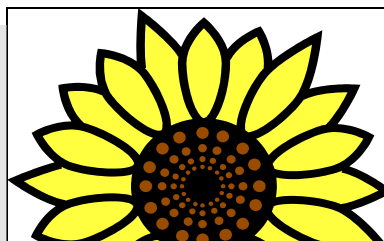


KLA Connects



SPRING 2011

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE KANSAS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

TRUDGING FORWARD DURING A COLD WINTER

It was a hard winter. Most Kansas libraries got blasted with terrible weather one week in January, then two more times in February. Wednesday, February 2nd was one of those days when many of our libraries were buried in snow and had to close. But while you were home fretting and shoveling (okay—maybe snoozing and reading is more like it), seventeen snow-bound librarians were having a very productive day.

The National Library of Medicine, MidContinental Region, had teamed up with Heartland REFORMA to bring out free online classes called “¿No Comprendo? Online Health Resources for English Speakers Serving Spanish Speaking Communities.” The State Library of Kansas hosted them in Elluminate, and the first one took place that day.

The presenters were Rebecca Brown from Dykes Health Sciences Library at the University of Kansas

Medical Center and Siobhan Champ-Blackwell from Creighton University Health Sciences Library. They took the group on an English-language tour of online health information in Spanish that included a discussion of health literacy, tips for evaluating Spanish-language sites, and demonstrations of some of the best resources.

Cindi Hickey of the State Library of Kansas (and 2011 President of Heartland REFORMA) is a tireless promoter of bringing professional development opportunities to the smaller libraries in western Kansas. She was pleased, of course, to see the program succeed in the midst of a blizzard but looks beyond that fact to an even greater potential for connecting with those libraries.

Jack Granath
Branch Manager, Argentine Public Library
2011 Treasurer, Heartland REFORMA

KLA PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS WINNERS

2011 Kansas Library Association Presidential Award Winners:

Library Advocate - Senator Jean Kurtis Schodorf
Library Personnel - Jaime Prothro
Meritorious Service - Fred Atchison
Meritorious Service- Laura DeBaun
New Professional - Megan Schulz
Duane Johnson Library
Leadership Award– Jim Minges

The awards were presented at the State Librarian's Luncheon during KLA's annual conference in April.

Photo on right: Award winners accept their plaques



Photo courtesy of Janie Rutherford



TYLDC CELEBRATING TWO YEARS OF EXISTENCE

WELCOME TO THE KANSAS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER!

Send submissions for inclusion in the Fall 2011 issue to
Ericka Brunson at :
e Brunson@emporia.edu

Happy Summer!

Ericka Brunson
Editor

Highlights this issue:

“One World, Many Stories” Postcard Project – Page 3

Kansas library wins EBSCO award! – Page 6

National Library Week Post-it campaign – Page 7 & 8

www.kslibassoc.org

On August 1st join the public community and technical college libraries of Kansas as they celebrate the 2-year anniversary of the formation of the Two-Year Library Directors Council (TYLDC).

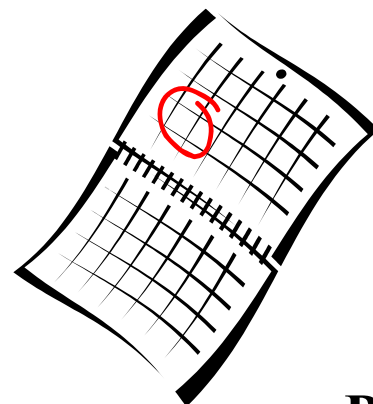
Often organizations are founded in response to events that attract attention. Increased attention and active political support from presidents and academic officers offered library directors of the public two-year colleges the opportunity to organize formally with support from the recognized, state-level academic officer and presidential bodies.

TYLDC began with the mission to advocate for sustainable library resources and services for the support of educational programs and to effectively meet the information needs of internal and external stakeholders of Kansas Regents 2-year colleges. After receiving formal endorsement from the Kansas Council of Instructional Administrators (KCIA), a Kansas Board of Regents entity; the Kansas Association of Technical Colleges (KATC) presidents’ group; and the Council of Presidents (CoPs) community college presidents’ group TYLDC declared its existence in August, 2009.

