



Straight *talk*

News For And About The Libraries Of Northeast Nebraska

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Kathy Ellerton - System Administrator/Editor



What Makes a Library GREAT?

How do you define a library as 'great'? It wasn't that

long ago that critics would gaze longingly at magnificent buildings in Chicago or Seattle and say, "That's a great library!"

Or perhaps critics would write large tomes of praise about a library's collection like Boston Public Library or New York Public Library. How many of us have seen pictures of the New York Public Library with the lions in front and say, oh, if only I could just see it once!

In today's world, however, a great building can house a lousy collection or a library has a great collection that sits on its shelves gathering dust.

What makes a library great in today's world? Libraries that do great things to handle ageless problems.

Great libraries provide measurably superior service.

Cost benefit analysis, user focus groups, telephone surveys, secret shoppers and virtual surveys of users and non users are tools used to measure success. More importantly than the tools, librarians must be willing to ask their users to honestly evaluate their service.

Great libraries have great funding. Libraries can have great funding and still be mediocre libraries. However, without great funding, a library cannot achieve greatness.

Achieving great funding takes hard work and dedication. Every person associated with a library- as a staff member, board member, government official or friend - needs to be made a proactive advocate for library funding.

Great libraries train and retrain their staffs. Banks, brokerages, and real estate companies spend about 5% annually in keeping their staff

members up-to-date. Libraries spend much less, usually less than 1%. Great libraries develop and implement training programs and then oversee how that training improves individual on-the-job performance.

Great libraries integrate the marketing of virtual, place and outreach services. In this digital age, libraries need to cross-over their marketing with print handouts, mailings, outreach programs and website presentations.

More importantly, libraries need to take special care in communicating with non users. For most of us, it would be correct to say that when we walk down the street, one out of two people we see are NOT library users. Non users know less about your library and are more likely to vote against library revenue increases.

Ask yourself, 'How does my library market to non-users?' Are our marketing campaigns reaching our target audience? How do you know you have



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contacts with non-users? Is that contact positive and informative?

Great libraries serve both the weakest and the strongest among their constituents.

Publicly funded libraries need to provide critical programs that match the demographics of their community. The services for the weakest and the strongest constituents are not necessarily the same.

Great libraries provide constituents with both education and entertainment. Our library educational programs should be built around learning outcomes for attendees and evaluated on what audience members learned, if they had a good time, and what they want to see changed. The same measurements are used for entertainment programs as well.

Great libraries use virtual tools to offer a full range of timely information and services. The library's website needs to promote the library and navigate persons to the catalog, programs, children's page, teen page and how to contact the director and board members. The site needs to promote the library's uniqueness - special collections, services, and databases for its users. The website should also promote friends, foundations, and donations of time, needed in-kind materials and monetary gifts. Such a site becomes an

accurate representation of the library, its operations and opportunities. Finally, the website must be kept current. Don't mount what you can't keep current.

There is a wonderful saying decorating a wall in Nashville's central library. The sign reads, **"A city with a great library is a great city."**

Libraries are significant markers on a civic skyline, signals that communities recognize the significant role that literature, art, music, philosophy, history and science play as platforms for building a community where they want to live and work. Librarians need to dedicate ourselves to building the great libraries that our communities need.

(Taken from "What Makes a Library Great" by Glen Holt, Library Leadership Network Commons, September 2005.)



"St. Patrick's Day is an enchanted time — a day to begin transforming winter's dreams into summer's magic."
— Adrienne Cook

Web Sites of the Month



Women's History Month

The Library of Congress has gathered a dynamite collection of multimedia resources online for use by educators in teaching during Women's History Month. A sampling from the entry page includes these gems: * Women's Voices: video and/or audio recording of Margaret MacArthur—Ballads and Songs from Vermont "Women Who Dare" series author Janice E. Ruth Amy Uyematsu speaking at the 2006 National Book Festival * Articles "Featured Women," including suffragist Susan B. Anthony and former Supreme Court justice Sandra Day O'Connor. You'll find it all at <http://www.loc.gov/topics/womenshistory/index.html>.

PBS Teachers

PBS has unveiled PBS Teachers, its new portal for pre-K-12 educators at www.pbs.org/teachers. In production for more than a year, PBS Teachers is the front door for all educational resources and services PBS offers, and provides information on effective ways to use media and technology in the school- or home-based learning environment. The site offers a one-stop resource for educators searching for wide-ranging curriculum resources, video products (Shop for Teachers), online professional development opportunities (PBS TeacherLine), and more.

