

T R a i L S

FREE BOOKS, MOVIES, AND OTHER THINGS FOR OUR PATRONS

Article by Eric Jones

At midnight on December 31st, 2018, the library and book communities threw massive parties. The parties were not to just celebrate the new year but the availability of an enormous collection of books, movies, songs, and cartoons that became available in the public domain. This year, the works from 1923 will be available as [this article from CNN](#) explains.

How did this happen? The Sonny Bono Copyright Term Extension Act of 1998 (yes, the famous singer!) restricted copyright to 120 years. But an exception was included for the published works between 1923 and 1977. Officially, the exception allowed works to become available after 95 years from their creation.

So what are some of the sources where you can obtain these? Some of these are in simple text format, and some in Kindle

formats. The audio files may be in basic mp3.

There are several key sources, but among the best are [Read Print](#) and [The Literature Network](#). Audiobooks can be found online at [LibriVox](#). You can check out [Authorama](#) to read public domain books easily online.

For a nice collection on where to connect and how to download free books and other materials, you can look at this [article by Lifewire](#). And for more information about Public Domain Day you can look at [this post from the Center for the Study of the Public Domain](#).



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Save the Date for Summer Reading
- DiSPEL and Zoom Meetings
- Dedicating a Super Retiree
 - Scholarship Experiences
- Youth Services Programming in March

Three Rivers Library System
11929 Elm St.
Suite 18
Omaha, NE 68144

Phone: 402.330.7884
E-mail: trls.director@gmail.com

AT THE TRAILS OFFICE

Scholarships

TRaiLS 2019 continuing education scholarships are available to attend state, regional, and nationwide conferences and events. Any director, media specialist, staff member, or trustee at libraries in the TRaiLS service area may apply. Applications will be reviewed by the scholarship committee after the deadline to apply for each specific scholarship has passed. Scholarship recipients will be notified prior to the event with money awarded after attendance of the event.

An application to apply can be found at <http://libraries.ne.gov/trls/calendar-2/scholarship-opportunities/>

Did You Know:

The 2019 One Book One Nebraska has been announced! *This Blessed Earth* by Ted Genoways has been chosen. Learn all about it at this [NCompass Live Webinar](#).

Save the Date!

SUMMER READING PROGRAM

At
Blair Public Library
On

1 March 2019
From

8:30 am—3:00 pm!

Save the Date!

SUMMER READING PROGRAM

At
Albion Public Library
On

11 March 2019
From

8:30 am—3:00 pm!

Giveaway Items

At the office, we're parting with our professional development collection as well some titles from our book kits, so head on over to trails.libib.com/i/give-away and see if there's anything your library may need.

If there is, send Chelsea an e-mail at trls.assistant@gmail.com and she can help figure out a pickup or drop-off date.



BIG TALK FROM SMALL LIBRARIES 2019

Don't forget that the deadline for proposals for the Big Talk from Small Libraries 2019 is 18 January 2019!

Submit your proposal at <http://nlcblogs.nebraska.gov/bigtalk/call-for-speakers/>

Big Talk From Small Libraries 2019 will be held on Friday, February 22, 2019 between 8:45 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (CT) via the GoToWebinar online meeting service. Speakers will be able to present their programs from their own desktops. The schedule will accommodate speakers' time-zones.

We've been listening! A comment we've heard often is that many presentations at conferences seem to be by and for librarians from larger libraries. Well, Big Talk From Small Libraries is different.

This free one-day online conference is aimed at librarians from small libraries; the smaller the better! Each of our speakers is from a library serving fewer than 10,000 people, or directly works with small libraries.

Topics range from technology to programming to new roles for the library. This event is a great opportunity to learn about the innovative things your colleagues are doing in their small libraries.

Everyone is welcome to register and attend, regardless of how big or small your library. But, if your library serves a few hundred to a few thousand people, this is the day for you!

