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Kansas State Representative
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The newly-established Kansas statewide courier service, Kansas Library Express, experienced a usage increase of 40% from 32,737 in July to 45,745 in August. That resulted in an overall unit cost of .79 per item shipped in August. A significant increase in volume is expected in October and November, typically the high volume interlibrary loan period in the Fall school semester. Kansas Library Express now serves a total of 223 libraries, including a number of school libraries that began participation in September.

The State Library of Kansas has posted the first Online Learning Round-up, produced by the State Library's Continuing Education staff, Shannon Roy and Cindi Hickey, with the latest information about online webinars on a variety of library related topics. (This idea was initiated by Jamie Markus of the Wyoming State Library). URLs and registration information for all of these webinars is available at <http://statelibrary.mykansaslbrary.org/>

October 20, 12:00 – 1:00 PM, Mountain Time; 1:00 – 2:00 PM, Central Time
Doing More with Less: "Training Up" in Tough Economic Times (Library Journal Webinar)

October 20, 10:00 – 11:00 AM Central Time
What's the Policy? Involving Staff in Policy Development (Learning 2 Action Wimba Webinar)

October 21, – 12:00 - 1:00 PM, Mountain Time; 1:00 – 2:00 PM, Central Time
Hurricane Preparedness and Response (WebJunction Webinar)

October 28 – 1:00 – 2:00 PM, Mountain Time; 2:00 – 3:00 PM, Central Time
Genetics Home Reference and My Family Health History (National Library of Medicine)

October 30 – 10:00 - 11:00 AM, Mountain Time; 12:00 – 1:00 PM, Central Time
Developing a Training Plan for Change (BCR)

November 17 – 2:00 – 3:00 PM, Central Time
Essential Support: Good Procedures for Good Policies (Learning 2 Action Wimba Webinar)

December 15 - 16 - 3:00 – 4:00 PM, Mountain Time; 4:00 – 5:00 PM, Central Time
Libraries Helping Job Seekers in Hard times

Kansas Talking Books began its widespread delivery of digital Talking Book machines to Kansas veterans and centenarians on September 11. From Great Bend to Chetopa, from Garden City to Harper, nearly 200 users were simply delighted. “This is the difference between a model T and a new Lincoln,” commented one user. “It’s out of this world – a big improvement.” Title selection for the new digital cartridges is somewhat limited for now, but Richard Coleman of Hutchinson noted that it's hard to listen to the cassette machine now that he has the digital machine — the difference between the two is like night and day.

Fifteen librarians from three regional systems in Kansas attended the Association for Rural and Small Libraries Conference in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, September 9-14. Attendees learned how small libraries can achieve staff training goals in 15-minute increments without leaving the library, and what free internet products enable even the smallest libraries to hold online meetings. The Director of Library Journal’s Best Small Library in America described her community’s economic, literacy, and employment situation. Next year’s ARSL conference will be in Denver, October 14-16, 2010.

The State Library of Kansas and the Kansas Center for the Book are again proud to present an exciting statewide reading program that brings communities together through reading. Coming next spring is 2010 Kansas Reads...Dreams from My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance by Barack Obama. This book was first published in 1995, after Obama was elected the first African-American president of the Harvard Law Review, but before his political career began. Dreams From My Father was chosen because it addresses issues faced by Kansans across the state. These include memoir writing, the search for an individual’s identity, relationships with fathers, and issues of blended families.