Songwriters Hall of Fame

The National Academy of Popular Music has created the Songwriters Hall of Fame Virtual Museum. You'll find dozens of exhibits on some of the most famous songwriters and some you've never heard of. Each exhibit provides a detail bio, a discography, photos, additional resources and audio clips. There are also overviews of various musical periods. URLs: <http://www.songwritershalloffame.org/homepage.asp>

Nutrition Data

NutritionData.com provides a wealth of information on the nutritional value of almost any food, from eggs to Blimpie sandwiches. It provides complete listing of nutrition facts for food items, including calories, fat content, sodium, carbohydrates, etc. It also suggests healthier substitutes to most foods. URLs: <http://www.nutritiondata.com>

March of the Librarians

March of the Penguins was a huge hit. We doubt if the March of Librarians will be as successful. URLs: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Td922l0NoDQ&eurl>

Old Farmer's Almanac

A perennial favorite, the Old Farmer's Almanac for 2007 is now available online. It's filled with information on the weather, astronomy, history and much, much more. Check out the Cricket Chirp-to-Temperature Conversion Formula. URLs: <http://www.almanac.com/>, <http://www.almanac.com/outdoors/crickets.php>

Senate Chamber Desks

Next is Senate Chamber Desks, a site devoted to the history of the desks used in the Senate. The original 48 were purchased in 1819. This site describes the layout of the desks and who has sat at each desk for the last few sessions. There's also a listing by desk number including the various Senators who have used it. Also, look at the Anatomy & Evolution of a Desk to see how the desks have changed over the years. URL: www.senate.gov/artandhistory/art/special/Desks/default.cfm



A Baker's Street Dozen

Nothing holds a reader's attention better than a good mystery. The detectives come in many shapes and sizes but they all grab a reader's attention!

Behind the Curtain: An Echo Falls Mystery by Peter Abrahams. HarperCollins, 2006 Gr. 5-8.

In Echo Falls everyone has a secret. Things are amiss at 99 Maple Lane: Ingrid's dad's job is in jeopardy, her brother, Ty, is getting buff, and her soccer coach is replaced by an icy newcomer Julia LeCaine. True to her hero, Sherlock Holmes, Ingrid begins fishing around to find out who's really pulling the strings in Echo Falls.

Bunnica Meets Edgar Allan Crow by James Howe. S & S, 2006. Gr 3-6.

The Monroe house is going mad with excitement. Pete has just won a contest, and the prize is a school visit from M. T. Graves, Pete's idol and author of the *FleshCrawlers* series. He's even going to stay with the Monroes while he's visiting! Harold and Howie are thrilled, but Chester the cat is suspicious. Why does Graves dress all in black? Why doesn't

the beady-eyed crow perched on his shoulder say anything? Why has a threatening flock of crows invaded the backyard? And most worrisome of all: In each of the *FleshCrawlers* books, why does something bad happen to the pets?

The Case of the Missing Marquess: An Enola Holmes Mystery by Nancy Springer. Philomel, 2006. Gr. 4-8.

When Enola Holmes, the much younger sister of detective Sherlock Holmes, discovers her mother has disappeared—on her 14th birthday—she knows she alone can find her. Disguising herself as a grieving widow, Enola sets out to the heart of London to find her mother. Suddenly involved in the kidnapping of the young Marquess of Basilwether, Enola must escape murderous villains, free the Marquess, and perhaps hardest of all, elude her shrewd older brother—all while collecting clues to her mother's disappearance!

The Fall of the Amazing Zalindas by Tracy Mack. Orchard Books, 2006. Gr. 4-7.

A devoted band of boys, known as the Baker Street Irregulars, help Sherlock Holmes solve a difficult case involving the mysterious death of a tightrope performer.

The Haunted Toolshed (Joe Sherlock, Kid Detective, Case #000001) by Dave

Keane. HarperCollins, 2006. Gr. 3-6.

Why are cakes vanishing into thin air? How can a mailbox disappear without a trace? When did something evil move into Mr. Asher's toolshed? Strange things are happening on Baker Street after dark, and Joe Sherlock must come face-to-face with the things that go bump in the night.

