

Libraries & Archives Monthly

News from the Kentucky Department
for Libraries and Archives

August 2011

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Library Announces Groundbreaking for New Branch in Campbell County

By Kiki Dreyer Burke
Public Relations
Campbell County Public
Library

Plans are under way to build a new branch of the Campbell County Public Library in the southern part of the county. Construction is expected to start in spring 2012, with the new facility opening in May 2013.

In September 2007, the library purchased 3.5

KDLA Honored by Special Guests

By Wayne Onkst
State Librarian and Commissioner
Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

Government officials from five emerging democracies in Africa visited KDLA in May to learn more about how government can be more transparent, encourage civic engagement through social media, and educate citizens to become discerning consumers of online content.



Commissioner Onkst visits with
African Leaders at KDLA

As Kentucky's government is a leader in transparency and access to government records, the World Affairs Council of Kentucky/Southern Indiana brought the visitors to KDLA to learn about records management and how public libraries serve democracy. African nations represented included Rwanda, Senegal, Chad, Cameroon and Mauritania.

4th Annual *Gathering of Authors*

By Diane Dehoney
Reference Librarian and Adult Programming Coordinator
Paul Sawyer Public Library

The Paul Sawyer Public Library is excited to host the fourth annual *Gathering of Authors*! The *Gathering* is a celebration of the rich history of literature in Kentucky. We are proud to welcome authors from across the Bluegrass who will sell and sign their works, as well as talk with patrons.



Sugar Tree

acres of land from Sun Valley Real Estate Group for the library's new location. The land is located just south of Parkside Drive along U.S. Highway 27 (known as Alexandria Pike) and is about five miles north of the Pendleton County Line.

[Read more...](#)

IMLS Website Features Kentucky Talking Book Library



"Good friends, good book." Photo provided by the Library of Congress

In July, the Kentucky Talking Book Library had the honor of being featured on the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) website, along with the Washington Talking Book and Braille Library. Here are some excerpts from that feature...

[Read more...](#)

Trustee Connection

By Paul M. Poland
Chair, KLTRT

The *Gathering of Authors* will take place on Saturday, August 27, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Community Room. We will kick off the gathering with a night of music by Sugar Tree on Friday, August 26 at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room. Self-described as three wanderin' women who found their way back to the tippy-toes of the Appalachian foothills, Sugar Tree consists of Amber Field, Megan Naseman and Deborah Payne. This Berea trio has joined forces (strings, harmonies and cowgirl boots) to deliver a night of great music! [Read more...](#)

We Are Family: The Growing Kentucky Sister Library Project

by April Ritchie
Adult Services Coordinator
Kenton County Public Library

Kentucky is the first state to have an exciting new library endeavor underway! It is called the Kentucky Sister Library Project (KSLP), and it puts a unique spin on the traditional concept of sister library relationships.

In the past, sister libraries have generally been international in scope, with U.S. libraries partnering with libraries in other countries. These sorts of partnerships have many rewards, such as improving cultural knowledge of both staff and patrons and broadening perspectives on how libraries function in other areas of the world.

KSLP is a distinct initiative in that it is all about Kentucky libraries helping other Kentucky libraries. The project has a lot of substance to it, so, while there is room for symbolic gestures between sister libraries, the main focus of the endeavor is to help build stronger libraries through cooperative projects such as collection development, weeding, cataloging, grant writing, technology improvements, staff exchanges, etc. [Read more...](#)



Carter County Public Library employees attend sister library Kenton County Public Library Staff Day 2010

The Geek's Garage

pmpoland@roadrunner.com

Coming soon...the newly revised Kentucky Public Library Trustee Manual!!!

The manual will be available within the next few months. Ann VanWilligen, a regional consultant with KDLA, chaired a committee to revise the document.

While reviewing the manual, I truly believe everyone will be very happy with the content and changes that have been made. It has more detail where it was needed along with examples of documents a board may need to reference occasionally.

The document will be 3-hole punched to fit into a binder so revisions will easily be made. With this format the initial manual can last several years with only an occasional page to change. GREAT idea, committee!

