

Libraries & Archives Monthly

News from the Kentucky Department
for Libraries and Archives

November 2012

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**Kentucky
Governors'
Executive Journals
Available in Digital
Format**

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

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Russell County

Union County Public Library District Summer Read and Feed Program Impacts Community

By Debbie McClanahan
Director
Union County Public Library District

Editor's note: This edition of Libraries & Archives Monthly features several articles on the Read and Feed Program.

The Union County Public Library Summer Read and Feed program was a huge success in our county. This was our first year being involved with this program. We provided free nutritious meals plus enriching library programming five days a week, at four sites, serving 2,926 free meals in seven weeks!

This program greatly impacted the community in different ways. Numerous families with multiple children attended the program daily.

[Read more...](#)

Lunch, Munch and Read a Bunch

By Nellie Jordan
Director
Carter County Public Library

As a young library, Carter County initially resisted the call for participation in the Read and Feed Program as we were a bit unsure of our ability to provide quality programming with existing staff and volunteers. Even though we are small and our budget is tight, quality is a commitment to us. Via the grant allocation of \$11,260 our district was able to secure two qualified, full-time program coordinators, one for each branch. The dollars allocated amply provided for supplies to insure quality experiences for our children.

We began our planning and promotion early in partnership with our county school system as well as free local media outlets. The response was overwhelming.

Public Library Welcomes New Director

By Bessie Gray-Knox
Regional Librarian
Kentucky Department for
Libraries and Archives



Lindsey Westerfield is the new director of the Russell County Public Library, filling the role held for the last three years by Norma Pellerin.

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Trustee Connection [Read more...](#)

By Mindy Woods
Carter County Public Library
Secretary, KLTRT
graysonwoods@yahoo.com

I attended the Legislative Meet & Greet for our senate district at the Carter County Public Library in Grayson, and I was humbled. Many of the people who came to show their support were not really the ones I expected.

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Focus on Friends

The Value of a Friends of

[Read more...](#)

Read and Feed Allows Library to Expand Outreach

By Greta Southard
Director
Boone County Public Library

It isn't every day that you see public libraries offering free lunch to all the children in their building. However, this is exactly what the Boone County Public Library offered at their Florence Branch during the 2012 Summer Reading Program. With the rise of poverty and homelessness in the City of Florence, the academic and non-academic barriers to learning and literacy have risen. Therefore, in 2011 Boone County Public Library expanded its summer reading program vision to address these needs. Our initial summer feeding project was deemed a success; therefore, in 2012 we decided to explore various avenues to expand our fledgling program.

The library staff secured supplemental funding from the LSTA Summer Reading Summer Food Service Grant (SRSFS) and the Target Family Literacy Foundation Grant for the 2012 program.

Summer Food Services Program at the Kenton County Public Library

By Lise Tewes, Children's Department Head/Erlanger Branch and Patricia A. Richards, KCPL Coordinator Children's Services/Children's Department Head, Covington Branch
Kenton County Public Library

Summer reading is always an adventure, and this summer the Library Services Technology Act Summer/Food Services Program grant helped the Kenton County Public Library enjoy one of our most successful summer adventures ever; however, our involvement to try and lessen the affects of summer learning loss for children in our community actually began 13 summers ago!

Johns Hopkins University pioneered the research on the effects of the "summer slide" as far back as 1992; however, it wasn't being widely discussed. By the summer of 1999, the KCPL felt it was time to take action on what

Libraries Chapter in Your Library

By Mary Lynn Collins
Vice President
Friends of Kentucky Libraries

Value of a Friends chapter sponsoring the Summer Reading Program for youth, providing equipment and supplies...Thousands. [Read more...](#)

Value of a Friends chapter in terms of public support...PRICELESS!

I recently had friendly conversations with the directors of public libraries in the counties of Warren, Kenton, Scott, Franklin and Laurel. These libraries have some of the most effective Friends of Library chapters in the state and the directors are very enthusiastic about their Friends.