The Irregulars: In the Service of Sherlock Holmes by Steven Altman and Michael Reaves. Dark Horse Books, 2005. Gr. 8-12.

A madman stalks the streets of London's Whitechapel slum, leaving a trail of murders in his wake. The police have only one suspect: a prominent physician named John Watson! The master detective Sherlock Holmes, in order to solve the most fantastic mystery of his career and save his greatest friend from the gallows, employs a band of young street urchins to infiltrate the alleys of Whitechapel.

Key Lardo: A Chet Gecko Mystery by Bruce Hale. Harcourt, 2006. Gr. 3-6.

Hold on to your fedoras, Gecko fans: Chet and Natalie have at last met their sleuthing match. A new detective has arrived at Emerson Hicky Elementary. His name's Bland. James Bland.

Bland immediately cracks a case that has baffled Chet and Natalie. Our favorite PIs get



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Mailing Address:
Northeast Library System
3038 33rd Avenue
Columbus, NE 68601.

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jealous. And if this wasn't bad enough, when Bland suddenly goes missing, the blame falls squarely on Chet. The only way for our hero to clear his name is to rescue his tubby rival. It's either that or face a stint behind bars—and we're not talking the jungle gym.

Leapholes by James Grippando. American Bar Association, 2006. Gr. 5-8.

Ryan Coolidge hates middle school and is in the worst kind of trouble. The one person who can help Ryan is a mysterious old lawyer named Hezekiah.

Hezekiah may have magical powers, or he may have the most elaborate computerized law library ever seen. Either way, together, Ryan and Hezekiah do their legal research by zooming through leapholes, physically entering the law books, and coming face-to-face with real people from some of our nation's most famous cases.

Montmorency and the Assassins by Eleanor Updale, Orchard Books, Gr. 6-10.

The former prisoner and rehabilitated thief, Montmorency is traveling through Europe on secret missions for the British government.

Nate the Great Talks Turkey by Marjorie and Mitchell Sharmat. Delacorte, 2006. Gr. K-2.

A giant turkey is on the loose! Nate and his dog, Sludge, hear the news on the radio. But Nate doesn't want to take a case that everyone in town is on. Not even when Claude claims that he saw the turkey, then lost him in the woods. He holds up a turkey feather to prove it. Now Sludge wants the case. Claude wants Sludge, and off they go.

The Raven League: Sherlock Holmes is Missing by Bill McCay and Alex Simmons. Penguin, 2006. Gr. 4-6.

When Archie Wiggins is kicked out of the Baker Street Irregulars, the gang of urchins that assists famous detective Sherlock Holmes, he has no idea what to do next. But then Holmes himself goes missing—and it seems the Irregulars might have had something to do with it. Now Wiggins and a few other misfits must take matters into their own hands.

Secrets, Lies, Gizmos and Spies: A History of Spies and Espionage by Janet Coleman. Abrams, 2006. Gr 3-8.

Published in conjunction with the International Spy Museum in Washington, DC, this heavily illustrated volume details the secret history of spies and espionage through the ages. From the Trojan War to World War II, from James Bond to Austin Powers, all secret agents will learn about extraordinary and harrowing tales of famous spies and classified operations.

Steal Back the Mona Lisa by Meghan McCarthy. Harcourt, 2006. Gr. K-2.

While our hero, Jack,* sleeps in New York, a couple of crooked crooks are stealing the Mona Lisa from the Louvre in Paris. Their intentions are dark—they plan to deface the famous painting with a mustache! Can brave Jack come to the rescue . . . before it's too late?

*Names may have been changed to protect secret-agent identities.



Northeast News

April 7th is the grand opening date for the new **Randolph Public Library**. The celebration begins at 2pm and be sure to stop by and see this lovely new addition to the Randolph community.

The lumber from the torn down Battle Creek's recreation hall is being reworked into benches by two library board members. The benches are part of the fundraising effort for the new **Battle Creek Public Library**.

Tanci Meshler, librarian at the **O'Neill Public Library** has accepted a new position at the Hillsborough County Public Library Cooperative in sunny Tampa, Florida. Good luck Tanci! We'll miss you!

On Feb. 22nd, the **House Memorial Library** in Pender held an open house to celebrate their new Gates computer. Feb. was Love Your Library Month. No fines were charged for the entire month and everytime a customer checked out a book, they entered their name into a drawing.

