

Libraries & Archives Monthly

News from the Kentucky Department
for Libraries and Archives

October 2011

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Kentucky Book Fair to Host Children's Day

On Friday, November 11th, the Kentucky Book Fair will host a Children's Day.

Admission is free but pre-registration is required. The registration deadline is October 14th.

For more information about Children's Day and the 30th Annual Kentucky Book Fair, [click here](#).

**Kentucky Public
Library Standards**

Kentucky Libraries Entertain Japanese Visitors

By Michael Jones
Library Branch Manager
Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

Kentucky libraries were the focus of three visitors from Japan recently. The visitors were retired and current Library Science professors interested in seeing how libraries operate in this country. Zensei Oshiro from Hanazono University, Kenji Kanna from Ryukoku University, and Takako Yamamoto from Otani University arrived on September 4th in Lexington. They had been studying about American librarianship and applied to Otani University to fund their research project: "Classification and Job Descriptions of Professional Librarians and Support Staff in U.S. Public Libraries." This project was accepted and granted by the university.



Wayne Onkst, Michael Jones and Charlene Davis with visitors

The group spent the first few days visiting Lexington libraries. On September 7th they came to KDLA and also took a tour of Franklin County's Paul Sawyer Public Library. They wrapped up their tour a few days later visiting libraries in Northern Kentucky. The professors were not here just to see our library facilities. They were doing research for presentations to their colleagues at Japanese libraries. Their main interest was the organizational structure of Kentucky libraries. They were particularly curious about the roles of support staff, which do not exist in Japanese libraries.

[Read more...](#)

**Boyd County Public Library Celebrates
National Library Card Sign-Up Month with
READ Posters**

Available

By Kristi Tucker
Chair, KPLA Conference
Planning Committee
Director, Marshall County
Public Library

The 2011-2012 edition of the Kentucky Public Library Standards is available on the [KDLA](#) and [KPLA](#) websites! The KPLA Standards Committee has taken input from participants and gave a solid effort to address all concerns, with both the Standards themselves as well as the process of submitting them.

[Read more...](#)

Director Believes in the Power of Literacy



By Anne VanWilligen
Regional Library Consultant
KDLA

Jamie Mingo believes in the power of literacy to change lives and empower people. Last spring she received the opportunity to do that for the people of Lincoln County when she was named the director of the Lincoln County Public Library.

[Read more...](#)

By Amanda Gilmore
Community Relations Coordinator
Boyd County Public Library

Boyd County Public Library is putting the faces of their staff, board members and patrons on READ posters as a way to raise awareness about the importance of reading and having a library card.

Each week during National Library Card Sign-Up Month, one patron is drawn from a pool of new card holders to be featured on their very own READ poster. After the posters have hung in the library for awhile, the patrons can keep them.

Several BCPL staff and board members volunteered to be guinea pigs for the project. The library hopes to offer READ posters to the general public in the near future.

"The READ posters made by the American Library Association and featuring celebrities, athletes, politicians and others are wonderful tools for promoting literacy and libraries," said Amanda Gilmore, community relations coordinator at BCPL. "We want to do the same thing on a local level. We hope to eventually work with schools and other local groups to make the READ posters a popular item. [More READ posters...](#)



Library employee
Ashley Skidmore

Library Director Nellie Jordan...a Profile in Perseverance

by Leeann Akers
Managing Editor
Journal-Times

"Man, unlike any other thing organic or inorganic in the universe, grows beyond his work, walks up the stairs of his concepts, and emerges ahead of his accomplishments." -- John Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath*.

Nellie Jordan is inspired by Steinbeck and Nancy Drew. Poe and Dickens and *Be Nice to Spiders* taught her to work hard and push for the goals she sets for herself.



Muhlenberg County Public Library Welcomes New Director

By Nikole Wolfe
Regional Library Consultant
KDLA

Claire Franek started as the director of the Muhlenberg County Public Library on September 13th, 2011. She and her husband Joe made the 12-plus hour journey from Rochester, New York and are thrilled to be settling in Greenville.

Franek had a one track mind from the time she was little. When someone asked her what she wanted to be, she always said a librarian.

[Read more...](#)

Trustee Connection

By Paul M. Poland
Chair, KLTRT
pmpoland@roadrunner.com

For many, the memories of past KPLA Legislative Days in Frankfort have visions of snow blizzards, ice on the interstates, very cold temperatures and generally just terrible weather. For many years that special day we go to Frankfort, wear yellow and say library has been held in February...but no more!