TYLDC has been active from its start, increasing the visibility of the interests of its 25 members. It is working with other academic groups to create a Kansas academic library consortium. It is communicating with the State Library of Kansas and other agencies, including positioning itself for involvement in agency initiatives. Officers are able to communicate directly with administrative groups such as KCIA. Discussions and negotiations with vendors, including LexisNexis, MLNC, and Library Discount Network, have been initiated with both parties benefitting from simplified lines of communication. It serves as a communication vehicle with the Two-Year Interest Group of KLA’s College and University Library Section and other professional groups. Prior to the Council’s existence, those activities were impossible.

As the initial and now out-going chair of TYLDC, I celebrate the existence of our body and welcome incoming Chair Micaela Ayers, Butler Community College, incoming Vice-Chair Janet Anderson-Story, Flint Hills Technical College, and our new Secretary that will be elected in June. Our Historian is Matthew Pannkuk, Seward County Community College/ATS.

Robert Kelly, MLS, M. Ed.
Coordinator of Library Services
Hutchinson Community College/AVS



KLA- CLUS FALL CONFERENCE

I'm very pleased to announce that the first annual KLA-CULS Proceedings has now been published as an open access journal via New Prairie Press at Kansas State University! Special thanks to Beth Turtle and Jenny Oleen, who not only have helped me greatly as editor throughout the process but who also have a paper featured in the first volume.

This publication is an annual collection of papers based upon presentations at the annual KLA-CULS Conference. You can access the abstracts as well as the papers in PDF at <http://newprairiepress.org/journals/> -- or, go directly to the proceedings Website at <http://www.kla-culs-proceedings.org/>

I would like to thank the CULS Proceedings Committee for their review of paper submissions.

The committee members were Micaela Ayers,

Carol Campbell, Heather Smith-Collins, and Kristin Whitehair.

And, stay tuned this summer for the announcement of proposal and paper submissions for the KLA-CULS Conference in Manhattan, KS, October 20-21, 2011! Consider doing a presentation and writing a paper for the next KLA-CULS Proceedings, and participating in open access to further scholarly communication.

Cynthia M. Akers
Associate Professor
Coordinator for Information Literacy,
Assessment, and Outreach
Emporia State University
University Libraries and Archives

"ONE WORLD, MANY STORIES" POSTCARD PROJECT

I will start out with frank honesty: I stole this idea from the YALSA listservs. If you are a Children's, Young Adult, or Teen Librarian and you do not belong to any of the ALA's fabulous youth listservs, you may want to look into subscribing. Many of "my" great ideas come from ideas shared by other amazing librarians around the United States. You do not even need to be an ALA member to subscribe!

In honor of the travel aspects of the 2011 "One World, Many Stories" Summer Reading theme, Kansas libraries have been invited to share postcards with each other. Some libraries choose to create their own postcards highlighting unique qualities of their library or community. Other libraries purchase postcards at local attractions. Several libraries asked their local youth to produce postcard creations.

Postcards should be mailed anytime from now until July 9th. Our Kansas kids will look forward to a glimpse into the communities and libraries around the state.

To share in this postcard project, add your library's name and address to the [Google Document](#).

To send your own postcards, use the document to gather mailing addresses. You may receive your first postcards within days of adding your library to the list!



KLA CAFÉ: THE HAPPENINGS IN KANSAS LIBRARIES

PLS and RIAT Special Projects

Both PLS (Public Library Section) and RIAT (Information Access and Technology) are recruiting for mentoring projects, involving new members to KLA, or to the field. We are wanting to offer a contact to [a] new librarians, from those ideally in or around their area. This librarian contact would be available to offer advice on all of the aspects of KLA, or general Librarianship.

PLS and RIAT are also hoping to build an “Organic Brain” list of KLA members who have a specialty or interests that they are willing to share. This way, if someone has questions on quilting, for example, they would have someone they could call or email for more help.

Learn more about [PLS](#) and [RIAT](#) online!

