



Southeast Signal

News, Events, and Information from Around the System

From the Director



“There’s a serendipity to real life that the Internet can’t duplicate. Do you use the library? For anything? Well, sometimes you end up picking up the book next to the one you were looking for, and it’s

that book that changes your life.”

— Laura Lippman

There’s something there in the quote above. Almost all the internet is now run through various algorithms that direct you to something that it thinks you want or need. Online stores, video streaming services, web search sites, social media feeds – most of them rely heavily on processes that suggest the next thing for you to buy or watch or filter out what they think would be unwanted by your previous activities with the site. To be honest – that’s not always a bad thing. In many cases it is a very good thing.

However – I will argue that it is often the unexpected and the “out-of-nowhere” discovery that sometimes makes the most impact on someone. This random thing comes with no expectations, no preconceived notions, just what feels like pure happenstance to create something interesting.

There’s a lot that a library does to help bring out that feeling of discovery. It can be very subtle things such as keeping the collection properly maintained by weeding, shifting, and general tidiness so there’s a greater chance of a hidden treasure being discovered in the stacks. This works in research focused libraries as well – as sometimes it is that book next to the one you found in the catalog that really has the path that someone’s research needs!

Book displays are another traditional way to increase this unintended discovery by our users. You could have displays themed by holidays, local activities, seasons, milestones, or just big broad themes such as “books with blue covers”.

Then there are some very non-subtle ways, such as the “blind date with a book” promotions where a random book is wrapped so the library user has no idea what the book being checked out actually is. Sometimes libraries do include the genre or theme of the book on the wrapping, others keep it blank.

One thing that I would suggest you keep in mind is that these little flights of fancy are done as an addition to whatever the patron came in to get, and not as a replacement. That helps minimize any disappointment if their random choice just isn’t the right fit for them.

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Calendar

February 14, Valentine's Day

International Book Giving Day

February 18, [Cataloging the Community](#), 10 am, p. 7

February 21, President's Day, SELS Office Closed

February 24, [CASTL, AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Program](#)

February 25, [Big Talk From Small Libraries](#), p. 5

February 27, National Polar Bear Day

March, National Craft Month

Women's History Month

March 1-7, Read an Ebook Week

March 2, National Read Across America Day

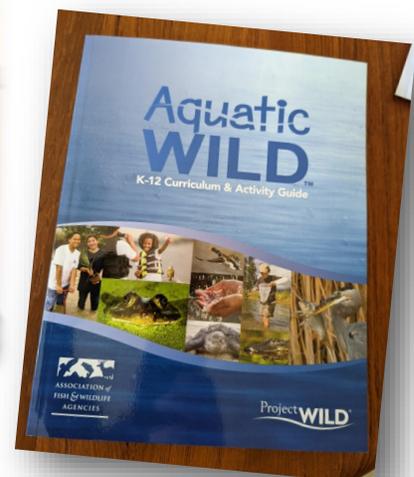
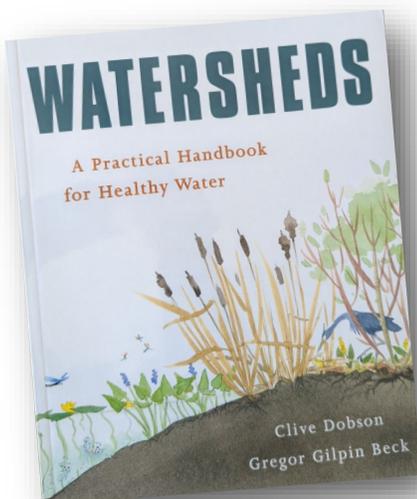
March 3, [NLA Advocacy Day](#), p. 6

March 4, Front Porch Award Application Deadline, p. 8

March 13, Daylight Saving Time Begins



Photos of the Month



On January 14 Grace Gaard from Nebraska Game and Parks held the Aquatic WILD workshop for us. All who participated live received two curriculum resources, full of lesson plans, information, and ideas for activities.

CASTL Wrap-up

Upcoming CASTL Meetings

February 24

Via Zoom

“AARP Foundation Property Tax-Aide Program ”

March 25

Via Zoom

“Severe Weather and Emergency Preparedness”

On January 27 our monthly CASTL was held via Zoom. Crystal Booker spoke on "ADA Considerations for Public Libraries and their Patrons." Crystal herself has used a wheelchair for almost 30 years and has spent the majority of her career in HR where she dealt with employment law and the rights and responsibilities of employers and employees. She was also formerly the Nebraska State Task Force ADA Coordinator. Crystal posed the question “Why do we care about ADA?” The answer is that nearly 1 in 5 Americans have disabilities, both visible and invisible.

The American with Disabilities Act was signed in 1990. It has several Titles, or sections. Title I covers employment. Title II covers government services and activities. Title III covers public activities. Title IV covers communications. And Title V covers miscellaneous items. Whether your library is covered under Title II or Title III depends on the source of your funding, but if you receive even partial government funding or grants, you will have Title II requirements. There is a higher standard for Title II, which means that you need to cover the needs of every disabled person. Because there are so many disabilities which are invisible, we have to realize that almost any person we encounter could potentially be disabled.

