

## **KLA Executive Board Report A-12**

### **Kentucky Dept. for Libraries and Archives**

**Sept. 30, 2009**

The budget continues to be a major concern for KDLA along with all other state agencies. KDLA received an additional 4% reduction effective July 1. Another reduction is on the horizon – the magnitude of which will become known later this fall. KDLA's operating budget has been reduced by more than 20% - resulting in a loss of about 30 staff positions and reductions in almost every grant program. Steep reductions in state aid to public libraries are underway.

We continue to look for ways for libraries to participate in the broadband stimulus grant program. The program was written for broadband providers and the application process was difficult. The Gates Foundation is providing assistance for libraries in applying. We expect to propose a statewide application for the second round of funding which is still to be announced.

In partnership with Northern Kentucky University and Bluegrass Community and Technical College, KDLA has received a grant of \$996,000 for providing scholarships for undergraduate students in the Associate's Degree program at BCTCS and the Library Informatics program at NKU. By the spring semester, we expect 50 library staff members from eastern Kentucky and western Kentucky to be enrolled in the program. It is a three year program and we hope it enables many students to complete an associate's degree or make progress on a bachelor's degree.

The ribbons were cut for the two locations of the new library in Carter County on Sept. 26. There was much enthusiasm along with a few tears of celebration. This new library was a long time coming and has required the work of a lot of citizens. The County Judge/Executive has committed his support for establishing a permanent source of funding.

The Friends of Kentucky Libraries has been reorganized. A steering committee is working out the details of the new organization with the first annual meeting to be held at the KPLA meeting in spring 2010.

In legislative news, the Consumer Product Safety Commission has ruled that libraries have no obligation to check old materials for lead content. Some further directives will be issued to assist libraries in dealing with older materials.

Submitted by Wayne Onkst