



# Kansas Libraries

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## Highlights in this issue

Hoopla Pop-Up  
p. 3

Bookmobile  
Conference  
p. 4

Axe Library  
Renovation  
p. 5

Deliberative  
Conversations  
p. 7

## Polar Express in Great Bend



The Great Bend Public Library recently hosted a Polar Express party for families and children. Youth Services Director Amy Mayhill and her crew planned the event for a long time, worked on gathering supplies, and decorated for several weeks. In total, there were more than 80 adults and children that attended. The library's basement meeting room was transformed into a magical setting for an interactive movie experience. ❄️

Guests were asked to pre-register for the event, and they were sent a Golden Ticket in the mail for each attendee. When the basement elevator doors opened, a conductor in costume welcomed guests and directed them along the "train tracks" to the room, where library staff gave out popcorn and

guided families to their seats, which were arranged in a long rectangle like a train's passenger car. White Christmas lights, hanging from the ceiling, provided the only light in the area, artificial snow covered the ground, and other decorations filled the room. Once the movie started, the activity had just begun! The movie experience was enriched by library staff and volunteers who threw snow, punched tickets, served hot chocolate, shot confetti, and even sprayed with water bottles at appropriate times as similar events happened in the film.



*Continued on page 2*



## Architect Receives KLA Award



Bill Morris of Augusta, KS is the recipient of the 2019 Kansas Library Association Library Advocate Award. Morris is an architect with 40 years of experience who has helped numerous small public libraries in south central Kansas. The Library Advocate Award is given to an individual who has provided sustained advocacy for the library and library community.

*Architect Bill Morris was the recipient of the 2019 Kansas Library Association Library Advocate Award. Photograph by Sharon Barnes.*

*Continued on page 2*

## Polar Express in Great Bend



*Continued from page 1*

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Santa and Mrs. Claus showed up for a special surprise visit!

Children were encouraged to interact with the movie, too; shouting encouragement for Billy as he chased the train, cheering when the train escaped danger, and dancing along with the final celebration. After the movie



was finished, guests enjoyed special cookies decorated on a Polar Express theme.

The feedback from the event was excellent; children had a wonderful time and made great memories. Many parents commented how incredible the experience was as they left, and Mayhill hopes to make it an annual event. The staff and volunteers had a wonderful time helping with the event, and it was a magical experience for everyone.

*Submitted by Michael Adamyk, Great Bend Public Library*




## Architect Receives KLA Award

*Continued from page 1*

"I grew up in Augusta and I've always enjoyed working with small public libraries in small communities," said Morris. His building projects have included public libraries in the communities of Augusta, Harper and Sedgwick as well as assistance to public libraries in Caldwell, Canton, Douglass, Hesston, Little River, Lyons, Macksville and Towanda.

"Library boards and librarians have benefited from Morris' decades of service," according to Paul Hawkins, Director of the South Central Kansas Library System, South Hutchinson. "Building projects are arduous and require an architect with exceptional listening skills as well as flexibility, creativity, patience and optimism. These qualities all describe Bill Morris."

*Submitted by Sharon Barnes, South Central Kansas Library System*



## Recognition of a Good Idea: Hoopla Pop-Up

The Leavenworth Public Library has been recognized by hoopla for our efforts to let patrons know about this great digital resource. Hoopla pop-up was created by Valarie Lamoreaux, Assistant Director.

The Leavenworth Public Library considers hoopla the “gateway” digital content for patrons. Hoopla has straightforward set up and log in procedures plus a wide array of content with no waiting. The ease of use and content diversity make it the best platform to introduce patrons to digital content.

In January 2019 the Library focused on promoting e-content to improve digital literacy and increase digital content use. The assistant director planned and executed multiple classroom style patron sessions. The Library tried two different marketing campaigns, Entertainment 101 and Hoopla: Less Cost, More Chill. Unfortunately, very few patrons attended. Those that did were excited to discover the Library offered such great services and, once the session was complete, they now had easy access to more content.

With low attendance it was clear planned patron sessions were not going to work. It was frustrating to spend time and money to market and prepare for patron sessions yet get little return on the investment. The assistant director recognized that a one-hour session was not required to get patrons into hoopla. All the Library really needed was an eye-catching display and a little space to engage with patrons. Calling it a “pop-up” indicates it is not a training session, it is an opportunity for patrons to get information from staff in a fun and engaging way.

