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NEKLS

Annual Report, 2023

Northeast Kansas Library System

4317 W. 6th Street

Lawrence, Kansas 66049

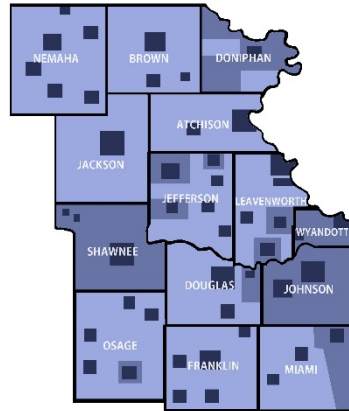
nekls.org

785-838-4090

System Description

General Description: The Northeast Kansas Library System (NEKLS) is a mix of urban, suburban and rural areas in a 14-county region that includes over 1.3 million or 45% of the total Kansas population. A large majority of that population is within the Kansas City metro – Lawrence – Topeka corridor. Population figures dropped slightly for many of the rural communities in the region while some are experiencing modest growth. Fourteen member libraries serve populations less than 1,000.

Atchison	16,108
Brown	9,364
Doniphan	7,440
Douglas	119,964
Franklin	25,992
Jackson	13,286
Jefferson	18,344



Johnson	619,195
Leavenworth	82,892
Miami	34,867
Nemaha	10,115
Osage	15,654
Shawnee	177,480
Wyandotte	165,746

Population source: https://budget.kansas.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022_Kansas_Certified_Population_7-1-23.pdf

Member Libraries: NEKLS has a diverse membership of 117 libraries, including: 48 public libraries; 51 school districts and private schools; 11 academic libraries and 7 special libraries. NEKLS regards all member libraries as full members and does not have contracting libraries or associate members. Some services and grant programs may be limited to particular library categories, however. For a full list of member libraries, visit: <https://web.nekls.org/search>

Mission: “The Northeast Kansas Library System inspires and empowers member libraries to engage, educate and add value to their communities.” In practice, we pursue this mission by providing an array of services and financial support to member libraries during the year.

Governance: A System Board of 146 members (117 member libraries, 11 County Commission Appointees, 18 Executive Board Members) governs NEKLS and meets annually in August or September to approve the System budget. An 18-member Executive Board governs on a day-to-day basis and meets monthly.

Executive Board

(September 2022 to September 2023)

Atchison County – Kathleen Flanagan
Brown County – Joanne Noll
Doniphan County – Cindy Davis
Douglas County – Carolyn Groves
Franklin County – David Tyler
Jackson County – Sandra Morris
Jefferson County – Jennifer Lloyd
Johnson County – Robert Miller
Leavenworth County – Ashley Creek
Miami County – Kiersten Allen
Nemaha County – Lisa Suhr
Osage County – Sarah Walker-Hitt
Shawnee County – Carolyn Little
Wyandotte County – Jack Granath
At-Large, Academic – Lars Leon
At-Large, School – Lori Franklin
At-Large – Sean Stacey
At-Large – Rachael Hissong

Staffing: NEKLS employs a dedicated staff of eleven to serve member libraries.

Library Services Consultant
Continuing Education Consultant
Youth & School Services Consultant
Fundraising & Public Relations Consultant
Library Consultant & Information Resources Librarian
KLE Courier Coordinator / Executive Assistant
Next Search Catalog Coordinator
Technology Specialist
Financial Manager
Office Coordinator
System Director – Michael McDonald

Grants & Subsidies

Grants and subsidies from NEKLS enable libraries to enhance collections, programs and services, and support employee and trustee continuing education. Grants and subsidies in 2023 included:

\$851,539 | **Library Development Grant**
Library Development Grants recognize libraries for accomplishing a rigorous set of library standards. This grant is typically the largest single grant to a member library. Awarded 43 grants.

\$104,781 | **Hoopla Grant**
E-content is a vital component of a public library's collection. NEKLS was pleased to support efforts to provide content in diverse formats. Awarded 44 grants.

