



# Southeast Signal

*News, Events, and Information from Around the System*

## From the Director



I had some questions recently about libraries thinking about taking some of their older books that have been withdrawn and trying to see if there is a market for them as collectables.

To be perfectly frank, there won't be much of a market for them. Books won't become insanely valuable just because they are old, especially library titles. Most books in library collections will have a bunch of wear and tear, and many would have library markings, and things attached to them like book pockets, spine labels, or bar codes.

For an old book to be very valuable as a collectable, it would also have to have some sort of significance, such as being the first printing and that there are only a few copies still in existence. Most of the large amounts of money paid for books came from limited first-runs, often a printing of only about 250 or less copies printed as test or limited to a small group of people with close ties to the publisher or author. Chances are slim that a book on your shelves belongs in that small group.

Another hurdle in your path to riches via old library books would be finding a buyer. Those seriously interested in collecting high price books tend to go through dedicated purchasers and auction houses.

Putting something on an internet auction or resale site isn't usually going to get that type of response.

Let's not forget that the time it takes to go through the books, clean them up for potential sale, and listing them somewhere means you aren't spending time doing other library tasks. Some folks can bring in volunteers to help with this and I've heard of one that partnered with a local used book seller.

If you really wanted to go through your withdrawn books to see if some extra funds can be made instead of a local book sale, then please feel free to do it. Just realize that it may not be as profitable an activity as you may want it to be.

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# Calendar

August 20, "[End the Stigma of Mental Illness](#)", via Zoom

August 21, National Senior Citizens Day

August 22, National Tooth Fairy Day

August 27, [CASTL](#), "[Summer Reading Successes](#)," [SELS Meeting Room](#)

August 31, National Trail Mix Day

September, [Library Card Sign-Up Month](#)  
National Suicide Prevention Month

September 2, [Joint Youth Services Retreat](#), via Zoom

September 4, National Wildlife Day

September 6, National Read a Book Day

September 6, Labor Day, SELS Office Closed

September 9, National Teddy Bear Day

September 15, Start of National Hispanic Heritage Month

October 12-14, [NLA Conference](#), "[The World Turned Upside Down: Reinventing Libraries in Changing Times](#)"



# Photo of the Month



Fairbury Public Library had 88 children participate in the Summer Reading Program! A 7 inch tablet and bicycle were the main prizes. Stuffed animals, books, and toys were gifted as well as a ticket to the Bonham Theater! A drawing was held for two season tickets to the swimming pool!

—Submitted by Linda Dux, photo by Linda Miller

# CASTL Wrap-up

## Upcoming CASTL Meetings

August 27  
SELS Meeting Room  
“Summer Reading Successes”  
10-3

September 24  
Kilgore Memorial Library,  
York  
“Dolly Parton Imagination  
Library” and “How are you  
going to use your ARPA grant  
funds?”

October 29  
Falls City Library and Art  
Center

November 19  
Gilbert Public Library  
Friend  
“Bibliostat”

Joy Stevenson of Crete Public Library hosted our July 30th CASTL, which was our first in person event in several months. Prior to CASTL, Joy provided a 30 minute tour of the new Crete Public Library, and then Susanna Privett of the US Census Bureau joined us via Zoom to talk about census tools for librarians.

Susanna showcased the information and tools found at [census.gov](https://census.gov) and [data.census.gov](https://data.census.gov). Susanna first pointed out an extremely helpful tool at census.gov that is located under "Browse" on the menu and is labeled "A-Z." She noted that many times when she doesn't know if the Census has data on a particular topic, this index helps her tremendously, and that she has made a number of discoveries. "Quickfacts" on the homepage is another heavily used tool that can be a quick and easy resource and is based on the most frequently asked questions of the Census Bureau. Susanna then took us into the geographic section and showed US Census tracts. Every county contains at least one census tract and more heavily populated counties may contain many census tracts. However, no census tract can cross county lines. To help in working with that data there is a geography reference manual.

The American Community Survey is a further useful resource. There is a section dealing with the questions asked by the survey and why they are asked. This allows you to click on any topic.

When you go to data.census.gov there is a search bar, but it is actually usually more helpful to use the advanced search to find information. With that you can use filters to help with your search. You should always pick your geography first. Then choose your topic and whatever other information you would like to find. The search will then return the information which is available at that geographic level. Items not at that level will be greyed out. Sometimes you will need to go up or down a level. But at least by picking geography first, this will keep you from becoming being frustrated.

To learn much more, [you can view the recording here](#).

# Upcoming Basic Skills Courses

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

<u>Dates of Class</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Registration</u>
August 30—September 10	Programming & Outreach	July 26—August 20
September 20—October 1	Community & Library	August 16—September 10
October 18—October 29	Management/Supervision	September 13—October 8





# End the Stigma of Mental Illness

[Register here](#) for this presentation via Zoom on August 20 (10am—12pm) to find out from Conner Oberhauser and Todd Schlechte about their experiences with mental illness, to arm yourself with facts, and to find out how libraries can aid those needing help for themselves or their loved ones.

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

THE NEBRASKA REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEMS  
PRESENT THE

# 2021 ONLINE JOINT ANNUAL YOUTH SERVICES RETREAT!

Register at <http://bit.ly/2021jysr> by August 31

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**SEPTEMBER 2  
1-5 PM  
VIA ZOOM**

# System Spotlight

## Good News!

We have gone many months without an administrative assistant, and Scott and Todd split those position's essential duties. That vacancy has now been filled! We are very happy to welcome our new administrative assistant, Catherine Sokol, to her position. She will be handling our bookkeeping, journal article request service, book kits, and some other items. You may reach her at 402-467-6188 when she is in the office, or via email at

[catherine.sokol.sels@gmail.com](mailto:catherine.sokol.sels@gmail.com).



### 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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