[Read more...](#)

Pulaski County Public Library Receives Special Gift

By Charlotte Keeney
Director
Pulaski County Public Library

The Pulaski County Public Library recently received a gift of a framed manuscript, Psalter Leaf, 1501. The Psalter was written for Ghjsbert Heynrich and scholars believe it to be produced in the Netherlands, most likely Utrecht.

Upgrading tired technology

By Jim Peterson
Technology Coordinator
Goodnight Memorial Library

One of my duties here at the Goodnight Memorial Library is to take care of all the stuff related to Information Technology - computers, our web site, printers, fax machines, etc. When I started my employment here, everything was in pretty bad shape, as several of the public access computers had viruses and other malware, the network was using slow, outdated technology and the computers themselves were barely capable of handling modern web content. So, we started a technology refresh program, with an eye on saving electricity (and money) wherever I could.

There are lots of places to save electricity if you look for them. Some places are inside computers, some places are outside of them. I am only going to focus on the computer side of things here, because that is where the biggest changes have been, but I am also going to introduce you to great little device called a [Kill-A-Watt Meter](#). What this device does is allow you to see how much electricity a particular 110-volt appliance uses. [Read more...](#)

R.L. Stine Featured as Part of Fright & Write Regional Writing Program

By Doug Tatershall
Media Relations Coordinator
Lexington Public Library

Children's horror author R.L. Stine spoke to an audience of about 250 June 11 at the Kentucky Theater in Lexington to help kick off a regional writing program for young people.



R.L. Stine greets children and signs copies of his books

After speaking and signing books at the Kentucky, Stine made the short walk down Main Street to the Lexington Public Library's Central Library to lead the first in a series of writing workshops, with more than 100 in attendance. The series, called Fright & Write, continued throughout June with follow-up workshops at public libraries

This donation was made by James Rexroat from Florida in memory of his family that is originally from Pulaski County. As many know, the library has stained glass in the board room that depicts the history of the book. This framed manuscript will be displayed close to these windows so visitors can see this amazing piece of art.

KDLA Congratulates New Certification Holders

KDLA would like to congratulate these newly certified library employees:

- Tina Brewster, Warren County, Paraprofessional
- Lori Yeager, Pulaski County, Paraprofessional
- Peggy Boshears, Pulaski County, Paraprofessional
- Michelle Foster, Boone County, Professional I

KDLA Welcomes New Trustees

KDLA would like to welcome the following new trustees:

- Fred Tankersley, Spencer County
- Natalie Cecil, Spencer County
- Renee Loy, Bullitt County
- Danny Patton, Caldwell County
- Tracy Lewis, Rockcastle County

in six counties.

"When I was a kid, I wasn't much of a reader. I read mostly comic books. One day, I visited the little library in my town of Bexley, Ohio, and asked the librarian to help me find something to read. She led me to the shelves of Greek myths and Norse legends and Grimm fairy tales and fantasy stories. I think I read every book on those shelves. She showed me how exciting books could be, and she changed my life. I've been a huge supporter of libraries ever since," Stine said. [Read more...](#)

Kentucky State Archivist Completes Term as President of Council of State Archivists

By Tim Tingle
Public Records Branch Manager, KDLA

Barbara Teague, Kentucky state archivist and records administrator and Public Records Division director at the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA), recently completed a one-year term as president of the Council of State Archivists (CoSA) at the 2011 CoSA annual meeting in Nashville, Tenn. CoSA is the national organization of the directors of state archival programs in the 50 states, the U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia.

Some of CoSA's projects during Teague's term included starting a State Electronic Records Initiative project; managing a \$2.6 million Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) grant to develop and deliver records-related emergency preparedness training for state and local government officials; improving support for the work of the State Historical Records Advisory Boards in each state; and increasing advocacy for and awareness of the pivotal role of government records in documenting government, securing rights, promoting history, and ensuring democracy and transparency. [Read more...](#)

Archival Photo of the Month

- Darrell Furmon, Rockcastle County
- Jerry Bowling, Jackson County
- Melissa Iler, Butler County
- Donald L. Smith, Woodford County
- Billye Watson, Casey County
- Charles Allen, Barren County

Join Our Mailing List!



