



Southeast Signal

News, Events, and Information from Around the System

From the Director



This month I had an odd problem when coming up with ideas about what to write in this space. No, it wasn't writer's block – it was mostly the opposite. I had so many

ideas that I wanted to write about, I couldn't make a choice. Do I write about running an effective meeting? How about a sequel to my "famous and infamous librarians" article from a few years back? Maybe I should promote scholarships, or fundraisers? I kind of liked the idea of going into an in-depth discussion about the difference between steampunk, dieselpunk, decopunk, and atompunk.

Then it hit me – an article on what to do when you get hit with an idea that you can't use immediately. You never know when you will need an idea, so why not capture those that come to you when not expected?

I've heard many authors and artists talk about how they never leave home without some form of note taking apparatus. I've seen voice recorders, apps on smart phones, and the tried and true simple pocket notebook. They have something to capture that inspiration before it leaves or its place in the brain is taken by some other thought. Many keep it next to them as they sleep, in case a dream inspires them.

This habit isn't just found in the arts. Inventors, entrepreneurs, cooks, computer programmers and many other successful folks in all walks of life have some form of capturing inspiration when it hits them.

These ideas aren't always fully formed, but maybe it is a spark of something that will grow. Perhaps it is even a question that they feel they have to answer, like "What if"

Now that you have these ideas captured, what do you do with them? Some of them you may feel so much energy or enthusiasm toward, that you can't wait to work on. Others need some time to sit and percolate before you move onto the next step. Don't forget that you also need to keep in mind what goals and vision you may have for the direction of your work. Make it a habit to refer back to your ideas to reflect and refine. Sometimes you cross things out of your notebook, sometimes you refer it to someone else, and sometimes; sometimes you turn it into something really special.

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Calendar



December 13, National Violin Day

December 15, Bill of Rights Day

December 16, [SELS Friends Private Movie Showing, "Star Wars: The Last Jedi,"](#) see p. 11

December 21, Crossword Puzzle Day

December 22, Christmas Eve Observed, SELS Office Closed

December 24, Mary Higgins Clark's Birthday

December 25, Christmas Day, SELS Office Closed

December 30, Rudyard Kipling's Birthday

January 1, New Year's Day, SELS Office Closed

January 3, J.R.R. Tolkien's Birthday

January 12, Jack London's Birthday

January 19, [CASTL, Syracuse Public Library, "Emergency Planning"](#)

February 12, [ALA Youth Media Awards](#)

February 22, [SELS 2 in 1 Workshop, 9:45-3:00, Seward Memorial Library](#)

March 22, Pay it Forward: Looking at Succession Planning, Ashland Public Library, 9:45-3:00

Photos of the Month



Dave Marsh performed for librarians and other members of the public at the SELS Summer Reading Workshop. This educational and entertaining presentation was made possible in large part by Nebraska Humanities.

CASTL Wrap-Up

Upcoming CASTL Meetings

January 19
Syracuse Public Library
“Emergency Planning”

February 15
Virgil Biegert Public Library
Shickley
“Privacy Issues”

March 9
Walt Branch Library
Lincoln
“Disasters and Materials”

Our November CASTL was on the theme of “Collecting Genealogy Resources” and the host was Diane Odoski of the Gilbert Memorial Library in Friend, Nebraska. During our themed discussion, we attempted to identify the most important items to genealogists in a library collection, or if not in the actual collection, resources located elsewhere and ideally listed on a handout or the library website.

There seemed to be agreement that local newspapers and obituaries are the most important items to have in the local collection. Ideally, a library will have local newspapers available on microfilm and, even better, searchable online. Grants are sometimes available for digitization, and digitizing a portion of a paper is also a great project to present to potential donors. Permission must be obtained from the publisher of the paper in order to proceed with digitization.

It was generally agreed that a library need not keep non-local Nebraska papers, which can often be interlibrary loaned as microfilm from the Nebraska State Historical Society anyway.

