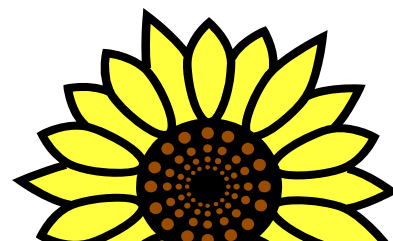


KLA Connects

Fall 2011



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE KANSAS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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2012 KLA Conference

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PUZZLES: A SIMPLE YEAR-ROUND PROGRAM FOR ALL AGES

By Leslie Nord, Branch Manager, Johnson County Library

Visit Johnson County Library's De Soto Branch any time and you might see parents and their children, senior patrons, or teenagers working on the latest puzzle at the Community Puzzle Table. Down the hallway past the Circulation Desk is a Wall of Puzzle Champs—a bulletin board with pictures of those who finish a puzzle.

While looking for an activity that all ages could enjoy, I hit upon the idea of putting a puzzle out for all to piece together. The project began when I bought a World Geography puzzle and placed it on a table near the front entrance, directly in line with the Circulation Desk. Then I waited to see what would happen.

Continued on page 2

ACADEMIC LIBRARIANS IN MANHATTAN!

By Laurel Littrell, President, CULS

On October 20 and 21, 85 academic librarians converged in Manhattan, Kansas for the Annual Fall Conference of the College and University Libraries Section of KLA. The conference theme, in keeping with the 150th Anniversary of Kansas Statehood, was "Ad Astra per Aspera: Aspiring to Excellence in Challenging Times." After an informative preconference on Fair Use and Copyright, the group enjoyed a hay ride, barbecue dinner, and cowboy poetry at the Lazy T Ranch just outside Manhattan. On Friday, the



Patrons enjoying the Puzzle Table

librarians shared ideas in sessions and networking, and participated in a luncheon presentation by Joyce Thierer, "Our Food and Our Land." Special Awards were given to Micaela Ayers, Butler Community College, for the CULS Legislative Leadership Award; and to Heidi Blackburn, Kansas State University-Salina, for the CULS Beginning Professional Award. Congratulations to these award recipients and thank you to all who contributed sessions and other work to make the conference a success! Be looking out for the 2nd Annual Conference Proceedings which will be published soon.

PUZZLES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Initially, just one retired patron would come in daily to work on the map, which had a great deal of tiny pieces and lots of blue ocean. As the puzzle began to take shape, more people would stop and put in a piece or two. Eventually, some youth who were awaiting their turns at the computer joined the senior patron. Slowly, over several weeks, the puzzle was completed.

After a week, I set out another puzzle. This time when the senior citizen finished the puzzle, I took her picture and set it on a corner of the puzzle table. Then a patron asked if I would be interested in some smaller puzzles of 300 or 500 pieces. I thought this might appeal to the younger ones who seemed to find the larger puzzles overwhelming. However, I never expected such an enthusiastic response from the young adult crowd. Young men began to compete with each other on how fast they could do the puzzle. One asked me if I was going to take his picture like I had of the lady. When some other young adults saw the picture, they asked for another puzzle so they could “bump” the other group picture. And so it went on for several weeks with different groups competing for the honor of having their pictures on display.

After a couple of years the puzzle table continues to draw young, old, and in-between. I learned a few things along the way: puzzle pieces need to be corralled or they wander off; toddlers love to reach up while parents are checking out at the Circulation Desk and pull apart the pieces; a framed bulletin board makes a great puzzle tray; and a clear acrylic square makes a great cover for the puzzle when no one is working on it.

Recently our new Youth Information Specialist, Melissa Elgersma, came up with the Puzzle Champ bulletin board which we have filled with pictures of our “puzzlers.” When the board gets full, we take the oldest picture down and give it to one of the puzzlers in the picture. The puzzle table has proved to be a great, low-cost program for all ages.

WE ARE WHERE?

By Millie Dearden, Children's Programming/YA Librarian, Scott County Library

Teens at the Scott County Library discovered not only where they were, but where others things were as well with help from Garmin and the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

Braving 105 degree temperatures, 5 teens, 2 librarians, 1 newspaper editor, and 1 park ranger went geocaching at Lake Scott State Park. What is geocaching? It's often described as a real-world out-doors treasure hunting game. Participants try to locate hidden containers, called geocaches, using GPS-enabled devices.