Cars at Fairgrounds Stadium, ca. 1957.

The introduction and proliferation of the automobile revolutionized transportation in Kentucky, and the ownership of private vehicles multiplied following World War II. The results included increased opportunities for leisure activity in the newly developing suburbs.

Source: Public Records Division Photo Collection, Public Records Division - the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives.

The Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives helps libraries provide equitable access to quality library and information resources and services, as well as helps public agencies ensure that legislatively mandated documentation of government programs is created, efficiently maintained and made readily accessible. For more information, visit <http://www.kdla.ky.gov> or call 502-564-8300 ext. 315.

Please send questions, comments and story ideas for Libraries & Archives Monthly to editor Paige Sexton at paige.sexton@ky.gov or call 502-564-8300 ext. 315.

**Full Articles Beyond This
Point**

4th Annual Gathering of Authors

The Paul Sawyer Public Library is excited to host the fourth annual *Gathering of Authors!* The *Gathering* is a celebration of the rich history of literature in Kentucky. We are proud to welcome authors from across the Bluegrass who will sell and sign their works, as well as talk with patrons.

The *Gathering of Authors* will take place on Saturday, August 27, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Community Room. We will kick off the gathering with a night of music by Sugar Tree on Friday, August 26 at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room. Self-described as three wanderin' women who found their way back to the tippy-toes of the Appalachian foothills, Sugar Tree consists of Amber Field, Megan Naseman and Deborah Payne. This Berea trio has joined forces (strings, harmonies and cowgirl boots) to deliver a night of great music!

These events are free to the public. Come and meet your favorite authors, and see what some of Kentucky's best have to offer! For more information, please contact Diane Dehoney at 502-352-2665 ext. 108 or Mark Kinnaird at mark@pspl.org.

The 2011 *Gathering* participants include:

- Martin Anderson
- Karen Angelucci
- Mary Bailey
- Gene Burch
- Melissa Burton
- Don Coffey
- Nash Cox
- Steve Demaree
- Normandi Ellis
- Michael Embry
- Ann Gabhart
- Johathan Greene
- Russ Hatter
- Chris Helvey
- Sallie Lanham
- Will Lavender
- Ed McClanahan
- Lynwood Montell
- Maureen Morehead
- Bill Noel
- C.L. Parker
- Ron Pen
- Joe Survant
- Richard Taylor
- Marianne Worthington
- Broadstone Books
- Red Eagle Bindery



Gathering of Authors 2010

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We Are Family: The Growing Kentucky Sister Library Project

Kentucky is the first state to have an exciting new library endeavor underway! It is called the Kentucky Sister Library Project (KSLP), and it puts a unique spin on the traditional concept of sister library relationships.

In the past, sister libraries have generally been international in scope, with U.S. libraries partnering with libraries in other countries. These sorts of partnerships have many rewards, such as improving cultural knowledge of both staff and patrons and broadening perspectives on how libraries function in other areas of the world.

KSLP is a distinct initiative in that it is all about Kentucky libraries helping other Kentucky libraries. The project has a lot of substance to it, so, while there is room for symbolic gestures between sister libraries, the main focus of the endeavor is to help build stronger libraries through cooperative projects such as collection development, weeding, cataloging, grant writing, technology improvements, staff exchanges, etc. The idea is that libraries can band together to help one another, and in return, patrons and their communities all across Kentucky will benefit.

A sister library partnership is formed when a library with more resources pairs up with a library with very limited resources. The geography (both libraries within the same state) and the discrepancy in resources are the two factors that differentiate this model from other more traditional ones.

The first libraries to take part were the Kenton County Public Library and the Carter County Public Library. They have been sister libraries since early 2010. The second set of libraries to join the project were Campbell County Public Library and McLean County Public Library. Several other libraries are on the verge of joining the project, pending the approval of their boards. "I think this will be the start of something that will bring libraries together, hopefully on an even larger scale," commented Chris Sinnett, director of the Carter County Public Library.