It was also felt that it is important to have information on local cemeteries, including directions. Items such as city directories, old phone books, and plat books were also deemed helpful, depending upon space availability and whether there is a local historical society/museum that might be a more logical choice for items.

Any books on local history (such as centennial publications), church records (directories), yearbooks, and knowledge of who in town might know a particular bit of history are also valuable. However, not everyone has space for items like yearbooks and there was a discussion of digitization possibilities in this regard.

Numerous other items were mentioned, including the online Sanborn Fire maps and lists of pertinent government offices. One librarian shared a brochure with a lengthy listing of all the resources available in and for its service area.

Upcoming Basic Skills Courses

To see the list of 2018 classes, [click here](#). Here’s what’s coming up next:

<u>Dates of Class</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Registration</u>
January 22-- February 2	Communication	December 11—January 12
February 12—February 23	Customer Service	January 8—February 2
March 5—March 16	Library Governance	February 5—February 23

News Around the System

A Holiday Mood at Wahoo Public Library

Contributed by Carrie Trutna

Below are a number of pictures from a story time with Santa hosted by Wahoo Public Library.



Book Tree in Fairmont

Contributed by Wanda Marget

The Fairmont Public Library made a tree out of books this year. It was fun and we have received many great compliments on it.



News Around the System

Central City Public Library Supports Learning and Small Business

By Sara Lee

We had a great afternoon (on November 20th) learning about the Pawnee history in the Merrick County area, thanks to a grant from the Gilder-Lehrman Institute of American History, and the knowledge of our local historians, Bill Bolte, Ladd Reeves, and Dorothy and Ron Glasser. We had sessions with the Nebraska Christian Elementary, the Central City Public School fourth grade students, and our Monday-after-school kids. There was a public program in the evening for all ages. *Photos by Judy Marco.*



Ho! Ho! Ho! SANTA visited the library on Saturday, November 25th (during Small Business Saturday)! People were able to peruse our buy one, get one half off book bundles for sale, while sipping on delicious hot apple cider. We also had an assortment of door prizes to give away. Small Business Saturday is a day to celebrate and support small businesses and all they do for their communities. *Collage photos by Sandra Jacobs and Sara Lee.*

News Around the System

December displays in the Aurora Middle/High School Media Center

By Emily Fiala

The holiday themed displays at the Aurora Media Center include bookmarks entitled “HO-HO-Hoping you love this book” and “Yule love this book!”



Changes at Hebron Secret Library

By Chuck Reichwein

A retirement reception for Terry Olson was held at the Hebron Secret Library on November 17th. Terry had been Director since June 2007. She plans to spend time with her 14 grandchildren. This photo was taken with the new Library Director (Chuck Reichwein) and his assistant (Judy Kassebaum).



News Around the System

Librarians Contribute to Seward's Hometown Christmas Festival

By Charlotte Baldinger

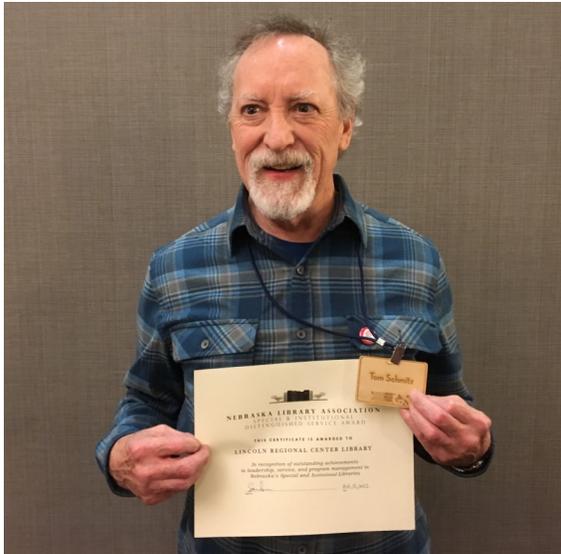
There was live music drifting through Seward Memorial Library as the staff helped launch Seward's annual holiday celebration. The Firehouse Five, a group of talented musicians including one librarian, led patrons in a "Holiday Sing-Along" during the afternoon on Saturday, November 25. Hot drinks and holiday cookies were served along with old and new favorite carols. This was followed by "Come and Go Holiday Crafts." Library staff helped 100 participants create four different holiday items. As soon as the families were gone and the doors locked, the librarians headed to their designated spot in the Lighted Parade. Library staff, Friends of Seward Library and patrons carried books with lighted book lamps attached to them behind a large banner announcing "Libraries Illuminate Lives." There were 150 lights to commemorate the city, state and county's sesquicentennial celebration. It was a mild evening and the staff enjoyed hiking through town sharing their message with large crowds. There were no Marion's sitting at a desk during Seward's 2017 "Hometown Christmas Festival."