UPCOMING BASIC SKILLS COURSE AND REGISTRATION DATES

Class Dates:	Class Title:	Registration Dates:
2/11 - 2/22	Customer Service*	1/14 - 2/1
3/4 - 3/15	Library Governance	2/4 - 2/22
3/18 - 3/29	Library Technology	2/18 - 3/1
4/1 - 4/30	Organization of Materials*	3/4 - 3/22
4/22 - 5/3	Readers' Advisory	3/25 - 4/12

Calendar of Events

[TRaiLS Bibliostat Training](#)
Online Zoom Meeting
17 January 2019
10:00am—12:00pm

[Proposal Deadline for Big Talk from Small Libraries 2019](#)
18 January 2019

[TRaiLS Communications Meeting](#)
Online Zoom Meeting
7 February 2019
12:30pm—1:30pm

[Big Talk From Small Libraries](#)
Online GoToWebinar
22 February 2019
8:45am—5:00pm

[Summer Reading Program](#)
Blair Public Library
1 March 2019
8:30am—3:00pm

[Youth Services Program](#)
Ashland Public Library
7 March 2019
9:30am—4:00pm

[TRaiLS Communications Meeting](#)
Online Zoom Meeting
8 March 2019
12:30pm-1:30pm

[Summer Reading Program](#)
Albion Public Library
11 March 2019
8:30am-3:00pm

LIBRARY NEWS

Karlen Memorial Library on the Move!

Article by Stephanie Payton

The Karlen Memorial Library in Beemer moved to its new location at the old elementary school at 815 3rd Street at the end of October. In celebration, a Dedication Ceremony and Open House is set for February 2nd, 2019 from 2:00 pm—4:00 pm, as long as weather permits.



The old Beemer Elementary School where the library relocated to.

DiSPEL Meetings and Zoom Communication Meetings

Article by Tammi Thiem

The library profession is amazing! One thing that is unique about the experts in the field is their willingness to share information! Librarians recognize that there is no competition between one another and all communities benefit when ideas and experiences are eagerly exchanged.

DiSPEL (Directors Sharing Practice, Experience, Learning) meetings are wonderful opportunities for directors to meet face-to-face. These meetings rotate locations, and the agenda provides well-rounded and lively discussions. Librarians bring any questions and concerns to these meetings, as this is the perfect format in which to get advice from those who can understand and relate to the challenges that may be exclusive to the library profession.

I am the System Peer Coordinator for the counties of Antelope, Boone, Madison, Nance, and Platte. Rosa Schmidt is the System Peer Coordinator for the counties of Burt, Colfax, Cuming, Dodge, Stanton, and Washington. The county group of Cass, Douglas, and Sarpy and the county group of Cedar, Dakota, Dixon, Knox, Pierce, Thurston, and Wayne do not currently have System Peer Coordinators to schedule and facilitate DiSPEL meetings. If anyone who

works in a library from one of those counties would be interested in filling the position, please contact Eric Jones. Rosa and I would be delighted to answer any questions you may have regarding the position!

Beginning last spring, monthly Zoom meetings were added as a communication option for the Three Rivers Library System. Participants can attend these meetings from the comfort of his or her own desk or home without any travel time or expense. These meetings last an hour each month and are generally held from 12:30 to 1:30 pm. However, the day of the week varies in the attempt to accommodate the schedules of participants. Although these meetings cannot replace the benefits of face-to-face meetings, they provide an excellent option for librarians to learn from one another and share ideas, especially as invitations are sent to all public libraries in the entire Three Rivers Library System! If you have not yet attended one of these meetings, please give them a try! Feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

LIBRARY NEWS

Super Bob at Keene Memorial Library

Article by Tina Walker

Recently, Keene Memorial Library staff had to say goodbye to everyone's favorite Interlibrary Loan guy — Bob. Bob began his tenure at KML back in 2005. He is that quiet guy that works behind the scenes and you don't realize how many duties he actually had until he mentions the 'R' word. Bob gave us plenty of notice that he was thinking about running away into the sunset with his beloved wife. It's just one of those things, where you know it's coming, but you just ignore it and hope that it's not real.