If your library would like to help blaze the trail in Kentucky, consider being either a "big sister" or a "little sister" library. To read more about the initiative, visit the Kentucky Public Library Association web site (under "About"). Be sure to take a look at the Kentucky Sister Library Project Manual for a more in-depth look at how it all fits together. For further information, you may also contact April Ritchie, coordinator for the Kentucky Sister Library Project, via email at april.ritchie@kentonlibrary.org or by phone at 859-962-4000 ext. 4121.

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R.L. Stine Featured as Part of Fright & Write Regional Writing Program

Children's horror author R.L. Stine spoke to an audience of about 250 June 11 at the Kentucky Theater in Lexington to help kick off a regional writing program for young people.

After speaking and signing books at the Kentucky, Stine made the short walk down Main Street to the Lexington Public Library's Central Library to lead the first in a series of writing workshops, with more than 100 in attendance. The series, called Fright &

Write, continued throughout June with follow-up workshops at public libraries in six counties.

"When I was a kid, I wasn't much of a reader. I read mostly comic books. One day, I visited the little library in my town of Bexley, Ohio, and asked the librarian to help me find something to read. She led me to the shelves of Greek myths and Norse legends and Grimm fairy tales and fantasy stories. I think I read every book on those shelves. She showed me how exciting books could be, and she changed my life. I've been a huge supporter of libraries ever since," Stine said.

Stine's participation in kickoff not only helped expand the number of participants, but the type of participants as well. In addition to already-ambitious writers, fans of Stine's Goosebumps series of books who were not as enthusiastic about writing also have joined the workshops.

"He showed us that writing can actually be fun," Mike Mitin, a sixth grader at Lexington Traditional Middle School, said.

Aiden Brimhall, a seventh grader at East Jessamine Middle School in Nicholasville, wrote an essay on a tree that impressed his teacher last school year.

"My teacher wanted to enter it in the state writing competition, but I wouldn't let her," Aiden said. "I kind of want to write better."

Aiden hoped the workshop would help him with run-on sentences and how to end a story. He has an idea for a story about four kids trying to save gems that lead them into different dimensions, inspired by his love of the Fablehaven series.

The writing produced by children during the workshops will be compiled in a chapbook later this summer. The prospect of having work published helped Emily Brubaker, a sixth grader at Crawford Middle School in Lexington, get excited about Fright & Write.

"I wrote a scary story once just for fun. I read it out loud to my class and submitted it to a magazine," she said.

Local authors Doris Settles, Cynthia Ellingsen, Randi Ewing, Sarah Combs and Hannah LeGris have led workshops for the series. Programs done in conjunction with the workshops have introduced people to local ghost stories and provided chances to talk about scary movies and books.

Fright & Write was sponsored by the Lexington Public Library, Jessamine County Public Library, Paris-Bourbon County Public Library, Scott County Public Library, Clark County Public Library, Woodford County Public Library, Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning and Kentucky Young Writers Connection. Funding was provided by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services and administered by the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives.

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Trustee Connection

Coming soon...the newly revised Kentucky Public Library Trustee Manual!!

The manual will be available within the next few months. Anne VanWilligen, a regional consultant with KDLA, chaired a committee to revise the document.

While reviewing the manual, I truly believe everyone will be very happy with the content and changes that have been made. It has more detail where it was needed along with examples of documents a board may need to reference occasionally.

The document will be 3-hole punched to fit into a binder so revisions will easily be made. With this format the initial manual can last several years with only an occasional page to change. GREAT idea, committee!

The revised manual will be on the KDLA website as soon as it has passed all of the proof readings and approvals. If you wish to download and print your copy you will be able to do that. Or, KDLA will have an initial printing and those will be available to the library to purchase for their trustees. The cost will be nominal and my suggestion would be to purchase one for each trustee and another for the director. If you're going to have a new trustee in the next year or so perhaps you'll need one extra.

I'd like to thank Anne and her committee for all their hard work on revising this very important document. You can tell a lot of time and thought went into this document. I would also like to thank the different trustees and directors that have reviewed the manual. The many suggested changes and comments made the manual even better!