A reasonable modification can be anything that makes it possible for a specific person with a disability to participate in a specific program, service, or activity. You can say "no" to a specific request as long as you are doing so with appropriate justification, such as lack of staffing.

Some things we should be doing:

- Keeping walkways, aisles and ramps clear of obstacles.
- Asking individuals if they need assistance before helping them.
- Facing hearing-impaired persons so they can see you
- Speaking directly to the individual, not their companion or interpreter
- Refraining from petting, talking, or giving food to a service animal

It is important to realize that the disabled may not always realize that the requirements for different entities are not always the same. For examples, a landlord must allow a therapy dog but that is not required of libraries. Also, unruly dogs do not have to be allowed at all.

Crystal also answered a number of questions and provided further information. You can access her [handouts, PowerPoint Slides, and the recording here.](#)

Upcoming Basic Skills Courses

To see the list of basic skills classes, [click here](#). Here’s what’s coming up next:

Dates of Class	Topic	Registration
March 7—March 18	Library Governance	January 31—February 28
March 21—April 1	Library Technology	February 14—March 11
April 1—April 30	Introduction to Cataloging	February 21—March 18

News Around the System

First Saturday DIY Craft

Provided by Doug Howe

First Saturday's DIY Craft is a monthly program we put on at the Beatrice Library to provide the community with a fun and challenging activity for all ages to enjoy. These crafts are designed and prepared with the use of our library's Makerspace which offers a wide variety of equipment for patrons to be trained on and use including a laser cutter, 3D printer, embroidery machine, cricut, poster printer, vinyl cutter, heat press, CNC router (coming soon), and more.

The DIY Craft meets on the first Saturday of each month from 10:00AM - 11:30AM and is open to anyone who would like to participate. This month's DIY craft featured a Valentine Mailbox! With the use of our Cricut, patrons were able to cut out their template, decorate and assemble it in our Makerspace.



Library Journal Names 15 Star Libraries in Nebraska

For 14 years now *Library Journal* has been examining the data collected by the IMLS through the Public Library Survey (better known in Nebraska as Bibliostat, which is the name of the software used to collect the data) in order to award libraries "Star" recognition. The naming of the latest star libraries was based on the 2019 PLS, which represents the latest set of data.

Nebraska was home to 15 star libraries, exceeded only by the states of Ohio and New York. In the Southeast Library System, our star libraries were Central City Public Library (5 stars), Ashland Public Library (3 stars), and Wymore Public Library (3 stars). Other Nebraska libraries were Blair Public Library & Technology Center, Creighton Public Library, Hartington Public Library, John A Stahl Library, North Bend Public Library, Plainview Public Library, Springfield Memorial Library, Atkinson Public Library, McCook Public Library, Ravenna Public Library, Saint Paul Public Library, and Oakland Public Library. To read the article on star libraries, request it through our journal article service at selsne@gmail.com.



Other News

Big Talk From Small Libraries 2022

The conference, cosponsored by the Nebraska Library Commission and the American Association of Small and Rural Libraries, will be broadcast online on Friday, February 25, 2022 from 8:45 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Central Time, via the GoToWebinar online meeting service. [Register here!](#) Below is an outline of the day, and [more information is available online.](#)



8:45-9:00am. Welcome to the Conference & Introductions

9:00-9:50am. Genrefying the Small School Library

10:00-10:50am. Ditching Dewey

11:00-11:50am. Crystal Queer: Creating Clearly Supportive and Inclusive Libraries for Communities of All

Sizes.



12:00-12:50pm – Lightning Round!



- **“We are Left Out!”: An Example on How to Engage Virtual and On Campus Students Equally**
- **Finding the Gold in the Garbage: Adventures in Reorganizing a Genealogy Room.**
- **ALL for Fun: Programming for People With Developmental Disabilities**
- **Small Staff, Big Personalities – Managing Conflict in a Small Library**

1:00-1:50pm. Citation Instruction & Support at a Small Academic Library

2:00-2:50pm. Robust Programming Made Easy

3:00-3:50pm. Food in the Library: Reading & Feeding Your Community

4:00-4:50pm. Stealth in Your Library – Small Changes to Better Serve Marginalized Communities



Other News

Join us for the 2022 NLA Advocacy Day!

Thursday, March 3, 2022

The Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel
333 S 13th Street - Lincoln

9:00 - 10:30 AM - ARBOR I & II - LINCOLN MARRIOTT CORNHUSKER

LIBRARIES AT THE STATEHOUSE: LIBRARY LEGISLATIVE DAY KICKOFF

Legislative Day offers a unique opportunity to showcase the work of libraries to elected officials and their staff. This session will help you leverage your expertise and experience for advocacy that yields results for libraries, librarians, and the communities you serve. We'll talk about fine tuning messages, sharing stories, responding to opposition, and cultivating relationships for short and long-term advocacy wins.

