

**KLA Executive Board Report A-12
October 2008
Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives**

Newsletter and Website

KDLA's first electronic newsletter, Libraries and Archives Monthly, was issued in September. It is designed as a cost effective way to inform the library and archives communities about KDLA and provide news from around the state. If you, fellow staff members, other librarians, or other interested parties did not receive the newsletter, please notify Paige Sexton (paige.sexton@ky.gov). We want to distribute the newsletter as widely as possible. Ideas for articles and information will be appreciated.

KDLA is also planning a new website that will be built by ky.gov. A team of staff members chaired by Charlene Davis is reviewing results of a survey of website users for input as the first step in designing the website which we hope to be operational in 2009.

State Records Center

The Commonwealth of Kentucky is advertising for space in which to relocate the State Records Center. KDLA provides this fee based service for state agencies and the court system to house non-permanent records. The State Records Center is now located in two warehouses. We hope to obtain additional space at one location that is better suited for housing records while enabling more efficient usage of staff resources. Proposals are due early in October with move possible in 2009. New space is critically needed as one of the existing leases expires in 2010 and we are experiencing a shortage of space. Jim Cundy, State Records Branch Manager, has notified state agencies that we cannot accept large collections of materials until more space is acquired.

Budget Issues

One of the ramifications of the 2008-9 budget reductions was the closing of the Talking Book Subregional Library in Louisville. Transfer of the records from Jefferson County to Frankfort occurred on Sept. 12. As a result of coordination between KDLA staff and the staff in Louisville, the move went smoothly.

Another result of the reductions was realignment of KDLA's public library service regions from 12 offices to 8 on October 1. Sadly, Regional Librarian Margaret Raybould passed away in July. KDLA recently posted this vacancy so we hope to have a full staff of 8 regional librarians later this year. Unfortunately positions of administrative assistants that have served the regional librarians are being eliminated through attrition.

Hours of KDLA's research room and state library have been reduced to 10 to 4 Monday thru Friday. Security in the building has been reduced to 10 to 6 Monday thru Friday.

Public Library Development

The Northside Branch Library in Lexington opened Sept. 12 with Gov. Beshear as the featured speaker. Groundbreaking was held Sept. 16 for the new Lawrence Co. Public Library. The Metcalfe Co. Public Library held a ribbon cutting for its on-line catalog and circulation system Sept. 19. These projects were funded partially with KDLA grants.

Terry Manuel is continuing to work with officials in Carter County attempting to establish state funded public library service. Work is also proceeding in McLean County (the other

county without state funded library service) as a library in Livermore is being renovated to serve as the county library. Another of the four counties without a public library, Livingston County, is making significant progress toward building a library. Our staff is working with officials in Livingston and the other two counties (Ballard and Carlisle) to plan for dissolution of the Ballard-Carlisle-Livingston consortium while preserving service in Ballard and Carlisle counties.

State Library News

The State Library Services Reference Desk is reporting increased requests for state publications, particularly geological materials that relate to energy development. More requests are coming from out-of-state. These materials are provided through interlibrary loan. The staff is attempting to collect additional copies from the offices of retiring state employees. We would like to digitize more of these documents in the future. Another interesting request, a national television news magazine contacted KDLA's research room for material on Barack Obama's great-great-great-great grandfather who lived in Nelson County. They are leaving no stone unturned!

Certification

Thanks to the efforts of Fanny Cox and the KLA Board, we are inching closer to Gubernatorial appointments for the vacant positions on the State Board for the Certification of Librarians. There are a number of issues for the board to consider when the appointments have been finalized.

Partnerships

I am serving on the Dept. of Education's Adolescent Literacy Task Force which was created to develop plans for helping middle school students read on grade level. We hope to include increased resources for middle school libraries and librarians.

We are working with the state Oral History Commission to determine what oral history materials are held in the public libraries, what needs to be done to preserve those materials, and how we can promote oral history projects.

The University of Kentucky School of Library and Information Science has a new director – Dr. Jeffrey Huber. I have met with Dr. Huber to discuss how we could initiate cooperative programs. We are interested in many areas including increasing the number of professional librarians in rural and remote counties, training archivists, and providing continuing education. We are developing ideas in several of these areas.

We are also planning with KET for cooperative projects to stretch our ever decreasing resources.

More Coming Events

Revision of the public library standards is beginning with the new standards planned for release in 2009.

The Kentucky Book Fair will be held on November 15. Watch KET for a documentary on the book fair.

Kentucky's first annual Archives Month will be celebrated in October.

Submitted by Wayne Onkst