If you are interested in becoming involved with the mentoring project or would like to share a specialty, please contact:

Jeff Imparato
Incoming Chair of RIAT and Vice-Chair of PLS
Reference Librarian
Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library

SAVE THE DATES!

Fall Conference for KLA-CULS 10/20-21

October 20-21 will be the Annual Fall Conference for the Kansas Library Association College and University Libraries Section. In keeping with the Kansas 150 celebration, the theme will be "Ad Astra per Aspera: Aspiring to Excellence in Challenging Times" and the conference will be held in Manhattan, Kansas. Thursday afternoon will feature a pre-conference, followed by a social event celebrating Kansas culture and heritage. Friday's events include sessions, presentations, and our annual meeting and luncheon. Contact Laurel Littrell, Kansas State University Libraries, at (785)532-5467 or laurlit@ksu.edu for more information.

Nancy Pearl at Celebrate the Book on 11/4

The Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library and the Northeast Kansas Library System are pleased to announce that Nancy Pearl will be the Keynote speaker for the next Celebrate the Book Regional Readers' Advisory Conference. The all-day conference will be Friday, November 4th. Nancy Pearl will also present a program for the general public at the Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library on the evening of Thursday, November 3rd, and this presentation will be different from what she will present for library staff at the conference. Watch your mailboxes and KANLIB-L for more information about the conference as the date nears.

DEADLINE APPROACHING:

June 1st is the deadline for Professional Development Grants.

This is also the deadline for State Pre-conference Grants (for those with fall conferences in 2011).

Links for information and online applications can be found [here](#).

If you have any additional questions please contact :

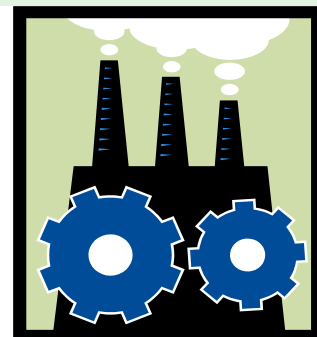
Dan Ireton, Mountain/Plains Library Association rep for Kansas
(785) 532-7436 / dli6873@k-state.edu



WHERE HISTORY MEETS THE FUTURE: STEAMPUNK

By Janene Hill, Young Adult Librarian, Manhattan Public Library

Think mid 19th century fashion, culture & events, meets 21st century technology but run mostly by steam and gases – somewhere at that crossroads, you’ve got Steampunk. Recently, a trio from Manhattan Public Library (Marcia Allen, Collection Services Manager, Emilyn Linden, Adult Services Librarian, and myself) presented at the annual Kansas Library Association Conference in Topeka about books, graphic novels and films in a category called “Steampunk.” While this sub-genre of science fiction has been around for 20 to 30 years, it is one which many people have never heard of and/or don’t know much about. The simplest definition I found is from School Library Journal’s 2010 Day of Dialog in which it was defined as: Retro futurism.



I know, you’re thinking “that’s fine Janene, but what does THAT mean?” Well, let me see if I can explain.

These are stories which take place in an alternative history, usually in the Victorian Era, in which more current technologies come into play. These technologies are often run by steam power while the gadgetry, technology, and innovations are portrayed as scientists and inventors may have envisioned them at that time. Elements of science fiction and/or fantasy usually come into play in the stories. Visually, Steampunk-style is often dark, and includes lots of bronze and copper tones. Gears, gauges, and working parts are usually visible. Things like goggles are prevalent. The term and it’s materials have much depth. There are aspects in areas of art, transportation, fashion, writing, and technology. There are even national and regional Steampunk conventions!

Several titles in the genre are things many people have heard of, but may have never realized there was a specialized category for these items. Early forms of Steampunk include those envisioned by H.G. Wells and Jules Verne. Other fairly recognizable book titles considered Steampunk include: William Allen White Award winning title, *The City of Ember* by Jeanne DuPrau, Philip Pullman’s “His Dark Materials trilogy” (*The Golden Compass*; *The Subtle Knife*; *The Amber Spyglass*), and *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley. Many movies also fall into the Steampunk category. Some recent films include: *Around World in 80 Days* (2004), *Howl’s Moving Castle*, *Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow*, *Treasure Planet*, and probably one of the most widely thought of examples, *Wild Wild West* – both the 60’s TV series and the 1999 movie.

