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KANSAS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION REPORT

October 25, 2000

TO: MPLA Board

FROM: Patti Butcher, Kansas Representative

Kansas State Library

The Kansas State Library recently entered into a contract with SIRS Mandarin to provide a database specifically for children-SIRS Discoverer Deluxe. All public and school libraries, as well as universities and colleges, in the state have web access to the new resource. Training is underway through the regional representative. The state now has a total of 3 products available at no cost to libraries: FirstSearch, InfoTrac Web, and SIRS.

A task force was appointed by the legislature to study the issues of implementing a statewide network to connect schools, libraries and perhaps other entities to the Internet with high-speed connections. A report is due out Dec. 1 following hearings with interested parties, including the telecommunications industry. A similar proposal was approved by the Senate, but not the House, during the last session.

The State Library announced that Kansas will be the first state in the last round of Gates Foundation Grants. The projected date is February, 2002, for implementation of this program. All public libraries in Kansas will be eligible.

Kansas Library Association

Program proposals are due Nov. 1 for next year's tri-conference, to be held in Topeka April 4-6, 2001.

School of Library and Information Management (SLIM), Emporia State University

SLIM has been working with the State Library and the Regional Systems, and also the new Kansas Library Trustees Association, to create an Institute for Continuing Education (ICE), which would enable them to implement three projects that have emerged from needs in the profession:

1. A trustee (library board member) education program,
2. A library services certificate program for library workers, and
3. A continuing education program for library professionals who have an MLS.

An institute is an entrepreneurial, semi-autonomous unit usually affiliated with a university in order to provide research, teaching, and service activities to the public. An institute is like a "house with many rooms," with each room arranged to provide a different kind of activity and funded externally by contracts, grants, and fees paid for workshops, products, and services. Each "room" is maintained by contract staff who are hired on an as-needed basis to complete specific tasks. Some staff may be hired on contracts to provide services to more than one of the "rooms." For example, a staff member might be contracted to provide bookkeeping services for all of the "rooms."

An institute can provide courses or workshops for university credit, non-credit workshops, contracted educational activities, customized education, action research, and produce such products as web-based instruction, pamphlets, brochures, bibliographies, videos, various printed instructional materials, and workbooks. Income can be generated from contracts, grants, and fees paid for educational activities and published products.

ICE will provide continuing education for library trustees, library staff, and library professionals in Kansas and in the other states served by the School of Library and Information Management. The Institute has been developed in partnership with Kansas State Library, the Kansas Library Trustee Association (KLTA), the Kansas regional library systems, and SLIM. Marty Hale and Dean Bob Grover met recently with representatives from these agencies to review the ICE proposal. It received strong support by all in attendance, and we will proceed with its implementation. KLTA Board has allocated funds to support the work of ICE, and pledges of support also were made by others in attendance.

During the next year ICE will assume responsibility for creating workshops for library trustees, and it will begin implementation of the Library Services Certificate Program, an outgrowth of KPLACE (a continuing education program for non-degreed library directors and staff).

Kansas Libraries in the News

Johnson County recently celebrated the grand opening of several new libraries.

One is the first branch of Olathe Public Library-Indian Creek Branch, Indian Creek Parkway & Blackbob Road in Olathe. The branch's purpose is to offer the latest in recreational and informational titles. Almost every item will be available for lending. The library has been equipped with public access computers in both the adult and children's areas.

Johnson County Public Libraries opened two new libraries: Blue Valley Library replaced a small branch to become the largest branch in the county library system (24,000- sq. ft.). The new library offers a drive up service window and a coffee café with extended hours and Internet access. The Edgerton Library opened in a renovated 1906 bank building, replacing a deposit collection service. The Library is called the "Bank of Knowledge."

Wichita Public Library

The Wichita Public Library unveiled a new Technology Training Center housed at the Central Library Branch on Sept. 29. The Technology Training Center will house 10 workstations for classroom instruction or general customer use. Each workstation is equipped with Office 2000 applications: Word, Excel, Publisher, Powerpoint, and Access. All workstation have Internet access and numerous CD-ROM programs for customer use. The only criteria for using the workstations is a Wichita Public Library Borrower's Card in good standing.

Special funding for the Technology Training Center was provided by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Cessna Foundation, the City of Wichita, the Fred C. & Mary R. Koch Foundation and the Friends of the Wichita Public Library. Funding for the Technology Training Center was developed by the Wichita Public Library Foundation with technical assistance from Key Construction, Inc. and Compton & Associates.