Library Survey Results

The Field Services Division of the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA) conducted two surveys recently to measure current and future needs of public libraries in Kentucky. The Program Development Office (PDO) conducted a user survey to determine the effectiveness of Library Services Technology Act (LSTA) grant opportunities and future options for the program. The Public Library Development Office (PLDO) conducted a user survey to determine how services, programs and technologies will best address the needs of Kentucky libraries now and in the future.

A total of 92 trustees, directors and other library staff responded to the PDO survey. Responses came from all library regions and were evenly distributed throughout the state. Most respondents were library directors, 83%, followed by library staff, 14%, and trustees, 2%. The survey indicates that most libraries, over 40%, learn of LSTA grants from their regional librarian. Other sources include an announcement from the KDLA Commissioner, postings on the listserv and the KDLA website.

The survey further found that over 80% of respondents have applied for LSTA grants through KDLA and over 78% have had an application approved and funded. Over 86% of those responding found the grant process either extremely valuable or somewhat valuable and over 77% said grant writing workshops would encourage them to apply for future LSTA grants.

The PLDO Survey had a total of 70 respondents. A little over half of the respondents were directors, 54%, followed by trustees, 23%, and other library staff, 23%. The five question survey focused on the challenges facing libraries now and in the future, and what services would enable libraries to better meet these challenges.

Respondents indicated that the dominant issue facing libraries is technology. References to technology and technology related issues were made well over 100 times in the 70 surveys. Specifically, issues related to computers, automation, the Internet and new technology trends were repeatedly mentioned. Other significant points of interest to libraries, as indicated by the survey, include library funding, library building construction and renovation, programming assistance and continuing education.
State Aid was mentioned numerous times as an essential element for libraries to provide adequate materials and services for their customers. Assistance from KDLA with the Summer Reading Program was applauded in many responses, while the director’s listserv and KDLA website were given credit as good resources for information. One response, that libraries need “someone to answer the question of the moment” indicates the importance regional consultants in providing “hands on” assistance to libraries on a regular basis.

KDLA will use these surveys to assist in determining the current and future needs of libraries in Kentucky, and how to best address these needs. Respondents indicated through these surveys that they are anxious to pursue grant opportunities and often rely on assistance from regional offices to become aware of and pursue grant opportunities. Recently, KDLA offered grant writing training to encourage libraries to apply for grants. This is reflected in the latest round of LSTA grant applications. While $70,000 in LSTA funds is available to be awarded, over $200,000 in requests have been submitted. Libraries in Kentucky are pursuing grant opportunities in record numbers.

**KDLA Reference Question of the Month**

Question of the Month: How can I find the most appropriate record for an Interlibrary Loan request if there are hundreds by that name listed in OCLC?

A public library called needing help completing an ILL request through OCLC. The difficulty was in determining the most appropriate record for the patron. In this case, the patron had supplied what he thought was an author's name but was actually a title applied to the author according to cataloging rules. Another complication was that older cataloging records had the item cataloged under the person’s real name and not the actual title. Records created under current cataloging rules had the works listed under the name as it appeared on the work – usually the author’s “title” rather than his/her given name.

If that isn't confusing enough, add these complicating factors:

- Change in transliteration from the original language – that had changed over the years so the “title” appeared to have at least three different spellings.
- Many of the works were in the original language – not English. The titles that were in English listed the translator as a main entry because commentary was often added to the original text.
- Title given to the library was the English title, and it was only applied to the records of derivative works.

After consulting Amazon, biographical web sites, websites related to the topic of the works requested and of course, OCLC, the State Library’s reference staff was able to sort through the complicating factors to figure out why there were so many records to choose from. Thanks to the increased flexibility of the FirstSearch interface – the Library’s staff was able to determine the best record options to present to the patron. Apparently, the customer was very pleased because the library called back later in the week. The customer had requested another “complicated” title that took a while to find.

E-mail http://www.kdla.ky.gov/research/asklib.htm or call (800) 928-7000, ext. 342 to Ask a Librarian.
Dr. Clark’s Contribution to Kentucky’s Archives Remembered

“Kentucky lost the ‘Father of the Archives’ when Dr. Thomas Clark died yesterday,” said James A. Nelson, the state librarian and commissioner of the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA) for nearly 25 years. “No one has shown more passion for preserving our history than Dr. Clark. He taught us that our heritage is worth saving and passing down to future generations.”

Dr. Clark laid the foundation of the state’s archival system when he appealed to Gov. A.B. “Happy” Chandler to save thousands of important historical state documents from being destroyed to make room for offices in Frankfort in the 1930s. He had them transferred to the University of Kentucky where he began cataloging them.

“The thought of him rushing over to Frankfort in his pajamas when Gov. Happy Chandler came into office to stop the dump trucks from hauling off records is an image that stick’s in my mind of Dr. Clark. He faithfully served on the state Archives and Records Commission, representing the University of Kentucky, for many years. In this responsibility, he seldom missed a meeting and his voice on the disposition of the record of this state was always strong, intelligent and respected,” said Nelson.

