

February/March 2004



*The Newsletter of the Panhandle Library System*

**PLS Coordinator's Message**

There is much talk these days about partnerships. Because all agencies are short of funds, many are finding ways to combine services and cut costs. Or they may request grant money together for shared programs. In the process, they might also learn more about each other, and reap benefits beyond dollars saved. One very important partnership is between the public library and the school library. Schools may invite the public librarian to do book talks during Teen Read Week or National Library Week; the high school art teacher may display his students' work at the public library; the public librarian may be stocking shelves with curriculum support materials and Accelerated Reader books; the school librarian may put a link to the public library catalog on the school web page; students participate in Golden Sower voting at school and find the same books prominently displayed in the public library; schools promote summer reading programs created by public librarians who know we all want kids to read and learn every day of the year. The natural network that holds us all together – literature, information, resources – is bigger than the World Wide Web. We know that school and public libraries operate differently. In schools the library supports the total educational program; the public library meets the needs of the whole community. But they are striving toward the same goal. Both see themselves as the link to life-long learning for their patrons. If all of us who work in libraries of any kind will respect each other for our shared mission, and strive to support each others' programs, we'll have the best partnership of all.

Cherie Longmuir

## INSIDE OUR LIBRARIES

**Northfield Elementary School** library in **Gering** looks like a zoo. There are huge child-size animals – bear, moose, chimp, lion, panther – lying on the floor and on top of book shelves. Luckily they don't mind being petted, or even read to. The children come to the library twice each week – once to check out books, and once for stories and lessons. The new overhead lights make the room bright and inviting. First graders are being introduced to Golden Sower books while reviewing important information skills. They respond in unison with “cover,” “spine,” “title page,” “copyright,” when the library assistant points to each part of the book. A picture represents each book on the Golden Sower ballot, and a quick review shows that the children remember every title. Media specialist **Kathy Terrell** juggles programs at 3 elementary schools each week, and still makes time to serve as a PLS Board member.

Just down the street at **Gering High School**, **Pat Gross**, another PLS Board member, is collaborating with a teacher on a research unit based on the war novel All Quiet on the Western Front. Students have a bank of 24 computers where they can search for information on the issue they have chosen to study, using databases, the Internet, and the online catalog. If her library doesn't have a book that a student needs, Pat checks WorldCat to see if anyone in the area has it and could lend it. Students also enjoy the eye-catching displays prepared by library assistant, Robin Schadwinkel. This month's theme is “Chill Out and Read,” which features stuffed polar bears skiing down snowy slopes on books.

Many towns of 300 population wouldn't attempt to support a library. But they may not have book lovers like **Edy Rittenhouse** and **Leone Wolfe** in the community. Right next to City Hall on main street in **Lewellen**, is a painted sign in the window: Library – open Tuesday and Friday, 2-5 p.m. And at 2 p.m., you'd better not be standing in the doorway, or you'll get knocked over by the faithful readers who can't wait to see what's new or what someone has returned. Leone, at 80- something, knows exactly what her customers like, and has just learned how to place orders with Baker & Taylor to save money using the NLC discount. Edy, who is also the mayor and works at a nursing home in Oshkosh, obtained a Gates computer so that her citizens could have Internet and information access.

Apparently multi-tasking is contagious in **Lewellen**. Up the road at the school, **Ruth Radke** hangs a sign on the office door showing a lady with 6 arms and the words “Ruth is in the library” – as opposed to being the secretary or the bookkeeper, which she does when she's not shelving books. Even though there are only 56 students grades K-8, it's clear that Ruth loves this little school. Supervising librarian **Carol Luna** hopes to connect the Garden County school libraries together using Follett automation, which will expand the resources for all of them.

Both **Gering Public Library** and **Gering Elementary Schools** were treated to a visit by author/illustrator **John Gravdahl**. He came from Colorado, where he teaches illustration at CSU, to read his books and show children how to draw.

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

One of the funded areas for LSTA grants this year was programs that meet the needs of English Language Learners. In our state, we may think first of people whose native language is Spanish. But depending on the area of the state where you live, there are people who have come from many parts of the world and speak a variety of languages. As they strive to learn English, they may want to read materials in their native language, materials that are bilingual, or materials in English – possibly with a theme or by an author from their homeland.

Whether you work in a school library or a public library, it is important to identify these people. You may not see them in the library, because you may not have anything for them. Or they may just not understand the library procedures. Making contact with someone in the school or community who is involved with this group is a good way to start. That contact person may understand the needs of these people and ways that you could provide programs, services, and materials that would be of interest to them. As with any type of collection development, assuming you know what is needed may result in wasting money on items that won't be used. And as with any new program, "if you build it they will come" may not apply if you offer something for which there is no interest.

