

SYSTEM DIRECTOR – NORTHEAST KANSAS LIBRARY SYSTEM

The Executive Board of the Northeast Kansas Library System (headquartered in Lawrence, KS), seeks an experienced library leader to manage a fourteen county multi-type library system that inspires and empowers member libraries to engage, educate and add value to their communities, as its next **System Director**. Duties include management of planning, fiscal, personnel, service functions, and legislative advocacy.

The Northeast Kansas Library System. NEKLS, (nekls.org), is one of the seven Kansas regional systems, is a multi-type library system and works in partnership with its 117 member libraries providing unique and innovative services. With a \$3.7 million annual budget (funded primarily from local property taxes) and 10 FTE system staff, NEKLS serves a 14 county region (more than 40% of Kansas population). Member libraries range from small, rural libraries to very large, urban libraries. NEKLS is a member-focused organization with a reputation for being an incubator for statewide projects, for providing excellent continuing education opportunities for member library directors, trustees and staff, and for strong outreach services to its diverse membership, including support for innovative technologies. Key projects include Next (an open source ILS), Recollections Kansas (a digitization project), KLOW (KS Libraries on the Web), Kansas Library Express (the statewide courier service), and the accreditation and grant program for member libraries.

Lawrence. Outstanding cultural and recreational opportunities abound in Lawrence, KS, a vibrant college town. Home to the University of Kansas and Haskell Indian Nations University, there are approximately 95,000 residents. Biking trails, golf courses, nearby lakes and natural wetlands provide outdoor recreation and relaxation. Boasting local galleries, museums, and bookstores, the city is known for its focus on the arts and cultural events. Opportunities to enjoy music, theatre, summer festivals, local food and visual arts are numerous. Massachusetts Street offers shopping, dining and entertainment and is known as one of the most vibrant downtown districts in the Midwest. Combining small-town livability with big-name events and attractions, Lawrence also boasts outstanding public and private schools and quality health care facilities. Lawrence has received recognition as one of the nation's best small towns for the arts, for college basketball, and to start a business, as well as one of the most "unique and best-preserved communities in America."

Responsibilities. The System Director, under the direction of the 18-member Executive Board, has overall responsibility for leadership and management of a fourteen county multi-type library system that seeks to pursue leadership and innovation in library service. Duties will include management of planning, budgets, personnel, service functions, and legislative advocacy. The System Director works with the Board, staff, member libraries, other Kansas systems, and the State Library to establish the strategic vision for the System, aligning its mission with member library needs and priorities. The Director will also ensure an active NEKLS presence in the statewide library community and professional activities.

Qualifications. Master of Library Science degree from a library science program accredited by the American Library Association, and a minimum of five years of progressively responsible administrative experience, ten years preferred. Experience in regional library systems or consortia is preferred. Demonstrated ability to prioritize and manage multiple projects, reports, evaluation, ongoing activities, and committee activities using effective planning and organizational skills. Demonstrated ability to mediate differences among members and evaluate diverse needs of members using creative and effective solutions. Willingness and flexibility to work irregular hours and to travel for extended periods as required by the needs of the system. Experience with library trends and issues; computer skills including spreadsheets, accounting software, and remote-access technologies. Bonding required.

Compensation. The hiring salary range is **\$85,000 - \$100,000**, (based on experience and qualifications), with an excellent benefits package.

For further information, visit <https://www.nekls.org/system-director-search-2020/>. Apply by October 22nd, 2020 for first consideration.