As public servants, we all need to be aware of the correct way to fulfill our duties as local trustees. As a reference guide this manual will help each of us to insure we stay within the law and the boundaries of our responsibilities to our respective public libraries.

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Library Announces Groundbreaking for New Branch in Campbell County

Plans are under way to build a new branch of the Campbell County Public Library in the southern part of the county. Construction is expected to start in spring 2012, with the new facility opening in May 2013.

In September 2007, the library purchased 3.5 acres of land from Sun Valley Real Estate Group for the library's new location. The land is located just south of Parkside Drive along U.S. Highway 27 (known as Alexandria Pike) and is about five miles north of the Pendleton County Line.

"The response and enthusiasm we heard when people learned we would be building a library in that part of the county was phenomenal," said JC Morgan, director. "Our commitment remained strong, but by February of 2008, we felt the timing was not well suited to building a new facility. Now, as we are starting to proceed with our plans, people are again getting very excited about having a library in that part of the county," he said.

The library is currently negotiating with Sun Valley Real Estate Group, developers for Parkside subdivision, about acquiring a small parcel of land on the corner of Parkside Drive and U.S. Highway 27. Purchasing this property will provide construction, visibility and future expansion benefits. The land is zoned neighborhood commercial.

"Library buildings last for a very long time. We are looking at several different options to determine what is best for us, both for now and in the future. We will be talking to

determine what is best for us, both for now and in the future. We will be talking to people in the community as plans are developed," Morgan said.

The library will be scheduling several community meetings in the Alexandria area in September and October to get feedback and answer questions from the community.

The new building is expected to be about 28,000 square feet and will be accessible from Parkside Drive. The upper level will have about 14,000 square feet for public space, the lower level will have 14,000 square feet of space for storage, and there will be parking for 100 cars. The library's public space will be about the same size as the other three locations in Campbell County.

Robert Ehmet Hays & Associates in Fort Mitchell has been selected as the architects for the project. The firm is well known for designing buildings for both Boone and Kenton County Public Libraries, as well as many area schools and banks.

Cost of the project, including land, building and furnishings, is expected to be about \$5 million. Various funding sources are being explored to finance the project. Financing may include a combination of private donations, grants, bank loans and other fund-raising efforts.

Campbell County Judge Executive Steve Pendery said he was pleased to hear the library is moving ahead with its plans for a new building. "Libraries are an integral part of the county's ability to educate and equip its citizens to have good jobs and productive lives. Having a library in the southern part of the county is an asset that people who live and work in that area want to see materialize."

This will be the fourth location for the county's library system, which serves a population of more than 90,000 residents. The other library locations are in Cold Spring, Fort Thomas and Newport. The new location will be about 10 miles south of the Cold Spring Branch.

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IMLS Website Features Kentucky Talking Book Library

In July, the Kentucky Talking Book Library had the honor of being featured on the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) website, along with the Washington Talking Book and Braille Library. Here are some excerpts from that feature...

IMLS provides funding to state libraries through its Grants to State Library Administrative Agencies, the largest of all of its grant programs. In 2009, 10% of this funding directly supported libraries for the blind and physically disabled. State libraries around the country provide critical services to visually and physically impaired Americans including Braille materials and specially recorded audio-books also known as "talking books". Materials are mailed to patrons at no cost and provide an important lifeline to the world for many housebound or elderly patrons.

For two of these libraries - the Kentucky Talking Book Library (KTBL) and the Washington Talking Book & Braille Library (WTBBL) - success has continued, despite recent budget cutbacks, thanks to dedication from volunteers, strong connections with community groups and patrons, and the enthusiastic adoption of new technology.

"I think a lot of people believe, 'There are lots of audio-books and ebooks out there, those who are visually and physically impaired don't need anything special'. But I don't think people realize the very small percentage of materials that are available in alternate formats," said Barbara Penegor, KTBL Branch Manager. "If you go into your local public library, sure they have audio-books on CD...but they don't have the number of books available through our service, or they don't have the breadth of service. Most of them will have the bestsellers or popular things, but we're able to provide them with stuff like cookbooks and books on disability and biographies of the lesser known historical figures."