[Read more...](#)

Jordan was recently named as the new Carter County Public Library director. She brings her love of classics and stories of the underdog to the job.

Jordan is a native of Olive Hill, a graduate of Morehead State University, and has 20 years of experience in public service. "When I was a child, we had a library in Olive Hill," Jordan said.

"Books were not readily affordable for my family, so we checked out books when we went to town twice a week."

[Read more...](#)

After spending 20 years in public service, Nellie Jordan has accepted the role of library director for the Carter County Public Library. Photo by Leann Akers.

The Geek's Garage

Website Design

By Jim Peterson
Technology Coordinator
Goodnight Memorial Library

Hello once again from the garage! This month I will talk a little bit about designing a website. It's quite a timely subject for me as I am in the middle of overhauling both the Goodnight Library's and the Friends of Kentucky Libraries' websites. There are actually some important design choices that are not difficult to make, but must be made carefully in consideration of the lack of broadband access to many Kentuckians, and the technological capabilities of the end users.

Whether making a website or overhauling one, you really need to consider the population it will serve. Are you in a metro area that has lots of choices for broadband, or are there lots of folks in your area who are still on dial-up? Are most of your users technologically adept enough to know how to navigate a web page, or do you need to make it accessible to all?

It is an eye-opening statement when someone on a Board of Regents asks the question, "Do people still use dial-up?" This particular incident actually happened about six years ago at a KCTCS Board of Regents meeting I attended while serving as the Bowling Green Technical College Student Government Association President. [Read more...](#)

**KDLA Congratulates
New Certification**

**Kentucky Archives Month Observed October
2011**

Holders

KDLA would like to congratulate these newly certified library employees:

- Kellie S. Scott, Bourbon County, Paraprofessional
- Sandra Florence, Pendleton County, Paraprofessional
- John Patrick Burke, Nelson County, Library Experience
- Becky Edwards, Kenton County, Library Experience
- Angela Smith, Kenton County, Professional I
- Rhonda Kendziorski, McCreary County, Paraprofessional
- Lisa Wegner, Trimble County, Professional I

KDLA Welcomes New Trustees

KDLA would like to welcome the following new trustees:

- Greg Black, Daviess County
- Debbie Darby, Floyd County
- Bobby Shifflet, Paris-Bourbon
- Hazel Kenney, Paris-Bourbon
- George Plummer, Lewis County
- Greg Ferrell, Lewis County
- Charles Seal, Boone County
- Gene Allen Thomas, Owen County
- Marcia Lindsey, Edmonson County
- Bryan Proctor, Anderson County

By Tim Tingle
Public Records Branch Manager
Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

The Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives has designated October 2011 as Kentucky Archives Month in conjunction with American Archives Month. The Theme

for this year is *Military* in honor of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War, the upcoming 200th anniversary of the war of 1812 and Kentucky's military heritage.

Nearly 300 archival and manuscript repositories in Kentucky hold archival records that document the history of the state. Their holdings include personal papers, photographs, Bibles, diaries, letters and government records, such as marriage certificates and wills. Many of these institutions are hosting special programs, open houses, exhibits and speakers to highlight historical materials available for research in Kentucky archival and manuscript repositories, all listed on the Kentucky Archives Month website at <http://archivesmonth.ky.gov>.

Kentucky Archives Month is sponsored by the Kentucky State Historical Records Advisory Board, the Kentucky Council on Archives, and the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives. For further information call 502.564.8300 ext. 246.

Archival Photo of the Month



- Jane Scott Bentley, Anderson County
- Charles A. Long, Bullitt County
- Jennifer Bodner, Boyle County
- John Davis, Boyle County
- Pam Polston, Bullitt County
- Theresa Allen, Trigg County
- Phillip Graham, Trigg County
- Roland Cornett, Harlan County
- Shirley Thompson, Hart County
- Penny Chelf, Hart County



Join Our Mailing List!

Members of a barber shop quartet from Louisville break into song while visiting Governor Combs in his office. The group belongs to SPEBSQSA, the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America. 1961

Source: Public Information Photo Collection, Public Records Division - 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

Kentucky Libraries Entertain Japanese Visitors

Kentucky libraries were the focus of three visitors from Japan recently. The visitors were retired and current library science professors interested in seeing how libraries operate in this country. Zensei Oshiro from Hanazono University, Kenji Kanna from Ryukoku University, and Takako Yamamoto from Otani University arrived on September 4th in Lexington. They had been studying about American librarianship and applied to Otani University to fund their research project: "Classification and Job Descriptions of Professional Librarians and Support Staff in U.S. Public Libraries." This project was accepted and granted by the university.