Dr. Clark lobbied 10 successive governors for a building designed to house the state’s archival holdings. Gov. Julian Carroll allocated the funds for a combined library and archival facility in Frankfort that was dedicated in 1982. The KDLA headquarters was named the Clark-Cooper building in honor of Dr. Clark and prominent Hazard banker Vernon Cooper, who also was a champion of Kentucky’s library system. One of Dr. Clark’s top priorities in recent years was to build an extension to this facility to accommodate the growing volume of records not anticipated 23 years ago.

“Dr. Clark had a 75-year love affair with Kentucky that never waned. He wrote about her, talked about her and preserved her memories with passion and enthusiasm,” Nelson said.

The author of more than 30 books chronicling Kentucky’s history, Dr. Clark was a perennial favorite at the annual Kentucky Book Fair, which is co-sponsored by KDLA. “He was enormously popular to a broad range of Kentuckians as demonstrated each year at the Kentucky Book Fair. It was always easy to find where he was signing his books; just look for the longest line,” Nelson said.

In 1991, the Kentucky General Assembly passed a resolution naming Dr. Clark as Kentucky’s Historian Laureate for life, the only person in the state’s history to receive the honor.

Nelson said, “Dr. Clark was not only a remarkable scholar and renaissance figure influencing the course of our state, he was also a good friend and mentor for me and many like me who seek to make this a better place to live and raise our families.”
‘Cross the Commonwealth

Clay County Public Library has received a $70,000 grant for the remodeling and update of the exterior of their building from Senator Robert Stivers Office. With this grant funding for the exterior, the board will now look at phase 2 and begin work on the interior of the library.

As always, the Summer Reading Program was a big success at the Mt. Sterling - Montgomery County Library. This year, almost 400 people attended the kick-off event which received rave reviews from children and parents. The Mt. Sterling - Montgomery County Library and the Judy Drive-In Theater (located in Montgomery County) co-sponsored a free "knight" at the Drive-In for all registered summer reading participants and their families. The library conducted games, face painting, and other games & activities before the movie started. The Drive-In provided concessions and took care of everything related to showing the movie, Shrek II. Participants and staff of the library and drive-in all had such a great time that there are already requests to do a similar activity next summer.

Leslie, Knott, Letcher, & Perry Community Action Program (LKLP) furnished a free lunch to all the children attending the Summer Program at the Perry County Public Library. LKLP delivered 100 lunches (consisting of a variety of sandwiches, fruit, vegetable, snacks and milk) every Monday, Wednesday and Friday during the program. The final summer program session was a cookout held at the Perry County Public Park with a dunking booth and games for the children. A total of 64 attended and LKLP provided 150 hotdogs and buns in addition to the regular lunches. The total attending the summer programs was 753.

The Pike County Public Library District staff went all out to spread the word about their free online tutoring program entitled Live Homework Help. They started by contacting every school, giving presentations and doing “parent live homework help” seminars to educate parents about the program. The library even succeeded in getting Live Homework Help information included in every Pike County teacher’s paycheck.

Daniel Boone visited the Marshall County Public Library at Benton on Wednesday, June 6th. Mr. Boone entertained the audience with his frontier tales while showing pelts of animals he had trapped, his knives, and of course his Kentucky long rifle. Ken Hammontree from Living History Productions portrayed the Kentucky legend.

A new area in the Mason County Public Library has been established in honor of a Maysville woman who devoted 64 years to teaching music. The Coralie Runyon-Jones Music Library for listening and research was dedicated on July 1.

The John L. Street Public Library had a booth at the annual Trigg County Homemaker’s Women Day held June 4th. The booth had a display and handouts of the various services and programs offered at the library. The people who visited the library’s booth were given the opportunity to register for canvas book bags to given away at the end of the event.
Library Director Receives Award for Outstanding Service to Children

In the last six years, more than 65,000 children and their parents have attended a children’s program at the Kenton County Public Library, an increase of 144 percent in participation since 1999. Since being named director in 1999, one of the primary goals Wayne Onkst has established for the Kenton County Public Library is getting books into the hands of children and improving children’s services. In recognition of his dedication to children’s literacy, Mr. Onkst has been awarded the prestigious Sullivan Award for Public Library Administrators Supporting Services to Children from the American Library Association (ALA). This award is given to one public library administrator nationwide who shows exceptional understanding and support of public library support to children. Mr. Onkst traveled to Chicago to receive his award at ALA’s national convention.

Since becoming director of the Kenton County Public Library, Mr. Onkst has supported countless new initiatives aimed at children and young adults including:

- Community Partnerships with many organizations including Covington and Ludlow Independent Public School Districts, the Baker-Hunt Foundation, the Duveneck Cultural Arts Center, the Kentucky Arts Council, Centro de Amistad, Madcap Puppet Theatre Production Company and Northern Kentucky University to complete eleven grant programs to highlight the importance of literacy to children and families.

- The Racing to Read program aimed at preschool aged children. In its second year of operation, the Read Racer, a recreational vehicle retro-fitted as a moving library, visits over 35 daycares, head starts and preschools each month to read stories and check books out to more than 1,500 children.

- Community Outreach for children unable to visit the Library including visits to the Parish Kitchen, schools and arranging special storytimes for children’s in the Covington School’s Summer Lunch Enrichment program.