Steampunk titles reviewed during the recent KLA presentation:

Adult books: *Not Less than Gods* by Kage Baker, *Boilerplate* by Paul Guinan & Anina Bennett, *The Affinity Bridge* by George Mann, *Boneshaker* by Cherie Priest, *The Alchemy of Stone* by Ekaterina Sedia.

Graphic Novels: *Fullmetal Alchemist* by Hiromu Arakawa, *Girl Genius* by Phil Foglio, *The Return of the Dapper Men* by Jim McCann, and *Grandville* by Bryan Talbot.

Movies: *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen*, *The Prestige*, and the 2009 version of *Sherlock Holmes*.

Children’s books: *Around the World in 100 Days* by Gary L. Blackwood, *The Clockwork Three* by Matthew J. Kirby, Larklight series (*Larklight*; *Starcross*; *Mothstrom*) by Philip Reeve.

Teen Books: *Airman* by Eoin Colfer, *Fever Crumb* by Philip Reeve, Leviathan series (*Leviathan*; *Behemoth*) by Scott Westerfeld.

INDEPENDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY RECIPIENT EBSCO AWARD

Independence, Kansas is a rural community that has been hard hit by the economic downturn. In 2010, after meeting with our school district, we were informed of some devastating news. Because of the budget crisis that our district was confronted with, they were not going to be able to offer summer school. When we heard this, we immediately wanted to help. We quickly brainstormed ideas of ways we could help bridge the gap through the summer for the children in our community. Also, the kids that would normally be attending summer school would also be missing out on the summer lunch program due to the new location of the food program. In the past, the lunch would be provided directly after each daily session. Not only would kids be missing out on the knowledge they needed, but they will be missing out on lunch as well. This was devastating news for the families in our community.

In 2009, due to a funding crisis, we were forced to reduce our staff by almost half in order to be able to keep our doors open. With our library budget as tight as it was, we knew that we were going to have to rely completely on donations and volunteers if we were going to be able to offer an educational alternative to summer school. We were approached by Marisa Fritzemeier about wanting to volunteer at our library. With a love for kids and some teaching experience, she was the perfect volunteer to help out with our special project. Marisa developed a phenomenal eight week hands-on learning program targeting students in grades 3 through 5. Our *Jump Into Summer* program started on June 1 and ran until July 23, 2010, Tuesday through Friday from 10am until noon. Marisa incorporated reading, art, theatre, science and history into her daily plans. Each week, the participants studied a different

topic and participated in a variety of activities to help stimulate the mind.

When we realized that this program was going to be possible, we immediately put out a press release in the newspaper asking for volunteers. We also conducted presentations at local civic groups and asked for donations. We were overwhelmed at the support of our community. We had teen volunteers, numerous adult volunteers, and were even able to hire a temporary part-time staff member to assist. With our partnerships in the community we were able to get supplies and nutritional snacks for the entire summer. Sonic Drive-In donated an entire eight week supply of bottled water for the kids! The kids were so excited about the programs we were offering that they could not wait to come back the next day to see what we had planned.

During the first week, the kids studied Egypt, Mexico, China, and Uganda. Each day they learned about a different culture and completed an art project. They built pyramids, Chinese dragons, necklaces out of homemade beads and more. We had a total of 106 in attendance that first week. On week two, they learned about the importance of our ecosystem, conducted an experiment on the water cycle, and talked about renewable resources. The next week, the kids learned about what it means to be a good friend; they made friendship bracelets and cards. They conducted a photography scavenger hunt around that library and finished up the week with a Wii tournament and a movie. Week four focused on art. They made sculptures with salt dough, created comics, learned creative journaling, built mosaics, and finished with Kamishibai acting. During week five they made kites, model rockets, and learned about music and how sound



travels. They also took a fieldtrip to the Independence Science and Technology Center. Starting out the month of July, the kids learned about the human body. They made a skeletal system, learned about the five senses, and watched a presentation on health and nutrition. Week seven, they made volcanoes, studied bugs, tornadoes and watched a movie called *Ant Bully*. The last week of our program we celebrated Kansas. We had a Kansas themed coloring contest, learned about Kansas Prairie-Art, made biscuits, and finished up our program with a Civil War reenactment water balloon fight.