Genealogy buffs are delighted with the arrival of the Ancestry Library Edition at the **Norfolk Public Library**. The Ancestry Library Edition collection has approximately 4,000 databases including key collections such as U. S. Federal Census images and indexes from 1790 to 1930. There are almost 1,000 historical maps, vital records,

church records, court, and immigration records from the United States, United Kingdom and Canada.

Dakota City Public Library greatly improved the visibility of their library by having the trees in front of the library cut down.

Jill Tolstedt, librarian of the **Emerson Public Library** has resigned and is moving to Alliance. Good luck Jill and we'll miss you!

Hruska Memorial Public Library recently displayed 25 years of book publishing by South Platte Press. This small press specializes in railroad related titles, focusing on the railroads of the Midwest and western Nebraska.



Free Comic Book Day

The sixth annual Free Comic Book Day will be held on Saturday, May 5.

"As the name implies, Free Comic Book Day is a single day when participating comic book shops across North America and around the world are giving away comic books absolutely free to anyone who comes into their stores."

"This event celebrates the

independent comic book specialty stores, thousands of which exist in North America alone." Other stores that have only a display of comics books over in the corner will not be participants.

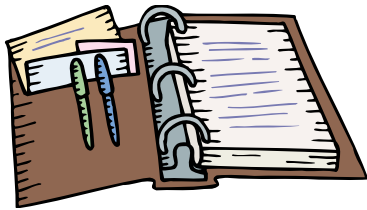
Want to know more? Visit: <http://www.freecomickbookday.com/> and take a look at their FAQ. Scroll down the main page and you will see the "comic shop locator service" database.

Once Upon a Town Set Available

The Northeast Library System has purchased 10 copies of *Once Upon a Town: The Miracle of the North Platte Canteen* by Bob Greene.

Columnist Greene provides a moving, detailed remembrance of North Platte, Neb., and its residents' selfless contribution to the war effort during WWII. The town, located in the middle of the middle of the country, was situated on the rail line to western military bases. Ignited by a letter printed in a local newspaper, the town's residents organized a canteen for soldiers headed for the front lines, bringing food, cigarettes and magazines.

If you are interested in checking out this set for a book club, please call Kathy or Shelia at 1-800-578-1014. The books are available on a first come, first served basis.



Check Your Calendar

April 4 - **Customer Centered Library** Workshop with Karen Hyman at Columbus Public Library at 9am. For more information, call Kathy at 1-800-578-1014.

April 7 - **Randolph Public Library Grand Opening** at 2pm.

April 10 - **Basic Skills: Public Services** at Lifelong Learning Center, NECC, Norfolk at 10am.

April 13 - **Best of the Web**, College of DuPage Video Conference Series.

April 15-21 - **National Library Week**

April 17 - **Basic Skills: Public Services** at Lifelong Learning Center, NECC, Norfolk at 10am.

April 20 - **NLA Special & Institutional Libraries Spring Get-Together** at Mahoney State Park at 6:30pm.

April 21 - **What Are You Reading?: From the Obvious to the Obscure** with Kate Marek, Spring Colloquium Series, Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln, at 5:30pm For more information, call Jenni Puchalla

at 1-800-288-6063.

April 25 - **NLA Diversity Committee Spring Meeting** at Lexington Public Library from 10am - 3pm.

April 27 - **Arbor Day** Holiday. Office closed.

May 5 - **Free Comic Book Day**

May 10 - **NLA Public Library Section Spring Meeting** at Lifelong Learning Center, NECC, Norfolk. See registration information on page 15.

May 11 - **Relevance of Libraries in a Digital Age**, College of DuPage Video Conference Series.

May 11 - **Nebraska Library Commission Meeting** at NLC, Lincoln, at 9:30am.

May 16 - **Northeast Library System Board Meeting** at Stanton Public Library at 10am.

May 18 - **C&U/TSRT Joint Spring Meeting** at Union College, Lincoln.

May 23 - **Brave New World: Cataloging with MARC in the Digital Age** at the Lifelong Learning Center, NECC, in Norfolk from 10-3pm.

May 28 - **Memorial Day** Holiday. Office closed.

June 7 - **NLS Annual Meeting & Institute** at Wayne State College. For more information, call Kathy at 1-800-578-1014.



**NEW
@
NLS**

Please call the system office at 1-800-578-1014 to check out one of the following items:

"Motivating Middle Schoolers: Big 6 Research" by Barbara Jensen, Library Media Connection, March 2007, pp. 28-29.