[Read more...](#)

KDLA Welcomes New Trustees

KDLA would like to welcome the following new trustees:

- Donna Harrison, Muhlenberg County
- Letitia Hughes, Barren County
- Kelly Van Zant, Barren County
- Jill Frogge, Wayne County
- Detra Coley, Livingston County
- Connie Hunt, Bath County

was being finally addressed as "summer learning loss" and reached out to the Covington Public Independent School District in offering a traveling library, along with grade/age appropriate literacy programs, for students attending the school district-wide summer program.

Archival Photo of the Month



"Storytelling hour - a popular feature of W.P.A. libraries. Storytelling hours are held in many rural centers as well as the main libraries, and are attended by increasing numbers of children each week." [Ca. 1939]

Source: Works Project Administration (WPA) 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

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paige.sexton@ky.gov
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Full Articles Beyond This Point

Union County Public Library District Summer Read and Feed Program Impacts Community

The Union County Public Library Summer Read and Feed program was a huge success in our county. This was our first year being involved with this program. We provided free nutritious meals plus enriching library programming five days a week, at four sites, serving 2,926 free meals in seven weeks!

This program greatly impacted the community in different ways. Numerous families with multiple children attended the program daily. One grandmother who just found out her husband has brain cancer attended one of the feeding sites daily. She had taken in eight children, including a baby, this summer, not knowing how she would be able to feed them. She thanked us on several occasions stating, "Thank you for this program. I don't know what I would do without it. This has been a big help to our family." We received additional comments of praise and appreciation.

Also, as a result of this program, our partnership with the Union County Public School System was greatly strengthened. We were invited to present information about the Summer Read and Feed program at the monthly school board meeting. After the presentation, the school's superintendent, Patricia Scheffer, and school board members thanked us for partnering with their Summer Food Program. Many of the board members commented on the fact that students received quality programming that enabled them to practice valuable skills during the summer break.

This program provided summer jobs in our community. The Union County Public Library District hired 15 summer workers: one program coordinator, four site leaders, and 10 college students who were assistants. The school district also provided summer employment to four people to accommodate the summer program. The site leaders and assistants embraced and took ownership of the program. Not only did they read a story each day, but they incorporated crafts, games, music etc. The site leaders were experienced employees from the school system and brought quality programming to the table. The children were so excited to see familiar faces. The majority of staff members were college students who interacted and mentored with the students, telling them about their college experiences and encouraging them to do well in school. We also had two high school juniors who were regular volunteers this fall and plan to add this experience to their college application.

We are already making big plans for next summer. Our intention is to add two more sites in economically depressed areas. Site leaders will work in advance with school personnel to enhance reading/literacy activities on a more challenging level.

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Lunch, Munch and Read a Bunch

As a young library, Carter County initially resisted the call for participation in the Read and Feed Program as we were a bit unsure of our ability to provide quality programming with existing staff and volunteers. Even though we are small and our budget is tight, quality is a commitment to us. Via the grant allocation of \$11,260 our district was able to secure two qualified, full-time program coordinators, one for each branch. The dollars allocated amply provided for supplies to insure quality experiences for our children.

We began our planning and promotion early in partnership with our county school system as well as free local media outlets. The response was overwhelming. Our community was, it seemed, literally "hungry" for such a summer opportunity for its children. The programming ran on a dual schedule, incorporating Read and Feed into our plans for a true Summer Reading Program.

Our Read and Feed section ran five days a week for eight weeks with lunch, the reading of approximately 80 books from our collection, related activities (coloring sheets, puzzles and crafts,) and board games. Guest speakers brought interesting materials for "show and tell" such as hissing cockroaches and *magical* germ locating flashlights. Read and Feed became an ongoing clearinghouse for other programs to bring information to a new segment of the county's population. A bonus for the children was that each visiting program brought giveaway items for the children to take home such as Frisbees, coloring books, stickers and more.

