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# Libraries & Archives Monthly

News from the Kentucky Department  
for Libraries and Archives

March 2010

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## 'Reading and Ranting' Program a Success

By Kristi Tucker  
Director, Marshall County Public  
Library

On Tuesday, February 16, the Marshall County High School Library was filled near capacity as over 30 adults and nearly 100 students gathered for small, informal book discussions. The 'Reading and Ranting' program, a joint effort between the Marshall County High School and Marshall County Public Library offered an opportunity for book lovers, both young and old, to connect with other readers. [Read more...](#)

## Critchfield Receives National Award

By Mike Moore  
The Jessamine Journal

Ron Critchfield, Ph.D., director of the Jessamine County Public Library, was selected to receive the 2010 John Phillip Immroth Memorial Award, presented by the American Library Association (ALA) Intellectual Freedom Round Table (IFRT).

Critchfield said the award was humbling.

"Those who know me probably understand how it seems odd to me to receive an award for doing my job," he said. "Nevertheless, I am proud to represent Jessamine County and its public library. In some way, I hope this will serve as an example for others to work diligently day in and day out safeguarding the fundamental freedoms of our nation."

This award was established in memory of John Phillip Immroth, a teacher, author, scholar, advocate and defender of First Amendment rights whose impact on the ideal of intellectual freedom and its practice was great. [Read more...](#)

## Research Opportunities in the State Archives: Governor William S. Taylor Papers

By Tim Tingle  
Public Records Branch Manager, KDLA

The gubernatorial election of 1899 in Kentucky set off a chain of events that ranks as one of the great stories in the history of the Commonwealth, and nearly resulted in a civil war within the state. The State Archives holds records from several different sources that help to document these events, but one of the most interesting collections consists of the papers of Governor William S. Taylor.

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## Mail It Day

By Amanda Gilmore  
Community Relations Coordinator  
Boyd County Public Library

As part of the 2010 Legislative Day campaign sponsored by the Kentucky Public Library Association, Boyd County Public Library decided to hold a one-day push to raise awareness of the importance of public libraries in the Commonwealth.

So on Wednesday, February 3, one week prior to Legislative Day, we had Mail It Day at BCPL's three branches. Yellow postcards were ready to be filled out and sent to state senators and representatives.

[Read more...](#)

## Trustee Tip

By Paul M. Poland  
President, Scott County Board of Trustees  
[pmpoland@roadrunner.com](mailto:pmpoland@roadrunner.com)

This month I'd like to write about the success of our Kentucky Public Library Legislative Day in Frankfort on February 10, 2010. The success of the day's efforts from everyone...patrons, friends, staff, directors and trustees truly is the "tip of the month!"

Through the ice, snow and sometimes blizzard conditions over 150 public library supporters made their way to Frankfort to let their voices be

Election Commissioners finally decided that Taylor was the winner by a slim 2400 vote margin. Governor-elect Taylor was inaugurated on December 12, 1899. However, the Democrats in the General Assembly contested the results, and a committee was appointed to study the election. Tempers ran high on both sides, and then, on January 30, 1900, William Goebel was shot not far from the front entrance to the Capitol. Governor Taylor called out the State Guard and armed men supporting both parties gathered in Frankfort. The Democrats in the General Assembly were able to garner enough votes to invalidate Taylor's election, and Goebel was sworn in as Governor on January 31 on his deathbed. [Read more...](#)

## Public Libraries Expand Computer Services with Workforce Grant

*Libraries across state will expand services to help unemployed*

By Lanny Brannock  
Office of Employment and Training

In response to the rising unemployment rate and greater demand for services by people searching for jobs, 11 public libraries across the state will expand services and equipment to provide the unemployed more places to look for work or polish their resumes and job-hunting skills.

Nearly \$300,000 in funding from the Office of Employment and Training (OET) in the Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet will increase the number of access points for workforce information. The libraries will provide customers with improved and expanded access to library and Internet resources.

Unemployed Kentuckians and others searching for work will be able to access information such as job listings and resume preparation training. Others will gain knowledge about applying for government benefits, taking college classes and completing on-line certification programs. [Read more...](#)

## Legislators, Snow and a little Anaias Nin

By J.C. Morgan  
Director, Campbell County Public Library

February 10th (Public Library Legislative Day) was a big day in Frankfort for the public libraries of Kentucky. The

heard...and heard they were!