The author reviews strategies for implementing Big6 with middle schoolers and gives a sample lesson plan.

"Library Advocates Handbook" by the American Library Association, Revised 2nd Edition, 2006.

This guide gives how-to information on building a library advocacy network, writing an action plan, speaking out, dealing with the media and working with your legislator. This handbook is found online at: <http://www.ala.org/ala/issues/toolsandpub/toolsandpub.htm>.

Library User Surveys on the Web. Online. Available at <http://www.lrs.org/usersurveys.asp>.

Do you need a user sample survey for your library. Check this site out! It has sites listed to provide sample surveys for all kind of libraries: public, academic, special and general customer satisfaction surveys.

DETECTIVE IDEAS

Tire Tracks in the Garden

YOU WILL NEED:

- Disposable plastic container
- Plaster of paris
- Water
- Cup or scoop
- Bucket of water or outdoor faucet

Practice preserving tire impressions, then match them to the bike that made the tracks.

In our scenario, the culprit left an impression of his or her bike's tires in some soft soil in the yard. If you match the tread to a bike, you'll have proof positive the owner was in the area. First, have a friend or family member make a track by riding a bike over some soft dirt - but without letting you know which bike he used. Mix a small amount of plaster of paris with water according to the package directions. Using the cup or scoop, gently pour the plaster over a 6- to 8-inch section of the track, being sure to cover the sides of the track. Let the plaster dry completely (anywhere from 30 to 60 minutes). Gently pry up the plaster patch, then rinse it in a bucket of water or under an outdoor faucet to remove any excess dirt. Compare your cast to the tread of each suspect bike and see if you can spot a match.



Dirty Footprints

YOU WILL NEED:

- Thick paper towels (we used Bounty)
- Clear Con-Tact paper or laminating sheets
- Scissors

Try lifting a footprint and pairing it with a particular shoe. Every shoe leaves a different mark, depending on the size, tread, and amount of wear on the sole. Match the prints to the correct shoes, and you'll have one suspect who won't be walking free.

First, you'll need a footprint. Have an accomplice don a pair of shoes - without showing you which ones - and step first into some mud or wet dirt, then onto a hard, smooth easily cleaned surface, such as the kitchen floor. (Be sure to get your parents' permission first.)



When you're ready to lift the print, first determine if it's still wet. If it is, lay a paper towel over it and press down firmly and carefully, taking care not to shift the towel in the process. If the print is dry, thoroughly dampen the paper towel, squeeze out any excess water, then spread it and lay it over the print. Now, carefully peel up the paper towel, then set it aside to dry, print side up. Cut a piece of Con-Tact paper to size and cover the print with it. Finally, compare the tread marks to the bottoms of any suspect shoes and see if you can find a match.

2007 NEBRASKA LIBRARY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

JULY 9 - 13, 2007

ST. BENEDICT
CENTER
SCHUYLER, NE

Beginning
on the 9th
and ending after lunch
on the 13th

Following the success of the 2001, 2003, and 2005 Nebraska Library Leadership Institutes, the Nebraska Regional Library Systems are pleased to offer the fourth Leadership Institute. It is a four-day institute for 30 librarians from across the state who will become our library leaders of tomorrow. During the coming years, incredible socio-economic, demographic and technological changes will continue to take place and our leaders must ensure that libraries continue to serve as a key element in the state's info-structure.

Participants

The 30 selected participants will have demonstrated:

- Outstanding leadership potential.
- Excellent communication skills.
- Successful library employment experience.
- Initiative, commitment and reasonable risk-taking.

Requirements

All applicants must complete an application form.

Forms can be requested by contacting: your System office or Kathy Tooker, Eastern Library System Administrator, 11929 Elm St., Ste. 12, Omaha, NE 68144 800-627-7884, ktook@alltel.net or online at any of the system webpages. Applications must be postmarked no later than **April 13, 2007**. The 30 Institute participants will be notified by May 31, 2007. The registration fee of \$200 from the 30 selected participants is due by June 29, 2007.

Application forms can be found on the Northeast Library System web site at: <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/northeast/nesys.html> or call Kathy at 1-800-578-1014.