Our Summer Reading Program piggybacked Read and Feed one day a week for eight weeks with the theme "Reading Revolution." This theme centered on Jack Jouett and consisted of readings concerning Mr. Jouett and the corresponding time period in our nation's history. Other experiences during the Summer Reading Program were learning the pledge of allegiance, hands-on activities such as yarn dolls, homemade butter, tavern signs, tri-corn hat, silhouettes and ciphers. This section of our summer programming was highlighted by a visit from Joel Meador from the Jack Jouett house. Several parents attended Mr. Meador's session and/or the close out of the program when certificates were presented to each participant and the movie *National Treasure* was watched by all. The Subway restaurants of Carter County provided each of the program participants with a certificate for a free kid's meal.

Over the course of eight weeks, we were privileged to serve approximately 510 children with our program. Normally, our county would engage approximately 30 children per summer. What a delightful increase. One hundred percent of the children and a significant portion of the parents obtained library cards over the summer. The majority of them and their parents continue to visit because each was exposed to our services brought to light during their attendance.

Compliments were given almost daily and comments on how important what we were doing were heralded at both branches. We had young children, middle-schoolers, teenagers, public school kids, private school kids, and home-schooled kids; more than a few of whom reiterated to us that participating in our program would be the highlight of their summer as the tight economy had taken their cable, internet, and any hopes of a trip.

We went home each day exhausted but with pleasant chitter-chatter ringing in our

ears. As a new library director, this program is one of the highlights of my first year of service to Carter County.

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Read and Feed Allows Library to Expand Outreach

It isn't every day that you see public libraries offering free lunch to all the children in their building. However, this is exactly what the Boone County Public Library offered at their Florence Branch during the 2012 Summer Reading Program. With the rise of poverty and homelessness in the city of Florence, the academic and non-academic barriers to learning and literacy have risen. Therefore, in 2011 Boone County Public Library expanded its summer reading program vision to address these needs. Our initial summer feeding project was deemed a success; therefore, in 2012 we decided to explore various avenues to expand our fledgling program.

The library staff secured supplemental funding from the LSTA Summer Reading Summer Food Service Grant (SRSFS) and the Target Family Literacy Foundation Grant for the 2012 program. The SRSFS grant allowed for staffing, supplies, literacy based games and recreational activities at the Florence Branch. The Target grant provided resources such as free books, incentives and meals for adults that accompanied children to community outreach events.

Through the external funding and an existing partnership with Boone County Schools, BCPL was able to expand its Dream Big Summer Reading Program to address the nutritional and literacy needs of children and parents. The new SRSF programming included meals, literacy-based programming both at the library and at off-site locations, and quality family time activities.

Given the resources available, BCPL completed and surpassed beyond their wildest expectations the proposed programming and estimated attendance.

- During the two months of the program, June and July, BCPL offered 42 meal programs.
- Our goal for the project was to reach 300 additional children; we actually fed a total of 1,389 *additional* children. The program had an average of 30 children per lunch/dinner program, drastically up from our average of approximately 10 children in the lunch program of 2011.
- At the Florence Branch, where the lunches were provided, Summer Reading registration was up by 25%, and the participation rate for this branch was up by 4%. For youth, we measure *participation rate* as those who have read for five hours and achieved a reading prize for that accomplishment.
- Through this program, we saw more families attending programs, story-times and events. The number of preschool to school-age programs went from 13 per program to 19 per program.
- Circulation and the number of library card applications also increased for the months of June and July at the Florence location.

This program also allowed us to expand our outreach at long-term stay hotels to include the entire family, not just children under the age of 18. Often these families have housing or food insecurity issues and going to the public library was not part of their family's lifestyle. During these hotel outreach events, we signed up families for library cards and were able to provide guidance and information to those families that

had never used the library.

