



Experience



Johnson County
Library

2008 Annual Report

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**term ended April 30, 2008*

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JOHNSON COUNTY LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION

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Monique Sendze, Information Technology Manager

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Experience Johnson County Library – Look, Listen, Learn

A Message from the County Librarian

During times of economic downturn, public libraries have traditionally been more heavily used by patrons, and 2008 was no exception. 4.5% more Johnson Countians visited the Library to take advantage of free materials such as books, movies, magazines and newspapers. Many are using library resources as they search for job and career information or study financial reports. Parents are finding they can enrich their children's lives through the many activities available at the Library. Students are succeeding with the assistance of Homework Help coaches. And those without Internet access are using the lifeline provided by library computers. More than 6.2 million items were checked out by patrons in 2008, a 3% increase over 2007.



A new strategic plan, *Experience Johnson County Library*, was developed in 2008 which focuses on enhancing library experiences for those in our community. The three outcomes of this plan are to provide convenient, delightful and rewarding service to customers; to create inviting and comfortable library spaces that facilitate life-long learning and civic engagement; and to provide library service to under-served segments of the population.

Much of the year was spent on transitioning to these new organizational goals, entailing a reallocation of resources and realignment of staff duties. Rather than adding new services and programs, the emphasis will be on targeting our efforts to improve the Library's core services. Johnson County Library will be evaluating how staff can provide better customer service, how library materials can be handled more efficiently, how buildings are configured, what underserved groups could benefit from library services, and how skilled community volunteers could be utilized to help us meet these goals. This plan will guide library service through 2012. A master facilities plan for the next twenty years is in development. Improving the quality of library service will be coupled with serving a growing county population and a greater number of people who rely on library services.

Johnson County Library is a valuable and important resource especially in tough economic times, providing you with resources, assistance and free services as part of the community's safety net. We appreciate the support provided by County Government and our citizens. We recognize the tremendous support provided by the Friends of the Johnson County Library, volunteers and the Johnson County Library Foundation. Together with these partners, Johnson County Library continues to reach more people and provide them with the valuable resources they need in their daily lives.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna Lauffer". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Donna" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Lauffer".

Donna Lauffer
County Librarian



Look

Building Improvements

Leawood Pioneer Neighborhood Library closed in October as construction began on a year-long expansion project which will add 8,000 square feet to the facility. When it re-opens in the fall of 2009, the Library will have a community meeting room, study rooms, teen space, additional materials, computer work stations, café area and youth programming room. Reconfigurations of DeSoto and Spring Hill Neighborhood Libraries improved spaces. Deferred maintenance projects improved Corinth and Oak Park Neighborhood Libraries.

◀ **Artist-In-Residence**

2008 Artist-in-Residence Micheal Smith demonstrated the art of pottery at Central Resource Library in October and talked with library visitors as they watched him at the potter's wheel creating functional works of art. Danny Hull, a 16-year-old from Olathe, was the summer teen artist-in-residence who developed hand-drawn illustrations and sketches and shared information about his artistic process.

Alternative Teen Fashion Show ►

A crowd of more than 200 people filled Central Resource Library for the first Alternative Teen Fashion Show. Eight teens created original designs from alternative materials such as duct tape, aluminum foil, plastic bags, candy wrappers and books, and premiered their fashions on the runway.

Art in the Stacks

Local and regional artists exhibited original works of art at Central Resource Library and Blue Valley, Cedar Roe, Gardner, Leawood Pioneer and Oak Park Neighborhood Libraries. Gallery spaces at these locations are available to showcase artistic creations in a variety of media.





Listen

◀ **Preschool Storytime**

Every week, toddlers and preschoolers visited library locations with their families to enjoy library storytimes. Not only did they hear a good story, but also they began to grasp literacy basics through the words read aloud. Parents also learned from librarians how to read to young children and engage them in the process.

