



Johnson County Library's Top 10 of 2007



Johnson County
Library

2007 Annual Report



Message from the County Librarian:



Johnson County Library leadership changed in 2007 with the retirement of long-time County Librarian Mona Carmack, followed by my appointment as the fifth County Librarian. But we didn't miss a beat delivering library services.

Johnson County Library is thankful for the support of the community, as well as that of the Friends of the Library, the Johnson County Library Foundation and hundreds of library volunteers who contribute to its success. There were many noteworthy programs in 2007; among them were the collaborative programs that strategically addressed the needs of our diverse and growing community.

KC Science, INC is a local partnership of public television, libraries, and museums focused on promoting science-related events, encouraging interest in science, advocating for science-based careers and inspiring natural curiosity throughout the community. Johnson County Library administered the grant project last year and launched a Web site, www.kcscienceinc.org, which continues to feature upcoming events, news, and information from the partners. The Library sponsored several Family Science Nights in the library and at Union Station

last year, along with very popular science-oriented programming in libraries throughout the year.

A new and improved Johnson County Library Web site launched in August, offering improved navigation, an online calendar with program registration, opportunities to interact with librarians and post book reviews. Digitization of more than 2,400 photographic images from the Kansas School for the Deaf was completed and included in JoCoHistory.net, a sub-site of www.jocolibrary.org, supported by a Johnson County Heritage Trust Fund grant.

Nearly 3,000 people attended events including Asian Heritage and Taiwanese festivals for The Big Read grant project, funded by the National Endowment for the Arts. Amy Tan's *The Joy Luck Club* was the title selected, which provided a focus on Asian culture and immigrant and mother-daughter themes.

Several issues forums brought community members together to discuss the topics of public transit, the future of energy, and finding the common ground between science, religion and public policy. The Library partnered with One KC Voice, Consensus and KCPT Public Television to offer a venue for this deliberative dialog.

The Business Book Club, started in 2007, is a

joint project with the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation and the Small Business Development Center to provide an infrastructure for lifelong learning through business literacy. Participants read along and discuss current books with local business leaders both actually and virtually.

Most library locations introduced self-pick-up of holds and added self-check machines last year. Patrons have responded positively to this direct access, which has alleviated waiting lines and allows for more personal interaction between staff and patrons.

What follows in the pages of this annual report are the top ten "happenings" – some already mentioned above – which helped make 2007 a banner year in the history of Johnson County Library, now in its sixth decade of serving the citizens of the county.

I am proud to lead an organization with excellent staff that serve the people of Johnson County. Johnson County Library continues to provide programs and services that serve the needs of the community and bring people together. We are poised for exciting changes and continued growth in 2008.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna Lauffer". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each word being capitalized and larger than the others.

Donna Lauffer
County Librarian



Artist in Residence

Johnson County Library's third Artist-in-Residence, Kelly Buntin Johnson, created two handmade, katchina-like "intercessors" representing the black-footed ferret and black-tailed prairie dog, both endangered animals in Kansas. Working near a large window at Central Resource Library, Johnson was observed by patrons and visiting school classes each day for her three-week residency. Johnson's subject matter tied her artwork into the KC Science, INC (Inspiring Natural Curiosity) project (see Number 3). Approximately 80 people attended a public reception in her honor.

New Web site and Guerrilla Marketing

Officially-sanctioned graffiti heralded the launch of Johnson County Library's new Web site on Aug. 15. Armed with cans of horizon blue and Saturn yellow spray chalk on the hottest day of the year, teen "guerrilla marketing" volunteers sprayed "NEW," "IMPROVED," and "www.jocolibrary.org" in parking lots of all 13 library locations. The teens used templates made from rubber bathtub mats. The launch received press attention in both print and broadcast media.

The first priority for the new Web site was improved functionality. Focusing on the basics, library personnel ran months of usability studies with patrons and provided opportunities for feedback prior to the August launch date. After the launch, staff continued to polish the basic functions and improve the most important function of the Web site: the Library catalog (which includes My Account). The new site was also created to be used as an online space for the Johnson County community to share ideas and expertise, provide feedback, and post reviews of favorite books, movies and music.