In addition to the increase in numbers, the general tone of the eight week Summer Reading Program was hopeful and positive, and staff has noticed long-term attitudinal changes. For example, during the program people were eagerly waiting for the Community Center on Wheels to pull into the parking lot for meal distribution and literacy activities. Many of these families have established a routine of coming to the library, a new behavior for them which is continuing. Many grandparents are bringing their grandchildren in hopes of addressing literacy needs and of being introduced to more educational activities. Also, long-time customers attended the weekly meals and outreach events. All of these changes show that the library is serving both new and current customers. We received many positive comments. One example is a note given by a participant: "Carson and Christian had so much fun this summer at the library. Thank you so much!" It was also impressive to see the number of school officials who volunteered or observed at these community events, such as the Food Service Director and the President of the School Board.

Boone County Public Library strengthened the existing partnership with the school system and worked together to craft a program that provided learning opportunities during the summer months to decrease academic loss. The program helped to create a sense of community and strengthened the association between the two organizations and the customers being served. As a result of the publicity regarding the school-library partnership, the local YMCA contacted the library to brainstorm about other partnership opportunities for the summer of 2013 and ways that we can work together to develop programming to address the needs of poverty level and at-risk children in other parts of the county.

Another positive outcome of the program was that it fostered a sense of community within the target area/population. During the meal times at both the Florence Branch and the hotel outreach, staff noticed adults interacting while their children played with one another in games of touch football or wiffle ball. The literacy activities encouraged families to interact with one another and encouraged questions and conversations between the library staff and participants. All of these activities reflect a growing sense of integration of this target population into the county library system and hopefully, into the larger community.

As a follow-up to the program, the Florence Branch hosted a Family Reading Night program for four weeks. The families that participated in the SFSP were given the opportunity to register throughout the summer. Twelve families signed up for this event, and there has been a consistent attendance of 10 families per week. During the four week session, the library provided free meals, books and incentives. A reading specialist and librarian worked together to provide literacy based activities and information for parents and children.

Although staff felt that the total programming was worthwhile, the following three outcomes were most impressive:

- Through external funding, BCPL was able to broaden its exposure to the summer reading program by including children and adults who have limited resources and who might never have visited the library. As a result of these activities, this target population has demonstrated a commitment to read at home and attend library programs.
- Secondly, the grant provided a venue for BCPL staff to create a welcoming environment and positive attitude toward the public library.
- Lastly, the library was able to create further partnerships to sustain the meals

and programming for future summers.

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Summer Food Services Program at the Kenton County Public Library

Summer reading is always an adventure, and this summer the Library Services Technology Act/Summer Food Services Program grant helped the Kenton County Public Library enjoy one of our most successful summer adventures ever; however, our involvement to try and lessen the affects of summer learning loss for children in our community actually began 13 summers ago!

Johns Hopkins University pioneered research on the affects of the "summer slide" as far back as 1992; however, it wasn't being widely discussed. By the summer of 1999, the KCPL felt it was time to take action on what was being finally addressed as "summer learning loss" and reached out to the Covington Public Independent School District in offering a traveling library, along with grade/age appropriate literacy programs, for students attending the school district-wide summer program.

Students who qualified to attend this summer program free of charge were previously identified as those participating in the free/reduced lunch program during the school year. With school libraries closed for the summer, but K-8 grade students still attending school activities for six hours each weekday, it just seemed the perfect solution to bring public library resources and the summer reading program to them!

Every child had the opportunity to check out books and magazines, no matter their standing with the library. Temporary library cards were created for each child, while all books read in the classroom by library or school personnel were logged into summer reading book logs, and prizes (including a book of their own and a t-shirt) awarded to every child in the final week of the summer reading program.