The group spent the first few days visiting Lexington libraries. On September 7th they came to KDLA and also got a tour of Franklin County's Paul Sawyer Public Library. They wrapped up their tour a few days later visiting libraries in Northern Kentucky. The professors were not here just to see our library facilities. They were doing research for presentations to their colleagues at Japanese libraries. Their main interest was the organizational structure of Kentucky libraries. They were particularly curious about the roles of support staff, which do not exist in Japanese libraries. Through meetings with librarians at academic institutions, public libraries and the state library, the Japanese professors collected a wealth of information about library funding, organization and services in Kentucky.

Our colleagues from Japan are back home now sharing what they have learned with librarians in their country. During their time here we learned a lot from them as well. The structure of Japanese libraries is in many ways different from how things are here. Cultural differences impact how organizations develop. But we also learned that we share many of the same concepts that make us more alike than different. In Japan and Kentucky our common goal is to always seek ways to provide the best services possible for our customers in a constantly changing world. For librarians, the idea of providing life long learning opportunities is universal.

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Boyd County Public Library Celebrates National Library Card Sign-Up Month with READ Posters

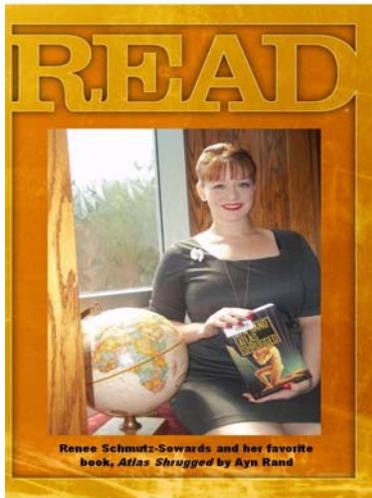
Boyd County Public Library staff and board members featured in READ posters:



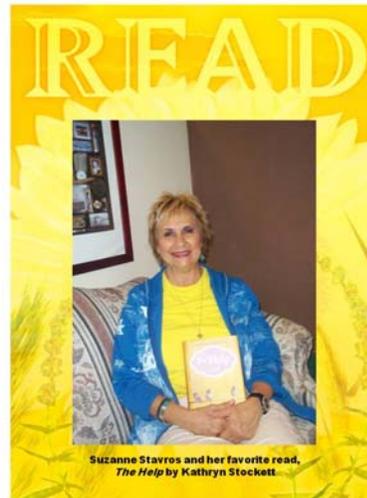
Angie Conley



Kellie and Brody Nunley



Renee Schmutz-Sowards



Suzanne Stavros

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Library Director Nellie Jordan...a Profile in Perseverance

Nellie Jordan is inspired by Steinbeck and Nancy Drew. Poe and Dickens and *Be Nice to Spiders* taught her to work hard and push for the goals she sets for herself.

Jordan was recently named as the new Carter County Public Library director. She brings her love of classics and stories of the underdog to the job.

Jordan is a native of Olive Hill, a graduate of Morehead State University, and has 20 years of experience in public service. "When I was a child, we had a library in Olive Hill," Jordan said. "Books were not readily affordable for my family, so we checked out books when we went to town twice a week."

The library in Olive Hill closed before Jordan made it to high school, which affected her deeply. "I think it was the only petition my mother ever signed," she said. "Mom knew how important that library was to her children, and it was a tragic thing for the community to lose."

Jordan now sees the library not only as a place to find entertainment, but also a launch-pad for learning. Both the Grayson and Olive Hill locations have children's centers and teen sections, offer meeting spaces for local groups and planning committees, as well as space for after-school tutoring.

"I want people to know that we are open and we are here," Jordan said. "We aren't just a place to get books. We have computers that you can use to fill out job applications, play games and check email. We have a community room that is available as a meeting area for people in the community."

Jordan worked for the Northeast Community Action Agency before taking the position with the library. She hopes contacts she has made in her 20 years of community service will assist in the growth of the library and literacy across the county.

"One in five children in Carter County lives in poverty," Jordan said. "The library gives everyone something constructive and free that they can be passionate about."

Jordan is focused on getting the library's website up and running, and weeding the collection. She is encouraging everyone to become a library patron and to make requests for the types of books that are of interest.