If you have Spanish speaking people in your community, there is an exceptional Web site that you might want to use and refer people to: [www.colorincolorado.org](http://www.colorincolorado.org). Use the toggle button to choose text in English or Spanish. The content itself is written in simple language, and the focus is on literacy activities that Spanish-speaking parents can do to motivate their children to become great readers. It includes lists of recommended books and information about using a library. Parents and children who use the site may be looking for those books, so it also provides an ordering source for librarians. Also, the site's creator says that librarians are encouraged to print out pages from the site to give to parents and others involved with literacy activities.

Incidentally, 5 public libraries from PLS applied for LSTA funds to support programming for English Language Learners: Kimball, Mitchell, Morrill, Scottsbluff, Alliance.

## INFORMATION POWER

"The mission of the Lakeview High School Library media program is to ensure that students and staff are effective users of ideas and information and to encourage leisure use of worthwhile materials. The library media program is fully integrated into the school's curriculum and supports the educational goals and objectives of Lakeview High School."

According to an article she wrote for School Library Journal, Oct., 2003, the librarian at this school fulfills that mission by working with teachers to develop units like one on the Holocaust, which you can see at <http://academic.kellogg.cc.mi.us/k12lincolnm/intro.html>.

Instead of turning in plagiarized term papers, these students do research to answer questions like "What might have happened if the Allies had bombed German railways leading to the concentration camps?" "Should some Nazi war criminals have been spared the death penalty and forced to make amends by working for the betterment of the Jewish people?" The site lists information and resources for both teachers and students as they move through this experience of the true power of information and learning.

## NEWS YOU CAN USE

If you need a reminder about why you chose to work in a library, read **How Reading Changed My Life** by Anna Quindlen. In less than 100 pages, the author, who spent most of her childhood curled up in a chair with a book, describes how it feels to value reading above all else. In spite of our efforts to market our programs and provide the next new technology, it feels good to know that some people just want a room full of books.

Do you have patrons or students asking for **medical information**? Here are some reliable, free sources to refer them to.  
[www.4woman.gov](http://www.4woman.gov) – National Women's Health Information Center;  
<http://medlineplus.gov> – National Library of Medicine; [www.clinicaltrials.gov](http://www.clinicaltrials.gov) – clinical trials offering new treatments;  
[www.ghr.nlm.nih.gov](http://www.ghr.nlm.nih.gov) – diseases that run in families; [www.nihseniorhealth.gov](http://www.nihseniorhealth.gov) – issues specifically for seniors.

**Western Nebraska Community College** library in Scottsbluff has a new Web page: [www.wncc.net/library/](http://www.wncc.net/library/) This library is open to the public, and anyone can get a card. Check the online catalog to see some of the materials that may be of interest to you or your patrons.

Once again the Panhandle Library System will provide a performance activity as part of the Summer Reading Program. **Children's Theatre of Florida** (formerly Time Step Players) will visit 11 sites in June. Due to state funding cuts, they have been booked for one week instead of two. The schedule is for a 10am and a 2pm performance daily:  
Mon., June 21 – Kimball, Gering  
Tues., June 22 – Scottsbluff, Morrill  
Wed., June 23 – Bayard, Alliance  
Thurs., June 24 – Rushville, Chadron  
Friday, June 25 – Ogallala, Oshkosh (1pm)  
Saturday, June 26 – Sidney (10am)  
It will be a two-person musical adventure with the theme "Reading Odyssey".

<http://teacherweb.panesu.org/pls>  
(your PLS web page)

**Elaine Nightingale** from **Sidney Public Library** has a junior Friends group of 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders, who volunteer to help libraries. If your library is located near Sidney, and you would like some help cleaning, painting, or hauling books, call Elaine: 308-254-3110.

**Marcia Miller** is retiring from her position at **WNCC-Sidney library**. On a temporary basis, Maggie Taylor will fill the position, assisted by Margaret Evans. We will really miss Marcia's warm personality and expertise, but wish her the best as she moves on to other things.

The PLS **author tour** that was tentatively scheduled for this April has been cancelled. The committee is looking at other options, possibly for fall.

Panhandle Library System has a new member: **Museum of the Fur Trade** in Chadron. In addition to the museum, which is breaking ground for a new facility, there is a 10,000 volume research library. Welcome to the PLS family!!

Here is a great Web site for your teen readers: <http://www.rbls.lib.il.us/bpl-bin/series.pl>

It has a searchable database called "Teen Series and Sequels." You can use an author name, a title, or a series name to find all books in a series or all series by an author.

