Survey Background

Based on a study done in 2002 by Linda Roberts and the KASL Projects Committee, Council charged the Projects Committee in 2004 to survey school library media centers across the state. Julia Fisher, chair, worked with committee members Shanna Richards, Charlya Cooley, Amy Brownlee, Linda Corey and Gail Hughes to develop survey questions. Dr. Rosemary Talab, of Kansas State University, served as the researcher.

Over the course of two years the committee developed over eighty questions on a wide range of topics, with several revisions and changes. The committee consulted with various professionals in the state, including Jackie Lakin, Educational Consultant of the Kansas State Department of Education. Many discussions centered on the utility the resulting information provided by each of these areas.

The draft survey of 52 questions was taken to Council in November 2004 for feedback. Eight multi-part questions, not including demographics, were not included in this version, due to length issues and problems with using them in an online format. After discussion, the survey in its entirety was determined to be too lengthy for members to answer and maintain an adequate response return rate. After presentation to Council and subsequent feedback in March, 2005 at committee meetings at Tri-Conference in 2005 and 2006, additional revisions to the survey were made so that the survey was reduced to thirty-three questions on demographics, budget, facilities, and staffing. This version was deemed most appropriate for member concerns and brevity.

Survey Purpose

The purpose of the survey was to determine the current status of school library media centers on budget, facilities, and staffing. Council was concerned about possible state funding decreases, increased service hours, aging facilities, and declining numbers of certificated staff and library aides. A follow-up study to the 2002 survey on these topics was considered to be most useful, since it would provide longitudinal data and guidance for these key areas.

Methodologies

Two kinds of methodologies were used-quantitative and qualitative. Quantitative data was collected to provide numerical information for tabulation and report purposes. Qualitative data was collected through voluntary responses to open-ended questions, which allowed up to 2000 characters for each answer. These responses were then organized into units for analysis and theme development.
From your KASL President.....

Dear KASL members:

President-Elect Laura Soash and I attended ALA Midwinter in Seattle mid-January. Besides being a delightful opportunity to get to know Laura better, the time in Seattle was a great way to see first hand what AASL is doing. Janice Ostrom has submitted to this newsletter a really nice summary of some of the projects AASL is currently conducting so I won’t cover the same ground.

Laura and I attended the Affiliate Assembly Discussion Group on the morning of Saturday, January 20. Groups discussed Web 2.0, Advocacy, Collaboration, Professional Development, and Leadership Development. On Saturday afternoon, I attended the AASL Instructional Classification Task Force meeting. Right now, AASL is throwing everything they have behind trying to influence changes in NCLB, since there is a finite window within which it is possible to change the law. We discussed the connection between Instructional Classification and NCLB. More information about this issue and others may be found on AASL’s website under Professional Tools.

<http://www.ala.org/aasltemplate.cfm?Section=aaslproftools>

Affiliate Assembly itself was more streamlined than normal because the leadership is making an effort to be as efficient as possible. After general reports and information sharing, the Assembly discussed the Mega Issue: How can AASL/ALA enhance its value to prospective members in order to significantly increase membership? I thought that sounded pretty dreadful, but it turned out to be quite interesting, particularly the strategic planning process incorporated to examine the issue. As always, Affiliate was an excellent opportunity to meet other librarians from other states and to learn from them.

AASL is beginning to use technology effectively to discuss issues. They have had a blog for a while but are currently trying to recruit more contributors. <http://blogs.ala.org/aasl.php>

AASL has also launched a Professional Learning Community focused on student assessment. <http://www.ala.org/aaslTemplate.cfm?Section=aaslnews&template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=141603>

A couple of other benefits of general membership in ALA are some of the helpful wikis available <http://wikis.ala.org/readwriteconnect/index.php/Main_Page> and the online email news service ALA Direct.

Just one example of the vast amount of information available is the Teen Tech Week site that includes a wiki, resources, activity ideas, and many other links. <http://www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/teentechweek/ttw.htm> Though I always joke that I have a full real life and don’t need a secon-
dary, virtual one, I'm afraid the virtual world and the real world have become one and the same in some ways.

Back home in Kansas, KASL has quite a few projects going. Just to mention a few, we will have completed the District Workshop Survey, officer elections, and be preparing for the Budget meeting the evening of March 2, and the Council meeting in Salina on March 3. We are also working very hard to make Tri-Conference successful this year. Refer to http://skyways.lib.ks.us/tricon/2007/ for updated information, and to the December 15 newsletter for KASL highlights in the program. We are also giving away a Cheryl Harness author visit to one lucky school at the KASL Showcase.