"September is National Library Card sign-up month," Jordan said. "All new patrons that are 12 years old and older can be entered to win a new Kindle."

Jordan said although she enjoyed her work at Northeast, she is looking forward to the challenges her new role will offer. "Not applying for this position would be like not finishing a good book," Jordan said. "I would always wonder how the story turned out."

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Trustee Connection

For many, the memories of past KPLA Legislative Days in Frankfort feature visions of snow blizzards, ice on the interstates, very cold temperatures and generally just terrible weather. For many years that special day we go to Frankfort, wear yellow and say library has been held in February...but no more!

The year is 2012 and the date of the Legislative Day has been changed to March, 7th! Just a few weeks should make all the difference in the weather (we all hope!) So mark this date on your calendar. Put your yellow whatever on and come to Frankfort to tell your elected officials how very important the public library is to your community.

Last year we had a record number of trustees attend Legislative Day; I certainly hope we exceed that this year. Advocating for your respective library is one of the most important responsibilities that each of us, as trustees, have to undertake. The KPLA Legislative Day will be an excellent opportunity to do just that in 2012!

As the special advocacy day gets closer the KPLA Advocacy Committee will be sending out reminders and information about the "asks" or goals of legislative support for the upcoming session for public libraries. I'll forward all correspondence from the committee to the trustee listserv to make sure all trustees are informed as to what direction we're taking.

Are you on the trustee listserv? You don't want to miss out on any of the vital information we'll be sharing. If you need to be placed on the trustee listserv please contact me and I'll get your name, library and email address to our administrator.

March 7, 2012 KPLA Legislative Day in Frankfort - a great way to do what you were appointed to do, support your public library and all public libraries in Kentucky!

Paul M. Poland
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Kentucky Public Library Standards Available

The 2011-2012 edition of the Kentucky Public Library Standards is available on the [KDLA](#) and [KPLA](#) websites! The KPLA Standards Committee has taken input from participants and gave a solid effort to address all concerns, with both the Standards themselves as well as the process of submitting them.

The Standards have evolved gradually over the years to keep up with the changes in the public library environment, such as technology. However, many of the individual standards are unchanged from earlier editions. The KPLA Standards Committee has historically had a very knowledgeable group of committee members and I hope you will take the time to view the lists of current and past committee members in this edition.

Libraries are able to use the KPLA Standards to measure the quality of their service and create plans for achieving exemplary library service. There are three levels of achievement: Essential, Enhanced and Exemplary. One of the goals of the Standards is to help every public library in Kentucky achieve the Essential level of library service or higher. The committee has seen a consistent increase in the number of participants over the years as well as higher levels of achievement reached by many libraries. We hope to see that trend continue.

Rapidly-changing technology, the economy, and political atmosphere are providing libraries with many challenges. Library customers expect libraries to keep up with the skills and knowledge required to utilize the latest in technology. Funding and resources required for libraries to provide current needs and expectations are a constant challenge. The KPLA Standards is one of the best tools a library can use to advocate support for their library.

Libraries do not have to submit their Standards both years in this cycle (2011-2012), but they can if they choose to do so. The deadline to submit this year's Standards is November 1, 2011. Certificates will be mailed after the first of the year. Participants will be recognized at the KPLA/KLTRT Spring Conference.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at ktucker@marshallcolibrary.org. Let's make this another successful year for Standards!

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Director Believes in the Power of Literacy

Jamie Mingo believes in the power of literacy to change lives and empower people. Last spring she received the opportunity to do that for the people of Lincoln County when she was named the director of the Lincoln County Public Library (LCPL).

Jamie grew up on a dairy and tobacco farm, so she knows how to work hard. She received her bachelor's degree in K-8 elementary education from Asbury College (now Asbury University), her master's in education from Eastern Kentucky University, and library science certification from the University of Kentucky.

Jamie was a first and second grade teacher for eight years and has spent the last 17 years as an elementary school librarian, most recently at Crab Orchard Elementary School. Her work experience has involved lots of programming, reading motivation and multi-tasking.

When asked why she wanted to become the director of LCPL she replied, "To improve literacy and opportunities for the people of Lincoln County". Her goals are "To increase participation in programming and establish a tradition of library usage from birth through seniors so the library will become 'the place to be'".

Jamie is married to Chris and has a daughter, Taylor-Grace. In her spare time she enjoys working in her yard, reading and needlework.