When we began that first summer in 1999, we had no idea if this outreach approach would work or if we would even be invited back by the school system, but it did work and we have been invited back year after year, as well as included in the annual advanced planning process. Our library director at the time, Wayne Onkst, made sure the library's commitment remained intact, providing a small budget to continue to build the collection and program supplies, to funding two temporary qualified summer staff who would create grade/age appropriate, interactive literacy programming for all locations for eight weeks each summer...an average of 80-100 programs for 500-700 students weekly! From six school sites in 1999, we grew to include five to seven additional Covington area community sites that offered the Federal Summer Feeding program; however, the economic downturn in 2011-2012 forced many sites to cut back hours of operation, including the schools. We found that by March 2012, we could only provide programming and books to possibly six to nine sites, as everyone wanted similar times of operation, leaving us to wonder how we could stretch staff to cover the six existing school sites and any additional community sites we hoped to include, not to mention any thought of expansion for the Erlanger Branch.

That's where the LSTA/SFSP grant came to the rescue!

As prep work for our Summer Reading Club 2012 had already begun in earnest during

early winter, it wasn't until April that we received word that the grant funding was being offered. Once the grant application process was completed, followed later by receiving word that our application had been approved, we had to quickly adjust some of our plans. Increased book logs and prizes were ordered, in anticipation of the increased numbers of children we would be able to reach. Programming themes were chosen, with materials selected and purchased. Schedules were created and modified countless times as we were able to add additional sites in Covington. Interviews for all Summer Lunch Programmers, including the two provided by the grant, were held. Excellent qualified candidates were chosen, with all joining our staff on May 29 to begin training and preparations. Now the ball was really rolling quickly! We were pitched headlong into the relentless busyness of summer, as we also had our normally large in-house programming ready to begin as well!

As a result of the 2012 LSTA/SFSP grant funding, we were able to provide:

- Two additional temporary staff members, whose presence allowed us to visit 13 summer lunch sites in Covington (increased from what would have possibly been only six to nine sites planned for 2012), and the additional two summer lunch sites in Erlanger. The visits to the Erlanger school sites began the first week of June, with Covington following the week after.
- Program materials to provide eight weeks of programming at both Erlanger sites, and office materials for record-keeping at the Erlanger sites.
- Flyers and posters to promote the Erlanger summer outreach visits.
- Educational programmers who provided enrichment experiences for all the children we visited. The educational programmers included professional storytellers, Russ and Barb Childers, aka "Bear Foot"; the Cincinnati Zoo "Wildlife Comes to You" program; and a circus experience with "My Nose Turns Red" theater group.

The experiences of implementing the Summer Lunch programming at our 13 Covington and two Erlanger sites were summarized in daily reports kept by the grant funded programmers. Reading through these reports provides insight into the highs and lows experienced by the programmers as they visited multiple sites each day, doing programming, checking out books, and enticing children to read. The "lows" usually had to do with site-related problems, including inadequate space and inadequate supervision of the children by site staff. The "highs" usually had to do with the wonderful interactions they shared with the children.

Were all our efforts successful? Did we make an impact this summer in Covington and Erlanger? The short answer is "yes." In Covington, we have statistics from past years experiences described earlier, to indicate that we served more children (29% increase in attendance,) checked out more books (25% increase in circulation at the summer feeding sites,) and had more children complete their book logs (62.5% increase) than ever before!

As Covington school official Stacie Strotman stated, "The partnership with the Kenton County Library has been a tremendous asset to the Covington Summer Youth Program. Students are provided opportunities to personally connect with a librarian, listen to wonderful storytellers, and check out library books for their own personal reading time. These are opportunities that our students typically don't have as part of their everyday life. By the end of the summer, students are running around in the t-shirts they have earned through the summer reading program. You can see through their eyes that they are very proud to be wearing the shirt and to be a part of the program."

In Erlanger, we don't have comparison statistics, since this was our first attempt at summer lunch outreach for these locations. We did meet the estimates that were provided on our grant application regarding the number of programs we would present and the attendance for those programs. The only disappointing aspect of the outreach at the Erlanger sites was not as many book logs were completed as hoped. Our target was to complete 113 book logs to be redeemed for prizes; unfortunately, we only had 32 book logs completed. What went wrong?