Thanks to the support of our community, we were able to provide a wonderful summer program for the kids in our area. We had a grand total of 725 in attendance for *Jump Into Summer*. We are so very thankful that we were able to develop this amazing program to help bridge the gap through the summer. In our small rural community we were able to make a huge difference in the lives of our kids.

We were thrilled to find out we won the [EBSCO Excellence in Small and/or Rural Public Library Service Award](#). The honor goes to all of our volunteers, community partners, and dedicated staff who worked tirelessly to make this program such a wonderful success. Blinn Sheffield, our Children's Librarian, will be at this year's PLA President's Program at the ALA Annual Conference to accept our award. We will be using the cash honorarium award to help our new Teen Advisory Committee develop future after school and summer programming.

Julie Hildebrand
Director, Independence Public Library
julie@iplks.org

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK POST-IT CAMPAIGN

By Leslie Nord, Lackman and DeSoto Libraries, Manager

In order to get people thinking about their library, we featured a Post It Campaign at the Lackman Library for 12 days in April. I set a whiteboard on a table, placed it close to the entrance with a basket of post its and pretty flower pens. We had 94 patrons share their post us their feelings. I've typed these as close to what they've written as I can decipher. Children especially loved posting their comments and reading others.

Sign at the top of the Whiteboard said:

Help us Celebrate National Library Week 2011

Please pick up a post-it, and tell us:

Q: What does this library mean to you?

or

Q: If this library was a person, who would it be?

Specific answers to the question:

If this library were a person who would they be?

1. This library means a safe haven...if it were a person it would be my best friend.
2. My brother because he is weird! – Lizzie
3. This library would be Abraham Lincoln – Madeline, age 10
4. The library would be one of my teachers, encouraging me to read every day – Elizabeth age 10
5. What I like about this library is that you can read any kind of book, that it's fun, and it would be an awesome person in the world.

+ 8 more that were just scribbles from small children

Mission successful! A very crowded whiteboard at the end of National Library week

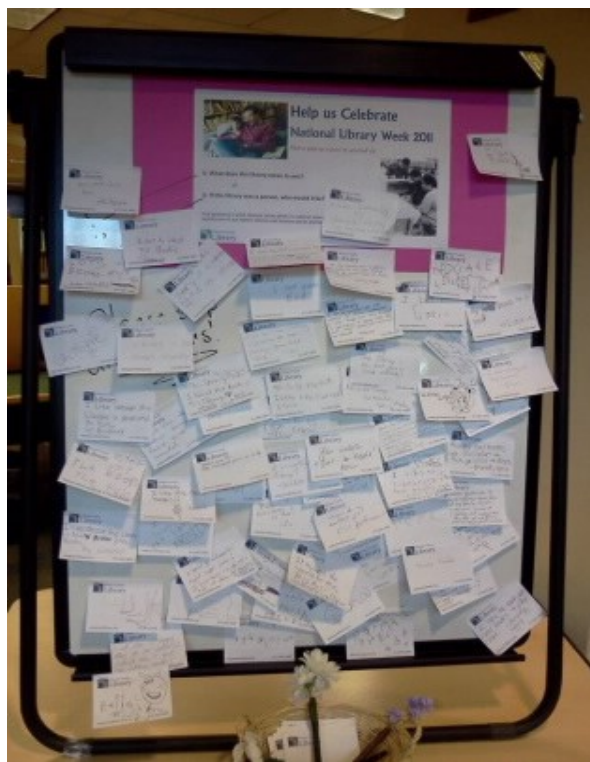
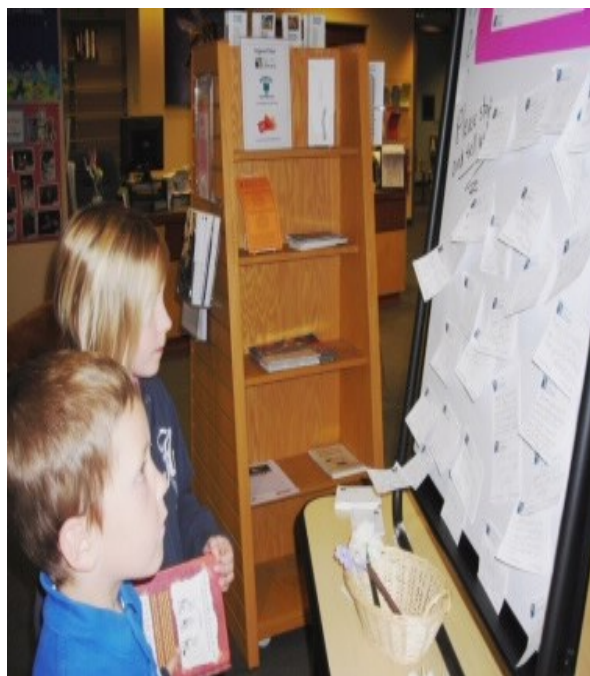


