

**KLA Executive Board Report A-12  
Annual Report  
Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives**

**New Administration**

Transition to the Beshear Administration proceeded very smoothly with minimal impact on KDLA's work. There is a new management team at the Education Cabinet, including Cabinet Secretary Helen Mountjoy, and we are enjoying working with them. There have been many issues this year that required the Cabinet's attention, but these have allowed us to get to know all the new faces and acquaint them with our work.

**Budget**

The major issue that has taken much of our time since January has been the declining budget. Though we had spent considerable effort in 2007 preparing our budget request, the new administration was welcomed with a huge budget shortfall that has forced a series of reductions totaling almost 20% in our general operating budget. Almost every grant program offered by KDLA has been reduced or eliminated, we have lost 18 positions, and operating funds have been severely restricted. Only because of many retirements are we avoiding layoffs. The retirements, however, have resulted in the loss of considerable talent and much institutional memory. Staffing reductions included reducing the number of public library service regions from 12 to 8. The budget reduction also resulted in the closing of the Louisville subregional Talking Book Library.

**Legislative Session**

The legislative session didn't include any major library or archives legislation. Public librarians came to the Capitol on Feb. 13 to meet with legislators. KDLA and the Education Cabinet partnered to take photos of more than 100 legislators for creation of READ posters that were displayed in the Capitol tunnel and given to the legislators. Legislators have ordered more than 1500 of the posters for distribution in their districts. The Governor's office has also ordered READ posters of the Governor and First Lady.

**ALA Legislative Day**

We had a great delegation of 14 that participated in Legislative Day this year. There were a number of items on our legislative day agenda including funding and reauthorization of LSTA, funding the Improving Literacy Through School Libraries program, funding GPO, restoring funding for the National Agriculture Library, ensuring a state certified school library media specialist in every school in the reauthorization of No Child Left Behind, urging the FCC to accept ALA's plan for simplification of the E-rate application, making permanent the exemption from the Anti-Deficiency Act for E-rate funds, and maintaining security of library records as it pertains to possible REAL ID. We met with 6 Congressmen (McConnell, Whitfield, Yarmuth, Chandler, Davis, and Rogers) and aides of the other 2 (Bunning and Lewis). All spoke in a supportive manner, particularly on the simplification of the E-rate application process which we are following up on.

**State Archives**

Unfortunately the Legislature did not fund an expansion for the state archives. As there are so many irreplaceable court records stored throughout Kentucky that we cannot accommodate, KDLA's staff has heavily weeded the state library collection to create additional archival space. We will be able to accept a small amount of these records

that are at highest risk of damage or loss. In addition, we are advertising for additional space for the State Records Center that stores non-permanent state records. The Archives staff guided incorporation of the state's Records Retention Schedule through the administrative regulation process for the first time. This will provide additional legal force to the schedule.

### **State Library Services**

In addition to heavily weeding the State Library Collection, the State Library staff actively promoted KDLA's services resulting in much higher usage by state employees and public library staff. The staff used technology to provide many continuing education opportunities through distance learning. Another focus was providing kits of materials to be rotated among public libraries.

### **Field Services/Public Library Development**

Consulting services for public libraries continued to be a major focus. As public library service grows, the issues facing local libraries become more complex. Libraries across the state report increases in usage. The Warren County Public Library became the 105<sup>th</sup> public library district in July. There remain two counties in Kentucky without state funded public library service (Carter and McLean). KDLA staff members are working with officials in both counties to establish service. Three other counties share a public library and staff members are working with those counties to expand their service. The major need of most public libraries is for additional space to house increasing services. KDLA staff is consulting with more than 60 libraries planning expansion projects. Beautiful new libraries opened this year in Pulaski County, Carrollton, Boone County, Berea, Bowling Green, and Lexington. Renovated libraries opened in Whitley City and Pineville.

### **Planning**

As we look to the future, KDLA has undergone a strategic planning process. Our staff identified 3 goals: 1) providing effective services for library and government records customers, 2) efficiently managing KDLA resources, and 3) building recognition and support for library and government records services. Within these 3 goals are 13 objectives – 7 of which we have determined as priorities for the coming months. Our activities will focus on:

- Increasing participation in the Kentucky Public Library standards
- Assisting public libraries in achieving higher standard levels
- Improving archival and records management programs
- Increasing compliance with records management statutes
- Enhancing the KDLA website
- Providing training that meets customer needs and
- Improving all levels of internal communication.

### **Communications**

KDLA introduced an electronic newsletter in September to help disseminate information about the department and the library and archives community. A new website is being planned for early 2009.

Submitted by Wayne Onkst