New Technology Increases Access and Enhances User Experiences

The integration of new technology has revolutionized how talking book libraries function. Since the '70s, talking book libraries had relied on analog cassette players to play recorded books. Recently, however, the libraries have begun transitioning to new digital players - a move that has been met with great enthusiasm from patrons. With an entire book on a single digital cartridge, digital players eliminate the frustration of changing and flipping tapes, a major improvement for patrons with physical disabilities or lack of strength.

"If you have limited dexterity, the cassette buttons took a bit of pressure to push, whereas the digital machine buttons are soft touch, so it doesn't take any strength to push them all," said Penegor.

Volunteer Support Ensures Program Success

KTBL relies heavily on volunteer support, particularly for the narration and recording of their special collection of books about Kentucky or by Kentucky authors. KTBL has had a wonderful record of volunteer loyalty - many of their volunteers have been with the library for 20 years or more. Penegor works hard to give back to the volunteers, arranging trips to see how Braille books are printed and inviting special speakers to the yearly volunteer appreciation dinner. "This year we're hoping to have some professional narrators - people who are paid to record the talking books from the Library of Congress - come in and talk to them so they can meet a superstar."

Using Communications, Outreach, and Partners to Respond to Fiscal Challenges

Penegor hosts training sessions for new Kentucky public library directors to make sure they're aware of KTBL's services. Recently, she enlisted the help of two of her patrons - an 88 year-old woman who uses talking books and a young reader of braille - to star in an introductory [YouTube video](#) for new patrons.

Close relationships with patrons, other local libraries, and institutions for the visually and physically impaired have helped KTBL deal with ongoing budget cuts. In the past few years, KTBL has taken over library services for regional talking book libraries, which were forced to close their doors. Good communication between the branches allowed for a smooth transition and minimal disruption to patrons. "Even though the Louisville library closed three years ago I'm still in occasional contact with the former librarian," said Penegor.

Improving Quality of Life for Patrons

Talking book libraries have loyal patrons and that should come as no surprise. Much of the patron base is elderly or retired - the average patron at KTBL is a widowed woman in her eighties. As Penegor explains, "Listening to a talking book is like staying in touch with the world, not only learning things, but it's another human voice in an empty house."

"At the state library we provide a lot of great services," adds Kentucky State Librarian Wayne Onkst, "but I can't imagine one that has more impact than this one."

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The Geek's Garage

One of my duties here at the Goodnight Memorial Library is to take care of all the stuff related to Information Technology - computers, our web site, printers, fax machines, etc. When I started my employment here, everything was in pretty bad shape, as several of the public access computers had viruses and other malware, the network was using slow, outdated technology and the computers themselves were barely capable of handling modern web content. So, we started a technology refresh program, with an eye on saving electricity (and money) wherever I could.

There are lots of places to save electricity if you look for them. Some places are inside computers, some places are outside of them. I am only going to focus on the computer side of things here, because that is where the biggest changes have been, but I am also going to introduce you to a great little device called a [Kill-A-Watt Meter](#). What this device does is allow you to see how much electricity a particular 110-volt appliance uses. You simply plug it into the wall, then plug the appliance into the Kill-A-Watt, and turn it on. You will then see, for example, that the old CRT monitor (that is the big, hot, TV-type monitor) on your computer is using well over 100 watts of power when it is on, and probably even pulling more than 30 when it is off! But if you plug a new flat-screen monitor into place, you will see that it is pulling less than 20 watts when on, and in some cases less than 1 watt when off! That is quite an energy savings on its own, and when you multiply that across several computer stations, the savings will really start adding up.

Monitors are not the only place to save. Our library is small enough that we are only replacing four computers per year in our cycle, which keeps costs down. We are also small enough that I can build those machines to our specifications, which also saves a ton of money because we don't pay for anyone's name, software and hardware we don't need, or the jacked-up pricing that the vendors foist upon us as government or educational entities. All that one needs to build a computer is some knowledge of which parts are which and a screwdriver.