KC Science, INC

The KC Science, INC (Inspiring Natural Curiosity) Web site was launched by the Library on Jan. 2, as part of the KC Science, INC community partnership grant project from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. KC Science, INC was developed not as an organization, but as an idea to delight in the wonders of nature and to reconnect with the thrill of scientific discovery – particularly those discoveries one experiences in the kitchen or backyard. The KC Science, INC Web site became an online place to learn more about careers in the sciences, science events and programs in the Kansas City metropolitan area, and other fun places that would inspire natural curiosity. Johnson County Library administered the grant project and cosponsored several Family Science Nights at the library and at Union Station, along with science-oriented programming in libraries throughout the year and “I’m a Scientist” podcasts for use by local science teachers in their classrooms (see Number 8).

Mad Science

Mad Science programs for children at all libraries – presented by Mad Science of Greater Kansas City in conjunction with the KC Science, INC project – demonstrated scientific concepts such as exothermic reactions and the wonder of dry ice. Kids experienced flash paper, an “explosive” bottle blast, a crazy bubble shower, and creepy fog effects. Mad Science, based in Quebec, uses an “edutainment” approach to spark children’s interest in science.





Business Book Club

Johnson County Library, the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, and Small Business Development Center cosponsored a new Business Book Club program to feature key business titles read by area business and corporate leaders, whose insights of and reflections into the texts are shared with the community at large through in-person and online programs at the Library. The Business Book Club was created to provide an infrastructure for lifelong learning through business literacy. The club continues to meet both physically at the Kauffman Foundation in a discussion group hosted by the Foundation and virtually in a separate discussion group hosted by the Library.

The Big Read

Nearly 2,000 people attended programs during April and May for The Big Read grant project, funded by the National Endowment for the Arts. The Big Read was centered around Amy Tan's novel, *The Joy Luck Club*, which provided latitude for many aspects of Asian culture, as well as immigrant and mother-daughter themes. The Big Read is the NEA's response to the "Nation at Risk" report identifying diminished literary reading in America.

Among The Big Read programs in libraries were an all-day Annual Asian Heritage Festival, attended by nearly 1,000 people, and the Annual Taiwanese Festival, sponsored by the Taiwanese Association of Kansas City and attended by over 300 people.





Homework Help

Johnson County Library's Homework Help program, supported by the Sprint Foundation and Johnson County Library Foundation, continued to help students in 2007. Homework coaches provided tutoring to nearly 1,300 kindergarten through 12th-grade students. Coaches helped in finding resources for papers, ideas for science fair projects and working through math problems after school in four libraries – Central Resource Library and Antioch, Gardner and Oak Park Neighborhood Libraries. Homework Help also continued to be available online seven days a week at www.jocolibrary.org/homework.

Online Programs

Now you don't have to miss some library literary events! Patrons can listen or interact with live online interviews or presentations from anywhere – or listen to podcasts after the event. Johnson County Library's 2007 online offerings included Fabulous 4th Fridays, online book discussions focusing on "chick lit" books and live interviews of their authors; Marketing for Artists, an online live discussion with area and national artists about the business of being an artist; live online interviews with six authors featured at the Johnson County Library Foundation's Rare Conversations fund-raiser; and a series of "I'm a Scientist" podcasts, interviews with local scientists about what first excited them about science, why their work is important to our daily lives, and what keeps them energized and wound up about science, created as part of the KC Science, INC project (see Number 3.)





Serving teens in the justice system

Librarians hold literature discussion groups with teens in the Johnson County justice system through Read to Succeed, a literature program for teens incarcerated at the Juvenile Detention Center (JDC), and Changing Lives Through Literature, an alternative sentencing program based on a Massachusetts model. Johnson County Library was the first public library to implement this type of interactive literature discussion programming with teens in the justice system, partnering with Johnson County Corrections and District Courts. The librarians made more than 1,000 contacts in 2007, inspiring self-reflection and significantly reducing re-arrest among participating teens. Teens read and discussed stories about characters with which they could identify and discussed their choices, and consequences and impacts of those choices, developing empathy and insights. Most had not been readers prior to this program, but many go on to become avid readers and to resume their educations.