Finally, I want you to know that I found myself on the SLAC/KLN Board. The first meeting on February 9 was very interesting. State Librarian, Christie Brandau, told me that she would like me to help connect her to the school library community. So, let me know any questions, concerns or issues you think I should bring up. I'll be glad to find out what is going on and let you know.

Martha House
KASL President

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**TRAILS**

*Tool for Real-time Assessment of Information Literacy Skills*

By Linda A. Roberts

Need an exciting tool for evaluating your students' information literacy skills? TRAILS could be exactly what you need! I recently used this tool at the beginning of a joint research project with juniors and seniors, and it was well received. Plans are being made to use this tool at the end of the research project and at other grade levels.

Developed by the Institute for Library and Information Literacy Education (ILILE http://www.ilile.org/) at Kent State University and directed by the University Libraries, TRAILS is a federally-funded project to create a tool for library media specialists and teachers to assess the information literacy skills of their high school students.

The online assessments provide two versions of a thirty-question test, which may be used as pre- and post-tests as well as five 10-question assessments. TRAILS is standards-based and freely available on the web. Student privacy is assured, as the system does not collect any identifying information. The multiple-choice assessment items are based on the 9th grade Ohio Academic Content Standards (http://www.ode.state.oh.us/GD/Templates/pages/ODE/ODEPrimary.aspx?Page=2&TopicRelationID=305) and Information Power (http://www.ala.org/ala/aasl/aaslproftools/informationpower/informationpower.htm) (American Association of School Librarians). Results can be immediately shared with students using the Online Review. Class and students reports are also available.

TRAILS first went live in Spring of 2006 and was refined in the summer. If you are interested in this tool, you are invited to create an account at http://www.trails-9.org/.
Hooray for YA
by Terri Snethen

Survival Stories

10-year-old Moon has lived in the Alabama wilderness with his father since his mother died, basically his whole life. They trap, hunt, grow or make just about everything they need, avoiding contact with the outside world because as Pap says, “the government is after us.” When Pap dies, Moon begins making plans to go to Alaska where Pap always said there are more “people like us.” His plan doesn’t quite work out and he finds himself in trouble with the local law and placed in a boys’ home. Having lived free his whole life he makes his escape and flees back to the wilderness with a few of the other boys, beginning an adventure of survival, friendship, and truth. For me this novel was a mix between Hatchet and Holes. Great adventure, survival in the wilderness and well-developed characters. A great read for upper elementary and higher.


This is another well-told survival/adventure story. 17-year-old Willa has been pretty much alone since the death of her older brother Ray, whom she adored but has never felt equal to. Her parents keep themselves busy and away from home much of the time. But she has never felt as alone as when her small plane crashes in the Canadian wilderness and no one knows where to find her. For eighteen days, Willa must rely only on herself and the survival skills learned from childhood camping and fishing trips with her father and brother. Grade 7 and up.
Professional Partners Program

Research highlights that the key to successful mentoring is the relationship between mentor and mentee. It happens whenever a relationship of mutual trust, support and benefit exists between partners. This relationship gives people the opportunity to share their professional and personal skills and experiences, and to grow and develop in the process. The quality of the mentoring relationship hinges upon its ability to provide reassurance and support. An effective relationship is also safe, supportive and conducive to open communication.

Mentoring has benefits for all who are involved: the mentor, the mentee, and the schools of both partners.

Potential benefits for the mentee include:
- Increased skills and knowledge
- Regular and constructive feedback, encouragement and assistance
- Gaining greater insight
- Access to role models on an individual basis
- Development of confidence and enhanced self-esteem
- Increased personal and professional networks
- Access to opportunities that will contribute to personal and professional development
- Development of greater job satisfaction and commitment to the position

Potential benefits for the mentors include:
- Increased job and personal satisfaction
- Opportunities to demonstrate leadership skills
- Opportunities to use and share their own skills and experience
- An enhanced feeling of self worth as a result of assisting in a colleague’s professional development
- Challenging discussions with people who have a fresh perspective
- Development of new networks

The schools involved can also benefit from the mentoring program as a result of:
- Increased productivity
- Cost effectiveness in skills development in specific areas
- Improved recruitment results
- Increased organizational communication and understanding
- Maintenance and motivation of senior people
- Improvement in succession planning
- Retention of good staff
- Development of a learning organization culture by encouraging people to learn from each other
- Helping to bridge the gap between training programs and real world applications.

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Thank You Professional Partners!

We are very excited about the group of mentors who have agreed to support the Professional Partners Program this year. Most of these are mentors who volunteered last year and we want to say a special thank you to these people. Also, thank you to the media specialists who have come into our program as mentors for the first time this year. We really appreciate your ‘leap of faith’ as well as your willingness to share your expertise and knowledge. We hope all of you will reapply in the fall!