Garmin donated five newly overhauled Geocache GPS units to the Scott County Library to be used by the Teen program. This is the fourth year that KDWP has participated in the geocache program. It encourages people to visit the State Parks and to get “off the beaten” path and explore different



areas and features. Each park places two caches in two different places in the park. The coordinates for the first cache can be

found on the KDWP website. The second cache coordinates can be found at the site of the first.

Despite the HOT temperatures, both caches were found and everyone had a good time finding them. Another geocache expedition is being planned and next time several caches will be hidden at very different locations in the park. The only change requested by the teens was that it be held when the temperatures were much cooler, like October or November.

DODGE CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY HOLDS “GEEK THE LIBRARY” EVENT

Dodge City Public Library (DCPL) participated in “Geek the Library,” a community-based public awareness campaign. The purpose of the campaign is to highlight what people are passionate about and what role libraries can play in supporting these passions and interests. The campaign also places emphasis on the funding issues libraries face during the current economic struggles. The goal is to inspire patrons to help keep libraries as key resources in their communities.

The Geek website, provides suggestions for patrons to help support their library, such as spreading the word to community members, talking to public officials, and starting library support groups (www.geekthelibrary.org).



The DCPL event in June served patrons free hotdogs and soft drinks provided by Cargill Meat Solutions, balloons for children, and a "Geek Board" for those who wish to state what they geek. Library information and Geek the Library Campaign materials were also be available.

ANDOVER PUBLIC LIBRARY RECREATES VIETNAM ERA FOR “BIG READ” PROGRAM

The Andover Public Library took its involvement in this year’s Big Read up several notches. The library brought back the Vietnam Era with: a local Vietnam reenactors group; a photojournalist who served during the Vietnam War; and facsimiles of military equipment. Activities took place on Saturday, October 15.

“Our involvement in the Big Read the past two years was limited to book club discussions, small in-house displays and games,” notes Cheri Nienke, Assistant Library Director and coordinator of the Big Read program.

Bill Snead is a University of Kansas professor who was a UPI national wire service photographer and photo manager during the Vietnam War. He spoke about the people he worked with, as well as the stories and people he covered. His photos were on display in the library during the month of October.

“The Last Patrol”, a local Vietnam re-enactors group, attended in full uniform and displayed the 80-pound packs carried by soldiers. Robert Wilson, a library patron and military buff, is on the board of Directors at the Kansas Museum of Military History and is part of the reenactors group. The group brought facsimiles of a M35A2C Vietnam gun truck entitled “Business as Usual” and a 1965 UH-1H Huey helicopter. The copter is painted in the colors of the 1/9 Cavalry, “The Headhunters,” a regiment that participated in some of the fiercest fighting during the war.

“This specially programmed day was our library’s way to participate in and enhance the statewide Big Read program,” says Nienke. “We feel the activities we planned make the book and the Vietnam experiences more real for our patrons,” she adds.

BOOK REVIEWS

Noco by Justin Marable

Review by Andrew Evans, Head of Reference, Washburn University School of Law Library

When I found out my favorite local artist wrote a children's book, I knew I had to grab a copy just to admire his artwork. The book is a visual wow! Marable's art involves a drawing or photograph, to which he applies a combination of printmaking, silk-screening, and paint brushes to create they layers of complexity.

This book is about two prairie dogs in Kansas, Noco and her dad, that get lost due to a couple of unfortunate events. The prairie dogs make their way back home above ground, on water, and even by tunneling. Marable's artwork accurately captures the various locations Noco and her father visit.

Marable doesn't come outright and say it, but one can tell through the visual images how humankind has impacted nature. He also creatively uses Noco's point of view to describe construction equipment and cars the way prairie dogs would view them, such as "big four-wheeled monsters" and "giant creatures on wheels." This perspective adds a different spin to many children's stories, allowing children to relate to a tiny prairie dog trying to get home in the real world!

As a Kansan, my favorite part of the book is recognizing the locations, either while reading the page it's on, or the detail descriptions in the back of the book. Marable also added Kansas trivia about some of the locations. Reading this book to children will be educational and fun. While I get to travel around the state, I don't necessarily recognize everything I saw. Noco gives me a reason to seek these locations in the future.

What makes this book appealing to me as an adult and parent is that Marable dedicated this book to his daughter. It was inspired by the journeys they have shared. This is an excellent book for families, and can also be shared by librarians and teachers focusing on Kansas and Kansas travel themes.

Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar**Children by Ransom Riggs**

Review by Jessica Gagnon, Director, Clearwater Public Library

Jacob has a special bond with his grandfather, having spent ample hours together, during many of which his grandfather regaled him with fantastical and far-fetched stories of children with unique and frankly *peculiar* talents. Jacob used to believe grandfather's tales; however, as he grows up, he perceives the tales as purely fiction.