The majority of supplies required based on what Ms. Lamoreaux envisioned were readily available. The digital brochure she created for patrons when they receive their library card could be given out during pop-up engagements. Hoopla’s resource page had plenty of marketing flyers and patron guides to share. A cart and laptop the Library already owned were repurposed to hoopla pop-up. The last piece she needed was the eye-catching display. She contacted hoopla and representatives sent a banner and tablecloth.

The pop-ups begin in late August and the statistics prove pop-ups work. 28 new users registered in the first two weeks of September compared to 29 new users average per month January through August 2019. 47 new users registered the month of September, the highest new user monthly total of 2019, an increase of 62% compared to monthly average.

Create Your Own hoopla Pop-Up:

[https://resources.hoopladigital.com/media/3049/flyer\\_leavenworth\\_libraryspotlight\\_2019.pdf](https://resources.hoopladigital.com/media/3049/flyer_leavenworth_libraryspotlight_2019.pdf)

*Submitted by Leavenworth Public Library*

# Bookmobile and Outreach Annual Conference

## Interested in getting involved in KLA?

KLA provides sections, communities of practice, and advocacy issue support.

Use these links or visit the KLA website at [kslibassoc.org](http://kslibassoc.org).

### Sections:

[Kansas Association of School Librarians \(KASL\)](#)

[College and University Libraries \(CULS\)](#)

[Public Libraries Section \(PLS\)](#)

[Special](#)

### Communities of Practice:

[Government Documents \(GODORT\)](#)

[Technology \(RIAT\)](#)

[Library Instruction \(K-LIRT\)](#)

[Technical Services](#)

[Interlibrary Loan](#)



Photo by Kevin Kammerad

The Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services (ABOS) held its annual conference in October. The conference, held in Omaha, NE, drew over 200 library managers, librarians, and staff who work in outreach services. This year there were attendees from Guam, the Bahamas, and Canada who attended, making it the most international ABOS conference yet.

Conference-goers rely on the contacts they make during the conference, as well as the information gleaned from sessions. All of this is made even more vital knowing that so many outreach librarians work alone. Whether you work on a bookmobile or serve your community using a van or a bike, you'll come away with useful information.

This year's session topics ranged from how to welcome patrons with disabilities to multilingual storytime to how to get new and free books for low-income readers. Other topics were how to market your outreach department, serving patrons with dementia, and how to measure the impact of outreach services.

The conference is also an excellent place to visit with bookmobile vendors. They will take the time to get you the information you need to make an informed decision about which vehicle will be best for the work that you do. Other vendors who deal with outreach-related products attend the conference, too. Another great learning opportunity is found in touring bookmobiles brought to the conference by nearby libraries and vendors.

ABOS also hosts an active listserv where participants can ask, learn, and get recommendations on a wide variety of outreach- and bookmobile-related topics. Anyone can sign up to be a part of the listserv; just click on the Get Involved tab on the website. Visit [www.abos-outreach.com](http://www.abos-outreach.com) to read the Out & About newsletter, learn who is serving on the board, or to join with the very affordable membership fee of \$49.

The 2020 conference will be held in Dallas, TX, October 14-16, so mark your calendar and plan to attend. You'll be in very good company.

*Submitted by Lori Berezovsky, Salina Public Library, Secretary of ABOS*



Photo by Kevin Kammerad

## Leonard H. Axe Library's First Floor Reopens

Pittsburg State University's (PSU) Library Services celebrated two milestones this October. The first milestone occurred on October 6, when Leonard H. Axe Library celebrated its 40th anniversary. Initial construction for Axe Library began in 1977 and was completed in two years at a cost of \$3.6 million dollars. A new library was needed at that time due to the lack of electrical outlets and limited seating capacity of Porter Library built in 1927. Library usage and design styles have changed considerably since the 1970s leading to the recent modifications.

The second milestone was the completion of Phase IV of Axe Library's renovation plan. This past summer, the first floor of Axe Library underwent a \$926,000 renovation. Funding was provided by the Kansas Legislature through R&R dollars, which are intended solely for the purpose of rehabilitation and repair of buildings and infrastructure at state universities. Clark and Huesemann, an architecture firm, led the project design and Crossland Construction managed the project. With the completion of the renovation, Axe Grind (coffee shop) was remodeled, three new group rooms were added, and a second entrance was opened. Phase IV saw former PSU students, including former library student employees, working to transform the space to meet the needs of the 21st century.



