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Kansas Library Association
Mountain Plains Library Association Report, November 3, 2003
Submitted by Susan Moyer, KLA Representative to MPLA

Terri Summey, Emporia State University, has been named a recipient of the Kansas Board Choice Award for 2004. Terri is an Associate Professor at ESU and serves as the Head of Distance Education and Collection Development and as the Webmaster for the William Allen White Library. She is active in KLA, particularly in the area of distance education.

Kan-Ed, the project to create a Kansas information highway for schools, libraries and hospitals, provided grants to hundreds of organizations during the first round of its subsidy program. Most received a little over \$4,000 to help fund broadband connectivity equipment and services. Kan-Ed has also purchased statewide access to several databases including World Book Encyclopedia, Proquest Heritage Quest, Gale Literature Resource Center, Gale Infotrac Custom Newspapers, and Proquest Nursing Journals. These compliment the current utilities available through the Kansas Library Network Board, Infotrac, FirstSearch and SIRS Discoverer Deluxe.

"Technology for 21st Century Learners" is the theme of the 5th Annual Kansas Technology Leadership Conference, December 9-11. This year there will be two back-to-back conferences sponsored by the Kansas State Department of Education and KAN-ED to benefit K-12 schools and others. The first two days will focus on educational technology issues for K-12 schools. The third day will be devoted to connectivity and distance learning for higher education, public and private K-12 schools, hospitals and libraries. The conferences will be held at Maner Conference Center in the Capitol Plaza Hotel, Topeka.

The Kansas Library Network Board is offering a total of \$10,000 in matching grants as part of its Western Trails Digitization grant program. Awards will be targeted for digitization projects that pertain to materials relevant to the westerly migration of peoples through the state. In return, the recipient libraries must make the resulting metadata publicly available online via the Kansas Western Trails database.

The Kansas Public Library Salaries Project website, <http://www.skyways.org/KSL/development/salaries>, was recently introduced. It is the latest achievement in a project that began in 2001 in an effort to improve public library salaries to reflect the market value of the lifelong training, extensive skills and strong commitment of public librarians. Included in the website are a collection of PDF documents including sample justifications for increased administrative salaries, examples of recent successful salary negotiations and the Northeast Kansas Library System Library Salary Improvement Program.

Another web utility, Links to Trustee Topics, was also recently introduced. It offers links to documents of particular interest to Library Trustees and administrators. Included among the topics covered are recruitment and selection, orientation, board organization, effective board meetings, documentation, library policies, board responsibilities, staff compensation, budget issues, legal issues and responsibilities, marketing and library advocacy. This site can be accessed at <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/KSL/development/trusteetopics.html>.

The KLA Legislative Committee is in the process of finalizing the legislative agenda for the 2004 session that begins in January. It will include the ongoing initiatives to enhance grants-in-aid to local libraries by \$3.6 million and to continue funding Kan-Ed from the Universal Services Fund. In addition, issues regarding the Kansas Open Records Act and Internet safety for children will also be addressed.

The Public Library Section of KLA and the Kansas Library Trustees Association teamed to offer a successful fall conference that covered a variety of topics of interest to library staff and trustees. These were covered in two tracks including 1) facilities management, space use and analysis, the bookstore model for marketing and merchandising, and 2) Kan-ed, improving salaries, legislative advocacy, and library funding laws. The keynote speaker was MPLA notable, Marilyn Hinshaw, who offered an inspirational address to help those present see that their libraries are instrumental to the core of their communities. In addition, the Heartland Chapter of REFORMA sponsored an

evening event featuring a discussion of *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros led by Martha Ortiz Sanchez, a Kansas Humanities Council discussion leader.