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Kansas Report to MPLA

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Submitted by Susan Moyer, KLA Representative to MPLA

The Kansas Center for the Book will launch this state's first-ever "one book, one-state" reading project on Kansas Day, January 29, with Kansas Reads. . . The Learning Tree. The examination of this title by the late Gordon Parks will run through April 30. A web site with supporting information and materials has been launched at <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/orgs/kcfb/learningtree.htm>.

Six Kansas communities were also the recipients of grants for The Big Read program, sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts. The Joy Luck Club will be the featured title at the Johnson County Public Library while The Grapes of Wrath will be the focus at the Kansas City Kansas Public Library. In addition, Hiawatha, Junction City, Topeka and Wichita have teamed together to explore Fahrenheit 451.

KANAnswer, the statewide, online reference service operated by public and academic library staff across the state, was discontinued this month. Cost and lack of use were cited as reasons for disbanding the service. Other online services that remain available are Homework Kansas, [http://skyways.lib.ks.us/KSL/homework\\_kansas\\_libraries.html](http://skyways.lib.ks.us/KSL/homework_kansas_libraries.html), reference assistance from the State Library, <http://www.skyways.org/KSL/askaquestion.html>, the KanChat Help Center for live online assistance with questions about Kansas government, [http://www.kansas.gov/help\\_center/kanchat.html](http://www.kansas.gov/help_center/kanchat.html), and for FAQs about the same, the Kansas.gov website, <http://www.kansas.gov/index.html>.

Three new members have been appointed to the Kansas Library Network Board including Pat Gaunce, recently retired from the Kansas City Kansas Public Library system, Lori Goetsch, Dean of Libraries at Kansas State University, and Martha House, media specialist and former President of the Kansas Association of School Libraries.

Kansas enacted the Safe at Home Program in 2006, a confidential address program that protects the new addresses of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and/or human trafficking. The program provides a substitute address to be used by participants as their legal address when interacting with state and local agencies, such as registering to vote or applying for a driver's license, as well as a free mail forwarding service for their first-class mail. The new legislation may also have implication for libraries and the addresses provided for borrower's cards. The substitute address is considered the legal address of the participant, and state and local agencies must accept the Safe at Home address when the ID card is presented, except in limited circumstances.

The State Library of Kansas and Kan-Ed have partnered to award grants to 15 public libraries to equip meeting rooms with state-of-the-art, high-definition teleconferencing equipment. These rooms will form a network of sites that can be used to conduct meetings, share events and presentations, and promote statewide distribution of local events, positioning local public libraries as true community centers for high-tech global connections. At last report, equipment has already been installed in two libraries, grants have been awarded to three others and contracts approved for three others. Contracts are currently pending for the remaining seven locations.