Selecting Books for Spanish Speaking ESL Students



Today most school districts provide programs such as Limited English Proficient (LEP), English Language Learner (ELL), English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), and ESL for their foreign students. Whatever the acronym, school media specialists should be prepared to select books appropriate for each student's needs.

1. Choose books with simple, limited text and pictures on each page.
Example: Ricky Ricotta series by Dave Pilkey.
2. Select bilingual books with text in the foreign language and in English on the same page or adjoining pages.

Example: *Abuela* by Arthur Dorros;
Moon Rope: A Peruvian Folktale by Lois Ehlert

3. Preview books for vocabulary.

Students may not know the meaning of words in their native language. Look for books that contain a glossary.

4. Don't assume that the author of the book is native to the culture depicted.

The grammar and vocabulary may be correct, but information about the setting or actions of the characters may not.

5. Take notice of books with unique cultural situations.

If a Spanish-speaking child is reading a book in English, there may be cultural information that needs to be explained like many retirees move south to Florida or Arizona.

6. Choose Spanish-language books that were originally written in English.

Many children's classics like *The Cat in the Hat* are available in Spanish. Pair the English-language versions with the Spanish-language ones and take note of idioms and how they are translated.

7. Purchase bilingual dictionaries with simple format and organization.

Recommended: Dr. Seuss's *The Cat in the Hat Beginner Book Dictionary in Spanish*
The Dictionary of Spanish Slang and Colloquial Expressions by Michael Mahler

8. Give students strategies for self-selecting books in English.

The Five-Finger Rule applies especially to foreign students. Have the students read one page from the book. Each time they encounter a word they don't understand, have them put up one finger. If one page contains four or five unfamiliar words, the book is probably too difficult. If readers put up no fingers or one finger, the book is probably too easy.

9. Connect student interests and reading level.

Look for books about sports, entertainment and hobbies that are high interest/low reading level.

10. Level books or group them by level of difficulty in a special section of the media center.

Label that section "Cultural Corner." In addition to housing Spanish and bilingual books, include some titles about specific Spanish-speaking countries, holidays and customs.

(Taken from, *Selecting Books for Spanish Speaking ESL Students* by Esther Peck, Library Media Connection, February 2007.)

Brave New World: Cataloging with MARC in the Digital Age

May 23
Lifelong Learning Center
Northeast Community College, Norfolk
10am – 3pm



Digital materials giving you the cataloging heebie jeebies? Let Marilyn Quance, Wayne State College’s Master Cataloger give you the lowdown on how to easily catalog the following:

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Videos | DVDs |
| Cds | Tapes |
| Playaways | E-books |
| Internet resources | Downloaded materials |

It’s easy to see that more and more library resources are coming to us in electronic format. It’s less easy to figure out just how those resources should be handled when it comes to cataloging.

Should you make one catalog record or two when you have both a print and an electronic version of an item?
Should an electronic file be treated as a monograph or a serial?
When tackling electronic resources should you catalog using MARC or some other protocol?
Come learn how to get bibliographic control of this increasingly important material and extend your skills with the latest tips and tricks from the exciting world of cataloging electronic resources.

Participants will complete hands-on exercises and should **bring two items** to catalog to the workshop. PLUS...If you have something at your library you do not know how to catalog, bring it to this workshop and let Marilyn solve your cataloging puzzle.

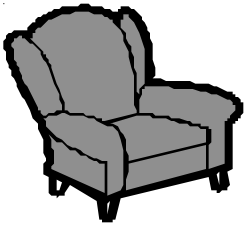
Registration Information: Complete the information requested below. Cost for the workshops is \$10. Lunch is on your own. Please fax to: 402-564-7977 or mail to: Northeast Library System, 3038 33rd Avenue, Suite 13, Columbus, NE 68601. **Registration Deadline:** May 17, 2007.

NAME: _____ **Phone:** _____

Library/School: _____

Payment Enclosed _____ **I will bring payment with me** _____

Catalogers wield unfathomable power - come to this workshop and discover how to tap into yours!



The Reviewer's Chair

Keeker and the Sugar Shack

By Hadley Higginson

It's rainy and muddy in Vermont so Keeker uses her imagination and wears panty hose on her head to act like Laura Ingalls Wilder with braids. Once the weather gets better, Keeker heads outside to ride her horse, Plum. They ride past an old house that had been emptied for years, to learn someone had just moved in. Keeker thinks it's a witch, so she and Plum investigate.