News Around the System

Librarians Win NLA Special & Institutional Section Awards

Story and photos by Tom Pfeifer, Library Coordinator, Nebraska State Penitentiary



At the most recent NLA Conference, the Special & Institutional Section presented its annual awards. Tom Schmitz of the Lincoln Regional Center library was awarded the S&I Distinguished Service Award. Kay Brown of the Nebraska Correctional Youth Facility library was awarded the S&I Promotion Award. Congratulations, Tom and Kay!

Nebraska City Librarians Participate in Wikipedia Course

Contributed by Denise Davis, photos by Denise Davis and Tom Boeche

This fall my colleague Tom Boeche and I participated in one of WebJunction's courses entitled *Wikipedia + Libraries: Better Together*, which resulted in our appearance in the article linked to below:

<http://www.webjunction.org/news/webjunction/librarians-wikipedia-participants.html>

The article, entitled "Librarians Who Wikipedia: Course Participants Engage with Wikipedia for their Libraries" (Dec. 7, 2017) by Monica Sengal-Jones, records a change of perspective in regard to Wikipedia:

"I, too, used to poo-poo Wikipedia," Davis said. "Now I consider myself a convert. I am pushing its value to help students be critical consumers of information."

Davis and Boeche are also looking forward to editing articles on the history and culture of their town of approximately 7,500 people situated along the Missouri River... (paragraphs 14 & 15).

Read the article for more information!



News Around the System

Block Party at Morton-James Public Library

Contributed by Donna Kruse, photos by library staff

Our block party exhibit on loan from the Omaha Children's Museum of Omaha has been a big hit with many repeat visitors of all ages. It will be open through December 30.



News Around the System

SELS Scholarships Available!

SELS Scholarship Guidelines

The Southeast Library System provides scholarships to pay for registration or travel costs for continuing education events and/or course work in library science.

Applicant Eligibility

- 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.



Eligible events

- First priority is given to applications for in-state events, including the NLA/NSLA annual conference or System sponsored events (SELS must at least be one of the sponsors). Examples include the Training Extravaganza, the Youth Retreat, the Summer Reading program, etc.
- Second priority is given to regional or national conferences, such as ALA or MPLA.
- Third priority is given to academic courses that have a direct impact on the applicant's job.

Scholarship Information

- The maximum amount to be awarded to an individual is \$200 per application.
- The money is to be used for registration and/or travel fees.
- Recipients are expected to report back on their experience and possibly write a short blurb for the system newsletter about the event (if applicable).

Application Process

1. Print out and complete the scholarship form [[SELS Scholarship Form](#)]
2. Write a brief (one or two paragraphs) on the benefit you or your library will gain from your attendance at the event or course
3. Send both to the SELS office

Priority Deadline for Applications: January 19



Save the date!

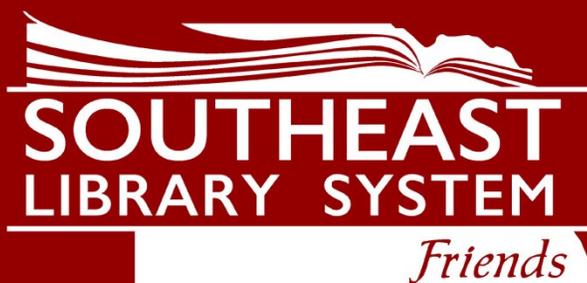
Pay It Forward: Looking at Succession Planning

A SELS Workshop with Bonnie McKewon at Ashland Public Library

March 22, 10-3

Like any other organization, libraries need to plan for staffing transitions. Pay It Forward suggests practical approaches that help pave the way for new personnel. Attendees will discuss succession planning questions. What are the library's annual routines? Budget prep...policy review...job evaluations...where are those documents found? What vendors does the library use for print purchases? For digital subscriptions? Is there an instruction manual for the ILS system... for the public computers?