After Bob told us of his impending departure, we started to ask him, "What exactly do you do?" Sadly enough, we all wear so many hats and do so many different duties, nobody really knows everything the others do. We started to make a list that just took on a life of its own. Bob has quietly been in the background managing Interlibrary Loan; verifying all library card applications and account setups; mending, cleaning, and repairing all the materials in the library; helping with collection management by methodically physically examining the entire collection of books, CDs, DVDs, magazines, audiobooks, and Playaways; and serving on the Welcome Desk as a reference specialist. In his spare time (LOL) he also helped with obituary searches and genealogy requests.

The scary thing about Bob's position is that he did all this, working only 30 hours a week. I honestly don't know how he found the time. I wish I could clone his time management skills.

Heck, I wish I could clone Bob so I could keep him on staff for like 50 more years.

Seriously though, Bob retiring is going to make a huge impact on the library. Whether it is the backroom processing work, circulation services, reference services, genealogy services, or general library knowledge, we are going to feel a shift in the force. Staff will miss Bob — our coworker, mentor, knowledge broker, and most of all, our friend. We know that Bob has earned his retirement and should get to go kick up his heels and spend more time volunteering with the animals. We will just greatly miss Bob's presence here at the library. Seeing him as a patron will be a great joy, but not seeing him every morning at his ridiculously clean and orderly desk will be disheartening. We wish Bob and his wife the best of luck and hope they enjoy their sunset.

Dakota City Public Library Keeps Busy During Holiday Season

Article by Kathy Schable

Friends of the Dakota City Public Library held a seasonal fundraiser for the second year in a row. They put together reading pillow baskets and raffled off during a Family Holiday Community Movie Night. This year, seven baskets were put together and tickets sold for \$2 each or 3 tickets for \$5. Donors chose which basket they wanted to put their tickets towards. Admission to the movie held at the Dakota City Fire Hall was a donation of canned goods or non-perishable items to be used towards local food baskets.



The Dakota City Public Library started hosting a Sewing Saturday in coordination with the Nebraska Extension Service. In October, participants made sausage pillowcases. In November, they made table runners. And in December they made easy quilted potholders/coasters. Each project is geared for beginner sewer but unique enough to intrigue the experienced sewer.



LIBRARY NEWS

Winter Events at Bellevue University

Article by Megan McIntosh

The Bellevue University Library hosted its holiday party on December 12th. There were over 300 guests in attendance and a small band of library employees performed winter songs. Attendees were invited to bring a donation for the Bellevue Food Pantry or an item for one of the six donation bins put together for various charities in the Omaha Metro area. Thanks to generous donations, over 350 items were delivered along with 677 pop tabs. The donation drive coincided with our “Food for Fines” amnesty period, where one donated item would serve to remove fines from one overdue item. Combining student and staff participation, there were 16 accounts cleared of all fines.

2019 holds many exciting events at BU. On January 10, we look forward to a book presentation by BU’s own Kaylene Powell. Her book *The Voice of Melody*, is a historical fiction about the story of Captain Owen and his family in Nantucket. Later, on February 28, we continue with our community outreach events as Tom Lynch presents on the history of Boystown. Visit the [BU Library website](#) for more information and a [calendar](#) of our upcoming events!

Did You Know:

The Three Rivers Library System has a YouTube Channel? Check it out at <http://bit.ly/TRLSChannel>

There you can watch recorded webinars and workshops.

Holidays at Creighton Public Library

Article by Lisa Macke



At the Creighton Public Library, we have a Lighting of the Tree night the Monday after Thanksgiving. Decorating the library is done on Friday and Saturday. Each year we have a different theme and it is kept a secret until that evening. This year, our theme was “Frozen.” Anna, Elsa, and Olaf made an appearance at the library along with Santa and Mrs. Claus. And to top the evening off, everyone enjoyed trolley ride through Santaland and enjoying all of the Christmas lights.

SCHOLARSHIP EXPERIENCES

2018 NLA/NSLA Conference

Article by Rosa Schmidt

Thanks to the Three Rivers Library System, I was able to attend the 2018 NLA/NSLA Joint Conference in Lincoln. It had felt like forever since I had been able to attend and interact with this amazing group of librarians! I think we all feel the same way about these events, or at least I hope we do, that being in this environment brings us 'up' to a new level. I loved volunteering at the Newcomers table so that I could meet some wonderful first-timers; but was sad to miss some familiar faces that have retired since the last time I attended (I think we should feature a vignette on the big screen celebrating the careers of those who have retired since the last conference — who's with me?)