**Library signs** are not a luxury; they are essential. Every library, no matter the size, needs a sign on a major street pointing the way to the library. If your town doesn't have one, it's time for a fund-raiser to purchase one. They are available at a reasonable cost from library supply companies such as BroDart, Demco, Library Store, Gaylord. Remember you're eligible for the Nebraska Library Commission discounts. And how about the sign at the library building itself? A Boy Scout working for his Eagle Badge in Stanton, NE, spent 20 hours creating a large stone sign surrounded by landscaping. Let's make ourselves visible!

## NEWS YOU CAN USE

### **New in the PLS Collection**

Getting Online 2.0: a small town guide to creating 21<sup>st</sup>-century communities. National Center for Small Comm., 2003. This is a great resource for technology planning, with many examples of what other small communities have done. Call the PLS office to borrow: 888-879-5303.

### **School Library Resources Online**

If you can't afford to subscribe to School Library Journal, you can still read some of the news and reviews by going to [www.slj.com](http://www.slj.com).

Another resource for school media specialists is [www.galeschools.com](http://www.galeschools.com). It features lesson plans, resources, fundraising ideas, and a free newsletter.

### **Favorite Young Adult Books**

Young Adult Library Services Assn. (YALSA) of ALA provided two opportunities for teens to vote for their favorite new books. One was for five selected voting groups across the country, and one was an open internet vote. Four titles appear on both "top ten" lists: The Second Summer of the Sisterhood by Ann Brashares; Abhorsen by Garth Nix; Tithe: A Modern Faerie Tale by Holly Black; The Thief Lord by Cornelia Funke. For more information on teen reading and programs, go to the ALA website: [www.ala.org/yalsa](http://www.ala.org/yalsa).

### **Annual Meeting**

It's never too early to start thinking about June! Mark your calendar for the PLS Annual Meeting at WNCC in Sidney on June 11. You'll get a taste of the wild west while you get reacquainted with all your library friends.

**FEBRUARY IS  
LIBRARY LOVERS MONTH**

### **Children of the Western Plains**

There is a series called "American Childhoods" with a title that may be of interest in our area: Children of the Western Plains: The Nineteenth-Century Experience by Marilyn Holt. It deals with settlement on the Great Plains after the Civil War, and includes information about the work, play, education, healthcare, and deaths of the children in agricultural communities.

### **Upcoming Workshops**

Please note that there is a workshop scheduled for March 5<sup>th</sup> (see insert). This was planned in response to many requests on the last Continuing Education survey. In the morning is a Follett session, providing information on using a PHD scanner for doing inventory. You may borrow a PHD from the PLS office, so this training will show you how to use it. You'll also find out about the next Follett version 6.0, and Tom Merchant will answer your library automation questions. In the afternoon, Jim Soester will show you how to use a digital camera, or create digital pictures even without one. Both workshops are at Scottsbluff PL.

### **A Technology Toolkit**

The videotape of the College of DuPage teleconference "A Technology Toolkit: Survival Basics for Everyone" may be borrowed from the PLS office. It includes current information on computer and Internet skills for library staff. It would also be appropriate for Trustees working toward Library Board Certification.



## BITS AND PIECES

**Nadine DiBacco, Gering Public Library** director, and **Bev Russell, Scottsbluff Public Library** director will both be attending the Public Library Association conference in Seattle, Washington, in February. Nadine received one of 5 scholarships offered by the Nebraska Library Commission. Bev was selected to attend a training session at the Gates Foundation in Seattle, which included registration for PLA. The knowledge gained and shared from these professional opportunities helps all of us move forward.

Have you gone to **WebJunction**? It's the continuation of training and sharing provided by the Gates Foundation in conjunction with OCLC. It's free to all libraries – just register at [www.webjunction.org](http://www.webjunction.org). You can take online classes on how to use software programs like Access or Powerpoint; you can post questions to other librarians; you can learn how to write a good press release. What a great way to attend an inservice in February - from the comfort of your own computer.

**Legislative Day** is Feb. 19, at the State Capitol in Lincoln. The purpose is to provide communication between our state senators and the library community. There will be briefings on issues important to libraries, lunch with your senator, and an afternoon seminar. Library staff, Board members, and any other library supporters are encouraged to attend, and make the value we place on libraries visible to the lawmakers.

The insert in this newsletter "**The Librarian's Guide to Great Web Sites for Kids**" came from the ALA Web site, and may be duplicated for use in your library.

Library Board members have another way to become active in the library world: join the **Nebraska Library Assn.** There is a section just for Trustees, Users, and Friends: **TUFS**. For more information, go to [www.nebraskalibraries.org](http://www.nebraskalibraries.org).

The American Library Assn. has a new online resource: "**Boys Will Be...: The Unique Reading and Development Needs of Boys in Libraries**." It includes tips, book lists, program ideas, and Web sites: [www.ala.org/alsc](http://www.ala.org/alsc) - click on "resources," "for librarians," "boys."

