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Driving Towards New Frontiers

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Driving Towards New Frontiers

Abstract

Introduction to the 2013 CULS Proceedings from the current CULS President.



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Driving Towards New Frontiers

Driving Towards New Frontiers

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Greetings,

This past fall the 2012 Annual Fall Conference of the Kansas Library Association – College and University Libraries Section returned to Dodge City for the first time in over ten years. The theme for the conference, *Driving Towards New Frontiers*, reflected many aspects of the conference. One of the most obvious was the well-known history of Dodge City being a major location for commerce in the Old West, specifically the cowboys and cattlemen who drove their herds to Dodge for shipment by rail to the east. This history contains many world renown individuals, including Bat Masterson, Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday, whom made an appearance at the conference's membership luncheon thanks in part to living historian Marc Ferguson's excellent performance.

While Dodge's history is clear to see in the theme, there were other, perhaps subtler meanings behind it as well. Academic librarians from all areas are entering numerous new frontiers: born-digital information, open source repositories, massive open online courses and other aspects of the new digital age, to say nothing of the unknown financial futures most libraries face at this present time. Yet these academic librarians from all across Kansas made the trip to Dodge to share their knowledge and expertise, as well as seeking to expand their personal and professional repertoire. The academic libraries and librarians of Kansas drive forward into the unknown of these untested, untouched frontiers, blazing trails for the people we serve, as well as our profession's future, to continue on to newer, more exciting worlds.

A sample of these journeys that were traveled at the conference is shown in these pages, and we hope that they assist you in your future adventures, both professional and personal.

Thank you, and good luck.