



# Southeast Signal

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

## From the Director



Well, 2021 has been a bit of a wild ride, hasn't it? Not to make light of all the things that happened over the course of this last year, but let's take a minute for ourselves right now.

It is the end of the year, so that means it is time for an avalanche of "best of" lists. There are tons of these lists being put out this time of year. You'll see "best of", "most popular", "most important", "notable", "favorite", "must read" and other similar phrases for just about every genre and subject out there. And I'm all for it.

And there's a bunch of different groups compiling them, from big name magazines to small niche interest clubs' newsletters. There are lists that school libraries can use, and there's even some non-fiction lists out there that might be useful for colleges, depending on the curriculum being used.

These lists are great tools for libraries. They can be a good way to see what books might reemerge on reader's radars with a year-end reminder that they not only exist but are good enough to be spotlighted. You may have a patron or two who looks at these lists and adds some titles to their own to-read list.

Not only do these lists help with encouraging reading and giving librarians some ideas on collection

development, but you can also use these lists as the basis for displays. Is there a list that really resonates with your community? Then take the titles you have on that list and put them out after the holiday season with a label of "Best of 2021". Turn it into a discussion – ask readers if they read it and if they agree with the buzz. Perhaps you suggest some of them for your next book club or start a club with one of these titles. Why not create one for your community?

So – at the end of another crazy year, let's take a deep breath, do something for ourselves like read a book from a best of list and be reminded of what great things are still out there waiting to be discovered and shared.

Best wishes to all of you from all of us!

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# Calendar

- December 15, Bill of Rights Day
- December 18, National Twin Day
- December 21, Crossword Puzzle Day
- December 24, Christmas Eve, SELS Office Closed
- December 26, National Thank-you Note Day
- December 26-January 1, Kwanzaa
- December 28, National Card Playing Day
- December 31, New Year's Eve, SELS Office Closed
- January, "School Librarians in the Digital Age," p. 6
- January 1, New Year's Day
- January 2, National Science Fiction Day
- January 4, National Trivia Day
- January 6, National Technology Day
- January 13, National Sticker Day
- January 14, [Aquatic WILD Workshop](#), 10-12 pm, p. 7
- February 18, [Cataloging the Community](#), 10 am, p. 8



Photo taken and [licensed](#) by [Famartin](#)

# Photo of the Month



Beatrice Holiday Lighted Parade Saturday, November 4. The theme was Storybook Christmas! The Library's float had book covers of Christmas Books, Christmas book characters, The Grinch, No David, Pete the Cat, Clifford the Big Red Dog and Snoopy and Charlie Brown. —provided by Joanne Neemann, more on p. 4

# CASTL Wrap-up

## Upcoming CASTL Meetings

January TBD  
Via Zoom  
“ADA Compliance”

February 24  
Via Zoom  
“AARP Foundation Property Tax-Aide Program ”

Our November 19th CASTL was hosted by Diane Odoski at Gilbert Public Library in Friend. The topic was "Bibliostat," which is a term commonly used for the Public Libraries Survey in Nebraska. Sam Shaw, the Planning and Data Services Coordinator for the Nebraska Library Commission, led us through the survey.

Sam recommended choosing the option to display the previous year's answers. He then explained edit checks, which occur when something unusual is entered in the software, such as a number that is vastly different from the previous year's. These edit checks give you the opportunity to offer an explanation in the proper note field. He noted that for a federal question the federal field must be used and for a state question the state field must be used. If it is something that comes up every year, you can simply copy and paste the previous year's explanation.

If you need to make a change in a field that is prefilled and in grey, simply shoot Sam an email and he will make the necessary adjustments.

Two questions regarding library income arose. One was whether an insurance settlement should count and another was whether Foundation payments for items should included. Neither case counts as income for the library.

A new label for programs has been introduced: "General Interest." This provides a place to put numbers for intergenerational or family programs. WIFI numbers must now be counted via hardware or software. If you aren't able to obtain numbers this way, then you enter "0" (zero).

The supplemental survey must also be completed. This serves primarily to ensure that the Nebraska Library Commission is able to display up to date information on its website. The deadline to complete the Public Libraries Survey is February 18. For Sam's complete presentation, [click 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>
January 3—January 31	Communications	December 13—December 29
February 7—February 18	Customer Service	January 3—January 28
March 7—March 18	Library Governance	January 31—February 28

# News Around the System

## Beatrice Public Library Participates in Community Celebrations

*Provided by Joanne Neemann*

On page 2, there is a wonderful picture of the Library's float which was in the Holiday Lighted Parade with the theme "Storybook Christmas!" Also, the library provided a tree with the same theme at the Festival of Trees at the Indian Creek Mall.