Most of the 14 legislators who spoke at the rally commended everyone's passion and love for libraries to brave the horrible conditions to show their support. With everyone's arrival in Frankfort they showed not only support for public libraries, but they truly demonstrated SUPPORT PUBLIC LIBRARIES!!!!  
[Read more...](#)

### KDLA Welcomes New Trustees

KDLA would like to welcome the following new trustees:

- Dr. Chris Boni, Madison County
- Elaine Ellington, Laurel County

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weather was...despite a much touted prediction of sunny skies and seventy degrees...awful. Snow, freezing winds, ice - all the worst of winter. Just awful.

Ironically, the less-than-appreciable weather kept many people away which made the people who did brave the storm all the more effective. By our count, there were nearly 110 folks who made their scheduled visits with their legislators. In the rotunda, about 150 library supporters attended the rally. This, of course, doesn't include the many people who made phone calls or sent in emails to their legislators. One library that couldn't attend due to weather even sent their legislators a bunch of yellow balloons!

There were many other displays of yellow (libraries signature color) too. Some people prefer their yellow to be a bit understated, maybe just a hint of a yellow turtleneck. Others went all out with yellow sweatshirts specially made for Legislative Day and one group even made yellow scarves out of a yard or two of yellow fleece. The scarves were inexpensive enough to give to the legislators. Great idea! [Read more...](#)

### Archival Photo Of The Month

Governor William Goebel

Public Information Photo Collection, Public Records Division - Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives



The Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives helps libraries provide equitable access to quality library and information resources and services, as well as helps public agencies ensure that legislatively mandated documentation of government programs is created, efficiently maintained and made readily accessible. For more information, visit <http://www.kdla.ky.gov> or call 502-564-8300 ext. 315.

Please send questions, comments and story ideas for Libraries & Archives Monthly to editor Paige Sexton at [paige.sexton@ky.gov](mailto:paige.sexton@ky.gov) or call 502-564-8300 ext. 315.

# Article Continuations ONLY Beyond This Point

## Critchfield Receives National Award

Ron Critchfield, Ph.D., director of the Jessamine County Public Library, was selected to receive the 2010 John Phillip Immroth Memorial Award, presented by the American Library Association (ALA) Intellectual Freedom Round Table (IFRT).

Critchfield said the award was humbling.

"Those who know me probably understand how it seems odd to me to receive an award for doing my job," he said. "Nevertheless, I am proud to represent Jessamine County and its public library. In some way, I hope this will serve as an example for others to work diligently day in and day out safeguarding the fundamental freedoms of our nation."

This award was established in memory of John Phillip Immroth, a teacher, author, scholar, advocate and defender of First Amendment rights whose impact on the ideal of intellectual freedom and its practice was great.

He was the founder and first Chair of the Intellectual Freedom Round Table in 1976. The award honors the courage, dedication and contribution of a living individual or group who has set the finest kind of example for the defense and furtherance of the principles of intellectual freedom.

Critchfield said the library's recent stand against censorship of graphic novels probably put him over the top of other candidates.

"It is likely the national attention JCPL received recently in its stand against censorship," Critchfield said. "This coupled with a letter of recommendation from JCPL senior management in which they explained my principles and position on intellectual freedom and first-amendment rights in the context of recent criticism."

The John Phillip Immroth Memorial Award consists of \$500 and a citation. It will be presented at the IFRT Awards Reception on Saturday, June 26, during the 2010 ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C.

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## Research Opportunities in the State Archives: Governor William S. Taylor Papers

The gubernatorial election of 1899 in Kentucky set off a chain of events that ranks as one of the great stories in the history of the Commonwealth, and nearly resulted in a civil war within the state. The State Archives holds records from several different sources that help to document these events, but one of the most interesting collections consists of the papers of Governor William S. Taylor.

The two main contestants in the 1899 election were the Republican, William S. Taylor, and the Democrat, William Goebel. The vote totals were very close, but the Board of Election Commissioners finally decided that Taylor was the winner by a slim 2400 vote margin. Governor-elect Taylor was inaugurated on December 12, 1899. However, the Democrats in the General Assembly contested the results, and a committee was appointed to study the election. Tempers ran high on both sides, and then, on January 30, 1900, William Goebel was shot not far from the front entrance to the Capitol. Governor Taylor called out the State Guard and armed men supporting both parties gathered in Frankfort. The Democrats in the General Assembly were able to garner enough votes to invalidate Taylor's election, and Goebel was sworn in as Governor on January 31 on his deathbed. He died on February 3. Taylor refused to relinquish his office, and for a time both he and Goebel's Democratic Lieutenant Governor, J.C.W. Beckham, claimed to be the legitimate Governor. The courts eventually decided in favor of Beckham, and Taylor fled to Indiana after being indicted as an accessory to Goebel's murder. He was never tried, and in 1909 Governor Augustus Wilson granted him a pardon covering any charges.