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Muhlenberg County Public Library Welcomes New Director

Claire Franek started as the director of the Muhlenberg County Public Library on September 13th, 2011. She and her husband Joe made the 12-plus hour journey from Rochester, New York and are thrilled to be settling in Greenville.

Franek had a one track mind from the time she was little. When someone asked her what she wanted to be, she always said a librarian. She credits her mother reading to her as a child and instilling a love of reading and education in her. She received an MSLS from UK where she was awarded the Beta Phi Mu honor. After library school, she moved to New York State with her husband, where she has held a variety of library jobs over the years. She has been a library board trustee, adjunct instructor, adult services librarian, reference librarian and grant writer and reviewer.

Franek always knew she wanted to return to her first love, public libraries. She loves the challenge of answering difficult reference questions and listening to customers' stories. She believes librarianship is "not a job, it's a passion and a profession." Her main passions are public libraries, literacy and genealogy. She also keeps busy as a book reviewer for Library Journal and a guest reviewer for the International Reading Association. When she can find the time, she enjoys reading historical fiction books.

She and her husband are excited to make their home in Kentucky. When they first drove into Greenville, she turned to Joe and said "welcome home!" She has felt that way ever since. She is excited to be a part of the community and wants the Muhlenberg County Public Library to be a fun and inviting place to work and visit. Her ultimate goal is to "provide the best possible service to those that I have the opportunity to serve."

Please feel free to contact her at crfranek@mcplib.org or stop in and see her at the Muhlenberg County Public Library!

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The Geek's Garage

Hello once again from the garage! This month I will talk a little bit about designing a website. It's quite a timely subject for me as I am in the middle of overhauling both the Goodnight Library's and the Friends of Kentucky Libraries' websites. There are actually some important design choices that are not difficult to make, but must be made carefully in consideration of the lack of broadband access to many Kentuckians, and the technological capabilities of the end users.

Whether making a website or overhauling one, you really need to consider the

population it will serve. Are you in a metro area that has lots of choices for broadband, or are there lots of folks in your area who are still on dial-up? Are most of your users technologically adept enough to know how to navigate a web page, or do you need to make it accessible to all?

It is an eye-opening statement when someone on a Board of Regents asks the question, "Do people still use dial-up?" This particular incident actually happened about six years ago at a KCTCS Board of Regents meeting I attended while serving as the Bowling Green Technical College Student Government Association President. One of the KCTCS regents asked that question and was immediately set straight by others, but it illustrates the point that we can easily take for granted what we have. That gentleman was from a big city and had had broadband access for long enough that he just assumed that everyone had it. Not everyone does.

For instance, most folks in my county, outside the city limits, still have dial-up Internet service, mostly because the cable and telephone companies won't run their services outside the city limits. There are faster services available, but they are pretty expensive in comparison, and often have prohibitive start-up costs. And it's for that reason that a web designer must consider the content going on a website.

You want everyone to be able to use your site, but you also want to put lots of photos and video out there. That's easy-peasy if the Internet's fast, but let me tell you, a 30-second video takes 10 minutes or more to download over dial-up! This is a real issue for schools offering online classes as well, and a major reason libraries have seen a huge upswing in public Internet usage. So you have to walk a fine line and offer low-quality images and video, and provide links to the higher-quality stuff, because dial-up users don't have the hours (or days!) to wait for a high definition video to load.

Navigation of a website should be easy and intuitive. Being the geek I am, I love the fly-out and drop-down menus, rotating pictures and bandwidth-detecting gizmos that make modern websites interesting and entertaining. It's not a problem for *me* to visit those sites because I have a high-speed Internet connection and know well how to navigate a website. Here again, though, you have to consider your end users. In my county, and probably across most of Kentucky, we have a lot of rural folks who couldn't even tell you how to turn on a computer! It may be hard for **you** to believe, but there are a lot more of those folks around than you might think. I know our Adult Literacy and Community Education organizations always have several attendees to their computer basics classes, and that's one of the things they cover.

If those folks are your end users, you have to make navigation dead-simple. I don't know how many people we help each week, just showing them how to get on the Internet. Then, they get to the site and need help navigating, simply because they don't know how to do it or it is just not intuitive. Not everyone will have the benefit of a librarian to help them figure it out, and a lot of people will just get frustrated and quit. That's where you can make it easy on them (and your tech support folks.)

So whether or not you are designing a new site or re-vamping an old one, make your navigation easy and media light, and your end users will thank you for it.

'Til next time...

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