Photo courtesy of Leslie Nord

Two local children read and enjoy the board!



Photos courtesy of Leslie Nord

See a selection of comments taken from the whiteboard in response to the question: "What does this library mean to you?" on page 8.

WHAT DOES THIS LIBRARY MEAN TO YOU?

It is a source of music and movies that I don't have to rent on itunes! Mike

I had a good day at school -KRH



I love the Wii games and I love your books a lot?

My husband knows I do "library therapy" instead of shopping therapy. Had a bad day? Disappear to the library for the evening – quite, relaxing and FREE!

I'm so glad that some of my taxes help to pay the cost of providing the wonderful gift of libraries to us citizens. I don't know what the world would be like without books. Boring I guess. –Bridget L.

I am so grateful for the library! So many resources & the staff are very helpful & friendly. I pray with the cuts that libraries will not be closed. Nanine

I like Greek mythology book like theseus and the minature.

3-2-1 Our Library is Fun! Leo

I think that the books rock but u need more movies love?

I think that the library is a great place to study. I enjoy seeing Ms. Robyn, Ms. Gloria, and all of the other librarians. I can also relax and have some free time on the many available computers! I also like to sit in a comfy chair and draw pictures from books. Alexis (drew picture of flower)

Your website is great – so helpful! –KJR

We love the study rooms!

I like Miss Gloria and Miss Robyn helping me find a book they pick very good



I like Diary of a Wimpy Kid. You are awesome



Like it is for and love (Like it...is for ideas and love – interpreted by a parent)

A DRAGON OF AN IDEA FOR YOUR NEXT DIVERSITY MOVIE SERIES

The trick to having a successful diversity movie series is to have movies that appeal to various audiences. One movie that will help bring in young adults, especially males, is the action-adventure movie, *Dragon: The Bruce Lee Story*. Below are some interesting issues and scenes for discussion.

In the past, martial arts were restricted to a person's race and national origin. They were not meant to be shared. In the dialog below, Bruce Lee is informed that he broke that rule:

Principal Elder: Bruce, I know that you like to be called Bruce. You are violating the martial arts code.

Bruce Lee: What for?

Principal Elder: You are teaching our secrets to whites and blacks.

Bruce Lee: I teach who wants to learn.

Principal Elder: Bruce, we do a lot, but we do not teach our secrets to our enemy.

Bruce Lee: They are not the enemy. They just don't know us, we've been so closed for so long. They don't know the beauty of our culture.

Bruce experienced discrimination from then future mother-in-law. In the dialog below, his racist mother-in-law talks about how any children from an interracial marriage will not be accepted:

Vivian Emery: Well, I don't want to rain on your parade Mr. Lee. But the world needs hamburgers, not Judo.

Bruce Lee: Kung Fu.