Please notice the flyer in this newsletter for "**The Visible Library**," a marketing workshop presented by **Pat Wagner** on Monday, April 19, at the Gering Civic Center. Many of you indicated on the C.E. survey that you wanted help promoting your library. This workshop is in response to that, and will be an excellent session. Send in the registration and plan to attend!

If you are needing a list of **recommended books** to order on a particular subject, check with the PLS office. In addition to the "award" booklists, we have the bibliographies produced by the Cooperative Children's Book Center. These include Arts, Family, Grief, Labor, Spanish/Bilingual, Peace, Science, Seasons, Sports, Survival, Writing, Wordless. We would be glad to send you a copy.

Have you heard of Landmark Audiobooks? They have a program for **leasing books on CD**. This provides you with a rotating collection for your regular users. Call for more information: 1-800-580-2989.

## BITS AND PIECES

Lincoln City Libraries is sponsoring "A Book for All Kids" program, a community plan to promote reading, discussion and thought. Every 3<sup>rd</sup> grader was given the book Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing. Many events related to the book were scheduled over a two-month period, ending with a production of the play based on the book. To find out more about it:

<http://www.abookforallkids.com/>

Remember that March 2 is "Read Across America Day" in celebration of Dr. Seuss' 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. For ideas, activities, and reproducible pages:

<http://www.seussentennial.com>

Looking for a horse story with local flavor? Nellene Mailander, who lives near Bayard and writes under the pen name Ruth Foreman, has written a mystery about an Arabian horse, with a setting in the Nebraska sand hills. Free to Drink the Wind is about a show horse and a 17-year-old girl. Her family, involved in capturing modern-day horse thieves and cattle rustlers, includes her rancher father, antique dealer mother, & redheaded 14-year-old twin brothers.

**Techsoup** is a source for technology information targeted to non-profit organizations. It has tech news, free downloads of tech tools, experts to answer your tech questions, and discounted hardware and software.

<http://www.techsoup.org>

**Parents and children  
learn together  
@ the library.**

**Carol Kyser, Oshkosh Public Library,** and her Friends group have found two new fund-raising ideas. One is to sell books as Christmas gifts. Selected donated hard cover popular books in excellent condition, of which the library already has a copy, are decorated by the Friends with a beautiful ribbon and bow. The selling price is \$5 – and they are ready to go under the tree. They also have a quilted wall hanging picturing shelves holding books. The "title" of each book is the name of a local family who has made a donation to the library.

**Sherri Hausmann,** media specialist for the **Lodgepole Schools,** has been awarded an MLS scholarship from the Nebraska Library Commission. She will be pursuing her studies through the University of Missouri. Congratulations!

Also congratulations to **Annette Bellu** of **Chadron PL,** and to **Allison McBride** of **Alliance High School,** who both started the new year with the birth of babies!

"Improving Literacy Through School Libraries" is a federal **grant** program for improving reading achievement by providing students with current library materials. Get the details at:

[www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/LSL/index.html](http://www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/LSL/index.html).

The Panhandle Library System office has a new Web page. It's still in development, but we hope you'll make us one of your "favorites"! Thanks to Craig Hicks and ESU 14 for their help.

<http://teacherweb.panesu.org/pls>

## Do you dare question technology?

Like every other material that we evaluate in terms of quality standards and appropriateness for our collections/programs, we also need to be aware of the outcomes we hope to achieve and how best to reach them. Consider this writer's view of Internet use by young people. (Reproduced, with permission, from *School Library Journal* Copyright, By Reed Business Information, A Division of Reed Elsevier Inc)

# ChatRoom

BY WALTER MINKEL



## Rage Against the Machine

A journalist says 'Whoa!' to school technology

TODD OPPENHEIMER SAYS IT'S IRONIC THAT TECHNOLOGY—particularly the hyperlinked Web—is often touted as a way to help students make connections between various pieces of information. During the seven years he spent researching and writing his new book, *The Flickering Mind: The False Promise of Technology in the Classroom and How Learning Can Be Saved* (Random House), Oppenheimer observed many students noodling about on the Web, clicking aimlessly from site to site. His conclusion? Today's students spend so much time exploring glitzy multimedia and swimming in endless streams of fuzzily linked information that they have no time to think about what they've found. Students need guides, like librarians and teachers, to show them how to make sense of that information, says Oppenheimer. Kids need to be taught "the value of perseverance and accomplishment," he says. "Computer technology completely shortcuts that process—it teaches people that they don't need to go through it. It sanctions quickness and superficiality."