\$69,838 | **Continuing Education Grant**
Grants were available for educational programs that were not provided directly by NEKLS. Grant funds were allocated for library conferences and other continuing education activities. Awarded 92 grants.

\$48,000 | **School Library Grant**
This needs-based, competitive grant program was designed to help NEKLS member school libraries renew and expand their print and/or electronic collections during the 2023-2024 school year. Grants were awarded to 18 schools in 10 districts.

\$80,057 | **Accessibility, Innovation and Literacy Exploration Grants**
Member public libraries were eligible to apply for competitive grant programs in the areas of accessibility, innovation and literacy exploration. Seventeen libraries received grants.

\$1,066 | **Mileage Reimbursement Grant**
Provided up to \$250 per library for Summer Library Performer mileage expenses. Awarded six grants.

\$147,191 | **Courier Subsidy**
NEKLS manages the Kansas Library Express courier service (0.7 FTE NEKLS staff) for the state of Kansas. NEKLS heavily subsidizes the courier expense in order to make the service accessible – and affordable – to even the smallest of our member libraries.

\$41,377 | **Direct Subsidies**
Member public libraries may have benefited from several direct subsidies, such as architectural services, legal consultations, E-Rate management services, software, antivirus protection; and annual public performance site licensing.

\$27,080 | Other Subsidies

In some instances, NEKLS provided support that is not library-specific. These funds had the potential to benefit libraries and patrons throughout the NEKLS region. This includes purchasing e-content for the Cloud Library, State Library of Kansas; OCLC WorldCat for interlibrary loan; and website hosting and training associated with Recollections Kansas.

\$66,479 | Next/Koha Coordination – Consortium-wide support

The success of the Next consortium is a group effort. For its part, NEKLS provides funding for Flipster (digital magazines), NoveList (readers advisory) and ByWater Solutions (hosting, support services and developments for Koha).

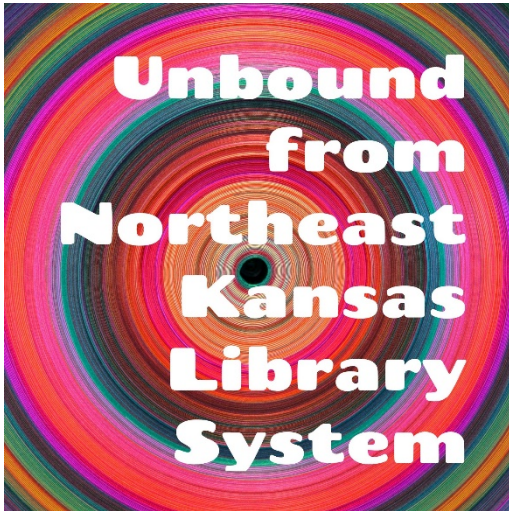
Continuing Education

Throughout the year, NEKLS offers continuing education and professional development opportunities for library staff and trustees. 2023 brought:

- After Lunch course #1 – Universal Design with Carli Spina; cost of presenter shared by Regional Library Systems, including NEKLS, and the State Library of Kansas
- After Lunch course #2 – Intellectual Freedom with Trina Magi; cost of presenter shared by Regional Library Systems, including NEKLS, and the State Library of Kansas
- After Lunch course #3 – Incorporating EDI into the Whole Collection Development Cycle with Pioneer Library System; cost of presenter shared by Regional Library Systems, including NEKLS, and the State Library of Kansas
- After Lunch course #4 – Resolving Conflicts in the Library with Courtney Breese and Jamila Mindingall; cost of presenter shared by Regional Library Systems, including NEKLS, and the State Library of Kansas
- Annual Trustee Training – Library Policy Development with Robin Newell
- Kansas Early Literacy Symposium with Beth Fredericks; cost of presenter shared with NCKLS
- Fueling Northeast Kansas Libraries with Natural Foresight with Dawn LaValle
- Public Library Director Spring Meeting – Collection Development with Lacie Griffin, and ADA Compliance with Ray petty
- Readers’ Advisory: Building Beyond the Basics with Molly Wetta; cost of presenter shared with TSCPL
- Readers’ Advisory Discussion: Building Beyond the Basics
- Kansas Open Meeting Act (KOMA) Training with Nicole Proulx Aiken
- HR Basics and Employment Law Workshop with Tiffany Hentschel; cost of presenter shared by Regional Library Systems, including NEKLS
- Summer Reading workshop (school age program ideas with Julie Crabb-Abbott)
- Summer Reading workshop (teens with Alyssa LaRue)
- Summer Reading workshop (Adult/Family idea swap)
- *Sunflower State Libraries*, a library-focused monthly video series
- Next User Group meetings
- Koha ILS upgrade trainings and Q&A sessions
- State Statistical Report preparation drop-in sessions
- ShareIt (State ILL) Training – scheduled with NEKLS trainer as needed

