Empower Your Library Program

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Editors’ Note: At several Tri-Conference sessions there was discussion about the need for improved administrative support of school library programs. With that in mind, we asked Dr. Murphy, the 2004 KASL Distinguished Service Award Winner, to share her thoughts on why and how she supports the library program at her school. Please feel free to share this information with your administrators.

School administrators have a very busy and sometimes hectic daily life. However, as an administrator, I must remember that one of the most important jobs that I have is to be an instructional leader. I have found that one of the most effective ways to accomplish this important responsibility is to work to empower and support the staff with which I work.

It is important to work with all the members of the staff, but one area in particular is that of the library media specialists. Because of the nature of the job, these individuals have the opportunity to interact with all members of the school’s staff. There are several ways to do this. First, the staff must see that I value the library media center and all that it has to offer to the students and staff. To begin with, I just visit the library on a daily basis. By seeing me in the library, the staff began to understand that I find that part of the building to be an important place.

Secondly, I have the expectation that the library media specialists will become instructional leaders and will work collaboratively with the various members of the staff. I encouraged them to begin small by working with one or two teachers who were receptive to the idea of collaboration. As the idea grows, I let the faculty know that it was my expectation that the teachers collaborate with the library media specialists. I questioned teachers who are not using the library media center. When the library media specialists and the staff work together, the true focus becomes informational literacy for all students. The collaborative lessons allow the students to learn the necessary and appropriate skills to become informationally literate.

In addition to working collaboratively with the teachers, I encourage my library media specialists to become the building experts in areas such as copyright, audio visual and journal reviewing. The teachers have quickly learned to use the library media specialists as resources which has caused them to become even stronger curriculum leaders.

Another way to empower the library media staff and make them curriculum leaders is to encourage them to maximize the space and resources that are offered in the library media center. I have encouraged the library media specialist to offer different programs and activities in the library. Since the library is truly the nucleus of our building, then it makes sense to have the library media specialist coordinate the hourly peer tutoring program. We made space and resources available in order to create areas such as a presentation space and a video editing library. Again, this has encourage the students and staff to see that the library is truly the center of all that happens in our school.

As an administrator, I cannot begin to be all things to all my staff. I must focus my time and energy on being a true instructional leader but I cannot do this job alone. Instead, I must learn to empower those in the organization including the library media specialists to become the true leaders of the building.

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From your KASL President…..

This will be the last time I address the organization as President. It has truly been a privilege to serve in the office, and I look forward to working with Ann Schuster and Linda Roberts in the coming year as Past-President. The organization is moving forward in many ways, and I hope that you had the opportunity to pick up the new KASL brochure at Tri-Conference. The conference went very well, and there were many outstanding presentations. I attended as many as I could, and I was impressed with the knowledge and expertise of the presenters.

Ian Jukes from Canada was the guest speaker for Tri-Conference on Wednesday morning, and he was by sponsored by KAN-ED and NEKLS. He “suggests that the role of librarians is no longer just to work with children, but with teachers and the community, in order to develop their information fluency skills.” He stated how important it was to teach students critical thinking and problem solving skills. After traveling around the state this fall and in visiting with many of you throughout the year, I would not hesitate to say that we are accomplishing this goal in our Kansas school libraries.

A big thank you goes out to Joanne Proctor, Linda Roberts and Diane Ford. They represented KASL wonderfully in the spelling bee sponsored by KLA Thursday evening at Tri-Conference. The words were extremely difficult, but it was an entertaining evening for both the participants and the audience.

Martha House continues to keep the KASL website up-to-date. April is School Library Media Month, and the proclamation Governor Sebelius signed can be found there as well as ideas to promote your library.

I wish you a great end of the school year, and please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns.

Susan Ryan

Please note on your calendars!

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<tr>
<td>June 16-17</td>
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Hello Colleagues,

The response to our recent Tri-Conference in Wichita has been extremely positive! It was wonderful to see so many of our members in attendance at the sessions and luncheon. Our Showcase speaker, Jean Marzollo, showed us the intricacies involved in producing many of her unique books. Ian Jukes and Chris Crutcher, at their Opening and General presentations respectively, gave us much to consider concerning the present and future lives of the students we teach each day.