Vivian Emery: Whatever. But what about children, that's what marriage is about, children, and what will they be? They won't be white, and they won't be oriental. They'll be some kind of half-breed and will not be accepted by either side.

Bruce Lee: But, they'll be American. Linda's American, I'm an American.

Vivian Emery: No, you're an American citizen Mr. Lee.

This movie is an excellent example of how diversity can positively affect us. Bruce Lee's skill was great because he ventured outside of his comfort zone and learned martial arts from different cultures. His students were encouraged to study every form of combat possible. In the process of adding to one's arsenal, one also learned how to defend against different tactics.

Bruce Lee once said: "Empty your mind, be formless, shapeless, like water. If you put water into a cup, it becomes the cup. You put water into a bottle and it becomes the bottle. You put it in a teapot it becomes the teapot. Now, water can flow, creep, drip, or it can crash. Be water my friend." While this quote is often used to describe his beliefs in martial arts, I believe it describes his life philosophies. Don't be rigid in your beliefs. Go with the flow and accept whatever life brings you including different cultures.

Andrew Pulau Evans, JD, MLS
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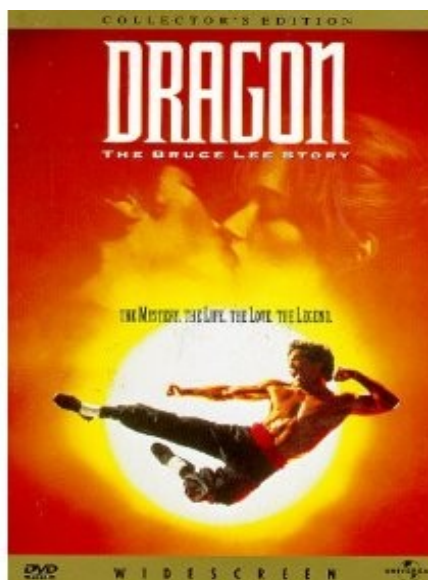


Photo retrieved from Amazon.com

FOLLOW OUR TWEETS AT WWW.TWITTER.COM/KSLIBASSOC

INTRODUCING MATT UPSON, LIBRARIAN EXTRAORDINARE

A warm welcome...

I am very pleased to join Emporia State University as a new MLS program director for SLIM. Having spent two years as the Director of Library Services at McPherson College, I am thankful for SLIM's focus on service as part of their curriculum. I really feel that any success that I had during my time at McPherson is due to a commitment to providing the prompt, accurate, and innovative delivery of information. That focus was instilled in me while at SLIM. I hope to assist in the continuation of that emphasis and encourage increased collaboration between SLIM and Kansas Libraries.

Field experiences are one way of promoting collaboration between SLIM and Kansas libraries. Our students need to have practical opportunities in working libraries, just as many of you need assistance in a time of budget cuts and tightened belts. Kansas librarians can play a huge role in shaping the state's future professionals by offering to supervise a practicum for a student or by offering a tour of their facilities to SLIM groups. Please contact me if you feel that you could provide

a professional, supervised learning opportunity for a SLIM student. We at SLIM will do our best to help you complete your innovative projects and programming, while we learn skills and strategies from experts. Let's build relationships that can help us succeed and promote our services across the state and beyond.



Matt signing an autograph for his project: *The Library of the Living Dead!* Read more below.

Matt Upson
Emporia State University
Director, Kansas MLS Program – Emporia
School of Library and Information Management
mupson@emporia.edu



[Take a look at the comic!](#)

[Read an interview with Matt and Mike](#)

Thanks to everyone who has supported *The Library of the Living Dead!* As of Friday the 13th (how oddly appropriate) we have had over 1.3 MILLION downloads!

Mike Hall and I had great fun creating this resource. We are thrilled that it has generated so much conversation among librarians. Hopefully, it will be as popular with students as it was with our peers. We recently had a last-minute "signing party" where we gave away signed copies of the comic to students. There were approximately 40 students who came to pick up their copy. For a very small campus, I believe that indicates a great interest. I hope that the students notice the care we took to portray their library and campus in a recognizable way. I think that they will appreciate the fact that someone tried to make learning a little more fun and creative.