After analyzing how the program was done in Erlanger (vs. in Covington), the biggest problem appeared to be in not having the same amount of coordination and communication with each school site staff *in advance* of the actual visits in this particular school district. Experience brings knowledge, so if we are able to repeat the program again next summer, we will start negotiating with the two Erlanger school sites well in advance of our visits.

Perhaps our biggest successes were those that cannot be measured quantitatively. The qualitative successes were many. In Erlanger, our involvement has raised the attention of the school superintendent, and we have been invited to participate in more school programming this year. In Covington, weekly visits to an apartment complex resulted in a partnership on another grant program that we are involved in. We received some excellent publicity in the form of a newspaper article covering the performance of our grant paid storytellers, "Bear Foot" at one of the Erlanger sites, see

<http://news.cincinnati.com/article/C2/20120621/NEWS/306210054/Storytellers>

And finally, our interactions with the children, teens and adults we visited at all the sites, in Covington and Erlanger, were overwhelmingly positive. So did we make a difference? We certainly did to this young person, who said to our programmers in a thank you note: "the library is the best thing I have to do...please don't ever leave me!"

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Focus on Friends

The Value of a Friends of Libraries Chapter in Your Library

Value of a Friends chapter sponsoring the Summer Reading Program for youth, providing equipment and supplies...Thousands.

Value of a Friends chapter in terms of public support...PRICELESS!

I recently had Friendly conversations with the directors of public libraries in the counties of Warren, Kenton, Scott, Franklin and Laurel. These libraries have some of the most effective Friends of Library chapters in the state and the directors are very enthusiastic about their Friends.

The directors are quick to point out the financial support Friends bring to their public libraries and the financial contribution in some cases is substantial. Several chapters entirely fund their library's Summer Reading Program; many of them help stretch the library's budget by purchasing supplies and equipment. One chapter even purchased the library's Youth Outreach Vehicle.

Several directors indicate that their Friends chapter is important to library programming by planning and sponsoring author visits and other library programs. And all of the directors note the importance of Friends as a "go to" resource when extra hands are needed for special programs.

Lisa Rice, director of the Warren County Public Library, believes her library's Friends chapter has definitely boosted her staff's morale. Warren County Friends are quick to let staff know how much they appreciate them and provide food gifts to staff during National Library Workers Week. Other Friends chapters have demonstrated their appreciation of library staff in a similar way. One Friends group even took the library staff to a professional baseball game to celebrate the end of a successful summer Reading Program!

While the directors greatly value Friends contributions as noted above, they agree that the most significant contribution that the Friends bring to the table is their ability to advocate for the library and to make the public aware of all the programs and services available at the library. This value cannot be estimated in terms of dollars and cents, but all of the directors agree that this value makes the Friends a most worthwhile investment.

Donna Gibson, director of the Paul Sawyer Public Library told me, "Our Friends chapter is our built-in support system; our passion is their passion." Similarly, Lori Acton, director of the Laurel County Public Library, notes that you can never have enough public support and she values the enthusiasm that her local chapter can generate about the library and its mission.

Earlene Arnett, director of the Scott County Public Library, compares a Friends chapter to a personal support system. "Friends are your support group, giving support by addressing the library's needs which can be financial, public awareness or advocacy." Earlene identified as the single most important benefit of her Friends chapter their advocacy efforts. Scott County Friends show up at the Capitol with enthusiasm each year on Library Legislative Day. Those of you who have attended Library Day at the Capitol have no doubt noticed all those yellow scarves; perhaps you too have worn one. That tradition was started by the Scott County Public Library Friends.

Dave Schroeder, director of the Kenton County Public Library, says the advocacy mission of Friends chapters is often overlooked. "Members of Friends are out in the community every day talking - and even boasting - about what is going on at the library. Their commitment to our public library is clear. They are our biggest supporters."

Lisa Rice points out that Friends of Warren County Public Library take on projects that serve to market the library - such as sponsorship in a local soap box derby.