As I begin my term as President, I wish to thank Susan Ryan, our Past President, who was the organizing force behind Tri-Conference, continues to do so much for KASL, and has been such a great mentor to me. I am also pleased to say that nearly all our Council members are continuing in their current positions with just a few changes: Janice Ostrom is taking a well-deserved break, Linda Corey will take on her position as SLMD Chair and Susan Ryan will act as Tri-Conference Futures Chair. Jane Barnard is the new Parlimentarian and George Blume will serve as KAECT liaison. *We are looking for a new Education Organization Contact and a Professional Excellence Chair (two separate positions).* Our thanks to Sue Buhler and Toni Harrell for their past service to our organization in these positions. Please contact me at aschuster@bv229.k12.ks.us if you are interested in replacing them or if you would like to be involved in working as a member of any of our committees. In these times of new instructional, technological and financial challenges in our profession, advocacy becomes increasingly important. Please consider becoming active in our organization at the state level. With increased involvement and visibility, we become powerful spokespersons for our profession.

Have a wonderful and recuperative summer!

Ann Schuster

Greetings,

This is an exciting time as I begin to learn the duties of this office. As I looked out at the many members attending the KASL Luncheon, I could not have been more proud to be a part of such a professional organization. Having been a KASL member for over twenty years, I have come to realize its value in providing professional support and wonderful opportunities to share ideas with friends and colleagues in all branches of the library profession.

I encourage each of you to continue in your KASL activities and to reach out to those who have not realized the many benefits of being on a committee or serving on the KASL Council. These are truly the most stimulating and rejuvenating contacts that you can make and really are a valuable use of your limited time.

In June I will be attending ALA in Orlando to get acquainted with Affiliate Assembly, and I hope to bring back many helpful ideas to the association. Please let me know what your needs are and how we can help you in your profession.

Linda Roberts
At the annual KASL membership meeting held during Tri-Conference on April 2, 2004, in Wichita, the following election results and new KASL officers were announced:

Ann Schuster is taking office as the incoming KASL President and Susan Ryan becomes the Past-President. These changes will take effect at the August KASL Council meeting. Susan will be looking for officer candidates for the KASL election next winter. If you are interested in running for an office, please contact Susan Ryan. Ann Schuster will be looking for committee chairs and committee members this summer, so, if you are interested in working for KASL on any of the committees, please contact Ann now.

The KASL Constitution and By-Law changes were approved at the KASL membership meeting. Please consult the KASL website for the exact wording changes.

Jean Marzollo, the featured speaker at the KASL Luncheon, reads from her book, *Miriam & Her Brother Moses*. 
The Eighth Annual Summer Institute for School Library Media Specialists will highlight the role of school library media specialists, content teachers, and school administrators in helping students to learn and achieve school standards. You won’t want to miss this opportunity to learn how to work collaboratively in changing instructional practices and improving student scores in reading, math, and other content areas.

National leaders David V. Loertscher, Ph.D., School of Library and Information Science at San Jose State University, and Nancy A. S. Miller, INTE Consulting Inc., will be the featured keynote speakers.

Dr. Loertscher is the author of *Increasing Academic Achievement Through The Library Media Center: A Teacher’s Guide*. Ms Miller is the developer of IMPACT!, an Excel™-based tool for documenting collaborative practice in school library media programs. Using a “one idea per page” format, Dr. Loertscher will present ideas about the types of library media center activities most likely to produce results and enhanced learning through technology. He will also speak on effective collaboration and library media specialists as partners in promotion of reading and information literacy.

Ms Miller, with thirty years of experience in education as a media specialist, consultant, trainer and data communication specialist will highlight the benefits of collaborative planning. Participants at the conference will use the IMPACT software to expand their ability to systematically plan, conduct, track and report interactions with content teachers. Regional and local leaders, emphasizing reading and math will conduct activities in the following areas: 1) Locating and reviewing school Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) reports; 2) Using TITIWAVE™ as a collection development tool in specific standard areas; and 3) Using MarcoPolo™ to develop collaborative units of instruction.

Reserve your place in the institute by registering today. District team participation is encouraged. Cost: **$100 for first participant** from each school district; **$75 for each additional attendee** from the same school district.

Two hours credit is available through ESU-SLIM. For more information about enrollment and LI755 course information, contact Mirah Dow at dowmirah@emporia.edu or call SLIM toll-free at 800-552-4770.

The brochure and registration form are available at [http://slim.emporia.edu/research/summerinst.htm](http://slim.emporia.edu/research/summerinst.htm)
WSU School Library Licensure Program

Wichita State University will be starting its 3rd Cohort group for Library Media Licensure in July. The program is a two-year cohort group with one course every spring and fall semester and 1-2 courses in the summer. The program consists of 24 hours and a practicum plus a children’s literature and a young adult literature course.