But, unfortunately, educators are often part of the problem. Oppenheimer has seen many teachers praise their students—and give them high grades—for creating polished PowerPoint presentations that simply regurgitate text and display pictures copied from the Web. Projects like these, he says, show no evidence of any personal thought or understanding of the subject. The way technology has been implemented in the majority of American schools has caused students to think less, not more, he wrote in a 1997 cover story for the *Atlantic Monthly*. And in the No-Child-Left-Behind era, he also thinks there's too much emphasis on using technology to cram kids' heads with facts they'll need to pass tests. (He depicts Accelerated Reader as one such use of technology.)

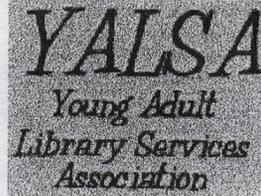
Oppenheimer began covering multimedia technology for *Newsweek* during the mid-1990s, and he says that he was a "big fan" of it. But the more he saw how technology was being used in K-12 schools, the less convinced he became that it was doing students much good. Now a freelance journalist, Oppenheimer believes that school technology is best in small, carefully measured doses, and he documents his case in his book.

When I asked him, in a phone interview, if he'd like schools to shut down their computer networks, he said no. Oppenheimer wants educators to offer kids more guidance in how to think about what they find online. "Kids need to learn the principles of depth and breadth," he says. "They need to find the intersection between their imaginations and the information that's already out there." It's your imagination that makes your work special, he says, not what you can copy from Google.

So how can librarians use technology in a way that encourages students to think more imaginatively and critically? It's essential to teach information literacy skills across the curriculum, says Oppenheimer. As part of that effort, educators should require students to look first at print materials—which are edited and fact checked—rather than relying on Internet materials, which are more likely to be inaccurate and contain misspellings. "Reading and studying books and magazine articles [teaches] kids how to write a lead paragraph, and how to use transitions to bring people into their story," he says. Oppenheimer also believes that manipulating physical objects—whether blocks and paint or books and magazines—focuses students' attention on the task at hand, and helps them learn better than a computer screen.

He hopes that teachers and librarians will guide kids to ask essential questions and encourage them to tackle real-world problems that can't be solved by simply looking on the Net. For example, instead of simply listing the clothes that the ancient Egyptians wore, let's ask students: "What would the ancient Egyptians have worn if the temperature in the Nile valley had been 15 degrees cooler? How might their culture have been different?" Researching questions like these requires more than Google, and librarians should guide students to the best available tools.

Although high-tech vendors claim that children exposed to cutting-edge hardware and software will have an easier time getting jobs later on, Oppenheimer disagrees. No technology is cutting edge for very long, and what employers really want, says Oppenheimer, are graduates who can think creatively, solve problems, and be able to write a readable and meaningful English sentence.



Contact Us

The top ten Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers are:

- **Boards: the Art and Design of the Skateboard.** Universe Publishing. 0-7893-0977-7.
- **Foolish/ Unfoolish: Reflections On Love.** Hyperion. 1-4013-0030-8.
- **Dead Girls Don't Write Letters.** Millbrook Press / Roaring Brook Press. 0-7613-1727-9.
- **Skeleton Key: An Alex Rider Adventure.** Penguin Putnam Books for Young Readers. 0-399-23777-1.
- **The First Part Last.** Simon & Schuster Books For Young Readers. 0-689-84922-2.
- **Dropping In With Andy Mac: Life of a Pro Skateboarder.** Simon & Schuster / Pulse. 0-689-85784-5.
- **Only the Strong Survive: The Odyssey of Allen Iverson.** HarperCollins / ReganBooks. 0-06-009773-6.
- **Odd Jobs: Portraits of Unusual Occupations.** Ten Speed Press. 1-58008-457-5.
- **Jesse James: The Man and His Machines.** Motorbooks International / MBI. 0-7603-1614-7.
- **Inside Out.** HarperCollins / Tempest. 0-06-623962-1.

The Best Books for Young Adults committee of the Young Adult Library Services Association, a division of the American Library Association, has chosen the following books as Top Ten Young Adult Books:

### Top Ten \*

- Brooks, Martha. "True Confessions of a Heartless Girl." Farrar, Straus & Giroux/Melanie Kroupa Books, \$16.00 (0-374-37806-1)
- Donnelly, Jennifer. "A Northern Light." Harcourt, \$17.00 (0-15-216705-6)
- Haddon, Mark. "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time: A Novel." Random House/Doubleday, \$22.95 (0-385-50945-6)
- Johnson, Angela. "The First Part Last." Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, \$15.95 (0-689-84922-2)
- Levithan, David. "Boy Meets Boy." Random House/Alfred A. Knopf, \$15.95 (0-375-82400-6)
- Maynard, Joyce. "The Usual Rules." St. Martin's Press, \$24.95 (0-312-24261-1)
- Pattou, Edith. "East." Harcourt Children's Books, \$18.00 (0-15-204563-5)
- Rapp, Adam. "33 Snowfish." Candlewick Press, \$15.99 (0-7636-1874-8)
- Stroud, Jonathan. "The Amulet of Samarkand: Bartimaeus Trilogy, Book One." Hyperion Books for Children/Miramax, \$17.95 (0-7868-1859-X)
- Thompson, Craig. "Blankets: An Illustrated Novel." Top Shelf Productions, \$29.95 (1-891830-43-0)