## Pick-Your-Path: a North Pole Adventure

*By Charlotte Baldinger, photo by Jacquelyn Schranz*

During the 1980s and 1990s children were introduced to Bantam's Choose Your Own Adventure books. This series allowed the young readers, who were confronted by situations in the story, to ask, "What would you do?" and alter the outcome. In the spirit of "Choose Your Own Adventure," Seward Memorial Library will offer families the opportunity to solve a problem, making choices at several turns in the adventurous path winding throughout the library. The power is out at the North Pole and the library patrons are challenged to remedy the situation. Staff will lead teams around the building and with a variety of choices each adventure will be unique. The fun begins on December 20 and runs into January. Reservations are currently being made. Ask the staff next month about their experiences as they tried to help Santa solve a problem and entertain the Seward community. Hopefully it will become a treasured library memory for everyone who travels to the North Pole.

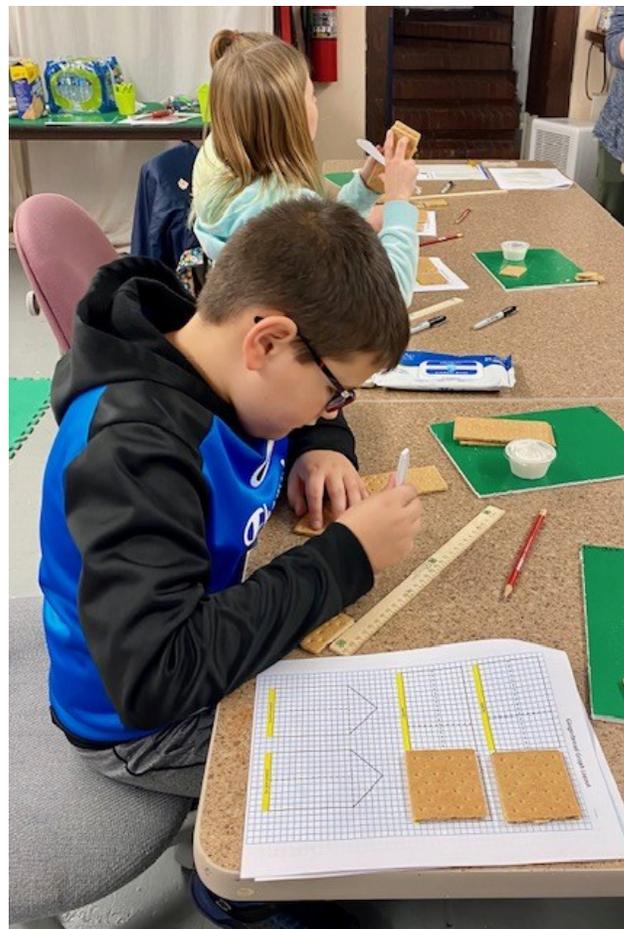


# News Around the System

## Gingerbread Houses as STEM project!

*Provided by Barbee Sweet*

Last Wednesday the Clarks Public Library hosted a STEM class in building gingerbread houses. The students that participated needed to weigh their houses before and after decorating. They were only allowed a gingerbread house weighing 4.6 oz and the houses needed a door and window. After meeting the challenges the students were able to finish decorating their houses to take home.



THANK YOU FROM WANDA MARGET AND FAMILY

*Thank you for the cards and calls during my mother Edith Chapman's hospitalization and recent death. It was appreciated.*

# News Around the System

## A January Challenge for Nebraska School Librarians!

We are trying to fill up the month of January with short helpful recordings on the theme "School Librarians in the Digital Age." You can see what has been scheduled so far here, as well as keep an eye on updates: <https://lexmslibrary.weebly.com/sl-in-the-digital-age.html> (a portion is shown below).

For information on this effort, please view this [very short video](#).

We are all more successful when we share ideas and information with each other! Please consider meeting the challenge ASAP by emailing your ideas and/or questions to:

Erin Hanna at [erin.hanna@lexschools.org](mailto:erin.hanna@lexschools.org)

Watch for **School Librarians in the Digital Age**—online in January!

*Jointly sponsored by the Nebraska School Librarians Association and the Regional Library Systems.*