It is not too late to contact someone you may know who would like to have a mentor! Just let them know the program is still available! All they need to do is access the registration for this program on the KASL website at [www.kasl.ws](http://www.kasl.ws), then click on the Mentorship link in the header. Once they have filled out the short application, they will be assigned a partner! And a lifetime partnership is formed!
Teen Tech Week: Get Connected @ Your Library

March 4-10
Deadline for all contests March 19, 2007

Display Contest: Take a picture of your display, win ALA Graphics gift cards

Movie Contest: Have your students create a movie promoting libraries and their technology resources. Winning entries will be posted on YALSA site and possibly used for promotion of TTW in future years.

Best TTW Event Contest: Describe your celebration and win a visit from Lauren Myracle, author of ttyl, ttfn, and Rhymes with Witches

For more info, resources and ideas go to the TTW website
http://www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/teentechweek/ ttw.htm
Here is a brief summary of current AASL activities. Visit www.ala.org/aasl for further information or feel free to contact me.

- **School Libraries Count! Survey** - AASL recently launched a nationwide survey of school library media programs. This brief survey is being conducted online at http://www.aaslsurvey.org in order to collect critical data needed to annually assess the status of library media programs in public and private schools. Please set aside a few minutes to participate.

- **AASL 2007 elections** - Candidates for President-Elect are Ann Martin and Floyd Pentlin. Deb Levitov and Cathie Marriott are candidates for Member-at-Large.

- **AASL Learning Standards Task Force** – An open forum on the second draft of the new learning standards [http://www.ala.org/ala/aasl/aasproftools/learningstandards/AASL_Learning_Standards_DRAFT.pdf](http://www.ala.org/ala/aasl/aasproftools/learningstandards/AASL_Learning_Standards_DRAFT.pdf) was held at Midwinter. The Task Force is now reviewing the standards incorporating feedback they have received.

- **Quantitative Measurers Task Force** - This task force is charged with organizing information about quantitative guidelines for school library media programs.

- **Emerging Leaders** - ALA President Leslie Burger launched an initiative to select 100 new librarians, school LMS included, to train them in professional leadership. You can find out more about this initiative by visiting http://lb.princetonlibrary.org/emerging_leaders.html.

- **ALA Annual** will be held in Washington, DC June 21-27, 2007. The AASL President’s Program will feature Dr. Mike Schmoker, author of “Results Now: How We Can Achieve Unprecedented Improvements in Teaching and Learning.”

Survey Development

An online survey was determined to provide the most flexibility and ease of computation, since the final report included quantitative data tabulation, visual data representations in graph format, and answers in report form to all open-ended questions, which could then be analyzed according for major themes. Such analysis could not be done as easily or as well in a hand-tabulated format. Additionally, the online survey provided data on which questions respondents did not wish to answer and provided the greatest degree of confidentiality, since individual responses could not be traced back to the respondent. The final questions were revised by Dr. Talab to fit the on-line format of the Kansas State University survey system and for better report purposes.

Crucial to the survey and to the final response rate was having the most recent e-mail list from the Kansas Department of Education’s DISC. Final Kansas School Library Media Specialist e-mail addresses were received and tabulated by DISC until February. However, for various reasons, the school library media center e-mails were not ready until mid-April, 2005. School districts did not provide adequate contact information or e-mail addresses to KSDE, so the researcher contacted school district personnel and district school library media coordinators to make as many corrections as was possible before submission to Kansas State University for approval. One large school district, after three phone discussions and 4 e-mail contacts, opted out of the study, and one small district could not be included.

Approval from the Kansas State University Institutional Review Board (IRB) was obtained in early May. A pilot was given to three selected school library media specialists, representing medium, large, and small districts the first week in May to determine question suitability and survey length. While the survey was shorter, the time needed to answer budget questions increased survey response time by twice. However, these questions were deemed sufficiently important to warrant their inclusion.

The KSU IRB required that responses were to be kept confidential by the researcher and Julia Fisher, in her capacity as KASL Projects Committee Chair and KSU/KASL liaison. The KSU Office of Mediated Education (OME) accidentally sent out a draft version of the survey on May 7th, 2006. After the OME was notified of this problem, the IRB then allowed the survey to be sent out with “rush” approval. The draft and final survey differed in one question, so the decision was made to send out the final survey and merge them. An e-mail was sent to all subjects informing them of the OME’s “glitch”, and telling them that a final survey would be sent shortly. The final survey was then sent out on May 8th, 2006. OME’s reminder system also had “glitches”, so 5 reminders were sent out on various days. However, given that the survey was administered so late in the school year, with some schools closing by mid-May, this “problem” was likely fortuitous.

