, who has had his shares of heartache, is attracted to Winnie and learns that there is yet hope in his life. This heartwarming tale will appeal to romance readers, as well as those who crave wholesome seasonal reading.

**Jingle All the Way by Debbie Macomber**
What do holidays mean to the workaholic? Everly Lancaster is about to find out when her boss insists that Everly take the month of December off work. But Everly’s plans never envisioned a rain forest cruise. Perhaps guide Asher Adams might distract her from the unexpected turn of events. And what will happen between the two when the cruise ends? Follow Everly as she learns that there is room for another in her highly-charged business life.

**Christmas Cupcake Murder by Joanne Fluke**
This delightful cozy features baker Hannah Swensen trying to create delectable cupcakes and prevent any local mayhem. But a badly injured man suffering from amnesia throws chaos into the mix. Hoping to discover the man’s identity and prepare Christmas treats is almost more than Hannah can do, but she determines to solve the mystery and keep her bakery hopping.

**The Gift of the Magpie by Donna Andrews**
Meg Langlow returns for another hilarious tale of holiday hijinks, when the recipient of a charitable local house-cleaning is murdered. Rumor has it that the victim had hidden riches among the clutter, but who would kill for that? Then there’s a magpie that keeps bringing Meg and family bits of shiny objects. Is the bird somehow connected to the crime? Follow this unusual investigation to find out.

There are lots of other appealing holiday titles, perfectly suited for any reading taste. Let’s provide our readers with comforting distractions during isolated times.