One night, a wicked tragedy descends on Jacob's family, and the world to which Jacob was accustomed no longer exists. Jacob was witness to a terrifying event, the details of which no one but Jacob believes.

Jacob must come to terms with what has passed in order to have any hope at a future. In so doing, Jacob finds himself halfway around and seemingly in a whole other world altogether—a delightful, entertaining, safe world; a world much different than the one from which he's come. Yet as Jacob discovers, this world isn't as comfortable and safe as Miss Peregrine would want all the tenants of her home to believe. Terror comes to Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children, and it will take a peculiar boy and his new friends with many talents to dispel the evil forces forever.

Riggs uses clever plot twists, unique characters, and a fresh setting to tightly weave a story of life, love and beliefs. Riggs makes it easy to escape our world, suspend disbelief, and become immersed in something else entirely. While marketed to the teen audience, the story is engaging enough to capture the attention and admiration of the imaginative adult.

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a dark blue rectangular background.

Search for "Kansas Library Association"

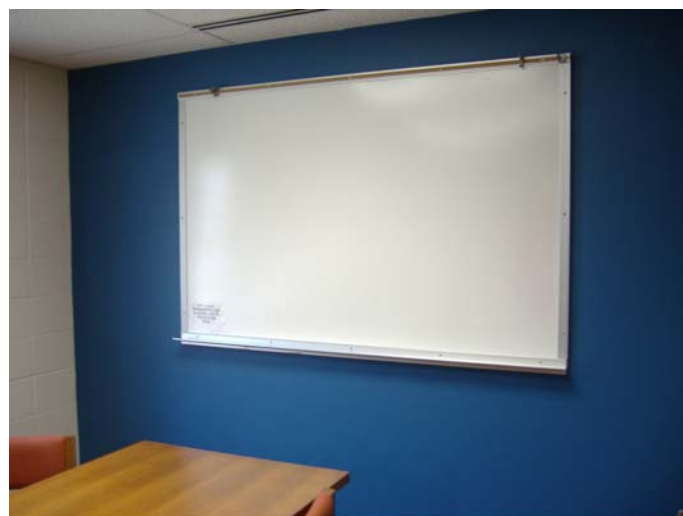
CHANGING SPACES

By Lauren Hays, Technical Services Coordinator, MidAmerica Nazarene University

College students enjoy being in groups, but they also need to spend time studying alone. The library faculty and staff at MidAmerica Nazarene University are trying to create spaces where the students feel comfortable and welcome engaging in either group work or individual study. To carry out this mission we first weeded the reference and bound periodicals to create more group study space. We were able to take out three full sets of shelves in the periodical and reference sections. This opened up the space to move tables so the space wouldn't be crowded. It also allowed us to move couches in front of the coffee shop which created an overflow area for students wanting to spend time in the library after getting coffee.

Painting was also on our agenda for the summer. A staff member volunteered to paint the wall and a pillar in front of the coffee shop. The color helped to set Dewey's Book and Bean coffee shop apart from the rest of the main floor of the library that serves as our learning commons. It also helped to create a more inviting space with a more traditional coffee shop feel. It is our hope that students will use this space for socializing and also for having scholarly discussions.

The study rooms badly needed a new coat of paint. Two staff members volunteered for the task and painted fourteen accent walls in eight study rooms and one conference room. The new paint on the walls warmed up the space, and we anticipate that there will be more use of the rooms.



While it might seem like we spent a lot of time this summer “making over” the library, our true focus was on creating and updating spaces for students. We did not want to focus solely on group spaces because we also wanted to encourage individual study. Working on the learning commons area of the main floor, and the study rooms upstairs, helped to achieve both of our goals. The changes that were made to both areas will hopefully enhance the goals of our learning commons and encourage students to use the library for both individual and group work.

FOLLOW OUR TWEETS AT WWW.TWITTER.COM/KSLIBASSOC

MARY COTTON PUBLIC LIBRARY RECIPIENT OF DOLLAR GENERAL GRANT

By Kim Priest, Director, Mary Cotton Public Library

Hear Ye, Here Ye! Was the cry at the Mary Cotton Public Library (MCPL) this summer as the staff promoted the new audio books and corresponding hardbacks/paperbacks purchased with grant funds from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation.