### JANUARY 2022 --TIP-OF-THE-DAY SCHOOL LIBRARIANS IN THE DIGITAL AGE

WEEKLY PLANNER						
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
						

JAN 1  
ANGIE  
B (LEX)  
CODE  
SPARK

JAN 2  
KONNI  
IN DEN  
BOSCH  
CANVA

JAN 3  
BARBIE  
ESTRADA  
SORA /  
PUBLIC  
LIB  
CONNECT

JAN 4  
DANA  
FONTAINE  
- DIGITAL  
ESCAPE  
ROOMS

JAN 5  
DEANN  
BERRY  
SYMBALOO

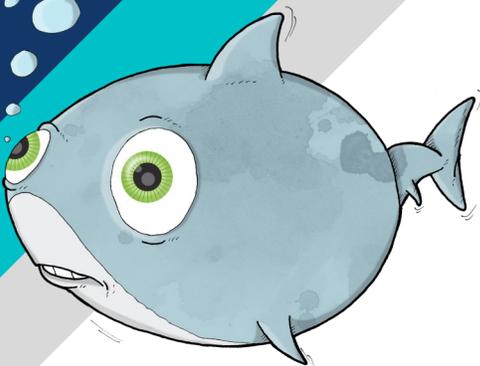
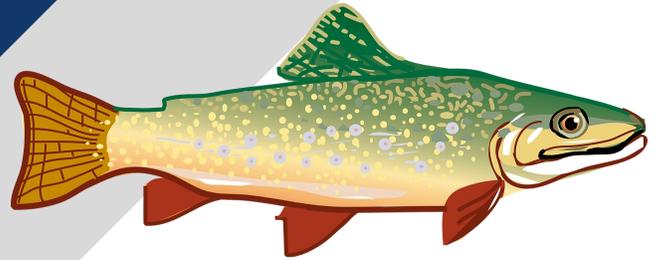
JAN 6  
EMMALEE  
NELSON  
- ELLS IN  
THE  
LIBRARY

JAN 7  
DAVEY  
STEVENS  
SOCIAL  
MEDIA  
PODCAST  
W/THE  
LIBRARY

JAN 8  
JUSTINE  
RIDDER  
-  
COLLAB  
PUB  
AND  
SCHOOL  
LIBS

JAN 9  
KONNI  
IN DEN  
BOSCH  
SORA

# Aquatic WILD



*January 14, 10-12:30  
Via Zoom*

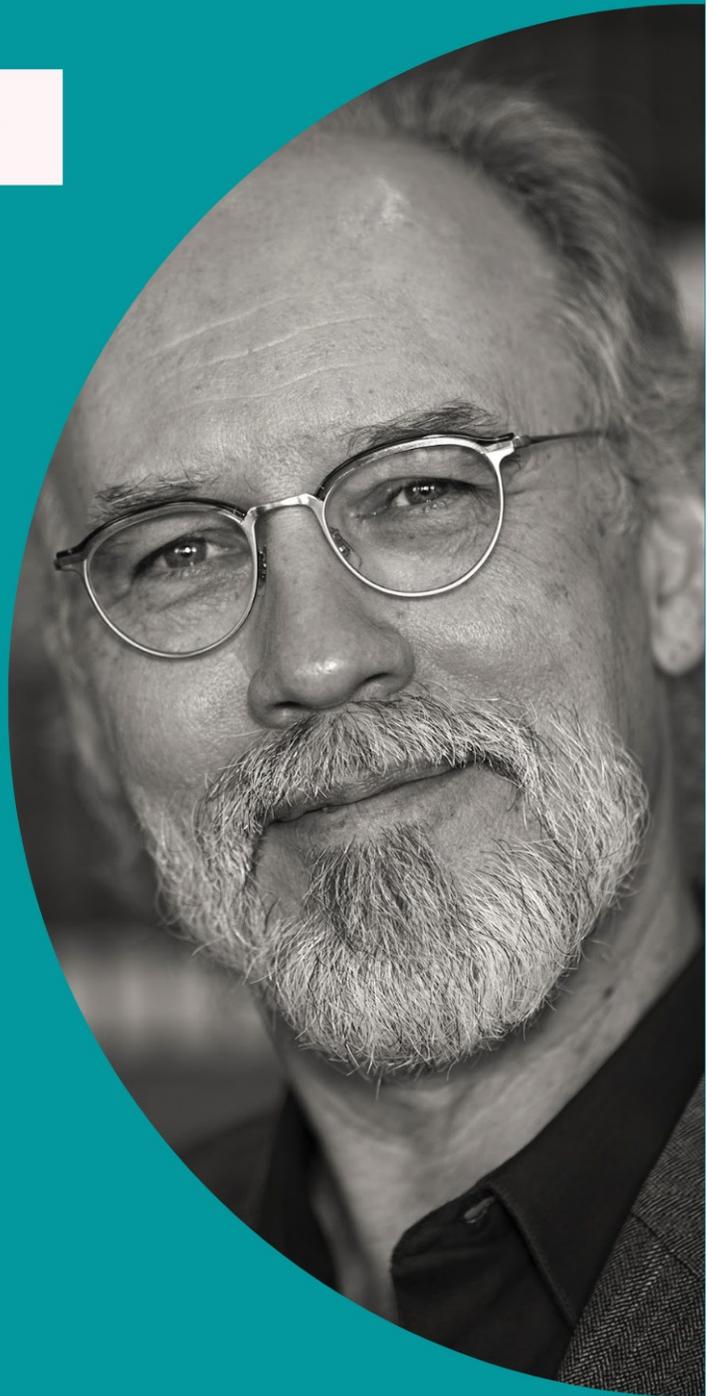
*With Grace Gaard  
Register here!*

# 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!](#)

# 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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