Even though William S. Taylor only served for a few months and his papers are not extensive, they do offer an interesting view of his official activities and of the social and political climate of the times. As with most governors from this era, the majority of the governor's official correspondence file consists of petitions for pardons. Governor Taylor granted clemency to a number of applicants, for crimes ranging from carrying a concealed weapon to manslaughter. One typewritten petition from a fellow Republican from Mason County in January 1900, at the height of the election controversy but prior to Goebel's murder, contains a handwritten postscript advising the Governor to "be sure and hold the Goebel bluffers steady. If you want any help, call on the Maysville State Guard." In March 1900, Taylor pardoned several men charged with Goebel's murder, including Caleb Powers, his Secretary of State. Powers' petition states in part that "mobs have threatened to be formed...for the purpose of hanging and assassinating the Republican officials of this state," and that it is "very probable that civil authorities of Franklin County are not sufficient to protect this affiant in his personal safety should a mob attempt to do him bodily harm."

All governors maintain an Executive Journal, which lists any official actions that the governor takes on a daily basis. The first month or so of Governor Taylor's Journal contains the usual entries for appointments, extraditions and rewards. The entry for January 30, 1900 (the day that Goebel was shot) states only that "no bill, order, resolution or vote of the General Assembly was presented to the Governor today." This same entry is repeated for the next several days. No mention is made of the uproar resulting from the attack on Goebel or his swearing-in as Governor, or even his death. Interestingly, an entry dated January 30 but actually written in the Journal after the entry for February 3 consists of a proclamation directing the General Assembly to meet in London, Kentucky (a Republican stronghold) because the capital was in a "state of insurrection." This never happened, and after Goebel's death both sides agreed to allow the courts to decide who should be the legal occupant of the Governor's Office. For the next several months the state was faced with the strange circumstance of having two "governors" trying to perform the duties of the office at the same time. Governor Taylor's Executive Journal contains mainly a daily repetition of the statement that "no bill...was presented to the Governor today," which reflects the fact that the Democrat Beckham was working with a Democratic majority in the General Assembly, and Taylor basically had no real power at all. As noted above, he did issue pardons to several Republicans who had been charged in Goebel's murder, but these were in effect empty gestures. In April the courts decided once and for all in Beckham's favor, and then Taylor himself was indicted on charges related to the

murder and soon decamped to Indiana, which had a Republican governor who declined to extradite him back to Kentucky. The entry in Taylor's Journal dated May 6, 1900 blandly states that "the Governor this day left the state."

Governor William S. Taylor's papers provide a unique perspective on one of the most interesting and controversial periods in Kentucky history. All of these records are open and available for use to researchers.

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## **Public Libraries Expand Computer Services with Workforce Grant**

### *Libraries across state will expand services to help unemployed*

In response to the rising unemployment rate and greater demand for services by people searching for jobs, 11 public libraries across the state will expand services and equipment to provide the unemployed more places to look for work or polish their resumes and job-hunting skills.

Nearly \$300,000 in funding from the Office of Employment and Training (OET) in the Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet will increase the number of access points for workforce information. The libraries will provide customers with improved and expanded access to library and Internet resources.

Unemployed Kentuckians and others searching for work will be able to access information such as job listings and resume preparation training. Others will gain knowledge about applying for government benefits, taking college classes and completing on-line certification programs. Valuable workforce options such as basic computer and Internet classes, e-mail basics, job resources online and learning applications like Microsoft Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint and others will be available in some areas.

Libraries receiving funds include:

Warren County Public Library -- \$19,592 - Update computer terminals and expand computer stations, 22 desktop computers, eight laptops.

Trimble County Public Library -- \$14,000 - Add nine laptops and classes to teach job seeking skills.

Pulaski County Public Library -- \$8,520 - Offer classes in basic and intermediate computer skills, job interview and job hunting skills and resume writing.

McCracken County Public Library -- \$18,000 - Increase library personnel to provide assistance with electronic job market.

Louisville Free Public Library -- \$100,000 - Provide two librarians to provide workforce training and information at 18 locations in Jefferson County. Staff will provide information, services and training to job seekers.

Lexington Public Library -- \$50,000 - Expand the existing Skillsville Jobs Program by adding associates dedicated to serving job seekers.