If you know of good teachers who would make good library teachers, encourage them to check out the field. For information, they can contact Richard Soash at Richard.Soash@wichita.edu or 316 729-6591.

KASL Award Winners

Distinguished Service Award
Dr. Amy Murphy
Associate Principal
Blue Valley North High School

Vision Award
Janice Ostrom
Instructional Media Center
Salina

President’s Award
Jade Peters
Library Media Specialist
Indian Woods Middle School,
Shawnee Mission

Distinguished Library Media Specialist Award
Grace Corrick
Library Media Specialist
Blue Valley West High School
While we are enjoying editing the KASL newsletter, we want to ensure that it is your newsletter and that the information given is timely, relevant and useful to you. If you have ideas or suggestions for items to include please feel free to email us. Also, we all want to know what is going on in your libraries and your lives. Please consider sending us a quick note with Member News or Brainstorming ideas.

We are now asking our membership to help us by submitting manuscripts for our first annual professional journal, The Kansas School Library Professional, slated to go to print in August. We are looking for research based manuscripts or those steeped in educational best practices. We are looking for items longer that what we typically run in the “Brainstorming” section of the newsletter. Please submit these electronically to either of the editors. If you have any questions, please contact us.

Project Revisions Committee

The Projects Committee met on Wednesday, March 31, 2004 during Tri-Conference. Our new project for the next year will be the KASL survey. The Council voted at their March meeting that the survey should be conducted every four years. Chairperson Julie Fisher handed out copies of the last survey that we will work from. Members will make additions, changes and other necessary adjustments and then report back to Council at the August meeting. To save costs of paper and postage, we plan to have the survey posted on the KASL website for electronic tabulation.

Membership Committee

As a school library media specialist you’re doing more than ever---often with less! Because KASL understands the important roles you play, we advocate excellence, facilitate change, and develop leaders in the school library media field. Membership in KASL has been providing connections with over 600 Library Media Specialists at all grade levels in Kansas since 1949. We have seen our profession change and become a vital part of the educational community. Do you know someone who is not a part of this wonderful community? Ask them to join! Become a mentor! Ask someone to join us on this exciting journey called Library Media---it’s a great connection!

For more information visit us on the web: kasl.ws
Inspiration/ Kidspiration

Research has consistently shown that graphic organizers improve student learning, so many schools have adopted them as a school improvement strategy. However, getting graphic organizers off the school improvement plan and into the classroom can be a challenge.

Inspiration/Kidspiration can certainly help teachers make this jump. It works well with a variety of student learning styles. For concrete-sequential students, the outline format is second nature. For the random-abstract, the web view allows them to visually organize their ideas and then switch it to outline view. Inspiration easily exports to Word to begin the writing process. Just be sure you are in Outline view or you will get a graphic rather than a word processor document. (In 7.0+ File – Transfer to Word Processor – In 6.0 File – Export and select Microsoft Word RTF).

For younger students and students new to Inspiration, the software has many templates. The newer versions of Inspiration make creating/modifying a template much easier.

One technique that has proven effective for working with narratives is to have students pick out the major narrative elements and then select the 5 major events from the story. Students struggle to limit key events to 5, but I encourage them to have less if possible. As they practice this skill, it becomes easier. Then for a writing project (and practice for the state writing assessment), have students use the same template as the brainstorming activity. Again insist on no more than five key events (we’ve all read the rambling narratives that encompass their entire life story). You can download that template at: http://www.cheney268.com/integration/NarrativeRevised.ist

Another trick that seems to help students pick out key events is to use the analogy of the Six O’clock News. The news anchor may tape the entire event, but when they are preparing for the broadcast, they select only the highlights. Students must also select just the 4 or 5 highlights and leave out the rest.

Templates for Inspiration 6.0 and 7.0+ are stored on the hard drive in the C:\Program Files \Inspiration xx\Inspiration Templates. You cannot store templates in separate folders in 6.0 so they are named with a topic and then the name of the template so they index correctly (i.e. Social Studies – Timeline). Templates in 7.0 or higher are stored in folders (i.e. Science) which is much handier.