Early in the spring, Library director Kim Priest submitted an audio book summer reading program plan to the DG foundation through its Literacy Foundation. Then in mid-May, the library was informed that it had been granted the full amount of \$3000.00 to purchase books, audios, storybook dvds, playaways, literacy games and reading incentives with the funds. The library worked to combine the Dollar General program with the regular summer reading program "One World, Many Stories" by appealing to the early readers, reluctant readers and those with disabilities by way of offering an alternative to the regular reading program and goals. By offering the audio books with the corresponding paper copy, it was hoped that the children who used them gained more confidence in their reading abilities, improved their vocabularies and generally learned to enjoy reading instead of dreading it.

The audio program hit a bit of a rough spot when an order of books and CDs were shipped separately and there was a 3-week delay in getting the CDs. However, once they were on the shelves, they flew off as fast as the staff could process them. We've found that the kids loved the easy non-fiction books, especially when the books have pictures and lots of color to hold their interest. Parents of reluctant readers were breathing great sighs of relief because it was easier to get those children interested in listening as they read a book--no more questions about vocabulary or pronunciation of words. The audios also appealed to kids like Bri, who is confined to a wheelchair and has difficulties holding a book. We had two profoundly deaf children, who just received

cochlear implants, use the audio books to help them "listen and learn" words and sounds as they became adjusted to the implants. Although there were no blind children participating this year, the audios are great to help them feel like a part of the group who read the regular books. They can enjoy the popular titles that their friends read, too.

Thanks to the \$3000 grant from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation, the library was able to add nearly 80 new audio books and/or accompanying hardcover books to the library collection. However, they were not restricted to these readers. Throughout the summer, any child who "read" an audiobook indicated it on their report forms and was then eligible to add his or her name to a drawing for a new CD player. It was a great incentive to "read" and "listen" to an audiobook and the statistics revealed that fact. During June and July alone, over 700 audiobooks were checked out from MCPL accounting for about 6% of the total circulations for those two months. The audio books have grown quite popular with the patrons at MCPL and many children and adults like the format.

The Sabetha area kids really enjoyed the new audio program this summer, but the best part of receiving this grant is that not only will the local children benefit from the new audio additions, but so will children from the surrounding communities of northeast Kansas, and even the entire state. The new audios and books will be offered through the inter-library loan system which means that anyone from within the KOHA system or the state library system can request copies for use in the home or school. The library staff is excited to think that they can help contribute to improved literacy of our young people in this way and thank Dollar General Literacy Foundation for the opportunity to purchase the new items for the community.

MEET YOUR NEW EDITORS

Jessica Gagnon is the director of the Clearwater Public Library, Clearwater, Kansas. She received her MLS from Emporia State University in December 2010. Jessica enjoys being part of a small public library, as it allows her to be director, children's librarian, and reference librarian all in one. She hopes to become more involved with KLA to learn about, and contribute to, the advancement of libraries and the profession.

Sarah E. Velasquez,
SLIM Student, ESU



KLA is pleased to announce the new editors of *KLA Connects*. Ericka Brunson has moved on to other opportunities, and therefore Jessica Gagnon and Sarah E. Velasquez have volunteered to produce the newsletter.

Sarah E. Velasquez is a student in the SLIM program at Emporia State University. She is also a grant coordinator for the University of Kansas Medical Center and an editor at Brown Dog Editing. She is also the vice president of Heartland REFORMA. Her interests in librarianship include Archives and Latino Outreach.



Jessica Gagnon, Director,
Clearwater Public Library

MILLSAP FOR ALA PRESIDENT

Gina Millsap, the Chief Executive Officer of the Topeka and Shawnee County Library, has been selected for candidacy for the 2013-14 presidency of the American Library Association (ALA).

Millsap has her MA in Library Science from the University of Missouri-Columbia, and has held various leadership positions, including director of the Ames Public Library and president of the Iowa Library Association. She has also been active in the Kansas Library Association, the Missouri Library Association, and the Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce.

Additionally, Millsap has been very active in the ALA community. In the 2009-2010 year she served as president of the Library Leadership & Management Association (LLAMA). She also served on the ALA Advocacy Coordinating Group from 2007-08, and was the chair of the Elizabeth J. Futas Catalyst for Change Award Jury in 2002.

Polls for the ALA election open March 19, 2012. More information can be found at www.ala.org.

Announcements

Bruce Flanders is the new director of the Mabee Library, MidAmerica Nazarene University, in Olathe, KS. He officially joined the faculty on November 1, 2011. Prior to this, he served as the director of the Lawrence Public Library for over 16 years.

