

KLA Executive Board Report A-12

June 2008

Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

Budget

Of course we have dealt mostly with budget issues since January. KDLA along with most state agencies suffered reductions of 3.5% and 12%, and now are facing the possibility of an additional 4.5% reduction. In addition to staff and operating reductions, every grant program offered by KDLA – including direct aid to public libraries – has been eliminated or reduced with the exception of construction grants that have already been issued. Serious staff reductions are in the offing as staff members retire.

We are taking the opportunity to reorganize and look at every aspect of our operation for savings. Field Services' regional system has been reduced from 12 to 8 regions. Travel and training budgets have been severely reduced. We are weeding the State Library collection to create additional space in our building and make room for the most critical records that are awaiting transfer to the state archives. Additional reductions and more plans will be coming in future months as we deal with this situation that continues to change.

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.

Website and Electronic Newsletter

The KDLA website is undergoing revision. Every section is being reviewed for out dated information and new information is being added. KDLA staff members have conducted a survey among website users – more than 1000 users have participated – and we plan to revise the website as requested by the users.

Paige Sexton is creating an electronic newsletter for KDLA customers, the library community, the archives community, public officials, and any other interested party. The newsletter will include information about KDLA services, employee profiles, library news from around the state, information for trustees, new buildings, exciting programming, grants, awards, good news features, etc. Look for an opportunity to sign up for this newsletter in the next month or so.

Recent grants

Public libraries around the state are participating in 2 recent grants. The Brownstone Foundation from New York City is providing a collection of 100 children's picture books to 59 public libraries selected based on the number of children in poverty and the per capita income of the library. These books are selected by the libraries and processed as part of the grant. The total value is almost \$150,000. Ninety-four libraries are also participating in Compact Disc Minimum Advertised Price Antitrust Litigation in which the libraries receive from \$625 to \$2125 in funding to purchase music compact discs for the libraries' collections.

Usage/Other news

Public Library usage across Kentucky is considerably higher this spring. Charlene Davis reports usage of the State Library Collection is much higher and interlibrary loan is up by 7.6% across Kentucky. A beautiful new main library opened in Pulaski County along with branch libraries in Berea and Warren County in the past couple of months. On July 1, the Warren County-Bowling Green Public Library will become the 105th public library district in Kentucky.

Submitted by Wayne Onkst