Kenton County Public Library -- \$18,180 - Purchase software to help job seekers to update and revise resumes and will offer basic skills computer classes and interview skills classes to customers.

Daviess County Public Library -- \$19,000 - Increase the number of public access computers and purchase software. Will increase the computer skills of unemployed users.

Jessamine County Public Library -- \$9,243 - Augment mobile computer lab with six additional laptops and offer introductory classes.

Hopkins County-Madisonville Public Library -- \$16,000 - Purchase new software and databases to host workforce information and development classes. Will cover printing costs for study booklets and classes.

Henderson County Public Library District -- \$15,813 - Provide seven additional Internet stations and new software for the library, plus provide equipment to a mobile computer lab to be used for computer classes.

Funds for the enhancements at the libraries come from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Education and Workforce Development Cabinet. They are administered by OET.

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## **Legislators, Snow and a little Anaias Nin**

February 10th (Public Library Legislative Day) was a big day in Frankfort for the public libraries of Kentucky. The weather was...despite a much touted prediction of sunny skies and seventy degrees...awful. Snow, freezing winds, ice - all the worst of winter. Just awful.

Ironically, the less-than-appreciable weather kept many people away which made the people who did brave the storm all the more effective. By our count, there were nearly 110 folks who made their scheduled visits with their legislators. In the rotunda, about 150 library supporters attended the rally. This, of course, doesn't include the many people who made phone calls or sent in emails to their legislators. One library that couldn't attend due to the weather even sent their legislators a bunch of yellow balloons.

There were many other displays of yellow (libraries signature color) too. Some people prefer their yellow to be a bit understated, maybe just a hint of a yellow turtleneck. Others went all out with yellow sweatshirts specially made for Legislative Day and one group even made yellow scarves out of a yard or two of yellow fleece. The scarves were inexpensive enough to give to the legislators. Great idea!

In the rotunda, there were fourteen legislators present as members of the Public Library Caucus. Each legislator was invited to speak and several of them looked for the folks from their home counties. The stories they told were great. All of the legislators had a personal connection with public libraries if not their own librarian. They have used bookmobiles, they've used library resources in school, they've seen the power of the public library in their communities, and understand the worth of libraries in economic times like the present. One legislator even pointed out that his own mother was a former librarian.

A wide range of libraries and types of library supporters were represented at the rally: academic librarians, school librarians, library trustees, support staff, children's librarians, directors, and many others. The Friends of Kentucky Libraries were especially "present" with about 35 attendees from their group alone. Just a fabulous show of support for public libraries.

The incredible support continues with the postcards that were sent in to legislators. I'm personally aware of nearly 6,000 postcards that were mailed. I'm sure that there were many more. Legislators commented on them very positively, both on Legislative Day and afterward. Just reading over some of the ones that were written by customers from my own library was a great overview of the many reasons that folks turn to a public library each day. Some of the comments centered around the love of reading, some focused on the use of computers, some were obviously written by children who appreciated a particular book title or who simply loved the children's librarian who reads stories to them. There were several that I read from older customers who said, in no uncertain terms, that the library had been a foundational part of their entire life. Always there, always appreciated.

All in all, February 10th was a bold effort for our libraries. A great show of what we can do when we rally together and make our voices heard in Frankfort. The impact remains to be seen, yes, but I think that we've put public libraries on the radar from some legislators. That's a great step forward.

On behalf of the Kentucky Public Library Association's Advocacy Committee, I want to thank every one of you for your support. The folks on this committee worked so hard to make this year's effort a success, but we cannot do this alone. There were so many library supporters who went above and beyond to show their legislators the passion that they hold for libraries and the customers we serve. It's a message that we need to continue to bring to Frankfort. Libraries ARE important. Libraries ARE making a difference. Every single day.

The legislators won't go home until April 15. If you've still got postcards to send,

please send them. If you still haven't made a call to your legislator, please do. Thank you for your support.

(Oh...and I nearly forgot...Anaias Nin: "And the day came when the risk to remain tight in a bud was more painful than the risk it took to blossom.")

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## Trustee Tip

This month I'd like to write about the success of our Kentucky Public Library Legislative Day in Frankfort on February 10, 2010. The success of the day's efforts from everyone...patrons, friends, staff, directors and trustees truly is the "tip of the month!"

Through the ice, snow and sometimes blizzard conditions over 150 public library supporters made their way to Frankfort to let their voices be heard...and heard they were.