The committees that organized this even should be very proud to have done such a wonderful job! It was difficult to decide which session to attend as there was such a great variety. I often feel like I am at the best ever one-trip buffet and I only get to have one small dessert plate.

It is always at Conference that I hear of something new to offer our patrons but when I get back to my library I am sadly reminded that small libraries and their directors only have two hands, very limited funds and our days are already filled with the everyday demands/expectations of our patrons. It is difficult to add more without losing

something and how to choose what you must cut out. How incredibly lucky are we to have this problem right?! The alternative would be no one using our libraries so we must be doing something right even when we worry we aren't doing enough.

My favorite session was "You Make Me Want to Break Out" presented by Meredith Fickes, a school librarian from Mickle Middle School in Lincoln. Her enthusiasm for her library, students, and breakouts made me wish I could attend her school and be a part of this library! She also made me believe that I could do this in our library!! I have not given up but I am struggling to find the time to fulfill my desire to offer this program. It is going to take a partnership with our school librarian to bring this to fruition and as she too has limited staff and time... I hope this can become a summer planning project. Wish us luck!!

Enthusiasm, knowledge, and momentum; those are the gifts we receive for attending a conference. It can be at NLA/NSLA, a System workshop, a monthly online Zoom meeting, a DiSPEL meeting, because of you and what each of you bring to this buffet!

Harwood Public Innovators Lab for Libraries

Article by Bailey Halbur

This year, facing budget cuts in staffing and print materials, I was hesitant in signing up for an out-of-state conference that would be costly to our decreasing budget. With the assistance of the TRailS Scholarships, I was able to remove some of the burden off the library's budget to help me attend such a continuing education opportunity like this by using it to cover most of my travel costs.

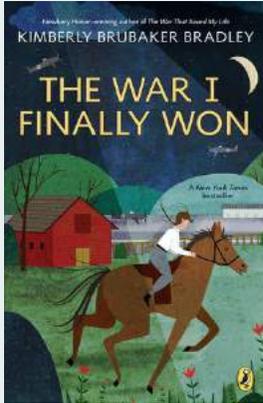
Attending an event out of state afforded me the opportunity to connect with librarians from other states, and after the conference, to use as reference points for potential issues with implementing what we learned from the conference.

The Harwood Public Innovators Lab for Libraries was one of the most worthwhile conferences I have ever been to. Intense, cathartic, and eye-opening are all terms I would use to describe the passionate three day learning process this small group of librarians and trustees pushed through early in October. From beginning to end, the

Harwood Coaches leading the conference forced our group to think outside of our everyday routines and truly understand our communities for what they are and what they could be. Through invigorating conversations with fellow information professionals, we discovered how exactly to pull from our community members what the root of the issues with our cities truly is through various tools and methods presented in the Harwood model of 'turning outward.' With an action plan in place, they taught us to use our authority to remain accountable and authentic in all of the work we do and the services we provide.

Without the professional networking afforded me through the inviting Harwood coaching process, I wouldn't have been able to come to the conclusions I needed to walk away feeling ready for action and the potential for success in turning around my community.

REVIEW CORNER



Submit news, articles, pictures, or resources for the newsletter to Chelsea at trls.assistant@gmail.com.

Please feel free to email or call with suggestions and comments for the newsletter or system.