## Pre-conference 2003 Evaluation

Rating: 5(Best/Most) to 1(Worst/Least)

1. How much did you learn from the program? 26 -5's; 7-4's; 1-3
2. How relevant was the program to you? 28-5's; 5-4's; 1-3
3. Did the program meet your expectations? 30-5's; 3-4's
4. How well did the presenter(s) stimulate and handle discussion? 24-5's; 8-4's; 2-3's
5. Did you get to ask the questions that you wanted to ask? 22-5's; 10-4's; 1-3
6. Other comments? Very good –want our entire staff to hear the presentation; This was great, gave me lots of ideas to take back-thanks! (I hate when I give all fives, so you did good!); Thank you for having a speaker who has proof it works to think outside the box; Thank you for emphasizing the 'customer'; Excellent program-this is a very good topic to learn more about, especially being in a library with limited staff and funds; Wonderful! Great ideas to share for all sizes; I would have loved handouts to write notes on. I am happy I can find them online, though; I got a lot of good ideas and will try to implement them immediately; Very good. Wonderful review and lots of new ideas; Would have like the passout that matched the PowerPoint to make sure we could follow up; This was excellent-lots of practical, useable ideas-yet very inspiring about the possibilities of being positive and challenging the status quo. Cate would be a great person to work with; Probably the best workshop I have been to. Too bad all NE librarians couldn't attend!; Excellent speaker and presentation. Covered some very relevant topics and really made us think; Excellent. I really liked this program; Very stimulating and challenging. Just the kick in the seat of my pants that I needed; Excellent; This was an outstanding presentation. I want to go home now and implement some of these ideas. This made the trip worthwhile. The rest of the conference will have to go some to beat this! Thanks-Systems!; This was one of the most timely and relevant presentations I have ever experienced. Thanks go to Mrs. McNeely and the person who invited her; Very good program!; Very well delivered and presented. Learned so much-useful ideas and new innovative ways of doing things!; This was a very useful program. Thank you very much!; Great speaker!; Good room, good sound, good PowerPoint presentation, very useful to my customers; Well organized, content rich presentation. Her wealth of experience and successes made the information very meaningful and useful. Inspirational too; Excellent presentation-very timely. Appropriate for large or small; Great topic. Great presenter; Thank you! So many good ideas to work on, so much to do. Love this occupation-there's always change and more to learn! Thanks for reminding me of that today; Excellent!; Great ideas-this is the motivation I needed to get back into a positive change mode. Lots of great "sparking ideas"

*This is what you missed if you didn't attend the  
NLA/NEMA Preconference Presentation  
"Creating Excellence for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Libraries"*  
by Cate McNeely!!

Panhandle Library System  
Board Meeting  
November 18, 2003  
Bluff's Business Center, Scottsbluff

The board of the Panhandle Library System met November 18, 2003 at the Bluff's Business Center in the lower level conference room. The meeting was called to order by President Maryruth Reed at 10:00 A.M. She opened with her version of "Happy Birthday" for Debbie McCall's birthday.

Present: Maryruth Reed, Dena Crews, Ruth Walker, Jill Ellis, Carolyn Brown, Lillian Diedrichsen, Diane Downer, Pat Gross, Vickie Retzlaff, ~~Kathy Terrell~~, Cherie Longmuir, and Debbie McCall.

The agenda was approved.

The minutes of the previous meeting were amended and approved as amended.

There was a roundtable of public librarians. Maryruth reported on the Learn-a-Test, adult book discussion group, a new painting purchased with Dorothy Brown Memorial, and the landscaping around the library. Vickie reported on the annual bake sale, story hour is sponsored by Beta Sigma Phi, the newsletter, the library being open late on Wednesday nights, the Christmas Open House, and the fact that her board is a big help. Diane reported on Children's Book Week celebration, lights being changed in the adult area, and Jeopardy will be played at the Library Job-a-Like. Carolyn reported on the board meetings, the Patriot Act, Policies, Preschool story time, and the problem with the parking lot next to the library.

Cherie handed out the approved policies and procedures to be put in members' books.