Most of the 14 legislators who spoke at the rally commended everyone's passion and love for libraries to brave the horrible conditions to show their support. With everyone's arrival in Frankfort they showed not only support for public libraries, but they truly demonstrated SUPPORT PUBLIC LIBRARIES!!!

We had a total of 14 library trustees attend the day of advocacy in the Capitol. I don't believe any previous year has had as much support from trustees across the state. I applaud everyone for using your voice in support of all public libraries in Kentucky.

Trustees from the following counties attended: Campbell, Fayette, Grant, Letcher, Nelson and Scott. I appreciate all who attended, but I would be remiss if I didn't point out that Nelson County Public Library Board of Trustees brought all five of their members. Yes, the entire board attended the rally and spoke with their legislators. My hat is off to all who came and especially Nelson County Board of Trustees.

Because of the weather many who planned to attend could not. But, they made calls to their elected officials and sent emails and post cards showing support. I do encourage all to continue the advocacy efforts and let your legislators know how important public libraries are in YOUR community. Simply tell them by supporting public libraries all across Kentucky - "Every County Wins!" - every community wins and our entire state wins!

Paul M. Poland  
Chair, KY Library Trustees Round Table (KLTRT)  
Board President, Scott County Public Library  
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## Mail It Day

As part of the 2010 Legislative Day campaign sponsored by the Kentucky Public Library Association, Boyd County Public Library decided

to hold a one-day push to raise awareness of the importance of public libraries in the Commonwealth.

So on Wednesday, February 3, one week prior to Legislative Day, we had Mail It Day at BCPL's three branches. Yellow postcards were ready to be filled out and sent to state senators and representatives. Staff wore yellow shirts. And there were yellow refreshments (i.e. Twinkies, lemonade and pound cake) for customers.

Customers really responded - we mailed 172 postcards to legislators the following day. Boyd County Public Library Friends picked up all the postage costs.

A sampling of customer comments:

- "The library provides services for all people. My mother receives home services through the library and would be very disappointed if this service would be discontinued. If I could earmark my tax dollars, I would want them to go to the library and education."
- "It's a wonderful learning place for all ages. It doesn't matter if you're rich or poor - the libraries are for everyone to enjoy."
- "Reading is my relief from stress. I walk in one place and can go anywhere. I love the fact I can get information and entertainment in one area. Please keep it!"
- "It's an amazing place for children, young adults such as myself, and even older people to discover the wonderful world of literature. I honestly don't think I would enjoy reading half as much if it weren't for the great people and service of my local library."
- "I love to read. I am a fast reader and would never be able to buy so many books. Plus I am at an age where I need large print books."
- "It's a source of information, genealogy and research. It also supplies much joy to me...I use it at least once a week."
- "It's a wonderful place to spend the day browsing numerous categories, which can educate, uplift your spirits, inform and entertain the person. It is a cornerstone of the community."
- "As the parent of school-age children, it is important to have the public library as a resource to help further my kids' education. We use the library services several times a week and find it to be a valuable asset."
- "As a former teacher, my students found the materials in the public library a great resource for learning and projects. I use the library now on a regular basis, as I did while a student."
- "The library provides for those less fortunate. They provide access to the Internet and useful information."

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### **'Reading and Ranting' Program a Success**

On Tuesday, February 16, the Marshall County High School Library was

filled near capacity as over 30 adults and nearly 100 students gathered for small, informal book discussions. The 'Reading and Ranting' program, a joint effort between the Marshall County High School and Marshall County Public Library, offered an opportunity for book lovers, both young and old, to connect with other readers.

Thirty-four groups met to discuss a variety of titles, including popular titles such as Nicholas Sparks' *Dear John* and the new Young Adult best-seller, *Beautiful Creatures*. "This was really cool," said one teen participant. "I really loved the book I read, but none of my friends have read it yet. It was fun to get to talk about it with other people."

Students of the Marshall County High School were encouraged to participate by receiving class credit. "The English Department really got behind this project, promoting it to the students and many offering to be group leaders. This would not have been possible without their support," said Shauna Burkeen, librarian for the Marshall County High School. In addition to teachers, adult group leaders also included public librarians and local community leaders. Local businesses - such as Wal-Mart, Subway, Los Portales, and Parcell's - added their support to the program by offering door prizes for the event.

"We are so lucky to live in a community that understands the importance of encouraging our young people to read," said Tammy Blackwell, Young Adult librarian for the Marshall County Public Library. "All of our group leaders and sponsors were instrumental in making this program a success."

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