

KLA Executive Board Report A-12

Kentucky Dept. for Libraries and Archives

March 7, 2009

KDLA's budget for 2009 has been finalized with the approval of the General Fund Reduction Plan and the revenue enhancements passed by the Legislature. These measures called for KDLA to enact another 4% reduction that prevented us from filling positions, required additional reductions in operating, and necessitated the raiding of several funds. The retirement window closed on December 31, resulting in another wave of retirements. The KDLA staff stands at 109 – which is 29 staff members fewer than this time last year. We are awaiting information on the 2010 budget. Without being able to replace many staff members who retired, reorganization will be necessary. Charlene Davis has assumed supervision of the Field Services Division with the retirement of Judith Gibbons and I have assumed supervision of the Administrative Services Division with the retirement of Christie Robinson.

Public library statistics for the 2007-2008 fiscal year have been compiled. These are available on the KDLA website at: <http://kdla.ky.gov/libsupport/statistics.htm>.

Major findings include:

- Total operating revenue increased by 7.8%
- Salary/benefits for staff increased by 9.2%
- Salary/benefits compose 60.9% of the libraries' expenditures
- Collection expenditures fell by 3.2%
- Electronic materials expenditures increased by 18.6%
- Library space increased by 6.4% (+136,986 sq. ft)
- Number of meetings at libraries increased by 13.1%
- Number of librarians with ALA MLS increased by 7.9%
- Total staff increased by 5.6%
- Juvenile fiction circulation increased by 8.6% and juvenile non-fiction circulation increased by 12.4%
- Total materials circulation increased by 6.1%
- People entering the library increased by 4.2%
- Children's program attendance increased by 4.8%
- Number of computers for public use increased by 10.9% (+322 terminals)

Statistics for public libraries across the country by state for 2005-6 have been released by the Institute for Museum and Library Services. These statistics indicate that Kentucky made gains in 17 of 22 categories when compared with other states, remained the same in 4 categories, and dropped in only 1. For a table of these statistics see:

<http://kdla.ky.gov/libsupport/statistics/rankings.htm>

The Public Library Legislative Committee held its annual Legislative Day on Feb. 11. Librarians, trustees, and library supporters from more than 30 counties visited with their legislators at the Capitol. Major talking points included:

- In libraries throughout the Commonwealth, constituents are using their public libraries to deal with the tough economic times

- KDLA provides essential services that libraries need to operate.

An exhibit was located in the tunnel between the Capitol and the Annex with photos showing how libraries are participating in economic development activities. One bill of major concern was SB72 which would require special districts to receive fiscal court approval for any tax increase. Sen. Thayer, sponsor of the bill, has agreed to receive more input following this session before bringing the bill back in 2010.

We are closely watching for information about the Federal stimulus package. There appears to be several opportunities for libraries to receive funding – for construction, broadband and computer access, and staffing. Details are slowly being released.

The Carter County Fiscal Court, the city of Olive Hill, and the city of Grayson have adopted an interlocal agreement with KDLA to provide county wide free library service for Carter County. This been sought by many in Carter County and certainly by KDLA staff for many years. Establishing a public library in Carter County will be a long and painstaking process, but this is a major first step. As a result, there is only one county in Kentucky without state funded library service – McLean County. The county judge-executive in McLean County is supportive and we hope to establish service there in the not too distant future.

KDLA worked with the Kentucky Historical Society to provide funding for public libraries to celebrate the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial. Libraries in 81 counties are holding Lincoln related programming.

KDLA is undertaking a study of what services are most needed by public libraries with the intent of developing a plan for service for each library.

Plans are underway for replacing the 2 State Data Center locations with one facility that will save funds and be better suited for records storage. One of the leases expires in June 2010.

Work is continuing on the new KDLA website.

Submitted by Wayne Onkst