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Kansas Report to MPLA

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Submitted by Susan Moyer, KLA Representative to MPLA

The State Legislature is currently in session, and the Kansas Library Association has established the priorities included in the attached "[push card](#)" for their consideration.

In addition to these, library staff, board members and friends are also currently responding to an initiative requiring mandatory Internet filtering and policies prohibiting the borrowing of R-rate videos by minors without the presence of a parent. This was presented in the form of an amendment to an unrelated piece of library legislation on the House floor and was passed to the Senate by an overwhelming majority. The measure has been referred to the Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation and will likely be a hot topic of conversation on Library Legislative Day on 2/16.

KLA has added a section to their web site pertaining to intellectual freedom, including an Intellectual Freedom Handbook. This is available at:

http://skyways.lib.ks.us/KLA/intellectual_freedom/index.html

Kansas also recently launched the Kansas Digital Library, a cooperative partnership among the state's archives, museums, historical societies, and libraries to use digital technologies to expand awareness and availability of their collections for a worldwide audience, focusing on materials that are uniquely Kansan or unique to Kansas. Included among their goals are:

- To promote use of these collections in primary and secondary schools, institutions of higher education, and other learning communities to increase understanding of the heritage of Kansas and inform future generations.
- To promote uses of these collections by all communities of interest to support economic development and improvements in the quality of life in Kansas.

KDL's initial membership includes the libraries of the Kansas Regents universities, Washburn University, Baker University (on behalf of the libraries of independent colleges and universities in Kansas), the Kansas State Historical Society, the Kansas State Department of Education, the Kansas State Library, and a representative from the public library community.

Tri-Conference, the joint continuing education conference sponsored by the Kansas Association of School Libraries, the Kansas Association for Educational Communications and Technology, and KLA is scheduled for April 4-7.

The State Library of Kansas has launched a new web site at <http://www.skyways.org/KSL>. It includes information about the changes State Librarian Christie Brandau has made to the Interlibrary Loan Development Program. Beginning with the 2007 appropriation, all grantees will be required to spend 33% of their award on digital resources that can be accessed through the Kansas Virtual Library. In fiscal year 2008, 66% of the award spent on digital materials. In 2009 the project will be evaluated to determine its use and success. The site also includes the Kansas Virtual Library, a statewide cooperative project with Kansas libraries and Overdrive that will provide downloadable audio books. This project will be part of the KVL and expand the online library resources for Kansans.

The State Library of Kansas has also announced goals for 2006 that include:

- Simplifying the process for issuing Kansas Library Cards
- The development of core competencies for librarians and trustees, and a reconfiguration of statewide training for library administrators.
- The launch of a library automation project that provides financial assistance via LSTA funds for automating small libraries to enhance library resource sharing throughout the state.

The Kansas Center for the Book has announced plans for several important projects in 2006 including a Kansas Book Festival, a Kansas Notable Books project and a Kansas Authors Dinner at Triconference.

The Johnson County Library has been awarded the 2005 National Award for Library Service from the Institute of Museum and Library Service (IMLS), the nation's highest honor for extraordinary public service provided by a library. First Lady Laura Bush and Acting IMLS Director Mary Chute presented the award to County Librarian Mona Carmack and Library Patron and businesswoman Denise Upah during a January 30th White House ceremony.