



Kansas City, Kansas Public Library

July 2009

Library offers summer fun

From archery to turtle races, young patrons had lots of fun at the library in July. A total of 3,160 children attended 117 programs presented by library staff, including summer reading wrap up celebrations.



All ages enjoyed a concert at the Main Library featuring the Rich Wheeler Quartet. Other hits included a talent show, an art contest, an open mike poetry reading, a watermelon seed spitting contest, a Harry Potter birthday celebration, book discussions (including a virtual one in Second Life) and a program on snakes.



By the Numbers

Circulation	124,310
Gate count	88,002
Computer use	17,973
Database use	14,769
Programs	160
Attendance	3,510



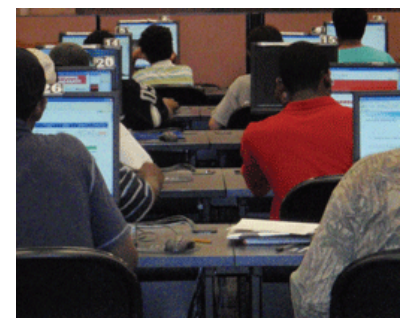
School Ties

- Eight USD 500 students performed a total of 64 hours of volunteer service at the library in lieu of paying a \$50 insurance fee for laptop use during the school year.
- Two USD 500 teachers and three students met at the Argentine Library each week for tutoring as part of the district's Migrant Education Program.

Library offers help for job seekers

As unemployment rises, the library is offering help to job seekers with free classes on resume writing, job hunting and interviewing skills. The library has partnered with Kansas Workforce to offer many of these classes.

The library has also noticed an increase in public computer use as patrons work on resumes and search online for job openings. Public computer use is up 8% over the same time last year.





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Library helps get kids moving

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 9 million children are obese today, triple the number in 1980. Young patrons can do more than read about good health at the library. They can also get a virtual workout by playing sports and games on the Wii Fit. Five Wii Fit gaming systems were purchased for the library through a “Fit for Life” grant, made possible by the generous support of MetLife Foundation and overseen by Libraries for the Future.



Patron Comments

- I love the audio-visual department at Main. It's much better than anything I've seen elsewhere.
- The library's collection of books is great, especially in the areas of art and computing.
- I strongly recommend that book club members come to KCKPL for their books. I am a well-satisfied KCKPL patron.
- I love these PlayAways. They are so convenient and the titles you have are the best.

Special Notes

- The Kansas Collection at the Main Library received a donation of 128 books and periodicals related to the Civil War.

Community Involvement

In July, library staff collaborated with these organizations:

- Freedom School (table at health fair in Rosedale)
- Workforce Partnership (program & access point for job seekers)
- El Centro (read to nearly 100 children three times in July)
- KCK Police Department (Gang & Graffiti Awareness program)
- Wyandotte Center (planned outreach for new building)
- Turner Recreation Commission (program planning)
- Parents as Teachers (program planning)
- Kids Zone (Summer Reading Program)
- Arts in Prison, Inc. (planned exhibit)
- Quindaro Museum (exhibit)
- KCK Arts Network (participated in Downtown Art Walk)
- Metropolitan Ensemble Theater (planned grant collaboration)
- Storytelling Celebration committee (planning)
- Downtown Shareholders (participated in first annual Street Fest)
- Back to Quindaro Reunion 2009 committee (provided historical and genealogical information)
- Liveable Neighborhoods (attended meeting)
- Shepherd's Center (attended meeting)
- Project Eagle (program planning)