Since the draft version of the survey did not include all researcher information, 35 e-mails were received from various school library media specialists inquiring as to the confidentiality and credentials of the researcher. All e-mails were answered. Additionally, since school library media district coordinators and school library media specialists were made aware of the study through their own contacts, the researcher was requested to send out two more editions of the survey to two school districts and to professionals who requested the researcher to include them.

Nine subjects e-mailed the researcher that they had opted out of the survey. Five people e-mailed the researcher stating that they did not believe that the questions would be kept confidential and therefore would not answer the survey. Reassurances by the researcher and references to the IRB-required introductory e-mail sent by the researcher stating that such breaches would not be allowed by the IRB, with contact information to verify the veracity of these claims, were to no avail. Questions were answered from 33 school library media specialists as to the nature of the survey, who would see the responses, why they had not received it, or why they had received it twice (draft and final). The researcher answered all questions.
Return Rate

Factors negatively influencing the return rate were:

• Missing addresses
• Omitted addresses
• Network and “firewall” problems
• One address given for many SLMS
• Inaccurate addresses
• More than one SLMS in school
• Transfers and retirements

In October 2006 while the researcher was working with the data with an OME staff member, the OME programmer was consulted and was located and managed to resurrect the deleted draft survey answers from the OME survey system. The researcher then analyzed the data that the system provided, with the help of Julia Fisher. This required reconciliation of the draft and final versions of the survey, as well as two more editions of the survey, which were sent out by request.

Julia and the researcher eliminated as many duplications between the draft and final versions as possible over the course of two weekends, and the OME staffer and programmer finalized final reconciliation of these two versions and two editions.

The initial e-mail list provided by the KSDE was 1,116. Of those, 869 were determined to be useful. One hundred and forty seven were undeliverable due to inaccurate, omitted, missing or generic staff addresses, district/school network problems, and personnel changes. One large district opted out of the study. One large district did not have correct e-mail addresses. Two smaller districts did not have correct e-mail addresses. Ninety-six subjects did not answer two sections-- the demographics section (48 respondents) and the budget section (39 respondents). However, all other questions were answered, Thus, the final number of responses for the survey was 624 of the 869, or 74%.

Confidentiality and Copyright

All respondent information was confidential. According to the KSU Institutional Review Board only the researcher and the KASL liaison, Julia Fisher, Projects Committee Chair, viewed this information for data analysis purposes and retained it. KASL retained the copyright to the data.

Kansas Technology Liaison for the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM)

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Rebecca Brown and I am the new Kansas Technology Liaison for the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM). Our network is the outreach arm of the National Library of Medicine (NLM) in Bethesda, MD. I know... it is a long name. The URL for the NN/LM is http://nnlm.gov/, the URL for the MidContinental region is http://nnlm.gov/mcr, and the URL for the Kansas website can be found at http://nnlm.gov/mcr/states/kansas.html.

Numerous sites on the Internet offer consumer–health information and as librarians, we are often asked where to look for answers to health related questions. One of the goals of the NN/LM is to contribute to the health of the public through access to health information. MedlinePlus brings together authoritative information from the NLM, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and other government agencies and health-related organizations. The MedlinePlus website at www.medlineplus.gov will direct you to information to help answer health questions. You can explore this valuable free resource, brought to you from the world's largest medical library, the National Library of Medicine at the National Institutes of Health.

I will be hosting an exhibit at the upcoming Tri-Conference in Topeka on April 11–13. I want to extend an invitation to all KASL members to stop by and let me know that you read about the NN/LM in your newsletter. I will be giving away informational literature and give-aways from the National Library of Medicine. Here is the URL for a tour of MedlinePlus http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/tour/tour.html.

You can reach me at 913-588-7307, 800-338-7657 or by email at rbrown3@kumc.edu.
We are delighted to announce the 2007 Summer Institute for School Librarians, June 13-14, 2007 at Emporia State University, The Jones Conference Center for Educational Excellence. Our time together will be structured once again in two parts: best school library media programming day; and, author day focused on literacy reading and writing.

At this institute, we will "roll up our sleeves" and explore the rapid changes occurring in education; the impact of these changes on learners and educators in the 21st century, and the changing role of the school library media specialist in this new landscape. We'll be asking participants to react to speakers and panel presentation, synthesize information, and collaborate to create vision, action, and to respond to upcoming opportunities and challenges.