Writers Place Poetry Reading Series

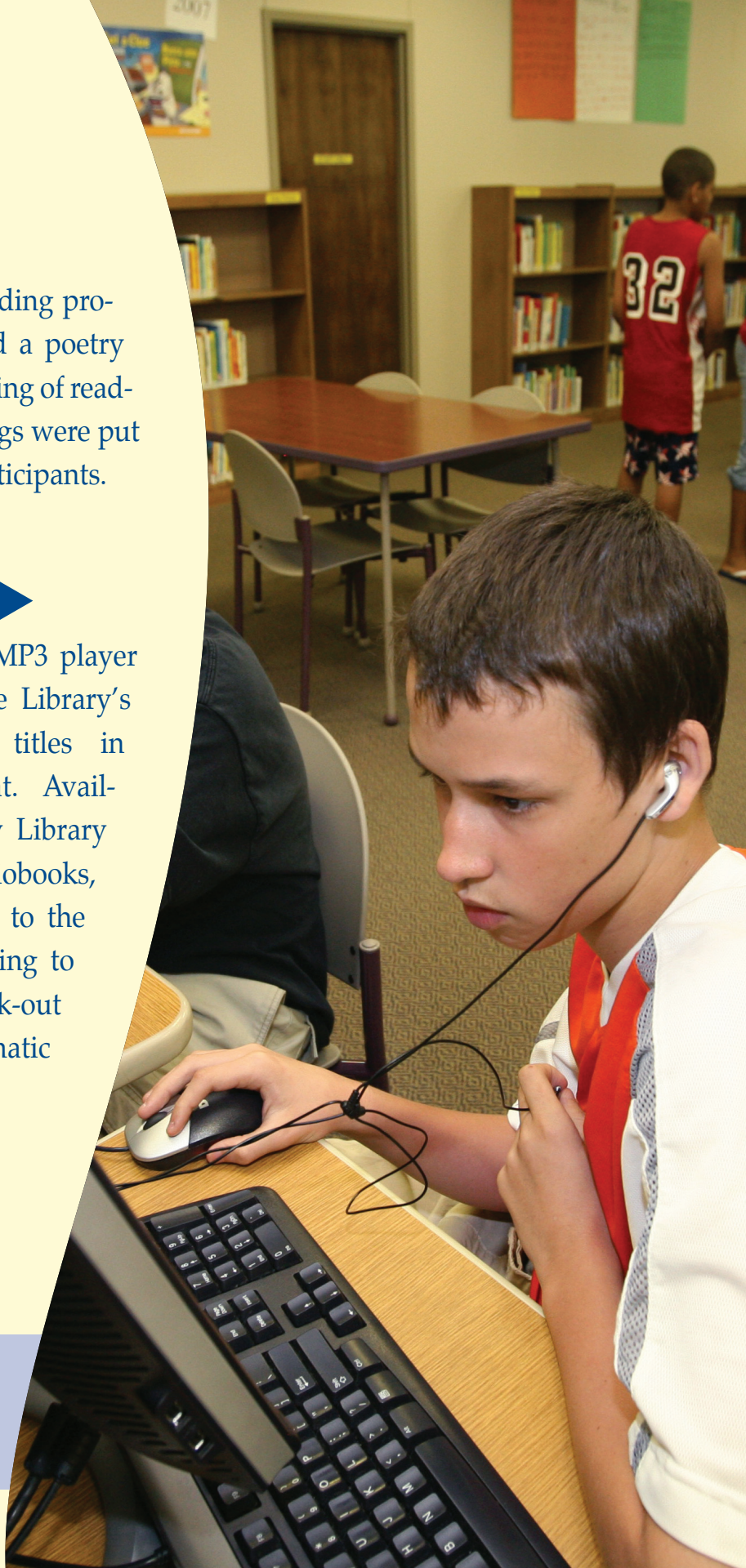
Audiences enjoyed meeting and listening to locally and nationally known poets present their work once a month at the Writers Place Poetry Reading Series held at Central Resource Library. These readings are recorded as podcasts and are available from the Library Web site, www.jocolibrary.org, in MP3 formats and online programs such as iTunes.