Answering these questions helps light the path for incoming staff. Staffing changes can be expected or surprising—workshop participants are sure to have “new hire” stories to share. Plus, library boards should work on their own brand of succession planning—Pay It Forward talks about that, too!



Private Movie Showing

STAR THE LAST JEDI WARS

Where: Rivoli Theatre, Seward, NE

When: Saturday, December 16, 10:00 a.m.
(doors open at 9:30)

Who: SELS Friends & guests

Reserve your seat by Dec. 14 and SAVE!

\$5.50 movie cost plus \$1.50 for SELS Friends = \$7.00 total

Price after Dec. 14:

\$5.50 movie cost plus \$4.50 for SELS Friends = \$10.00 total

SELS Friends members get a door prize drawing ticket!

All admissions will be paid for at the door.

To reserve a seat in advance, email info@selsfriends.org

FREE PARKING - GREAT CONCESSION PRICES





COMING SOON!

2018 4-H STEM Reading Connections

In Partnership with the Collaborative Summer Reading Program:
Libraries Rock!

<p>Acoustics Rock!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Have you ever wondered why some rooms are louder than others? Architectural acoustics is the science and engineering of achieving a good sound within a building. What goes into making a room so you can hear someone whisper from across the room? In this lesson, you will learn how architects design rooms and buildings specific to how they want the sound to move. 	<p>Rockin' Sound Waves</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Did you know that sound is a type of energy made by vibrations? There is a relationship between a sound's wavelength and its pitch. In this lesson, we will explore sound waves using our five senses. 	<p>Listen Up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Have you ever wondered how sound reaches your brain? We depend upon our hearing for safety, entertainment and to communicate with our loved ones. In this lesson, we will explore the anatomy of our ears to learn how sounds travel to our brain for interpretation. 	<p>Rock 'n Roll</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Did you know everything we use, wear, or play with is engineered? Even musical instruments! By manipulating different parts of the design process you can explore the science of sound vibrations. In this lesson you will have the opportunity to let your community know just how much their "Library Rocks" by designing a working musical instrument and coming up with your own creative jingle. 
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4-H STEM Reading Connections Resources will be available February 1, 2018.

 Please fill out the Google Form at <https://goo.gl/forms/ugmSGjaJqO2uT8mT2> to be automatically emailed the Box link to the resources when they become available.

 Partnerships look different in every county. Contact your local Extension Office by March 1st to see what your STEM Reading Connections partnership might look like.

Extension is a Division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln cooperating with the Counties and the United States Department of Agriculture. University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension educational programs abide with the nondiscrimination policies of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and the United State Department of Agriculture. ©2016



2 in 1 Workshop

Reader's Advisory, 10-12

How do you best go about recommending books to library patrons? Becky will go over the Reader's Advisory interview, talk about advance preparation, and cover "elements of appeal."

Activities and scenarios will be part of this interactive workshop, including a discussion of resources that are free and easily available to help with the process of Reader's Advisory.

Free Lunch for those attending both workshops, 12-1

Weeding, 1-3

Do you find it hard to make time for weeding? Becky will make it clear just how important weeding is, and the workshop will include a skit and some great discussion questions to keep you from nodding off in the afternoon.



Seward Memorial Library, February 22

Presenter: Becky Heil (Iowa State Library)

On the registration form you can choose both workshops, or you can select one of the two. Going to both means you also get free lunch!

Register at <http://bit.ly/TwoInOne> for this free workshop!

This program is supported in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.

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. CE credit is available for all attendees! 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.



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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