*If you have
announcements,
please let us know!*

FRIENDS UNIVERSITY LIBRARY HOSTS OPEN HOUSE

By Jeanette Parker, Serials Librarian, Edmund Stanley Library

Edmund Stanley Library at Friends University hosted an Open House welcoming all students, staff, faculty, administrators and interested community members to view the refurbishment which took place over the course of the summer. The Open House took place Monday, September 19th. The event featured guided tours, refreshments, a scavenger hunt for students and the evening ended with a Wii Rock Band Tournament.

The library staff worked many hours in the Spring 2011 semester and the early summer months planning furniture purchases and placement. New refurbishment features include: chairs and loveseats with tablet arms for laptops or books; café-style tables and chairs; over-sized chairs and ottomans; restaurant booths; a sectional sofa; a 55" television; a gaming table; a puzzle table; a quick print computer station; a new computer area which expanded the number of computer stations; and new computer tables and chairs.



2012 KANSAS LIBRARY CONFERENCE: I GEEK KANSAS LIBRARIES

When: April 11-13, 2012

Where: Hyatt Hotel and Conference Center,
Wichita, Kansas

If you are interested in being an Exhibitor at the Conference, information is available on our website. Questions may be directed to Mickey Coalwell (mcoalwell @ nekls.org).

Dr. R. David Lankes is KLA 2012 Conference Keynote

Have you of *The Atlas of New Librarianship*? If so, you will be excited to know the author, Dr. R. David Lankes, will be the Keynote speaker at the 2012 KLA conference.

Dr. Lankes is the Director of the Syracuse University's School of Information Studies, Library and Information Science Program. He is also the Director of the Information Institute of Syracuse, which is a research center focusing on the areas of education, technology, and librarianship.

To hear more about Dr. Lankes, his accomplishments, and his ideas for the future of librarianship, be sure to attend the Kansas Library Conference!



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MESSAGE FROM THE KLA PRESIDENT

Dear Kansas Library Association Members and Kansas Librarians,

We are proud to announce another edition of the KLA Connects Newsletter hitting the virtual stands. Thanks to Sarah and Jessica for stepping up to take over after our previous editor Ericka Brunson had the misfortune of getting a library job in another state. Ericka did an awesome job and for that we are extremely grateful. We look forward to the work that Sarah and Jessica will do for the newsletter.



As you all now, the 2012 Kansas Library Conference is right around the corner, April 11-13, 2012, to be exact. This year the conference finds us once again in the familiar stomping grounds of Wichita. Many new memories will be made as we get a chance to connect and re-connect with the librarians from across the state of Kansas. Kansas is a special place, and it is the chance to meet with so many Kansas Librarians that make our annual conference such a special event. I hope to see you there. I look forward to enjoying our time together.

See you there,
Royce Kitts, President

CORY DOCTOROW TO SPEAK AT KLA CONFERENCE

Emporia State University's School of Library and Information Management, along with K-State Libraries, KU Libraries, Wichita State University Libraries, and Emporia State University Libraries and Archives, are excited to announce that Cory Doctorow will speak at a special dinner event during the upcoming KLA Conference in April. Mr. Doctorow is "a science fiction author, activist, journalist and blogger--the co-editor of Boing Boing (boingboing.net) and the author of Tor Teens/HarperCollins UK novels like FOR THE WIN and the bestselling LITTLE BROTHER. He is the former European director of the Electronic Frontier Foundation and co-founded the UK Open Rights Group. Born in Toronto, Canada, he now lives in London."

Mr. Doctorow intends to share his thoughts on the topic of copyright and "the wider context of the information fight." This event will provide a unique opportunity for attendees to participate in an engaging educational experience that will focus on a vital issue for all library professionals. We look forward to seeing you at this lecture and are positive that it will be an inspirational and informative event that encourages conversation and progress in Kansas libraries.

You can view Cory Doctorow's full biography at <http://craphound.com/bio.php>

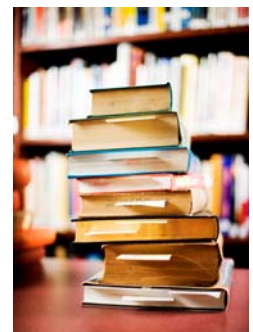
More details to follow!

SEND US YOUR NEWS!

Sarah and Jessica can't write the newsletter alone! Send us your news!

We are always looking for:

- stories
- events
- pictures
- book reviews



and anything else you think would be valuable for the newsletter!

Please send submissions to:

svelasqu@emporia.edu or cpldirector@sktc.net