Poetry on CD

To help kick off the 2008 adult reading program, BlitzRead!, the Library held a poetry CD release party featuring a recording of readings by 25 local poets. Their readings were put on a CD and made available to participants.

Downloadable Audiobooks ►

Listening to a good book on an MP3 player or iPod became popular with the Library's offering of more than 5,000 titles in downloadable audiobook format. Available through the Johnson County Library Website, www.jocolibrary.org/audiobooks, new titles are added each month to the delight of those who enjoy listening to their favorite author. The check-out period is 14-21 days, with an automatic check-in.





Learn

JoCoHistory

The Library added more than 2,000 historical images of the Kansas School for the Deaf in Olathe to the JoCoHistory.net Web site, a collaborative project of the Johnson County Museum, Johnson County Library, Olathe Public Library and Johnson County Archives. The site features nearly 25,000 images related to the history and development of Johnson County, as well as essays, curriculum guides, historical society materials and a local obituary index.

◀ **KC Science, INC**

Students and their families crowded into Central Resource Library during Family Science Night to meet local scientists, astronomers and educators and to get close-up views and hands-on experiences with science. The evening of discovery was one of many library programs held in conjunction with KC Science, INC (Inspiring Natural Curiosity), a partnership of area public television, libraries and museums focused on promoting science-related events, encouraging interest in science and advocating for science-based careers.

The Big Read ►

Johnson County Library hosted more than twenty events for The Big Read project, which encouraged the community to read and discuss the classic detective novel, *The Maltese Falcon*, by Dashiell Hammett. Activities included a Mystery Mayhem kickoff featuring an original play written in film noir style, book and film discussions, mystery author visits, a film noir contest and related programs.

Civic Engagement

The Library offered a variety of civic engagement programs and public forums on topics such as science and religion, bio-engineered foods, the costs of health care, immigration, solid waste management and recycling. A VOTE SMART program and Election 2008 Web site provided opportunities for patrons to become informed voters in the Internet age.



Johnson County Library 2008 Grants & Awards

GRANTS:

- A Johnson County Heritage Trust Fund grant in the amount of \$38,923 for the Digital Cemetery Project: Recording and Preserving Cemeteries in Johnson County.
- A \$20,000 Sprint Foundation grant to the Johnson County Library Foundation to fund Homework Help programs at four library sites: Central Resource Library and Antioch, Gardner, and Oak Park Neighborhood Libraries.
- A \$10,000 grant from the Alcohol Tax Fund/Johnson County Drug & Alcohol Advisory Council for the Changing Lives through Literature program.
- A \$20,000 grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services and National Endowment for the Arts for The Big Read 2009, sponsored by the Libraries of Kansas City (Johnson County Library, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City Kansas Public Library, Olathe Public Library, North Kansas City Public Library, Mid-Continent Public Library.) This will fund community literary programming based on Tobias Wolff's book, *Old School*.

AWARDS:

American Library Association Marshall Cavendish Excellence in Library Programming Award

- Literature in the Justice System: The Surprising Antidote

National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievements Awards

- GovFest: Connecting Businesses to Government Information,
- Local Government Made Easy: A Community Endeavor
- Online Obituary Index: Volunteers Creating a Service

National Association of County Information Officers (NACIO) Awards of Excellence

- Online/CD Storytime Pilot
- Guerrilla Marketing of New Johnson County Library Web Site
- 2006 Annual Report
- The Big Read 2007 Brochure

City-County Communications & Marketing Association (3CMA) Savvy Award of Excellence