Podcast

Unbound from Northeast Kansas Library System, the official podcast of the Northeast Kansas Library System, completed its third season in 2023 with eight episodes. Find *Unbound from Northeast Kansas Library System* on most major podcast platforms.



s03e01: Teen & Adult Services with Alyssa LaRue
s03e02: Reader Engagement with Autumn Friedli
s03e03: Collection Development with Lacie Griffin
s03e04: Library Leadership with Robin Newell
s03e05: Storytelling with Priscilla Howe
s03e06: Podcasting with Max Wirestone
s03e07: Natural Foresight with Dawn La Valle
s03e08: 2023 KLA Conference

Technology Support

Depending on a library's accredited service level, IT staff support is provided by NEKLS. This service is provided free of charge. (Libraries are charged for any purchased equipment placed in the library.)

Technology support includes:

- ✓ Desktop Support
- ✓ Network Support
- ✓ E-Rate support
- ✓ Hardware Purchasing
- ✓ Software Purchasing
- ✓ Hardware Installation
- ✓ Software Installation

2023 Financial Report – NEKLS

1.291 = 2023 combined General Fund and Employee Benefits Fund mill levy rate

<i>Revenues</i>	\$\$	<i>Expenses</i>	\$\$
NEKLS Tax Revenue – General Fund	2,353,724	Grants/Subsidies to Member Libraries	1,308,010
KLE Courier Fees	752,407	Courier Services	930,444
State Library*	72,840	Services to Member Libraries	38,558
Next Fees	71,650	State Library E-Content	26,441
Other	226,776	Next Regional Catalog – Contractual Support	47,808
Subtotal	3,477,397	Next Regional Catalog – Resources	33,833
NEKLS Tax Revenue – Employee Benefits Fund	256,390	Administration & Operations	946,125
TOTAL	3733,787	Subtotal	3,331,219
		NEKLS Employee Benefits	303,383
		TOTAL	3,634,602

**LSTA grant and State Aid*

2023 Financial Report – NEKL Foundation

<i>Revenues</i>	\$\$	<i>Expenses</i>	\$\$
Donations to Libraries	9,195	Donations Remitted to Libraries	\$20,537
Donations to NEKL Foundation	605	Operating Expenses	\$891
Miscellaneous	187		
TOTAL	9,987	TOTAL	\$21,428



Philanthropy provides critical support to Northeast Kansas libraries. It strengthens their capacity to innovate, adapt to change, and ensures that the libraries are a vital resource for their community. Libraries are more than a place to find books: they are spaces – both physical and online – to educate individuals, strengthen families and make our communities better places. Libraries are essential to every community, no matter the size.

The Northeast Kansas Library Foundation (NEKL Foundation) is committed to providing service to our member public libraries. As a 501(c)(3), the Foundation is able to accept donations on behalf of an individual library or the entire NEKLS system. Donations give libraries the ability to expand services, offer free public programs and fund new ideas. These valuable funds often cover the programs and traditions your community loves.

NEKL Foundation Board of Directors, 2023

Nancy Keith, President
Patricia Michaelis, Secretary
Julie Mulvihill, Vice President
Janet Prestoy, Treasurer
Emily Bradbury
Ann Premer
Vacant