



ST-3 Kansas Representative

MPLA Board Report

March 22, 2016

Submitted by Diana Weaver

MPLA Activities

- Participated in the Digital Archives/File Storage subgroup
- Reviewed reports submitted for March meeting

Kansas News

On March 8th, legislation was introduced into the Kansas House of Representatives that had major implications for the future of libraries in the state of Kansas. One piece of the bill would have removed taxing authority from library boards and regional library systems. The bill also re-imposed a tax lid that was repealed in 1999, and would have required a public vote in each county serviced by each of the 7 regional library systems on a yearly basis to decide whether or not to fund the systems. The consequences of the bill most likely meant the end of the regional library systems, the loss of statewide resource sharing, and the closure of over 100 small public libraries in the state.

Advocacy efforts led by the Kansas Library Association resulted in hundreds of phone calls and emails to legislators in support of libraries. Library supporters packed the room for the bill's hearing. As a result of these efforts, any mention of libraries was removed from this complicated taxation bill. Final action isn't until March 23, but all indications are that libraries in Kansas are safe for this year. One legislator commented that calls and emails from constituents that were personal and shared the impact of libraries in individual lives made a big impression on legislators.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Weaver