The best thing about this project, in my mind, was that it really was easy to do! I have some advice for those librarians who want to create a unique library resource: identify the talents around you and make it fun. Simple enough, right? You don't have to create a comic; it just so happened that I worked with a guy who had that experience, so we ran with it. If you have fun creating a resource, the finished product will reflect that enthusiasm and appeal more to the patron. Sure, it may take some time to do it right, but you will find the process to be rewarding and educational.

OVERDRIVE OR UNDERWHELMING? A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

The day I bought my reader's tablet was a good day. I was so excited that I was going to be able to carry all of my schoolwork, reading, and books in one tiny little tablet. How glorious to minimize my messenger bag bulk! I immediately went home and went to the website of my local Kansas library to see if I could check out the next title on my reading list. I hopped online and quicker than a flash I found myself on the OverDrive website. My good day ended there.

How to describe OverDrive? I don't know where to begin. Perhaps you share my shudders and tingly spine just thinking about it. After a mere twenty minutes of attempting to navigate the labyrinth that is OverDrive, I gave up. Let me tell you something: I don't give up. I was appalled at the terrible design of the website itself. That, coupled with incoherent search results, was enough to drive any good library science student at least mildly insane.

A shout-out to MyHelp! for the simple four-step instructional panel "Browse, Check Out,

Download, Enjoy." This, while essentially what OverDrive is designed to do, offers no assistance in using the website beyond downloading Adobe Digital Editions. Locating a desirable title which is also available for check out is nearly impossible. My holds list has become extensive with OverDrive; in the meantime I have fallen in love with Google Books. Why, just the other day I downloaded twenty out-of-copyright books to my e-reader, free of charge. I even get to keep those.

When "Google" is synonymous with "search," we can't expect a 1995 era search engine to cut it. Additionally, OverDrive as a website pleads desperately for a re-design. Cluttered with too many icons and title entries so large you can only fit three to a screen, the site is disorderly and unappealing. Without searching for a specific title or author, there is no efficient way to locate a book. One of my favorite aspects of a traditional library is combing through the stacks for that perfect new-to-me title. In OverDrive, the browsing function does little more than pull

what appears to be a comprehensive list of holdings. The site is unappealing and inefficient.

E-books may offer a unique reading experience for library patrons in addition to providing a new service opportunity for libraries, but without a serviceable platform for e-books we cannot reasonably expect patrons to hang around waiting for libraries to catch up to Google. We are at risk of alienating our patrons with this site, and as money gets tighter that is something we absolutely cannot afford. While admittedly OverDrive is better now than on my first visit, the minimal changes are not enough. I am certainly not the only reader who has all but given up on the site. OverDrive needs to get a re-design and become an approachable, user-friendly platform. Well stocked "shelves" couldn't hurt either.

Taylor Worley
SLIM Student

Have opinions or views on OverDrive or the recent changes? [Email](#) and share your frustrations (or positive experiences)!

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

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Benefits of KLA Membership:

Advocacy!

KLA actively supports legislation affecting all types of libraries.

Get Connected!

KLA offers you opportunities to meet fellow librarians, exchange ideas and establish contact with your peers.

Get Credit!

KLA offers continuing education opportunities through workshops and annual conferences.

Get Discounts!

KLA members receive discounts on workshops and conference fees.

Get a Grant!

Financial assistance is available for members to defray conference and continuing education costs.

Get Informed!

KLA members receive the association's online newsletter, emails on pending library legislation, and information materials produced by KLA sections and roundtables.

Get Experience!

KLA members can gain leadership experience as active members in Executive Council, Committee, Section and Roundtable activities.

Get a Job!

KLA members can look for a job, KLA institutions can post jobs.

Vote!

KLA members have a vote on association matters.

Support!

KLA actively supports intellectual freedom issues and professional rights.

Pride!

Being a part of your state association instills a professional pride that cannot be matched!

Sign up for KLA at the KLA website: www.kslibassoc.org

Stay Tuned for the next issue in Fall 2011