“Wayne has done an extraordinary job bringing the library to children. Many young children will be arriving to school better prepared because of Wayne’s efforts. Wayne gets it. He knows the importance of young children needing to read early,” says Rick Hulefeld, executive director of Children’s Inc.

As the Library staff looks to the future, Mr. Onkst credits the staff for their service to the community. “We could only provide quality children’s services with the hard work and dedication of the staff. Through their efforts children throughout the area learn the power of books and reading every day.”

Mr. Onkst started his career at the Kenton County Public Library in 1979 after receiving a Master’s degree in Library Science from the University of Kentucky. Before being named as director of the Library, his positions included adult reference librarian, assistant head of adult services, head of adult services and associate director.
Banned Books Week

ALA’s annual celebration of the freedom to read Banned Books Week begins September 24 and continues through October 1, 2005. This year’s theme It’s Your Freedom We’re Talking About highlights that intellectual freedom is a personal and common responsibility in a democratic society. More information on the twenty-fourth BBW can be found at http://www.ala.org/bbooks, including images of this campaign’s posters, t-shirts, and bookmark.

Innovator Award Winners at 2005 ALA Conference

Outstanding Community/School Outreach - McCracken County Public Library started offering Live Homework Help in late November as part of an LSTA grant awarded by Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives. The library seized the opportunity to share the resource with their local community and schools. In December, they gave demonstrations to strategic community groups including the County Information Network, the Juvenile Justice Parent Program, the local housing authority, the Boys & Girls Club and the McCracken County chapter of the Kentucky Association of Gifted Education. The library also targeted the Paducah City School System and succeeded in getting links on each of the schools’ classroom homework Web pages. They also made little basketballs imprinted with the Live Homework Help logo and the library’s Web site address and tossed them out at half time during the District High School Basketball Tournament. As a result of their comprehensive community and school outreach efforts, their Live Homework Help usage soared!

Outstanding Marketing Program - Acknowledging the difficulty in getting the attention of teens, Lexington Public Library decided to produce a video that would appeal to a variety of ages by being both fun and funny. The library drew upon their excellent relationship with Fayette County Public Schools by holding auditions for the “star” role in their video at the School for the Creative and Performing Arts in Lexington. The result was exactly what they wanted: a real life portrayal of the hopelessness felt by many students and parents when the homework answers just don’t come or make no sense when they do! Lexington Public Library plans to send at least one copy of their new video to each of the approximately 65 public, private and parochial schools in the city of Lexington for use in the classroom or in after school study venues. The video will be shown with other scheduled programming on Lexington Public Library’s cable channel and will be available for viewing from the library’s Web site, www.lexpublib.org. The library will also offer the video for full broadcast on Fayette County Public Schools television and as a PSA on local commercial and cable television stations. With their second video production since their Live Homework Help program began and the updated humorous rendition, Lexington Public Library anticipates it will yield even more success this fall!
ALA/ALTA National Advocacy Honor Roll

The Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives nominated Carleton L. West for the ALA/ALTA National Advocacy Honor Roll because of his commitment to libraries through his work with the Kentucky Book Fair for the past 23 years. The Book Fair is Kentucky’s Premier literary event and one of the largest and oldest Book Fair’s in the nation. West has been at its helm since its inception. One of the organizational goals is to provide grants to school and public libraries throughout Kentucky from the proceeds of the annual event. Under his leadership, the Kentucky Book Fair has donated almost $250,000 to needy school and public libraries. Carleton L. West has shared his vision, dedication and enthusiasm with the statewide community and built the Kentucky Book Fair into a viable, energizing event that morally and financially supports Kentucky libraries.

Cataloging Tips

Because of the ongoing conflict in Iraq, the Library of Congress has decided to open the date on the subject heading that was originally established as Iraq War, 2003. The new heading, Iraq War, 2003- acknowledges the ongoing nature of the conflict and insurgency after what had been regarded as the end of major combat operations in 2003. If you have used this subject heading in your cataloging, you will want to make the necessary changes to reflect the open date. If you have cataloging questions, problems or concerns, please contact KDLA’s Myra Prewitt at 1-800-928-7000 ext. 227 or by e-mail at myra.prewitt@ky.gov.

Continuing Education Calendar

September
7 Secrets of the Super Grant Writers Carroll Knicely Conference Center, Bowling Green
7 Technology Training: MS Excel - Level 1 Lexington
8 Secrets of the Super Grant Writers Beaumont Branch Library, Lexington
8 Technology Training: MS FrontPage - Level 1 Lexington
9 Technology Training: MS PowerPoint - Level 1 Lexington
19 Technology Training: Planning for Tomorrow's Technology Trends Bowling Green
20 Technology Training: MS Excel - Level 1 Lexington
20 Technology Training: Planning for Tomorrow's Technology Trends Benton
21 Technology Training: MS FrontPage - Level 1 Lexington
27 Rapid Response Reference: Arts and Humanities Reference Resources Ashland
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Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives
300 Coffee Tree Road
P.O. Box 537
Frankfort, Kentucky 40602-0537

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