- 2007 Annual Report

Expenditures

General Fund:	
Personnel	\$12,871,453
Contractual	3,398,337
Commodities	3,470,143
Capital	76,537
Grants	407,648
Transfer to Capital Projects	—
Interfund Transfers	—
Total	\$20,224,118
Special Use Fund:	
Contractual	\$ 35,347
Commodities/Capital	357,242
Debt Paid	2,117,115
Transfer to Capital Projects	520,000
Total	\$ 3,029,704
GRAND TOTAL	\$23,253,822

Statistical Summary

	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	'04-'08 Change
Total Holdings ¹	1,159,703	1,193,186	1,196,429	1,177,167	1,216,777	-4.7%
Total Borrowers	325,000	399,844	374,634	345,753	340,405	-4.5%
Total Circulation ¹	6,250,039	6,142,341	6,205,428	6,179,254	5,832,860	7.2%
Reference Transactions	243,542	240,443	257,070	287,083	457,676	-46.8%
Online Reference Searches ²	1,326,012	1,192,102	933,019	750,963	622,692	112.9%
Library Visits (Door Count)	2,628,430	2,514,745	2,520,181	2,534,070	2,501,857	5.1%
External Visits to Web site	1,901,700	NA	2,321,002	1,935,836	2,276,202	-16.5%
Program Attendance	90,408	95,882	108,969	101,654	98,353	-8.1%
Library Employees (FTEs) ³	282.7	282.3	282.6	282.7	279.9	1.0%
Volunteer Hours	36,312	38,065	31,208	30,655	25,970	39.8%
District Population (est.) ⁴	410,700	405,200	400,600	391,500	386,100	6.4%

¹Circulation and holdings include audiovisual materials, art prints, paperbacks and catalogued books.

Materials in the U.S. government documents depository are not included in holdings.

²Searches performed internal and external to library facilities using online electronic resources to which JCL subscribes.

³Johnson County Library Employees (FTEs) are total authorized full-time equivalents.

⁴Estimates of population for 2004-2005 are from the SURVEY OF BUYING POWER; 2006-2008 are from the EDITOR AND PUBLISHER MARKET GUIDE.

JOHNSON COUNTY LIBRARY LOCATIONS

CENTRAL RESOURCE LIBRARY

9875 W. 87th St. • Overland Park, KS 66212 • (913) 495-2400 • TDD (913) 495-2433

ANTIOCH NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARY

8700 Shawnee Mission Pkwy. • Merriam, KS 66202 • (913) 261-2300

BLUE VALLEY NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARY

9000 W. 151st St. • Overland Park, KS 66221 • (913) 495-3850

CEDAR ROE NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARY

5120 Cedar • Roeland Park, KS 66205 • (913) 384-8590

CORINTH NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARY

8100 Mission Rd. • Prairie Village, KS 66208 • (913) 967-8650

DESOTO NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARY

33145 W. 83rd St. • De Soto, KS 66018 • (913) 583-3106

EDGERTON NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARY

319 E. Nelson • Edgerton, KS 66021 • (913) 893-6720

GARDNER NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARY

137 E. Shawnee St. • Gardner, KS 66030 • (913) 856-7223

LACKMAN NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARY

15345 W. 87th St. Pkwy. • Lenexa, KS 66219 • (913) 495-7540

LEAWOOD PIONEER NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARY

4700 Town Center Dr. • Leawood, KS 66211 • (913) 344-0250

OAK PARK NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARY

9500 Bluejacket • Overland Park, KS 66214 • (913) 752-8700

SHAWNEE NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARY

13811 Johnson Dr. • Shawnee, KS 66216 • (913) 962-3800

SPRING HILL NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARY

109 S. Webster • Spring Hill, KS 66083 • (913) 592-3232

JOHNSON COUNTY LIBRARY – MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 2933 • Shawnee Mission, KS • 66201-1333

JOHNSON COUNTY LIBRARY WEB SITE

www.jocolibrary.org



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9875 W. 87th St., Overland Park, KS

P.O. Box 2933

Shawnee Mission, KS 66201-1333

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