The power supply, which is usually a box inside the top of a computer with a bunch of wires coming out of it, is a great place to start with savings. It used to be that most power supplies were about 60-70% efficient at converting the AC power from the wall into DC power for the computer's various parts and pieces to use. This means that roughly 30-40% of the electricity was being lost as heat. I don't normally cite Wikipedia, but here's a [great article](#) that explains it in more detail and is reasonably accurate.

Another way to save when buying or building a new computer is to think of how it's going to be used. Does it function only as an OPAC machine, where patrons use it to look up books and place holds? If so, then it doesn't need all the bells and whistles that a hardcore graphics station requires. It probably doesn't even need as much hardware capability as a basic desktop! All it has to do is provide a web browser and a network connection. Our OPACs are very basic, with less power than a low-end netbook. Three of them don't even have standard hard drives and all four use a free, open source operating system. The total cost when I build them was less than \$350, including a new flat-screen monitor, new keyboard and new mouse. I just couldn't justify paying for a Windows license when all that computer needed to do was give me a web browser, so I went with [Linux](#) as the operating system and [Firefox](#) as the browser. To have replaced it with a standard machine from one of the "big three" manufacturers (HP, Dell, Lenovo) would have cost more than \$1,500, so I saved the library \$1,150 per machine, and we have four of them. I blogged about the process [here](#) and [here](#).

If the computer in question is to be used for a specific purpose, say web content creation that includes graphics creation, audio or video recording & editing, then you really should consider building in-house. My workstation is used for those purposes, plus other things, and I use open source software on it. It cost around \$1,000 when I built it, and a comparable machine from one of the "big three" priced at well over \$1,700.

I realize that not every library has someone in house who can build a computer, and that's fine! My intent is simply to show you how and where to save. By upgrading older equipment you will realize some savings through efficiency improvements. I've even started buying ["green" switches](#) as network equipment replacement. A green switch is simply a network switch that has better power management software, a more efficient power supply, and/or is packaged in recyclable materials. It is a marginally higher cost over a standard switch, and you may not notice the savings from this purchase, but at least you can *feel* like you're doing something for the library and the environment!

And really, that's what it boils down to for most library geeks: feeling like we're doing something positive. That intangible sense of satisfaction from knowing you have done what you can on your end of the library system to make it a better, more efficient organization is a driving factor in our lives.

I've heard it said that "Nerds talk about it, but Geeks get it done!" I would have to agree with that.

'Til next time...

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Kentucky State Archivist Completes Term as President of Council of State Archivists

Barbara Teague, Kentucky state archivist and records administrator and Public Records Division director at the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA), recently completed a one-year term as president of the Council of State Archivists (CoSA) at the 2011 CoSA annual meeting in Nashville, Tenn. CoSA is the national organization of the directors of state archival programs in the 50 states, the U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia.

Some of CoSA's projects during Teague's term included starting a State Electronic Records Initiative project; managing a \$2.6 million Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) grant to develop and deliver records-related emergency preparedness training for state and local government officials; improving support for the work of the State Historical Records Advisory Boards in each state; and increasing advocacy for and awareness of the pivotal role of government records in documenting government, securing rights, promoting history, and ensuring democracy and transparency.

"It has been an honor for me," Teague said in her presidential address to the membership, "to continue CoSA's long history of cooperation in working with the other state archivists to strengthen state and territorial archives in their important work to preserve America's historical records. In these lean budget years, it is helpful to work collaboratively and innovatively to preserve and make accessible the records of our democracy."

Teague is a graduate of Harlan High School in Harlan, Ky., the University of Kentucky, and the University of Virginia. She has worked as an archivist at KDLA since 1992, and

and the University of Virginia. She has worked as an archivist at KDLA since 1983, and was appointed Kentucky state archivist and records administrator in February 2008. She served CoSA on several committees and project teams before her election to the CoSA board of directors in 2008, and will continue to serve on several committees in her role as immediate past president.

For further information, please visit the KDLA website, www.kdla.ky.gov or the CoSA website, www.statearchivists.org.

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