

How has the current economic climate affected your library service?

We lost 2 staff members and .4% of our overall budget.

We are short on staff.

The board does not want to spend money even if the library needs it. This mindset is paralyzing decision making.

We are buried in patrons who need help filling out applications on computers.

We wanted to hire 1.5 staff but that will not happen. Staff are having to multi-task and get their hands dirty.

We are seeing laid-off people in our library in spite of our town having a reputation as being a wealthy town.

More people are borrowing books instead of buying them.

There is an undercurrent of social networking between people.

We overhear patrons asking each other if they still have jobs.

The board is only spending money on continuing services.

We are becoming the local video rental place.

We are issuing a lot of new cards

Public computers are being used for job searches and unemployment filings.

Patronage has increased, but we are not sure there is a correlation with the economy.

We are decreasing our hours: 6 less per week.

Circulation has increased.

A lot of people with low pc skills are using public internet computers to look for jobs or filing unemployment. We are having trouble freeing up personnel time to help them.

Staff are providing a lot of "daycare."

ILL's are increasing at the same time postage is increasing.

Staff spend a lot of time cleaning up after children whose parents are using the computers.

We are seeing a different type of clientele from the one we have always seen. The new clientele is more blue collar.

Municipalities are the last in the chain to feel the effects of economic downturns. We have not noticed it yet.

Circulation has increased.

Public computers are busy all of the time.

We have ordered new books on resumes and job searches.

Book club people are now coming to the library instead of buying books. We imagine that we will see less book donations from members.

ILL has increased.

People are reading newspapers in the library.

DVDs are popular. Patrons reported seeing on Oprah that public libraries have DVDs.

Circulation in 2008 was up 10%.

We are trying to be conservative for next year. But public libraries are always trying to save money.

Book club members have dropped their subscriptions and are now using the library.

Computers are busy.



Mondays are busy with people filing unemployment.
ILL tripled in 2008—more of our collection made it on to the KLC.
We are spending more money on copier toner and paper.
We have an increase in test proctoring.
Circulation, ILL and computer usage are all up.
Not a lot yet.
We have not seen anything yet.
The local school district is cutting back on remedial reading.
It's too early to tell, we have not seen the full impact yet.
Circulation has risen by 1000.
Circ has increased by 1000.
Library usage has increased.
Circulation has actually decreased. Or, it has at least not grown appreciably.
Circulation, ILL and proctoring requests have all increased.
We have not had a huge circulation increase, but 2008 ILL has been the biggest yet.

What budget cuts have you already had and what cuts do you anticipate?

Besides state aid?

We used state aid for materials so our materials budget will decrease.

We are closed more often.

The value of mils dropped in 2008.

Our Summer Reading Program budget was cut substantially.

Line items have been cut, which has complicated things.

None. We have been fine so far. Our city actually had underpaid the library in past years.

None yet.

We cut an evening hour.

We forced a materials cutback due to an automation switch.

We suspect a shortage in the county-wide outreach program. Our city will not make up the shortfall.

We expect less Summer Reading Program donations, at the same time as having more kids.

We do not have local businesses that can donate.

Reduce spending on magazines and children's books as we used state aid for those.

Technology will be cut.

We cannot cut back any further on the maintenance of our old building.



What are you doing to position your library during this economic downturn? Do you have any suggestions?

We made contact with the workforce people and offered them the use our community room.
The rotation period for outreach books has been extended.
Use donations more—including in the book sale.
Partner with the local community college to offer courses on computers.
Volunteers do almost everything.
We are decreasing the length of summer reading program.
A class on frugal living—like coupon cutting.
We are increasing an evening presence in order to make our library accessible to larger numbers of people. We are a bedroom community.
Lease hot titles.
Use donations of popular titles for multiple copies.
Focus on the people.
We are going to provide dollar amounts of the materials at check out during National Library Week.
Cut magazine subscriptions.
Prepare for the minimum wage increase.
Do not overlap LP titles.
Maybe cut magazine subscriptions.
Get a friends group going.
Use a photo story—like the one demonstrated at the SCKLS Summer Reading Program workshop.
Be more creative with programming.
Do more partnered programming.
Utilize SCKLS services more efficiently.
Dropped our business memberships like SAM's.
Dropped ALA membership.
Become choosier on book titles.
Maybe add Saturday hours.
We could close one hour earlier.
Decrease book budget some.
Be careful on supplies.
Not rehire replacement employees.
We hired someone through SWEP program.
Keep our book buying down.
Cut magazines.
Board members are helping work library hours.
Alternate buying with the school district—coordinate purchasing.
Keep the lights off until just before opening.
List the prices of new books and post it in the library.



What promotions have you done or do you have planned?

I am involved with the Chamber of Commerce.

Give tours to classes

Posters

Give circulation numbers to the city manager to keep them informed.

Go to other fund raisers in town

Spoke to Lions Club

Our children's librarian visits the preschools.

Articles in the local paper.

We pursued movie licensing so we can show movies to the public.

Put a bookmark in ILL requests that states how much the service costs.

Golf tournament.

Partner with the Methodist church to pay half of UMW books.

Rotary club provides bags for the homebound.

School newsletter

Local TV and newspaper PSAs

Website

I have promotional material that I take to philanthropic clubs like Lions, Rotary.

We have a handout about the value of the library.

Have your board help advocate for you.

Have open and transparent communication with the city.

Work with city government to show how the library can effect economic development.

Find the active core of your community.

In our bigger community, we cannot just rely on word of mouth.

We are a good partner with the county extension office.

Have a coupon basket in the library.

Promote inexpensive recipes—purchase cookbooks that do the same.

Newsletter in the city water bill.

Articles in the local paper.

We placed an ad on the local Dillon's pharmacy bags that lists our hours and contact information.

Go to other businesses that other groups do not always hit up, like lawyers.

We offer basic computer skills lessons to seniors.

Local cable advertising.

We need to do more promotions.

No-show Flower show where we send a bag of seeds to encourage people to donate to the library, but stay home. You could also do a no-show tea party.

Smart card.

Easter Egg hunt at the Library that the local paper will promote.

We have hosted job fairs in the meeting room.

Worked with the humane society.

We bought a Nintendo Wii and formed a game club.



Library book carts in the local parade.
Weekly column in the local paper.
Facebook pages
The local computer dealer will offer free classes
Kansas Humanities Council program
Use the city marquee and the city TV channel.
Post in the local paper.
Using free local programming, like a mime group.
Using a city auction "Purple Wave" to raise money
Free computer classes to fill the gap between learning on your own and paying for instruction at the local college.
Film class
Have an art car in the local parade, pending donation

Participating Libraries

Andover Public Library
Arkansas City Public Library
Augusta Public Library
Bradford Memorial Library
Clearwater Public Library
Derby Public Library
Douglass Public Library
Edna Buschow Memorial Library
Goddard Public Library
Halstead Public Library
Hawker Beechcraft Engineering Library (non-member)
Hutchinson Public Library
Kingman Carnegie Library
McConnell Air Force Base Library
Towanda Public Library
Udall Public Library
Wellington Public Library
Winfield Public Library

