



Announcement

| March 18, 2020

Courier Suspended due to COVID-19

In consultation with the State Library, a decision was made Monday, March 16 to shut down the statewide courier service until further notice. This followed closing announcements from dozens of libraries throughout the state and the wider MALA service area. There just weren't enough participating libraries remaining open to warrant the continuation of service. This also applies to our out-of-state courier partnerships like COKAMO and Trans-Amigos Express. Courier service is expected to resume when libraries re-open in April.

Courier Q&A

Q: For those of us open (at least as of right now), do you have any guidelines on how we are to handle materials? Are we just stockpiling until service resumes or should we mail?

A: If you mail materials, they will arrive at libraries that are most likely closed. That means they are going to sit in the mail drop area, or at the post office. If you keep them at your library, at least you will know they are safe. Setting materials aside during the isolation period also means no one is touching them, and there is zero risk of contamination.

Q: Can we still send materials to out-of-state partners in Colorado and Wyoming via COKAMO?

A: Short answer, no, not via courier. Jim Duncan, the Executive Director the Colorado Library Consortium, says most public libraries in Colorado have moved into either full closure or hybrid (closed to the public, but continuing to resource share and maintain back-office operations) mode. Here's a link to the updated list of Colorado library closings: <https://www.clicweb.org/library-closures-covid-19/>

Q: Is the courier service in Kansas still running?

A: No. Monday, March 16 is the last day that the KLE Courier will be running for at least two weeks. Here is a link to current library closings throughout the state of Kansas <https://kslib.info/1438/Library-Closings>
There is a 'courier' column shown, but no library will be receiving KLE Courier service during this time.

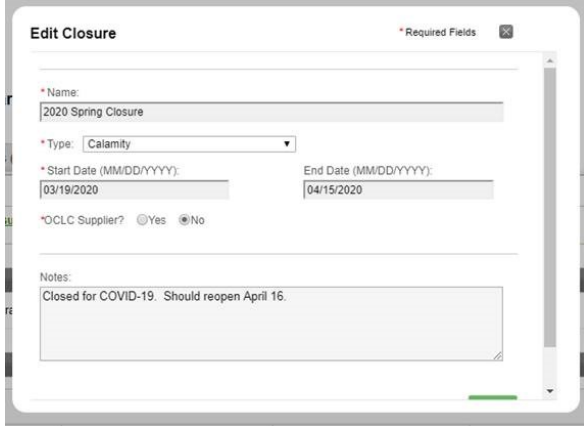
COVID-19 and OCLC Lending

Peter Collins, the Director of Resource Sharing at OCLC, recently sent this message to members:

As the global community continues to monitor the impact of COVID-19, many libraries are be facing closures or other reductions in service. Your library may already be reviewing its plans and procedures. Many of you have reached out to your peers or to OCLC.

We are here to help. OCLC has created a list of possible actions for libraries to consider. Each library's situation is different, so please take advantage of this information to create, enhance, or revise your local plan: OCLC Services & COVID-19: <https://www.oclc.org/content/dam/oclc/COVID-19-OCLC-Services.pdf>

Note: It's important to extend your loan periods and request extensions of your borrowing periods from ILL partners. MALA recommends that you be proactive and extend loan periods for all materials in circulation by 45-60 days.



Edit Closure * Required Fields

* Name:
2020 Spring Closure

* Type: Calamity

* Start Date (MM/DD/YYYY): 03/19/2020 End Date (MM/DD/YYYY): 04/15/2020

* OCLC Supplier? Yes No

Notes:
Closed for COVID-19. Should reopen April 16.

All OCLC libraries should go [online](#) and set a Closure in the OCLC Policies Directory. Choose NO as a supplier unless your staff will continue working as normal.

Transitions

Kari Sime at Johnson County Library is retiring March 20. She sends her thanks to the MALA ILL community, and to the libraries she has worked with in her long career. Please join me in wishing Kari a wonderful retirement. Thank you for all you have done, Kari. We will miss you.

Senior Library Assistant Gavin Thomas passed away in January. He spent 28 years with the Wichita Public Library and was serving as the Interlibrary Loan Librarian.

I will be retiring at the end of this year. My time at MALA has been rewarding and productive. I look forward to seeing my successor continue the tradition of service to libraries that has been the mission of MALA since its founding as the Kansas City Metropolitan Library Network back in 1978. Anyone interested in applying for the Executive Director position should contact MALA board president [Jennifer Mahnken](#).

Still Coming Soon – MO-ILL

The rollout of the MALA ILL discussion list, MO-ILL has been delayed due to the courier suspension. MO-ILL is an unmoderated, general mailing list for library staff to discuss concerns, issues, procedures, policies, etc. around interlibrary loan in Missouri and the region. It is recommended for all current ILL staff, and is open to anyone wishing to join. We'll get it up and running in early April. I hope ILL practitioners throughout the region will join the list and participate in discussions about improving resource sharing.

This service is supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Missouri State Library, a division of the Office of the Secretary of State.



Missouri Secretary of State
State Library