You can change templates from one version to another version:

- To convert Inspiration 6.0 to 7.0, change the .ins extension to .ist and put into the appropriate folder (i.e. Science) in the C:\Program Files\Inspiration xx \Inspiration Templates folder.
- To convert Inspiration 7.0 to 6.0, change the .ist to .ins but do not put into a folder and put into the Inspiration C:\Program Files\Inspiration xx \Inspiration Templates folder. You can also rename the template and add a topic area to the beginning of the template (i.e. Social Studies – Revolutions).
- To convert Inspiration templates to Kidspiration, change the extension to .kid”
- To convert Kidspiration templates to Inspiration, change the .kid extension to .ist (for 7.0+) or to .ins (6.0)

I have not had as much success converting between Inspiration and Kidspiration, but sometimes it works.

If you have a lab, you would have to go to
every machine in the lab and copy the new templates to each machine. I have found it much easier to put a folder on the server (write protect them first so students cannot erase or save over them) where students can access it and just have them double click to open the template they want.

You can download many templates we have created from: http://www.cheney268.com/integration/Inspiration.zip. They are zipped so you will need WinZip or another compression program to get them. They were all designed in Inspiration 7.0.

Other Resources:
Inspiration 6.0 Guide
• http://www.cheney268.com/Training/Inspiration/INSPIRATION.html

Kidspiration Guides:
• http://www.inspiration.com/popups/kidstutorial/index.cfm
• http://www.mtbaker.wednet.edu/elemlib/kidspiration_training.htm

Inspiration / Kidspiration Links:
• http://www.conceptmapping.com/resources/index.cfm
• http://www.edina.k12.mn.us/concord/classes/4/hansen/kidspiration.htm
• http://www.northcanton.sparcc.org/%7Eelem/kidspiration/collection.html

District Workshop News
Mark your calendars now for Fall Workshops. The District Directors are busy planning fun, interesting, and useful programs. Be sure to attend for new ideas, helpful hints, networking with your colleagues, and door prizes. If you can’t attend the Workshop in your own district then go to one of the others. In fact, why not attend more than one to learn even more, meet new people and have twice as much fun! Get even more out of the day by being a presenter. Contact the district director and volunteer to share your expertise. If you’re asked to present or run for Assistant Director, SAY YES.

**DISTRICT I**
September 18, 2004 - TBA
District Director—George Blume
Assistant Director—Joe Amos

**DISTRICT II** - Mining for Information
October 9, 2004 - Oswego High School
District Director—Shirley Douglas
Assistant Director—Anita Boese

**DISTRICT III** - Snapshots of Knowledge
September 11, 2004 - Cunningham High School
District Director—Kaylyn Keating
Assistant Director—Laura Soash

**DISTRICT IV**
September 25, 2004, Ft. Riley Middle School
District Director—Latane Kreiser
Assistant Director—Mary Harmon

**DISTRICT V** - Books and More!
October 16, 2004, Satanta High School
District Director—Rita Shogren
Assistant Director—Beth Cook

**DISTRICT VI** - Putting the Pieces Together
September 25, Eisenhower Elementary
District Director—Jane Burton
Assistant Director—Kathleen Fulwider
Ronda Hassig. Harmony Middle School, Overland Park, has been selected as an Alfred Lerner Fellow to attend The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous Summer Institute for Teachers June 27 – July 1 at Columbia University in New York City. The program is a high-level, intensive academic seminar in which participants meet with Holocaust survivors and noted Holocaust scholars. Small group discussions enable participants to share teaching concepts and to develop approaches to introducing the subject matter to their students.

Janet Kirk. Parsons High School, is retiring at the end of this school year. Janet has been a librarian in the Parsons district for 34 years-12 yrs at the Jr High and then 22 yrs at Parsons High School. Janet has seen a lot of changes in library work— from 16mm projectors to PowerPoint presentations; processing everything manually using a typewriter to being fully automated and online. She fondly remembers all those cards to file and withdraw after inventory had been taken, etc. Janet served 2 terms on the KS Reading Circle at the HS level.

Marsha Lytle. librarian at Spring Hill High School, and KASL member, will be having her first novel published in the near future. Entitled Haggerty’s Curse, it is a fictionalized account of her great-great grandparents’ journey from Ireland to America, and the conflict involved when James Haggerty hides a terrible family secret from the young girl who wants nothing more than to make him her husband. The novel will most likely be released in late May by Author House Publishers and will be available on Amazon.com as well as regional and national bookstores. Marsha is also co-owner and editor of a regional newspaper, Heart of America Irish Life, available at over 100 locations in Kansas City, Topeka, Wichita, and Omaha.

Marsha Lytle was also chosen as one of 2000 teachers nationwide for a fellowship under the National Endowment for the Humanities’ Landmarks of American History program. She will receive a stipend to study at the University of New Hampshire July 25-30, in a program entitled “Landmark Events in Portsmouth, N.H., and the Transformation of American Identity, 1765-1800 and 1890-1920.”

