Kentucky Talking Book Library Celebrates 50th Anniversary

On April 1, 2019, The Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA) Talking Book Library (KTBL) celebrated its 50th anniversary of providing Kentuckians with disabilities access to free audio and braille books.

The Talking Book Library is the only braille library collection in Kentucky as well as the only library to record digital audio books by Kentucky authors. Currently, there are 773 digital audio books in the collection with a connection to Kentucky. The books have been recorded by a group of 30 – 40 volunteers in the talking book studio in Frankfort. Books are available to patrons nationwide by mail, download or mobile devices.

"It is exciting to see how the Kentucky Talking Book Library has grown over the last 50 years from a few thousand books on vinyl to more than 100,000 audio and braille books. Thousands upon thousands of Kentuckians with disabilities have used KTBL to read books and stay engaged in the world. I'm looking forward to seeing what the next 50 years hold for KTBL," said Terry Manuel, Kentucky State Librarian and Commissioner of the Department for Libraries and Archives.

Library patrons can access free reading materials by mail, download or mobile app. The KTBL collection includes 13,000 braille, 90,000 audio books, and 75 audio and braille magazines from the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD). Large print, braille music scores and other instructional music materials in accessible formats are available directly from NLS.

"The vast majority of books that are published each year are not accessible to people who cannot see to read them or cannot physically hold them. While other people can go to the public library and get books, the selection for people who cannot use print books is very narrow. KTBL has all types of books including books for children," said Kentucky Talking Book Library Manager Barbara Penegor.

In federal fiscal year 2018, KTBL served more than 4,500 patrons who are unable to read print due to a visual, physical or reading disability. Library volunteers record Kentucky books that are not available in accessible format from any other source. Contributing more than 1,000 hours of time each year, volunteers have recorded approximately 1,000 titles over the last 50 years.

Volunteer Barbara Pauley of Frankfort is a proofreader and narrator of Kentucky digital audio books who was looking for a worthwhile activity to do in retirement.

"We provide a vital service to the citizens of the Commonwealth who might not have access to books any other way. It's an easy, friendly, free, customer-oriented service," Pauley said. "I enjoy the staff here. It's a really positive environment and I like learning Kentucky history and getting to know Kentucky authors."

"The keeping of the public record of a civilized people is a continuing responsibility where properly the task is never completed. The vigilance necessary to preserve the record is synonymous with that of preserving the freedom of an open and democratic society." – Dr. Thomas D. Clark, former Historian Laureate of Kentucky

Continued on page 5
Please mark your calendars for these upcoming closures.

July 4  Thursday  Independence Day
September 2  Monday  Labor Day

KDLA Staff Attend SARC

Five staff members of the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA), Archives and Records Management (ARM) Division, attended the Southeastern Archives and Records Conference (SARC), held October 28-30 in Jackson, Mississippi. SARC is an opportunity to meet with state archives colleagues from the Southeastern region to exchange ideas, experiences, and expertise. All sessions were informative and worthwhile, and provided staff in attendance with new concepts and techniques that will assist KDLA in its future efforts.

Session Tracks:

Directors: Beth Shields, State Archivist and Director, ARM Division; Records Management: Nicole Bryan, Manager, Local Records Branch; Electronic Records/Digital Repositories: Derek Clark, Manager, Electronic Records Branch; Access/Public Service: Jennifer Patterson, Manager, Archival Services Branch; and Collections Management: Robin Smith, Archivist, Archival Services Branch.

The Georgia State Archives will host the 2019 Southeastern Archives and Records Conference.

Thank you!

The staff of the Archives and Records Management (ARM) Division would like to express our gratitude to the Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc. for their support of the staff appreciation activities over the past several months. The Friends sponsored an ice cream social in June, a breakfast in September, a coffee and tea break in October, a pizza and salad lunch in December, and a small gift in February. The staff greatly appreciates the thoughtfulness of the Friends and thank them, again, for their continuing support of KDLA and the ARM Division.

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Longtime library patron Joey Couch of Louisville has used the service for about 30 years and enjoys the Kentucky Books.

“I am a big fan of the locally recorded books which focus on Kentucky’s history, heritage and culture. It is great that more and more of the locally recorded books are being uploaded on a national platform such as the NLS BARD website so that others can learn about Kentucky and get a glimpse into the state’s heritage,” Couch said.

In 1969, KTBL offered approximately 4,000 books on vinyl records that were mailed to patrons. In the last 50 years, modern technology has advanced and the library utilizes a system called duplication on demand that can store multiple books on a single cartridge. Library patrons can access talking books through electronic download to a single cartridge or smart phone, or traditional mail.

2018 Public Archives Symposium

The annual Public Archives Symposium, sponsored by the Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc. and the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, was held on October 18, 2018 at Georgetown College. Doug Boyd of the University of Kentucky was the featured speaker. Boyd discussed the open source Oral History Metadata Synchronizer (OHMS) system. His informative and insightful presentation ended with a wide-ranging question and answer session. Thanks to everyone who helped to make this year’s Public Archives Symposium a success.