If you are interested in starting a Friends chapter in your library - or revitalizing an existing one that may have run out of steam - the Friends of Kentucky Libraries are ready to help you make that happen. Our Mentoring Chair is Jane Pfarner, who recently retired from the Kenton County Public Library, and she can be reached by emailing jcpfarner@aol.com. Jane can send you an information packet to get started. And when you are ready to launch the effort, we are happy to come to you and talk about how to have an effective Friends group, and how to avoid pitfalls along the way. We also provide a \$400 reimbursable grant to Friends chapters to assist with costs related to filing for 501(c)(3) nonprofit status.

We believe libraries need Friends now more than ever and are eager to help

Kentucky's public libraries strengthen their support system. As Lori Acton noted, "You can never have enough public support."

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Kentucky Governors' Executive Journals Available in Digital Format

KDLA has announced that an extensive collection of the executive journals of Kentucky's governors is now available in a digital format in the [e-Archives section of the KDLA website](#).

The Secretary of State is required to keep a register of the official acts of the governor. This register is called the executive journal and contains entries documenting appointments, pardons, proclamations, requisitions and extraditions, restorations of civil rights and reorganizations of state agencies. Journals from the 19th century also occasionally contain transcripts of speeches given by the governor. Entries in the executive journal are made chronologically, but a subject index is included to aid in accessing specific journal entries.

The executive journals for governors Isaac Shelby (1792-1796) through Wendell Ford (1971-1974) are currently available in the e-Archives. The journals for the more recent governors will be added soon.

"The executive journal of Shelby, Kentucky's first chief executive, illustrates that the state was still very much a part of the frontier. Many of the entries in Shelby's journal relate to the strength, organization and structure of the state militia, which was of vital importance as the potential threat of local Native American populations was perceived as very real," said Tim Tingle, KDLA public records branch manager. "Succeeding journals provide invaluable primary source material for tracing the historical development of the Commonwealth, from the frontier to the Civil War and Reconstruction, to the feuds and tobacco wars of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, through the Great Depression and into the modern era."

The digitization of these records was completed in cooperation with the Office of the Secretary of State and partially funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services' Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA.)

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Trustee Connection

I attended the Legislative Meet & Greet for our senate district at the Carter County Public Library in Grayson, and I was humbled. Many of the people who came to show their support were not really the ones I expected. There was the quiet, unassuming patron who stops by just to use the Internet; the grandmother who loves story time for her grandchildren; and families who live out in the country and had to make quite an effort to be there. These are the people for whom we advocate.

Mary Lynn Collins, Vice President of the Friends of Kentucky Libraries, was on hand to present a check to our newly formed Friends of Carter County Public Library group to help pay fees for establishing their 501(c)(3) status. Mary Lynn was involved from the first days of us calling her for information on how to start a Friends group and we feel like she is one of us! Our Friends group explained their purpose and kicked off their membership campaign that evening, with great results. These are people who help us advocate.

Senator Robin Webb and Representative Jill York both pledged their support and asked us to be diligent in informing them of legislation which could adversely affect libraries, because a seemingly innocuous bill could have a negative impact. They want us to keep in touch, so don't be shy in contacting your legislators. We must advocate on a state and national level.

Our local government officials were represented and got to see and hear from their constituents how much the library means to them. The next time a library issue comes before them they will remember this. Advocate locally.

As library trustees, we advocate, officially, for libraries, but what we are supporting in the end is the privilege of providing services and opportunities for people.

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Russell County Public Library Welcomes New Director

Lindsey Westerfield is the new director of the Russell County Public Library, filling the role held for the last three years by Norma Pellerin.

Lindsey is a Russell County native and a 2007 and 2010 graduate of Western Kentucky University with a Bachelors of Arts and a Masters of Arts in English Literature and Writing.

Lindsey previously served as the Assistant Director of the Honors College at WKU and her work has been published in journals of higher education and presented at national conferences. Lindsey is actively involved in the Russell County Business and Professional Women's Organization, the Jane Lampton Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and spending time with her husband and their three terriers.

Welcome Lindsey!

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