Sandi Ostmeyer’s (K-12 LMS in Quinter) husband, Steve, passed away April 21, 2004. The funeral was at the Sacred Heart Church in Park on Saturday, April 24.

Janice Ostrom, who received KASL’s Vision Award at Tri-Conference, has been elected as the new AASL Region IX Director-Elect. She succeeds KASL’s Joanne Proctor in this position. This position represents Kansas, Colorado, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana and Wyoming on the AASL Board.

The Staff/Student Book Club at Blue Valley North High School, facilitated by Terri Snethen, was featured in the Kansas City Star on Saturday, April 3. The BVN Book Club meets once a month to discuss a variety of literature.

Ken Stewart. LMS at Blue Valley High School in Overland Park, Kansas, was selected to make book recommendations for an online book club for Woman’s Day magazine. Last year Woman’s Day started an online book club which featured librarians’ recommendations for adults. It was so successful that they are now starting one targeting parents and caregivers with books for children and teens recommended by members of AASL, ALSC, and YALSA. These titles will begin appearing on the Woman’s Day web site in June and will continue throughout the year. Ken’s suggestions were The Giver and Bronx Masquerade.

Lorna Stover. LMS at Park Elementary School in Columbus, is retiring. In her words, “I believe that I have the best job in the world, but after 31 years in the classroom and library, it is time for me to do my own shelf dusting at home and let someone else enjoy what I do, too.” She plans to travel and spend time with her 11 grandchildren.
Brainstorming

Warning!

My high school student aides brainstormed and came up with different "warning" labels for the library. These were very humorous. I directed them to the Biblia Librarian web site and they looked at some of them. They then made little warning labels and placed them around the library. Some of the examples are Stamp Pad: Warning: this is not a flotation device; Plants: Warning: Management is not liable for any rash that occurs after ingesting these contents; Books: Warning-reading these may cause a person excess excitement etc. The high school students have had a really good time reading the "warning labels" and have gone around the library so that they can read them all. A great way to inject humor at the same time have students explore the library.

Brenda Lemon, Chapman High School

Link Your Tagged List

Here's something I just did the other day that I didn't know I could do before!

I was doing some research for a class web page a couple of days ago for one of our English IV teachers – she had asked me to identify some subject headings or key words for her students to use in locating some articles in SIRS for a class debate (they are studying Brave New World and were doing a debate on medical and personal ethics related to "Baby Doe"). While searching through the database, I saved tagged articles that I identified as being samples of things found under various keywords or subjects. When I went into the tagged list, I wondered if I could just copy and paste that list into the web page (low-tech – I use Netscape Composer). Not only was I able to copy and paste the list, but the links to the articles transferred and the students were actually able to link directly to the articles without searching (we have IP recognition for all the databases)! Of course I gave the subject headings at the top of the page, and included some other databases for them to access (Infotrac, EBOnline, WBOnline), and included some of our reference and nonfiction books, but they found the articles I had uncovered quite useful – the teacher was thrilled. To see the page, go to: <http://www.usd320.k12.ks.us/whs/lmc/bnw.html>.

Nancy McFarlin, Wamego High School
Wheel of Fortune

If you find you have some extra time at the end of class, here's an idea to fill that time! Play Wheel of Fortune using the titles and authors from the William Allen White list. The students love it!

Rita Shogren, Satanta School Distirct, rshogren@usd507.org

Check Out National Library Week and Reading is Fun/Teacher Appreciation Week @ the EHS Library

The Library at Emporia High School was a busy place during National Library Week and National Reading/Teacher Appreciation Week. Here are some of the events that took place:
- Get a Life; Get a Library Card!
- Daily entertainment in the library – singing, poetry, show teasers by drama students, readings, etc.
- Contests including:
  - Question of the Day
    - How many square feet are in the library?
    - What is the combined weight of EHS Administrators?
    - What is Mr. Chapman’s favorite book?
    - Name the Library Contest
  - Candy Count
  - Create a song, poem, rap, essay, story or greeting card
  - Draw, sketch, caricature, or paint a favorite book, author, or scene
- Prizes included gas cards, candy, bookstore and music gift certificates, and Spartan Cookies

Carmaine Ternes, Emporia High School

Scenes From Tri-Conference

Chris Crutcher signs books following his keynote address

Pure Pandemonium by the Topeka/Shawnee County Librarians