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For The Record

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*For The Record is printed twice annually.
The Thirty-Fifth Annual Kentucky Archives Institute

Sponsored by:
Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc.
and
Archives and Records Management Division
Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

July 19, 2019

Activity Room, Second Floor, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

8:30 – 9:00 Registration
9:00 – 9:15 Welcome
Dave Schroeder, President, Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc.
9:15 – 10:15 “The Terrible Harpes: Mass Murder on the Kentucky Frontier!”
Jim Prichard, Historian, The Filson Historical Society
10:15 – 10:30 Break
10:30 – 11:30 DNA and Genealogy
Bridget Striker, Local History Coordinator, Boone County Public Library
11:30 – 12:30 Lunch
12:30 – 1:30 “Who Was on the Titanic? The Role of Passenger Lists in Genealogy Research”
Rosemary Meszaros and Katherine Pennavaria, Western Kentucky University
1:30 – 1:45 Break
1:45 – 3:15 Paper, Ephemera, and Documents OH MY! What to do with all the scary things in your collections.
Mary Girard, Assistant Reference Librarian, Boyle County Public Library
3:15 – 3:30 Closing Remarks/Questions/Program Evaluations

Please clip and mail the form below, along with registration fee(s), by July 12.
Space is limited to 50 attendees.
If you have any questions, please contact Renita Van at 502.564-1722 or Renita.Van@ky.gov.

Mail registration form with payment to: Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc.
Kentucky Archives Institute
P.O. Box 4224
Frankfort, KY 40604

Registration fee: $50 fee covers Institute materials and lunch.
Check here to reserve a vegetarian lunch. _____
Other Dietary Restrictions: ____________________________________________________________

Make checks payable to: Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc. (Fees are non-refundable.)

Name(s): __________________________________________________________________________
Address: ____________________________________________________________________________ City: ____________________________
State: __________________ Zip: __________________ Telephone: __________________________
Email Address: ____________________________________________
Derek Clark is the new manager of KDLA’s Electronic Records Branch. He was promoted on March 16, 2019. Derek has been with KDLA since 2015, serving as an archivist in the Archives Research Room, and most recently as the Electronic Records Analyst.

The Electronic Records Branch offers guidance to state and local agencies on preservation, digitization, storage systems, and records management, and performs digital preservation for permanent state records within the Kentucky State Digital Archives (KSDA). The branch assists the State and Local Records Branches with retention scheduling and records management training. Additionally, Derek will serve as the chair to the Electronic Records Working Group (ERWG).

Derek holds a Master’s in Library and Information Science from the University of Kentucky, and a Bachelor’s in English from Marshall University. Originally, from Ohio, he has resided in Lexington, KY for over a decade.

Bronwyn (Wyn) Schell is the new librarian in the Archives Research Room, beginning March 16, 2019. She assists the public with records research and requests. She also works to provide training and webinars to public library staff and state employees. She works on special projects within KDLA’s collections.

Wyn has worked in various information-centric positions over the years, including IT, museums, public archives, libraries, and special collections. Wyn holds a B.A. in History with honors from the University of New Mexico, and a B.S. in Archaeology. She holds a M.S. in Information Sciences from the University of Illinois, with a special certificate in Archival Studies. Wyn came to Kentucky from Illinois, where she most recently worked for the Woodstock Public Library. She has lived in both Mexico and Costa Rica at various times. She currently lives in Lexington.

Robin Smith became the new Archivist I in KDLA’s Research Room on April 1, 2019. Robin has been with the Department since September 2006, serving as a Technician in the Preservation Lab and as an Administrative Specialist to the Archival Services Branch.

Staff of the Archives Research Room work with visitors, by phone and mail, to access KDLA’s county, circuit, and governmental agency records. Robin processes all incoming requests, arranges, and indexes original court records.

Robin has a Master’s in Library Science as well as a B.A. in Journalism, both from the University of Kentucky. She is a life-long native of Kentucky and is a resident of Franklin County.

Available at the Kentucky State Archives

We are pleased to announce that copies of the 1966 Kentucky death certificates are available from the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives. This year, and moving forward, they will only be available in digital format. The cost of each set is $100.00, and will be sent on a DVD or flash drive, depending on your preference. To order, please contact Renita Van at 502-564-1722 or renita.van@ky.gov.

Copies of individual records can still be ordered online: https://secure.kentucky.gov/KDLA/Default.aspx.

The Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc. is a not for profit membership organization of private citizens concerned with helping the Archives and Records Management Division of Kentucky’s Department for Libraries and Archives fulfill its role as a vital information link between people and government. The Friends’ organization supports the management, preservation, and use of Kentucky’s historic public records and serves as an advocate for the Kentucky State Archives, which the division manages. For further information, contact the Friends at P.O. Box 4224, Frankfort, KY 40604.

PUBLIC ARCHIVES SYMPOSIUM

Please mark your calendars for the Public Archives Symposium, scheduled for October 2019. More information on the Symposium will be in the next issue of “For the Record.”
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KDLA Introduces New Archives Research Room Scanning Equipment

Visitors to the Archives Research Room at the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA) will notice a new tool available for their use. KDLA recently purchased a UScan+ HD microform scanner. With the UScan+ HD, you can create digital images from microfilm. This option is wonderful for some of the poorer microfilm in the Research Room; no more making paper copy after paper copy searching for a legible print. Now you can make a digital image and edit the image at home. It also works with microfiche cards. Flash drives are available for purchase and are required for use with the new machine. Staff are in the process of making a second UScan+ HD machine available for public. Stop by the Research Room and try it out!
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