This book is recommended for all library collections. Nice chapter book with short chapters and pictures throughout each page. This is a nice chapter book for the beginning reader who is ready to read longer books. The book also makes us use our imagination and keeps us guessing to the end.

~~Sarah Klinetobe, O'Neill, NE

Snow Moon

By Nicholas Brunelle

The boy in "Snow Moon" is fascinated with a visit from an owl. His visit leads the boy on an adventure to find out where the owl came from.

This book is recommended for

all library collections. This would be a nice addition to a classroom library. Children will love the big text and beautiful illustrations.

~~Lara Morrow, O'Neill, NE

Trapped

By Peg Kehret and Pete the Cat

Pete the Cat tells this story from his perspective. He helps his family to rescue a pig that falls off a fast moving truck. The mean pickup truck driver, Hogman, comes back to retrieve the pig when he sees the story on the TV news. He seems to be hiding something. Pete jumps into the truck and finds illegal animal pelts. He takes the invoice and tries to show it to his owners. They always ignore his "talking" because they don't understand him, even though he knows what they are saying. So, he hides the invoice under a bush. Hogman suspects Pete and kidnaps him.

This is another upper elementary story that would be good for public and school library collections.

~~Claudette Wielechowski, North Platte, NE

La La Rose

By Satomi Ichikawa

This is a story about a pink stuffed rabbit that goes everywhere with its best friend Clementine. But when she gets lost she has a wild adventure.

This book is recommended for Kindergarten readers and any library collection. This book has bright pictures and a cute story about friendship. A good story about getting lost and what can happen.

~~Angie Vavra, Pierce, NE

Sheep

By Valerie Hobbs

A young border collie is taken from his parents after a fire destroys the farm and only home he has ever known. He passes through a series of owners trying to find a home and master where he can do what he was bred to do, herd sheep. In the dog's quest for a home and purpose he experiences both kind and cruel masters.

This book is for readers grades 2-5. I have always enjoyed reading books about dogs and horses. It doesn't measure up to a classic such as *Call of the Wind* but it certainly gives the dog's perspective of the callous treatment so many pets must suffer at the hands of cruel or misguided owners. The brutality of one owner is harsh but well written. Could easily bring tears to sensitive children. My sister has a border collie and the author has captured the essence of what border collies are bred to do.

~~Deb Daehnke, Wayne State College



Like Willys

By Juanita Havill

10-year-old Guan and Sarah, who live in Paris, vacation each year at a small resort village on Lake Constance, in Austria. Here they meet an Austrian boy named Willy who is also 10. They become close friends who write to each other throughout the year and spend their summers by the lake swimming and racing. When the weather is bad they play chess or listen to Willy play the piano or flute. Sarah has decided she will marry Willy, which is okay with Guan because then he and Willy will be brothers. But then Austria and Paris go to war and Guan and Willy are fighting on opposite sides.

This book is for readers in grades 4-6. The setting of this story, though pretty fast moving, gives young readers an idea of what it must have been like growing up and living through World War I. This book will be a great way to get your elementary reader to want to learn more about the war and how it affected lives.

~~Diane Limoges, Eastern Township Library

Mr. Ouchys First Day

By B.G. Hennessy

How often we think of the student who is nervous about the upcoming new school year, or something that will be happening that makes them worry whether it will go well or not. But seldom do we read books about the new teacher's con-

cerns.

I really like this book. A cute touch was that his mother would call him in the evenings to see how things were going and reassure him that it would be okay. We all need moms and positive reinforcement. Can I remember everyone's name, will I be able to find the bathroom, ect. This is a neat little book.

~~Carol Tramp, Wynot Public School



Keeping Your Community Connected DVD Available

No community can afford to lose its public library and the technology services it provides. To help, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation are making available two new tools, entitled **Keeping Your Community Connected**, that can help advocate for libraries:

Video

Show an eight-minute DVD to launch conversations with local government and community partners.

Brochure

Circulate a related brochure that includes persuasive statistics, library patron stories, and a call to action for community members and leaders.

You can obtain a free set of these materials, including the DVD and 10 brochures. Please provide the following information in the body of your email to: USlibraries@gatesfoundation.org

Your name

Your job title or role in the community (librarian, trustee)

Your mailing address (Note, we cannot ship to post office boxes)

The name of your public library

Your phone number

Biblio Bits

Bibliopole - One who sells or deals in books.

