

KAN-ED BIENNIAL  
EVALUATION REPORT  
DECEMBER 2010

## *Kansas Reads to Preschoolers* Reaches Kids Across the State Through the Kan-ed Video Network

Kan-ed — Where Kansans Access the Information Age

Dodge City Public Library  
Serves: 25,750 patrons  
Kan-ed member since:  
October 15, 2002

Northwest Kansas Library System  
Serves: 29,605 patrons  
Kan-ed member since:  
February 17, 2003

Salina Public Library  
Serves: 46,500 patrons  
Kan-ed member since:  
November 6, 2002

Newton Public Library  
Serves: 18,000 patrons  
Kan-ed member since:  
December 10, 2002

Lane County Library  
Serves: 1,750 patrons  
Kan-ed member since:  
October 21, 2002

On November 18, 2009, Kansas Center for the Book, in partnership with Manhattan Public Library and North Central Kansas Library System, brought author Doreen Cronin to Kansas for *Kansas Reads to Preschoolers*. While Cronin was at the Manhattan Public Library, she presented her book, *Wiggle*, to children in several libraries across Kansas using Enhanced Public Library Meeting Room (ELMeR) videoconferencing technology provided through the Kan-ed network.

Videoconferencing is a telecommunication technology that allows two or more sites or locations to interact using two-way video and audio transmissions. Currently, Kan-ed offers its members the ability to connect to the Advanced Virtual Private Network (AVPN) in order to access videoconferencing across the network. This allows members to connect with one another, attend events such as *Kansas Reads to Preschoolers* and other programs that are not readily available in their area.

Cronin's program was broadcast to Dodge City Public Library, Northwest Kansas Library System in Norton, Salina Public Library, Newton Public Library, and Lane County Library in Dighton. Seventy-seven children were in attendance during the afternoon session at Manhattan Public Library, with an estimated 1,000 children reached through videoconferencing at the other locations. The author encouraged all children to participate in the movements described in the story as she read.

The large turnout for Cronin's presentation was a pleasant surprise, according to Roy Bird, Director of Kansas Center for the Book. He said, "...the second largest turnout for Doreen Cronin was the ELMeR presentation. We thought there would be a handful of folks there at best. We really didn't anticipate a large number of kids at all." Bird is motivated to use videoconferencing due to the larger audience that can be reached. He shared, "The alternative would be sending a scholar or an author to every town or every community that has a library. We can't do that. We don't have the time or the money...but we can, through videoconferencing, reach out to twice as many, or maybe even more than that."

Phone: 785-296-0843  
Email: [kan-ed@ksbor.org](mailto:kan-ed@ksbor.org)  
<http://www.kan-ed.org>

*Kansas  
Center for the Book's  
vision:*

*"To stimulate public  
interest in the  
educational and cultural  
role of the book;  
authorship and writing;  
literacy; and the  
promotion of reading and  
libraries."*

**Kan-ed**