The War I Finally Won

By Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

Recommended for middle school

Article by Deb Daehnke

Ada Smith is now eleven years old and it is still early in World War II. She and her younger brother, Jamie, are living with Susan after moving to the country. Susan eventually becomes their legal guardian when their mother dies in a bombing in London. When Susan's home is destroyed, they all move to a small cottage owned by Lady Thorton who was responsible for getting the children out of London. Eventually, the British army requisitions Lady Thorton's house and she and her daughter, Maggie, must also move into the small cottage. Ada has also had surgery allows her to do almost anything. As the war progresses, a young Jewish girl, Ruth, arrives at the cottage to live by Lady Thorton's husband. Ruth has a propensity for math so she is receiving special tutoring. Since Ruth is German, Ada and most of the others struggle to accept her and in the tight quarters all kinds of emotions surface. The saving grace through much of this time is

Jonathon, Lady Thorton's son who is in the Royal Air Force and a voice of reason regarding Ruth. When Ada and Ruth realize the love they both have for horses, their differences gradually dissolve. When a war tragedy happens, everyone is brought closer and finally Ada's anger and confusion related to her mother's abuse lessens and Susan's love for the children helps them heal.

This is the sequel to *The War That Saved My Life*. I would highly recommend reading the first book and then *The War I Finally Won*. Both are excellent historical fiction. It is very enlightening to see how the war affected children and there are so many historical aspects described that make this a great learning experience. It will probably make you laugh and cry and since the story ended in 1943, hopefully there will be a third book. The author also has information on military code breakers during WWII at the end of the book.

This is one of the best middle school books I have read in a long time. The mother's cruelty will astonish you and maybe make you cry. I loved the resiliency of the children and kindness of Susan and the dose of history and war torn London is very enjoyable.

Simon Thorn and the Wolf's Den

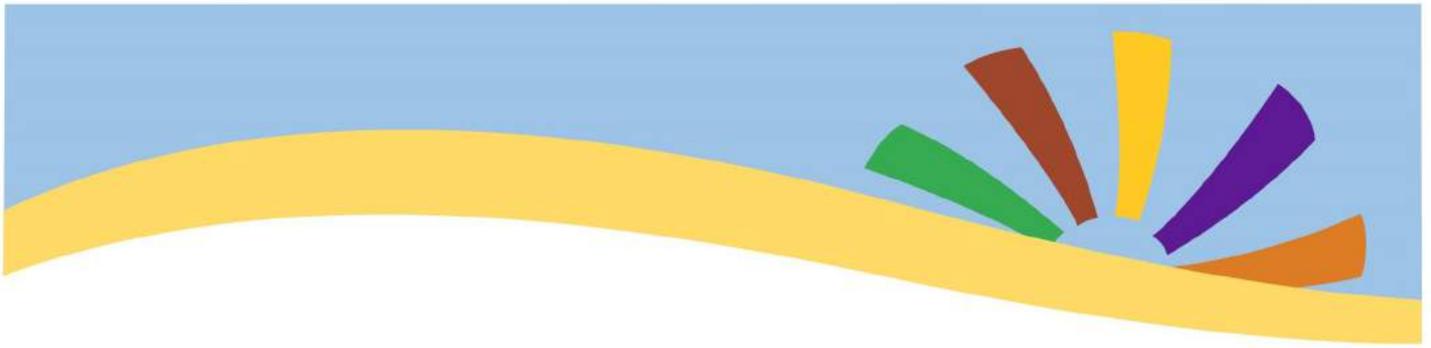
By Aimee Carter

Recommended for 4th–7th grade students

Review by Diane Limoges

Twelve-year-old Simon Thorn has been bullied pretty much his entire life but he is about to find out that bullies are the least of his worries. His father died when he was young, so he was raised by his mom and uncle. Until one day when one of the many animals he talks to tells him that he is in danger. He soon learns from his mom and uncle a secret they have kept from

him since birth and talking to animals is only a small part. Now he must not only work to protect himself and his family from danger he must find out who he can truly trust. Here is a great look at racism from the animal kingdom point of view. This would make an excellent addition to your collection.



Developmentally Appropriate Practices in Youth Services Programming

With Kristy Feden

- * **Did you hear Kristy at the Youth Services Retreat and are ready to learn more? Or are you simply interested in learning how to enhance your practices in regard to programming with children, ranging in age from pre-K to teens? Come to this workshop to be motivated and to discover the power of intentional activities that are grounded developmentally appropriate practices!**

March 7, 9:30 to 4 pm

Ashland Public Library

Register at:

<https://goo.gl/forms/khluEUfVEq2ORRKx2>