Biblioklept - A book thief.

Bibliokleptomaniac - an insane book thief

Bibliomane - An indiscriminate hoarder of books.

Bibliophobia - A morbid fear of books.

Bibliotaph - One who 'buries' books by keeping them locked away.

Bibliothecary: A librarian

Bibliognost - One with a complete knowledge of a book.



I Blog, You Blog, Weblog

Blogs are an easy way to not only receive information, but also to publish the information you have. More than just an online journal, blog-based publishing might be the best way for you to present your library's information to the public.

What can you expect if you attend this training session?

Learn what a blog is, who writes blogs, why blogs are so popular, and the different types of blogs.

View some of the best examples of LIS blogs and discover what makes them worth reading.

Create your own blog in just minutes using the free Blogger.com service.

Discover many of the options for customizing your blog to fit your needs.

Leave with ideas on just how blogging can be integrated into your library's Web site.

What should you bring with you to class?

In class you'll be creating a blog of your own. You're welcome to create a personal blog or a blog for your library. Either way, before class please take a few minutes to consider what you would like to blog about. In class you'll be giving your blog a title and creating several posts on your topic of choice. A little advanced planning regarding these items will make the class run smoothly.

Attendees are expected to have familiarity with using the Web. (X)HTML experience is *not* necessary.

To register: Go to the Nebraska Library Commission's Training Portal at: <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/training/train.asp> and search on blog.

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**NLA PUBLIC LIBRARY/SCYP/TUFS SECTIONS
2007 Spring Meetings**

The 2007 NLA Spring Meetings are a collaborative effort. Sponsored by Public Library Section, Trustees, Users & Friends Section, and School, Children’s & Young People’s Section of the Nebraska Library Association and hosted by Alliance, Kearney, Norfolk, and Lincoln libraries, we are joined by the Information Technology and Access Round Table, the Intellection Freedom Committee, the UNMC Library of Medicine, and the Nebraska Library Commission.

Please join us May 7th through the 11th from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Geocaching in our Communities: Have you ever wondered what geocaching is? Do you know any geocachers in your community? How can you use geocaching with the 2007 “Get a Clue@Your Library” Summer Reading Program? Join Nancy Chmiel and other geocachers and take a “hands on” approach to learning about geocaching!

Intellectual Freedom Issues Panel: I.F. you have questions about...Censorship, the Patriot Act, Banned and Challenged Books, Meeting Room Use, CIPA and other Internet Issues, or Libraries and the Law (and who DOESN’T?), let our panel help! We will have representatives who will speak on these topics, as well as answer some of the questions you may have about them.

“Ask a Geek” in Your Library: Have a computer questions? Getting weird messages from your computer? Your answer is “Just a keystroke away!” Members of ITART will share information on their new “Ask a Geek” program and how you can use it in your library.

Go Local Nebraska: Roxanne Cox, Head of the Reference Department at McGoogan Library of Medicine, will train us in the use of this online database. The database links consumers to information about health services in local geographic areas from the MedlinePlus health topics.

***Please make copies as necessary and send your registration to:
Nadine DiBacco, P.O. Box 68, Boys Town, NE 68010
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MAY 1, 2007***

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Please check the day that you will be coming:

- ___ **Mon, May 7** Alliance Public Library 1750 Sweetwater Ave Alliance, NE
- ___ **Wed, May 9** Kearney Public Library 2020 First Ave Kearney, NE
- ___ **Thurs, May 10** Lifelong Learning Center, Northeast Community College 801 E. Benjamin Ave Norfolk — hosted by Norfolk Public Library
- ___ **Fri, May 11** Eiseley Branch, Lincoln City Libraries 1530 Superior St Lincoln, NE

Registration Fee: \$15 payable to NLA Public Library Section Morning snack and lunch provided with your registration.

**The Northeast Library System serves the following counties:
Antelope, Boone, Boyd, Butler, Cedar, Colfax, Dakota,
Dixon, Holt, Knox, Madison, Merrick, Nance, Pierce, Platte, Polk,
Stanton, Thurston, Wayne and Wheeler.**

"True heroism is remarkably sober, very undramatic. It is not the urge to surpass all others at whatever cost, but the urge to serve others at whatever cost."

**~~Arthur Ashe,
American tennis champion**

Check out our web site at: <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/northeast/nesys.html>



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