

From the Director



As many of you are going through the process of opening or adjusting your initial reopening practices, policies and protocols, you may be dealing with some pushback from people who have some confusion about

how the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) affect such things.

First - HIPAA doesn't really play into this particular discussion at all. HIPAA is for the healthcare industry and is focused on healthcare/medical information about the person in those industries. It does not regulate things like restricting the amount of people entering a building, or closing the restrooms.

Second - While it is true that there may be some cases where a person actually might not be able to comply with some of your restrictions due to a disability and therefore be protected by the ADA, this still does not necessarily mean you have to allow the person to ignore your policies.

What you are required to do in these cases is to provide a reasonable modification so they can benefit from the services being provided. That could be similar to what some libraries did when their building was closed to the public earlier in the year. For example - getting a list of materials the patron wants and then bringing those materials to them while they wait outside the building.

Another key item - These reasonable modifications are only for the services that that individual person needs them for. Patron A might need assistance getting books from high shelves, but they may not have anything preventing them from wearing a mask without difficulty. Therefore, they could possibly still be required to wear a mask while receiving other ADA accommodations.

On a similar note, you may have heard there are some people now trying to use cards or flyers with some vague legal threats that they found on the internet to try to get around wearing masks. The US Department of Justice Civil Rights Division (the federal agency who would deal with reported violations) issued this statement not long ago: https://www.ada.gov/covid-19_flyer_alert.html . More details can be found with a little bit of internet searching for "fake ADA mask card".

A really good write-up regarding ADA and Covid-19 can be found here: <https://www.adasoutheast.org/ada/publications/legal/ada-and-face-mask-policies.php>

(Disclaimer - I am not an attorney nor should the statements above be construed as legal advice for your specific situation. Consult your local legal representation for such.)

I know there is a lot more in play for many of you outside of what I wrote above. Community politics, mandates around funding, and even how hard your town got hit will affect what you actually are able to implement and have compliance around.

In this Issue:

Page 1—From the Director

Page 2—Calendar

Page 3-5—News Around the System

Pages 6—Flyer

Page 7—System Spotlight

Calendar

July 14, National Mac & Cheese Day

July 19, National Ice Cream Day

July 20, Moon Day

July 22, National Hammock Day

July 23, Gorgeous Grandma Day

July 24, [CASTL, Wahoo Public Library](#)

July 25, National Hire a Veteran Day

July 30, National Cheesecake Day

August, National Crayon Collection Month

International Peace Month

National Back to School Month

August 2, National Coloring Book Day

August 3, National Watermelon Day

August 6, National Wiggle Your Toes Day

August 7, National Water Balloon Day

August 9, National Book Lovers Day



Photo of the Month



A bulletin board at Lincoln's Gere Branch Library. —Photo by Sandra Wallick

News Around the System

Upcoming CASTL Meetings

July 24
Wahoo Public Library

August 27
Fairbury Public Library

September 25
Bruun Memorial Library
Humboldt

CASTL to Start Again...

We are going to try to restart CASTL again with our July 24th meeting in Wahoo.

If you don't think you are going to be comfortable attending an in person meeting at this point in time, please know that there is no pressure to do so. We are simply making the opportunity available.

We will space people out and everybody will be wearing masks (please bring yours!) in order to minimize any risk as much as possible.

For lunch, Denise has a Mexican restaurant in mind that has done a good job following the guidelines. Beyond that, there is the option to pick up food there or somewhere else to avoid eating in a restaurant, as well as bringing one's own lunch.

We have not yet decided on a theme for this CASTL, but since in many ways we are dipping our toes back into the water, the entire CASTL may have a round robin format.

So, for those who want to get back on the road and visit with colleagues in person, there is going to be a chance!

Also, we will start with the old CASTL schedule at the left and then get back to the libraries we missed. We will be watching the number of registrations as well to ensure that we can maintain healthy distances.

To register, please [click here](#).

Upcoming Basic Skills Courses

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

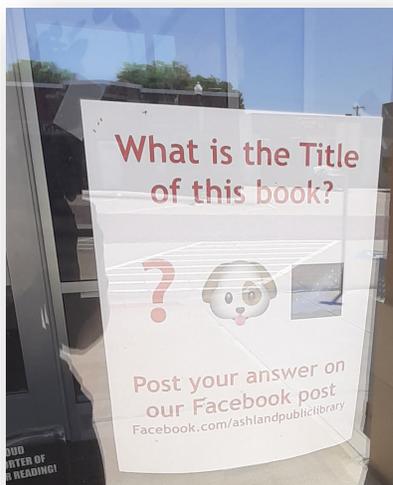
<u>Dates of Class</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Registration</u>
July 27—August 7	Library Policy	June 22 —July 17
August 17—August 28	Collection Management	July 13—August 7
August 31—September 11	Programming and Outreach	July 27—August 21

News Around the System

Ashland Public Library Adapts

By Amanda Peña

Since mid-March, Ashland Library has been providing Curbside Service to get books into the hands of our patrons, but we've had to find inventive ways to provide programming to our community. Our Youth Services Programmer Tanya has been using our windows to engage with our community this summer. We have a Look and Find Activity: a collection of pictures and objects displayed in our windows with a list of what they are trying to find. Other programs are Word Searches and Scavenger Hunts where patrons can walk to the library to engage with finding clues and objects around the library that they need to find. Ashland uses the Name this Book to have patrons access our social media pages to guess the answer, which has been very popular. Using window displays throughout the library allows the community to see what books are available for checkout. We are still closed, and the option to browse or provide in-person programming is unavailable, so we have used these methods to connect with our patrons.



News Around the System

Golden Sower Reading

Because of the current situation with the pandemic, we aren't able to host our Golden Sower Reading Day in Seward this year.

However, Becky Baker is willing to take appointments to come to Seward Memorial Library to read the picture books. Appointments are limited to one individual or group of individuals per day. Social distancing will be maintained within the library and masks are recommended.

You may contact Becky directly at Becky.Baker@sewardlibrary.org or 402-643-3318 to make an appointment. Be aware that voting ends August 16th.

Public Library staff may obtain 3 CE by signing a sheet after finishing with the reading of the books.

The SELS Office Expands

Story and photos by Todd Schlechte

Southeast Library System will be gaining a little more space in its meeting room; it is doubling in size. Still under construction, a photo of the new space is shown to the right. This is space that was vacated by a former tenant.

Since Southeast Library System had to move everything out of the old meeting room (so that it could be recarpeted with matching carpet), our offices are a bit crowded right now (also pictured).



September 3 | 1-4 PM

Via Zoom

Joint *Virtual* Youth Services Retreat

Presentations to include: YA Literature and Leadership, Lightning Rounds on top teen and children's books, Diversifying Children's Books in the Middle Grades, and an Author talk with Candace Fleming. With time afterwards for networking.

Register at <https://bit.ly/ysrvirtual>

System Spotlight

Scholarships

Did you know that the Southeast Library System provides scholarships to pay for registration and/or travel costs for continuing education events, course work in library science, and webinars?

Applicants must be residents of the area served by the Southeast Library System or work in a library within the System.

Preference is given to those who have not ever received a scholarship from SELS in the past, and to first-time attendees at the event requested. [Click here for more information.](#)



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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