

# In Touch

## Page 2

### THE PERFECT EXCUSE! or Why my book has not been returned to the library!

... cuz I left it in my truck and my truck was in an accident and got towed to the garage and I won't be able to get to the garage in Abbotsford until this weekend.

... my mother took it camping and lost it.

... I didn't take it out!

... cuz my cat peed on it and it smells too bad.

... it flew out the car window on the 401 Freeway and was devoured by an 18 wheeler!

<http://www.ifla.org/I/humour/humour.htm#light>

### NEW DATABASES THAT HAVE RECENTLY BEEN ADDED TO THE MYERS New In First Search

#### *ClasePeriodicals*

*Latin American journals for the Social Sciences and the Humanities.*

## Kan Ottawa answer? Myers Library and KanAnswer the new e-reference service

Since 2003, Ottawa University has been one of several Kansas colleges, universities and public libraries staffing the KanAnswer online reference service, which is being offered to Kansas residents by the Kansas State Library..

Chat reference questions take anything from about two minutes to forty-five minutes or even more to answer, it just depends on what is being asked and what type of information is actually being sought by the patron. Often, the question(s) asked cannot be answered online, and are then referred out by the librarian online to a specialist, university department, law library or to an outside agency that might be able to provide the patron with more information and an answer to the question asked.

Over the last few months, the chat reference questions have been largely law-related or from the

political arenas. Despite this fact, librarians at Ottawa's desk were able to answer their share of these, often, very sticky/difficult questions. Now librarians working the KanAnswer service have been told to refer all these law-related questions on to the Kansas Wheat Law Library, as they could easily land in hot water if they in any way tried to interpret the questions that were being asked like lawyers do, without realizing this judgement error.

We also are getting many questions from children in the public schools, after school is out and so we get to slip into the comfortable role of "homework helper" which is always very interesting and stimulating, but it also has its moments; especially when you have to answer ten waiting calls and more callers in line Waiting patiently to speak to a librarian.

Ottawa University librarians have become comfortable operating KanAnswer and chatting with patrons and sending out live links to these patrons when they are needed, so that they can go and look up answers to their questions by visiting sites like

<http://www.accesskansas.gov> online. Or by hunting for and then giving patrons telephone/toll-free numbers that they can call to so that they can go and conduct their business, whatever it may be, without a hitch.



## NEW PERIODICAL AND NEWSPAPER LISTINGS ARE NOW ENTERED ONLINE

In 2002, we were able to purchase a new extension of our Sirsi package that allows our student-aides to enter all the new periodicals we have received directly into the computer. What this does is, it updates our periodical holdings on a daily basis and enters them into the library catalog, so that patrons would now be able to find out what our newest periodical titles are, that are available and whether we

have received a new periodical title that they know we own and that they might be interested in reading. Our newest newspaper holdings are also entered into the catalog in this way; and so if you were interested in finding out if we have last Friday's "New York Times", all you have to do is check on it. We keep our newspaper for three months at a time, before discarding them.

# BOOK-WETTING AND MOULD PROBLEMS



A bunch of mouldy old books..



Mould-Killer...

Winter is no fun at the Myers Library. Every time it rains we have a real problem with the rain getting into our library downstairs and wetting floors and threatening the books on the lower shelves of the periodical collection in the lower level of the library. For the past few years we have stored older periodicals downstairs in our basement, and at the same time our basement is being used as the Technical Services Department, where books are received, catalogued, and processed before going onto our new book shelf upstairs. Our acquisitions librarian and the students working in acquisitions spend a great deal of time down in the “dungeon”, where it is pretty damp during the winter. The damp has also caused a mould problem which would have spread if we had not dealt with it immediately. We started out by doing the necessary research and trying to find out what could be done to stop mould from spreading. We started out the process of saving our periodicals by rubbing them down with a special static cloth and then placing books that have mould on them in direct sunlight, along the windows in the collections room of the library. Direct sunlight is said to be a mould-killer and so for now, the combined process seems to have worked for us.

## Five New Reference Acquisitions

Gitterman, Alex. (2001). *Handbook of Social Work Practice with vulnerable and resilient populations* (2nd edition). New York: Columbia University.

Jacobson, Trudi. et. al. (1994). *New research methods and sources, vol. I and II*. Danbury: Grolier.

Martin, Ralph P. (1992) *Interpretation: a bible commentary for teaching and preaching*. Louisville: John-Knox. (Series)

Patrick, John J. et.al. (2001). *The Oxford Guide to the United States Government*. Oxford: University Press.

Rodriguez, Dawn. (2003). *The Research Paper: A guide to Library and Internet Research*. New Jersey: Prentice-Hall.

## STAFF CONFERENCES ATTENDED

All the Myers Library staff attended the Kansas Library Association’s Tri-Conference which will be held in Wichita, KS. Gloria Dikeogu attended the Pre-Conference and the first day of the Conference. The pre-conference called “Planning for results” and was presented by Sandra Nelson, a library director from New Mexico. Celia Davis attended the second day of the conference and Jana Warner attended the second and third days of the four-day event. Staff were interested in very different presentations, and so were not attending any of the presentations that were being offered, together during the conference.

Gloria attended a initial lecture by futurist Ian Jukes, entitled “Windows to the future” which dealt with how libraries and the way librarians function, are changing and what can be expected of libraries over the next ten years. Gloria also attended other first day presentations, that included presentations on how best to provide distance education to students, how to deal with library books that have mould, how to do library displays and make them special and how to use the wikiwiki web in reference work. Celia Davis attended a presentation done by the young adult author, Chris Crutcher and was also attended sessions like using Territorial Kansas Online, marketing the library, developing literacy skills and then she also represented the library by attending our Private Academic Libraries Organization, in which we have a membership. Jana Werner attended conference sessions that had to do with juvenile literature, that being her interest and Interlibrary Loans issues. Gloria also got a chance to meet with a major library vendor YBP, at the conference, in order to discuss library business for the coming academic year.

This year’s KLA conference proved to be a very stimulating event that staff members from the Myers Library thoroughly enjoyed.

## NEW NON-FICTION

Hakin, Joy. (2003) *Freedom: A history of us*. 973 H13f

Wilkins, Charles. (2000). *When the final buzzer sounds*. 796.962

## Quotes about “Sunlight”

We are but a moment’s sunlight fading in the grass.  
—Chester Powers

Do not anticipate trouble or worry about what may never happen. Keep in the sunlight.  
—Benjamin Franklin

Praise is like sunlight to the human spirit: we cannot flower and grow without it.  
—Anonymous  
<http://en.thinkexist.com/keyword/sunlight/>