New County Librarian

Donna Lauffer, who was acting as Interim County Librarian, was appointed as Johnson County Library's fifth County Librarian, effective July 1, succeeding Mona Carmack, who retired in January 2007 after more than 18 years as director. Lauffer has been with the Johnson County Library since 1979. Before her appointment as County Librarian, Lauffer most recently served as the Associate Director for Branch Services and Outreach from 2002-2007, supervising Johnson County Library's 12 neighborhood locations, systemwide youth services and outreach services.



Johnson County Library

2007 Grants & Awards

GRANTS:

- The Big Read \$20,000 grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and National Endowment for the Arts to produce community literary programming based on Dashiell Hammett's *The Maltese Falcon*.
- Sprint Foundation \$25,000 grant to the Johnson County Library Foundation to fund a refocused Homework Help program at four library sites: Central Resource Library and Antioch, Gardner, and Oak Park Neighborhood Libraries.
- A \$15,000 grant from the Kansas State Library for Johnson County Library to provide an "Enhanced Meeting Room" space that connects to any two-way video sites in Kansas, including those of the other six KAN-ED Enhanced Meeting Room Project grant recipients.

AWARDS:

National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievements Award & Best Of Category

- "Stories about Women: Inmates Preparing for the Outside," with the Johnson County Corrections Dept.

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

- Kansas Reads Logo (Graphic Design)
- Coming Together: 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony (Special Projects – Ceremonies)

City-County Communications & Marketing Association (3CMA) Savvy Awards

- Web Site Category, First Place (population 300,000 to 1,900,000) for JoCoHistory.net, administered by Johnson County Library in partnership with the Johnson County Museum, Johnson County Archives and Olathe Public Library

Friends of Kansas Libraries

- Outstanding Kansas Friends Group (over 10,000 population) – Friends of the Johnson County Library

JOHNSON COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD

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JOHNSON COUNTY LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION

Donna Lauffer, County Librarian

Diana Graves, Administrative Manager

Kasey Riley, Communication Manager

Monique Sendze, Information Technology Manager

Tricia Suellentrop, Systemwide Services Manager

Carolyn Weeks, Associate Director for Central Services

Ken Werne, Interim Branch Services Manager

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

Expenditures

General Fund:

Personnel	\$12,395,556
Contractual	3,275,706
Commodities	3,269,434
Capital	2,804
Grants	586,075
Transfer to Capital Projects	0
Interfund Transfers	0
Total	\$19,529,575

Special Use Fund:

Contractual	\$ 179,111
Commodities/Capital	535,098
Debt Paid	2,012,821
Transfer to Capital Projects	0
Total	\$ 2,727,030

GRAND TOTAL **\$22,256,605**

Statistical Summary

	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	'03-'07 Change
Total Holdings ¹	1,193,186	1,196,429	1,177,167	1,216,777	1,198,745	-0.5%
Total Borrowers	399,844	374,634	345,753	340,405	320,327	24.8%
Total Circulation ¹	6,142,341	6,205,428	6,179,254	5,832,860	5,463,877	12.4%
Reference Transactions	240,443	257,070	287,083	457,676	460,034	-47.7%
Online Reference Searches ²	1,192,102	933,019	750,963	622,692	464,529	156.6%
Library Visits (Door Count)	2,514,745	2,520,181	2,534,070	2,501,857	2,533,304	-0.7%
External Visits to Web site	NA	2,321,002	1,935,836	2,276,202	NA	—
Program Attendance	95,882	108,969	101,654	98,353	96,231	-0.4%
Library Employees (FTEs) ³	282.3	282.6	282.7	279.9	281.9	0.1%
Volunteer Hours	38,065	31,208	30,655	25,970	27,864	36.6%
District Population (est.) ⁴	405,200	400,600	391,500	386,100	376,900	7.5%

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 2003 through 2005 are from the SURVEY OF BUYING POWER; 2006 & 2007 are from the EDITOR AND PUBLISHER MARKET GUIDE.





Johnson County Library
9875 W. 87th St., Overland Park, KS
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