Megan Murray Cusick, MLIS, Deputy Director, State Advocacy, Public Policy & Advocacy, American Library Association (ALA)

**ALA presenters will be presenting "live" virtually to in person attendees at the Cornhusker*

10:30 - 10:45 AM

HOW TO MEET WITH YOUR STATE SENATOR - NLA LOBBYIST FIRM REMBOLT LUDTKE

10:45 - 11:00 AM

DESIGNATED TIME FOR VISITS AT THE NEBRASKA STATE CAPITOL BUILDING ON YOUR OWN

11:50 - 1:30 PM

ANNUAL ADVOCACY DAY LUNCHEON - ARBOR I & II - LINCOLN MARRIOTT CORNHUSKER

OUTSTANDING LIBRARY VOLUNTEER RECOGNITIONS

2022 NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE SESSION BRIEFING WITH NLA LOBBYIST FROM REMBOLT LUDTKE FIRM

[CLICK HERE TO NOMINATE 2022 OUTSTANDING LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS!](#)

Don't forget to make contact with your Senator to extend a personal invitation to lunch! [CLICK HERE](#) if you do not know your Legislative District. For a complete list of Nebraska State Senators and their contact information, [CLICK HERE](#).

Tickets

\$35.00 NLA Member Ticket - good for 1 lunch ticket

\$35.00 Guest Ticket - good for 1 lunch ticket (NE Senator, guests of award recipient, any other NON NLA Member should choose this option)

Register [at https://nebraskalibraries.org/meet-reg1.php?id=47](https://nebraskalibraries.org/meet-reg1.php?id=47). You do not have to be a member of the Nebraska Library Association to attend!

Cataloging the Community

with Jamie LaRue

It's smart for libraries to understand the environment in which they operate. But assessing community needs can be expensive, complex, and, all too often, confusing. Former library director and current consultant Jamie LaRue will describe a staff-led community interview process that has been field-tested and proven to yield real results.

This activity is supported in part with funding from the State of Nebraska and the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provision of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.



FEB 18 • 10 AM VIA ZOOM
[REGISTER HERE!](#)



Southeast Library System Front Porch Award Application

The Front Porch Award is presented to a library (academic, institutional, public or school) that displays ingenuity in creating an atmosphere that welcomes patrons to their facility and services. This award and \$100 will be presented during National Library Week, April 3-9, 2022, or at a time of the library's choosing. Non-accredited libraries are welcome to apply.

Enclose the following with your nomination:

Name of Library: _____

Name of Individual Submitting the Application: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

- In 250 words or less, state why your library deserves this award.
- Information about activities/programs you have developed for your library.
- Two letters of recommendation from any library supporter.
- Any other information that shows your library deserves this award.

Nominations must be submitted to:

Southeast Library System

5730 R St. Ste. C-1

Lincoln, NE 68505

selsne@gmail.com

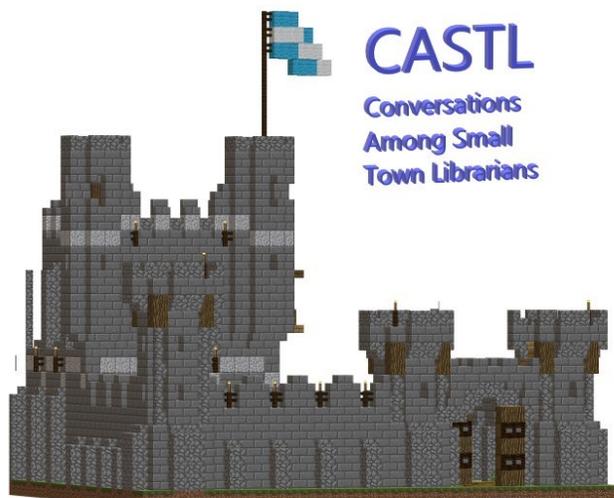
Application deadline is March 4, 2022

System Spotlight

CASTL

CASTL is a monthly meeting where public library directors can get together and learn from one another. Officially known as “Conversations Among Small Town Librarians,” each meeting has a themed discussion or presentation. There is also a round-robin discussion where everyone can share what’s going on at their library, ask questions, and talk about solutions to issues in a confidential setting.

CASTL offers you a monthly break from your library and wonderful support from your fellow directors. For information on upcoming CASTL meetings, check page three of this newsletter and sign up for the CASTL email list by contacting Todd at todd.schlechte.sels@gmail.com. In February and March CASTL meetings will be online. Soon after that we hope to get back to meeting in person again.



Southeast Library System

<http://libraries.ne.gov/SELS/>

Butler • Clay • Fillmore • Gage • Hamilton • Jefferson • Johnson • Lancaster • Merrick • Nemaha • Nuckolls •
Otoe • Pawnee • Polk • Richardson • Saline • Saunders • Seward • Thayer • York

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