We have put together a group of presenters who together will enable participants - librarians, classroom teachers, technologists, administrators - to respond to these focus questions:

- In what ways does the concept of literacy change in a digital context?
- What roles can library media specialist play in helping students to become literate adults?
- What are the relationships between language literacy (i.e., reading and writing) and media, information, digital, technological, and/or other types of literacies?
- How can the link between literacy and libraries be made more evident?
- How can technology be used to support collaboration (partnering) between library media specialist, technologists, and classroom teachers in helping students become literate?
- How can library media specialists be leaders in their schools to serve the literacy needs of students?
- How can technology be used by library media specialists and classroom teachers to meet students' individual learning needs and/or in adapting instruction to address differing learning styles?
- How can technology be used to enable library media specialists and classroom teachers expand students' understanding of the world through national and international literature?

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Guest Presenter:
David Warlick, a 30 year educator, has been a classroom teacher, district administrator, and staff consultant with the North Carolina State Department of Public Instruction. For the past ten years, Mr. Warlick has operated The Landmark Project, a consulting, and innovations firm in Raleigh, North Carolina. His web site, Landmarks for Schools, serves more than ten-million visits a month with some of the most popular teacher tools available on the Net. David is also the author of three books on instructional technology and 21st century literacy, and has spoken to audiences throughout the U.S., Europe, Asia, and South America (from http://www.davidwarlick.com).

Mike Printz Writers Workshop:
Susan Stevens Crummel is an award-winning picture book author who since 1997 has collaborated with her sister, Janet Stevens, on several picture books. Before becoming a children’s author, Susan taught math for 31 years. Their titles include Cook-a-Doodle-Do, Jackalope, and And the Dish Ran Away With the Spoon.

Sharon Draper also has long been a professional educator as well as a very popular young adult author. Her books have won many awards including the Coretta Scott King award and many honors from ALA and the International Reading Association. Her titles include Tears of a Tiger, Forged by Fire, Darkness Before Dawn, and her latest Copper Sun.

Book Autographing:
Books written by all three presenters will be available on-site to purchase from the Emporia State University Memorial Union Bookstore. Or you may bring your own books for autographing.

Registration Available Soon:
Team participation is encouraged. Registration cost: $100 for first participant from each school district or library; $75 for each additional attendee from the same school district or library. There is limited space available. Registration will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Maximum seating 120 persons.

Enroll for Graduate Credit (Approved for KSDE Continuing Education Credit):
Participants may enroll for two graduate credit hours in LI755 Summer Institute: Digital Literacy: The School Library Program and Learning in an Information Rich World. In addition to attending the two day conference, enrolled students will complete an individualized-to-your audience assignment based on the content and activities presented during the Institute. Enrolled students must enroll and pay tuition, and register for the conference and pay registration fee. For more information about the course and/or enrolling for credit, please contact Dr. Mirah Dow at dowmirah@emporia.edu

More information and registration will be available soon at http://slim.emporia.edu/programs/summerinst.htm
Mid-winter is a great time to re-introduce this year’s nominees to your students and help them gear up for selecting their favorites in the spring. Don’t forget the curriculum guides available for all master list books on the WAW Awards website. Students in grades 3 to 8 are eligible to vote if they’ve read two books on either list; if they’ve read two on both, they may vote for both awards. You’ll find everything you need to vote, including student ballots, tally sheets, and contact information if you need assistance at: http://waw.emporia.edu (Click OnlineVoting)

Please submit your school or library’s total votes at the site by midnight April 15. Do not send paper tally sheets to ESU—total votes must be submitted through the website. Barring any unforeseen problems, the winning books will be announced by May 1.

Remember that although the 2007-2008 lists are posted on the website, keep the focus on the currently nominated books until your school has voted.

That’s not to say you can’t start including the future nominees (without mentioning they’re nominees) in your book-talks, teacher read-alouds, and displays to create interest in them.

The WAW Awards Selection Committee is hard at work reading 2006 copyright books for the 2008-2009 lists. 94 books were nominated in the first round of nominations. KASL has three representatives on the committee: Kim Nowak, Donna Wartman, and Suzanne Eastman.

As usual, there will be sessions at Tri-Conference introducing the new lists and to discuss the program. Kansas librarians are at the heart of the success of the White Book Award program. Thank you for your support!

Member News...

**Becca Munson**, Blue Valley West High School, presented a session entitled Challenging Technology at the Kansas Staff Development Council held in Wichita on February 1, 2007.

**Linda Fredricks**, Ottowa, traveled to Japan in November, 2006 with the Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund. The pictures below show Linda’s host, Hitomi Kozono of Yukuhashi City looking at the book she brought from Kansas: S is for Sunflower.