

The Northeast Kansas Library System (NEKLS) is a vital partner and resource for participating libraries, particularly public libraries.

Grants

Grants from NEKLS enable libraries to enhance collections, programs and services; and support employee and trustee continuing education.

Library Development Grant

Library Development Grants recognize libraries for accomplishing a rigorous set of library standards. This grant is typically the largest single grant to a member library.

Continuing Education Grant

Grants are available for educational programs that are not provided directly by NEKLS. Grant funds are allocated for library conferences and other continuing education activities.

Mileage Reimbursement Grant for Summer Performers

Provide up to \$250 per library for Summer Library Performer mileage expenses.

Library Giving Day Matching Grant

In 2025, NEKLS matched 1:1 dollars raised by participating public libraries in an effort to encourage philanthropic giving to public libraries.

Courier Subsidies

Kansas Library Express (KLE), the statewide courier service, is the critical linkage that allows libraries of all sizes and types to meet the information needs of their patrons, at a fraction of the cost compared to U.S. Postal Service Library Mail shipping rates.

NEKLS heavily subsidizes the courier base rate and covers volume charges in order to make this service affordable for libraries.

Courier by the numbers in Kansas in 2025

366

Number of libraries on the courier state wide

72,834

Monthly average number of items on the courier

\$1.12

Average cost per item shipped

**** In 2025, shipping a book using USPS Library Mail **
started at \$4.17 for a 1 lb. package**

Direct Subsidies

Many participating public libraries benefit from one or more direct subsidies.

Architectural Services Eliminated for 2027

Libraries must apply. Provided funds remain available throughout the year, NEKLS pays up to \$3,000 for a library to consult with an architect.

APPLE

APPLE (APplied Public Library Education) is a training program for public library directors in Kansas. NEKLS covers the cost for enrollment and lodging, meals and mileage for any required events.

E-Rate management services

Some libraries participate in the federal E-Rate Program. NEKLS partners with eRate Solutions LLC to help member libraries navigate the application process. NEKLS covers the cost of eRate Solutions' services.

Public computer stability – Deep Freeze

Deep Freeze protects endpoints by Freezing a snapshot of a computer's desired configuration and settings defined by the IT Admin. With an instant reboot, any unwelcome or unwanted changes are removed from the system, restoring it to its pristine Frozen state. NEKLS provides up to 20 seats per library.

Antivirus protection for computers – ESET

Computers need to be protected from viruses. NEKLS provides up to 20 seats per library.

Web Content Filtering – Cisco Umbrella

This web content filtering tool ensures public libraries are compliant with The Kansas Children's Internet Protection Act (KS-CIPA). NEKLS covers this cost for the library.

Annual Public Performance Site Licensing

An Annual Public Performance Site License allows you to legally show as many movies as you want anywhere inside your library for endless entertainment. NEKLS covers this cost for the library.

Kansas Libraries on the Web (KLOW)

NEKLS hosts some library websites.

Indirect Subsidies

In some instances, NEKLS provides support that has the potential to benefit all member libraries. The following areas may or may not have been used by area libraries and patrons.

Cloud Library, State Library of Kansas

NEKLS purchased titles directly for the Cloud Library. This content is available to all library patrons in the NEKLS region.

OCLC WorldCat (ILL)

Used by NEKLS to assist libraries when items are not available through ShareIt (statewide ILL).

Recollections Kansas

Website hosting and training on use of hardware and software. NEKLS partners with other entities, including regional library systems, to offer this program.

Next Shared Catalog

The success of Next is a group effort. Libraries that are members of the Next Shared Catalog pay participation fees. NEKLS subsidizes the remaining costs associated with Next.

Next Regional Catalog Resources:

- ***Flipster*** is a next-generation digital magazine distribution service which lets users access their favorite magazines. Users can download these magazines to read offline - anytime, anywhere. Some participating libraries purchase titles or provide funds for titles.
- ***NoveList*** connects users of the Next Catalog to their next great read. NEKLS covers the entire cost for NoveList.
- ***Aspen Discovery*** provides a user-friendly interface for patrons to search and access library resources. This integration creates a seamless discovery experience, bringing together various resources like books, e-books, and more into one place.

ByWater Solutions: *Provides hosting, support services and KOHA developments.*

Continuing Education & Training

Throughout the year, NEKLS offers continuing education and professional development opportunities for library staff and trustees, nearly always free of charge.

NEKLS delivered 16 major continuing education events in 2025, all provided at no cost to attendees. Highlights included *Libraries in Action: What's the big AI-dea?* and *The Library: A Community Asset in Disaster Preparedness, Response and Recovery*, led by Jessi Harris.

NEKLS produces ***Unbound: The NEKLS Podcast***, which is the official NEKLS audio series hosted by staff members Dan Alexander and Anna Foote. The discussion explores regional library topics, interviews local information professionals, and covers subjects like makerspaces, teen services, and library design.

In addition, NEKLS supports additional learning opportunities annually, from one-on-one consultations to just-in-time virtual trainings. In every format, our aim remains the same: to equip and uplift the people who power our libraries.

Consulting Services

NEKLS provides consulting services to member libraries. Any mix of NEKLS staff could be involved. This service is provided free of charge.

Consulting topics include:

ADA Assessment & Planning	Leadership
Adult Services & Programming	Library Management & Operations
Advocacy	Marketing
Board Development & Training	New Director Orientation
Budget & Finances	Policies & Procedures
Children's Services & Programming	Privacy & Confidentiality
Collection Development / Weeding	Public Relations
Community Engagement	Readers' Advisory
Copyright	Space Planning
Data Mapping (Policy Map)	Staff Development
E-Rate	Strategic Planning
Fundraising / Grants	Technical Services
Human Resources	Technology
Intellectual Freedom	
Kansas Library Statute	
KOMA & KORA	

IT Support by Service Level

Depending on a library's accredited service level, IT staff support is provided by NEKLS.

This service is provided free of charge. (Libraries are charged for any purchased equipment placed in the library.)

Desktop support

E-Rate support

Software purchasing

Software installation

Network support

Hardware purchasing

Hardware installation

Technology planning

Other Benefits

- ✓ Access to the NEKLS professional library collection
- ✓ Access to the online Learning Management System, providing on-demand access to resources and recorded training
- ✓ Access to NEKLS-L discussion lists for directors and staff
- ✓ Access to bulk purchasing
- ✓ Access to Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) materials bulk ordering
- ✓ Access to Ellison die cuts
- ✓ Northeast Kansas Library Foundation
- ✓ Northeast Kansas Library Foundation – Library Giving Day

