

KLA Executive Board Report A-12

Kentucky Dept. for Libraries and Archives

March 2011

Budget

Even though state revenues are slightly improved, the news regarding the state budget is not as good this week. The Senate has proposed additional reductions of about .5% for this year and 2.2% for next year to fix a Medicaid budget deficit. The House and Senate will be negotiating this issue over the next couple of weeks. We are already scheduled to take a reduction of 1 ½% for the 2011-12 fiscal year.

There is more bad news at the Federal and local levels. As the federal government is still operating under a continuing resolution for the current year, we are waiting to learn how much federal funding we will get even though the year is half over. A New Jersey Congressman proposed an amendment to the current year budget that would have eliminated the Institute for Museum and Library Services along with all library funding. Fortunately New Jersey librarians convinced him to withdraw his amendment. We are awaiting Senate action on the budget. The President has recommended reductions of \$154,000 in Federal funding for KDLA in the next fiscal year. Congress has yet to begin discussions on the FY12 budget.

On the local level, we are seeing more challenges to library tax rates across the state. Legislation was proposed in the 2011 General Assembly to fix issues with setting property tax rates and clarify KDLA's role, but it did not receive a hearing. We expect many more challenges to tax rates this year and we are asking public libraries to be prepared to justify their rates and have supporters ready to defend their libraries.

Website

KDLA will be launching its new website on March 15. This has been a long effort but will provide a much better way for us to provide remote service including the ability for people to request and pay for services on-line. We will be anxious to hear your comments so we can make it more useful to you and the library and archives communities.

Talking Book Library going digital

The Kentucky Talking Book Library has successfully created the first digital Kentucky book with NLS encryption and write protection. We are ready to begin the mass production of Kentucky books for usage of blind and disabled Kentuckians. Since beginning the distribution of digital players in September 2009, users have increasingly used digital talking books which now comprise more than 50% of the total circulation of the talking book library.

Public Library Legislative Day

Public librarians, trustees, and friends came to Frankfort on Feb. 9 to meet with their legislators to advocate for libraries. A rally followed in the Capitol Rotunda attended by a number of legislators who spoke on behalf of libraries.

Photos of every legislator have been taken to be used in creating READ posters. These posters will hang in the Capitol Annex tunnel in March.

Kentucky Literacy Celebration Week

The first Kentucky Literacy Week Celebration was held Feb. 28-Mar. 6. The Governor issued a proclamation and the First Lady visited libraries across the state. Many libraries held events in commemoration.

Kentucky Department of Education/KDLA collaboration for Summer Reading

KDLA is very pleased to receive the support of KDE for the Summer Reading Club. Kathy Mansfield from KDE is working with KDLA staff to provide training for librarians in using the Lexile scale to match children with appropriate books. We hope to encourage children to maintain their reading skills through the summer by being involved in summer reading at their public library.

Public Library Trustee Certification

A committee composed of public library trustees, library directors, and KDLA staff have developed a voluntary program for trustee certification. The plan has been distributed to trustees and library directors. Comment is being received for the committee to consider before a final plan is presented to the Trustee Roundtable and the KPLA business meeting at the annual conference in April. KDLA plans to roll out the new certification program July 1.

Public Library Leadership Institute

The second class for the Public Library Leadership Institute is being recruited. The new class will begin its work in April.

Annual reports from public libraries

Annual reports have been received from all 117 public libraries for the 2009-10 fiscal year. We will be compiling the statistics and looking for trends, but we can report on totals in some areas. Kentucky's public libraries circulated 29,943,209 items, an increase of 2.8% over the previous year. The libraries reported 19,812,059 visits which is an increase of 3.7% from the previous year. Libraries own 6,602 computer terminals, which is an increase of 10.2% over the previous year. There were 14 new or substantially renovated library construction projects that provided an increase of 85,720 sq. ft. of library space.

Meeting with university Libraries regarding Archives needs

Barbara Teague, Charlene Davis and I met with the library directors from the State Universities to discuss archive needs as required in the 2010-12 state budget. We agreed to explore these issues in the coming months.

Federal Stimulus grant for Public Computing Centers

Charlene Davis is managing the grant for public computing centers that involves about 40 public libraries across the state. This project will add more than 500 computers and replace 300 others, train librarians, provide training for those needing employment, and allow e-rate application assistance for libraries.

Public Library Development

Since the new year, new libraries have opened in Corbin and Mercer County. Ground was broken for the new library in Breckinridge County.

The first board of trustees for the McLean County Public Library has been appointed.

State Records Center

The State Division of Real Properties is advertising for 100,000 sq. ft. of space for a new State Records Center to replace our existing 2 locations. Proposals are due March 18.

KLA Archives

The KLA Archives has been updated with reports from the 2009-10 year. The Archives can be found at:

<http://kla.kdla.ky.gov>

submitted by Wayne Onkst