*From Left to Right: Kristina Taylor (Representative from Sodexo), Dr. Christine Brodsky (Assistant Professor of Biology), Grace Hendrickson (student), Randy Roberts (Dean of Libraries), Dr. Steve Scott (President of PSU), Dr. Howard Scott (Provost of PSU), and Riley Peterson (student)*

*Continued on page 6*

## Leonard H. Axe Library's First Floor Reopens

*Continued  
from page 5*



*PSU Students utilizing the first floor*

In the celebration of the Phase IV completion, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held on October 8. Randy Roberts, Dean of Library Services, provided an overview of Phase IV renovation and Steve Cox, Archivist, gave a brief history of Library Services at PSU. Then Dr. Christine Brodsky, Assistant Professor of Biology, discussed how important the Library is to her and her students; followed by Grace Hendrickson, PSU student, mentioned the role of Library in her education; and Dr. Howard Smith, Provost, talked about the significance and impact of Library on campus.

Following the ceremony, PSU students, faculty, staff, community members, and friends enjoyed exploring the new space - from walking treadmill desks to new study rooms to new seating. Some attendees recalled their memories of the initial dedication ceremony from 1979 when they were PSU students.

To view the evolution of PSU Library Services, visit the 40th Anniversary exhibit in Special Collections and University Archives. This exhibit was curated by Janette Mauk.

To view more about the renovation and its process, go to:

<https://libguides.pittstate.edu/psulibreno>.

*Submitted by Ruth Monnier, Learning Outreach Librarian, Pittsburg State University.  
Photographs by Sam Clausen.*



*PSU Student using the walking treadmill desk*

## Deliberative Conversations

Are there areas of public life where Americans can agree and work together to solve problems?

Yes, and libraries can lead the way. In 2019, the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library hosted 20 deliberations on 6 societal issues ranging from mental illness to poverty. Using guides from the National Issues Forums, the work began while working with the Kettering Foundation on two research projects. The Deliberative Conversations, as the series was titled, reached practitioners and concerned citizens who came together to practice listening with empathy and respect, considering other perspectives, and weighing the trade-offs of possible actions. Many agree that it's never been more important to talk to each other about tough problems, and by presenting these events as opportunities to learn and practice deliberation, the library is an ideal neutral host to convene and moderate conversations on societal issues that impact us all. Lissa Staley, the new Community Connections Librarian at Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library, believes that librarians are well suited to this work. Combining experience leading book discussions with a foundation in evaluating information sources, and adding the prepared framework and instructions of the National Issues Forum guides makes for a library program that allows libraries to take a central role in discussions in their communities. Learn more about their work at <https://tscpl.org/conversations>.

A new initiative makes it even easier for libraries to become involved in this work of introducing and encouraging public deliberation in their community. For example, in 2020, the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library will focus their ongoing work with Deliberative Conversations on four urgent national issues: the division in our country, our health care system, our immigration system, and our economy. These topics are the focus of Hidden Common Ground, an election year research and deliberation project which will include national press coverage from USA TODAY, opinion research from Public Agenda. Through the network of the National Issues Forums, the project also includes opportunities for people across the country to deliberate and exchange ideas about issues like divisiveness, health care, immigration, and the economy. Hidden Common Ground is a joint project of USA TODAY, Public Agenda, the Kettering Foundation, and NIF, focusing on issues Americans across the political spectrum care deeply about.

Learn more about the project and how to involve your library:

<https://www.nifi.org/en/hidden-common-ground>

*Submitted by Lissa Staley, Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library*



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<https://kslibassoc.org/join.php>

### KLA Mission Statement

The Kansas Library Association is the common bond, public voice, and collective for the Kansas library community.

### KLA Vision Statement

Dynamic libraries and librarians serving all Kansans.

### Kansas Library Association

c/o NWKLS

#2 Washington Square

Norton, KS 67654

Website: [kslibassoc.org](http://kslibassoc.org)

### Individual Memberships

Categories	Dues
Library Employees .....	\$40.00
Student, Friend, Inactive, or Retired .....	\$35.00
Trustee .....	\$0.00 (includes membership to both KLA and PLS)
Institutional Memberships .....	\$500.00

### Sections\*

(check the section you would like to join)

- College & Univ. Libraries Section (CULS) - \$10.00
- Public Libraries Section (PLS) — \$10.00
- Kansas Association of School Librarians (KASL) \$16.00

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(check all the communities you would like to join)

- Government Documents
- Interlibrary loan
- Technology
- Technical Services
- Library Instruction

\*You must be a member of KLA in order to join a **Section** or **Community of Practice**.