The budget was presented. There was discussion of reducing the number of newsletters to cut costs. There was also discussion of charging a fee for workshops. Lillian moved that the budget be approved. Dena seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Under committee reports, the summer reading program was discussed. It was decided to have the ~~One-Step Players~~ <sup>Children's Theatre of Florida</sup> for one week rather than two weeks and go with central locations starting with June 21. The author tour is being planned for Charles Sykes. He is a nonfiction adult author. It will be April 6-10, 2004. Dena moved that \$1000.00 that is in the cash fund be designated for the Author Tour. Pat seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote. Carolyn reported that 689 people visited the Kids Explore activity. Carolyn moved that a bill of \$39.50 for the activity be paid. Jill seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote. The Continuing Education Committee reported on workshops with Tom Merchant on using Follett, and Jim Soester doing a workshop with digital cameras, and NEMA Training with Gail Formanac. The annual meeting will be June 11 in Sidney at WNCC. Gail Potter will be the speaker with a Western Trail Theme.

The Internet Safety Policy was presented. Carolyn moved to accept the policy. Lillian seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

The revised personnel policy was presented. Lillian moved to accept the revisions. Diane seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

The upcoming workshop on legal resources was announced. It will be December 12, 2003.

The next meeting will be January 13, 2004 in the Bluff's Business Center Upper Level Conference Room at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Ruth Walker  
Secretary

PLS Bd. Meeting

### Planned Giving for Nebraska Librarians

The Nebraska Library Association (NLA) Planned Giving Fund for Nebraska Librarians kicked off a 5-year campaign at the 2003 NLA/NEMA Conference in Omaha with a display at the NLA Membership Table and an announcement at the NLA Business meeting. The program goal is set-up of an affiliated fund to assist NLA in providing continuing education, training and learning opportunities for Nebraska librarians and library supporters and to increase awareness of the importance and value of all types of libraries through out Nebraska.

The NLA Planned Giving Adhoc Committee through an initial "quiet" campaign was able to generate \$9,300 in pledges. A primary goal of NLA since its inception in 1895 has been to meet the continuing education needs of Nebraska librarians. Additionally, many NLA members spend their lives passionately involved in the library community, and may find that a gift to the Planned Giving Fund is a way of carrying on that commitment. It can be a tool for expressing your beliefs and values and a gift to an effort that contributes to services available to all Nebraskans across the state through their local libraries.

The opportunity for individuals to contribute to the Planned Giving Fund as part of the 5-year campaign is available until **January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2004**. Prior to that date, contributions of a minimum of \$250, either through a 5-year pledge or single donation, will be recognized as members of the NLA Legacy Society. After January 31<sup>st</sup> the 5-year campaign pledge is not an option and recognition as part of the Legacy Society in initiating the fund ends. Fund raising for The Planned Giving Program will continue after January 31<sup>st</sup> as an ongoing activity through the NLA Finance Committee in an effort to provide continuing support for library education and publicity throughout the state.

If you'd like to be a part of the initial campaign and member of the NLA Legacy Society donations can be sent to:

Nebraska Library Association  
c/o Maggie Harding, Exec. Director  
Planned Giving Program  
P.O. Box 98  
Crete, NE 68333-0098  
Phone: (402)826-2636  
Fax: (402)826-2636  
E-mail: [Gh12521@alltel.net](mailto:Gh12521@alltel.net)

(Nebraska Library Association is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and donations are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.)

A print or electronic copy of the NLA Planned Giving Fund brochure with additional information and a contribution form is available from:

Brenda Ealey  
Southeast Library System  
5730 R St., Suite C-1  
Lincoln, NE 68505  
(402)467-6188 or (800)288-6063  
Fax: (402)467-6196  
e-mail: [bsealey@alltel.net](mailto:bsealey@alltel.net)

## Nominations for Meritorious Service and Mari Sandoz Awards Due by May 28, 2004

The NLA Citations Committee invites nominations for the Meritorious Service Award and the Mari Sandoz Award for the year 2004.

- The Meritorious Service Award is given annually to the person, corporation, or organization which has contributed to the improvement of library service in a local community, region, state agency, or in library legislation.
- The Mari Sandoz recognizes significant, enduring contribution to the Nebraska book world through writing, film production, or related activity.

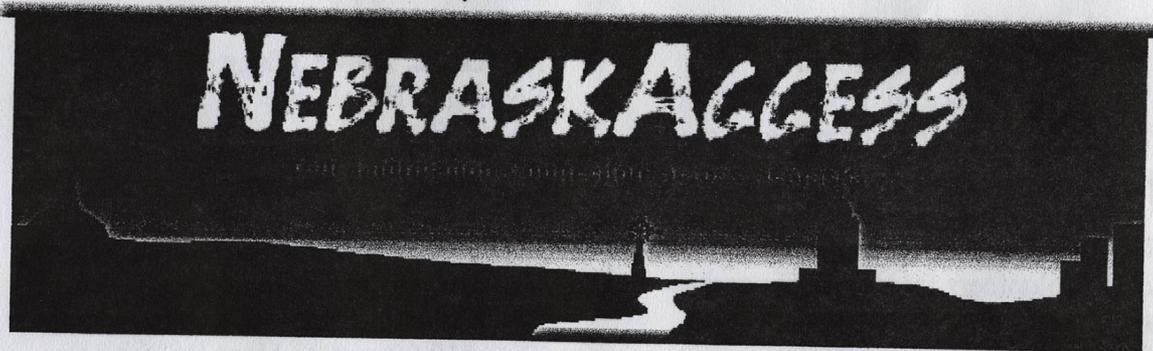
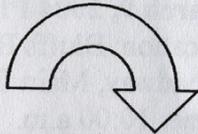
Nomination procedures:

1. The original letter of nomination should include the nominee's name, address, and telephone number, the nominee's accomplishments, and any relevant supporting documentation. The letter should include the name, title, address, and telephone number of the person or group making the nomination.
2. Also required are at least four additional letters that support and endorse the nomination. Such letters may provide further information about the nominee.
3. The NLA Meritorious Service Award may be given to an individual or group.
4. More information and lists of past recipients may be found in the NLA Handbook at <http://www.nol.org/home/NLA/handbook/handbk8.htm#merit>
5. Nominations and letters of support must be received by Friday, May 28, 2004 and should be mailed to:

Patty Birch / Chair 2004 NLA Citations Committee  
North Platte High School  
1220 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
North Platte, NE 69101

Nominations may also be submitted via e-mail at [pbirch@esu16.org](mailto:pbirch@esu16.org)

**COMING SOON!!**



**Library**



**Home/  
Work**



**School  
K12**

Click an icon to enter NebraskaAccess.

NebraskaAccess provides Nebraska citizens with free online access to thousands of full-text magazines, journals, newspapers, business information and much more.

The Nebraska Library Commission purchases access to these resources with funding from the State of Nebraska.

## PLS UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Feb 2, 2004 Gates Transition Seminar**

Topics Covered: overview of the Gates  
Granted Computers Operating System  
XP Upgrade and why you should do it  
Overview of support lessons

Location: Holiday Inn express, 300  
Holiday Frontage Road, North Platte  
Time: 10:00 a.m. to Noon and 1:00 to  
3:00 p.m. (CST)

Registration: Go to the Registration  
Form located at  
[http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/celibdev](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/celibdevtraining.html#Gates)  
[vtraining.html#Gates](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/celibdevtraining.html#Gates)

Or register with Jacque Crocker 800-  
307-2665, 402-471-4037, or e-mail  
[jcrocker@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:jcrocker@nlc.state.ne.us)

### **Feb 6, 2004 College of DuPage**

IT Office of Special Services  
"New tools for enhancing Digital  
Reference" Panhandle viewing sites:  
Chadron State College, ESU 13-  
Scottsbluff and WNCC-Sidney  
Time: 10:00 a.m. to Noon

PLS will videotape  
Register with Panhandle Library System  
888-879-5303, 308-632-1350, 308-632-  
3168

### **Feb 19, 2004 NLA Legislative Day**

8:30 a.m. – morning coffee with  
senators: State Capitol, Room 1023.  
9:30 a.m. – Legislative Briefing: State  
Capitol, Room 1524  
Noon – Luncheon with senators: First  
Christian Church, (16<sup>th</sup> & K Sts.)  
Youth Volunteers from libraries across  
the state will be recognized.  
1:30 to 3:00 p.m. – First Christian  
Church, (16<sup>th</sup> & K Sts.) Seminar, Mike  
Nolan, Norfolk City Administrator, on  
Servant Leadership.  
Location: State Capital, Lincoln, NE  
Time: 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

See registration information at  
[http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/news/0](http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/news/040107a.htm)  
[40107a.htm](http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/news/040107a.htm)

Contact: Kathy Tooker, 402-330-7884,  
800-627-7884, e-mail:  
[ktooker@alltel.net](mailto:ktooker@alltel.net)

### **Mar 5, 2004 Follett Users Group and Digital Camera Workshop**

Location: Scottsbluff Public Library,  
1809 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Scottsbluff  
Time: Follett Users Group Workshop  
presented by Tom Merchant- 9:30 a.m.  
to Noon, no cost  
Digital Camera Workshop presented by  
Jim Soester 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Cost \$5.00  
per person

**Registration Deadline is March 1, 04**  
Register with Panhandle Library System,  
1517 Broadway, Suite 129, 888-879-  
5303, Coordinator's phone 308-632-  
3168, e-mail: [clongmuir@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:clongmuir@nlc.state.ne.us)  
Assistant's phone 308-632-1350, e-mail  
[debm@charterinternet.com](mailto:debm@charterinternet.com)

### **March 9, 2004 PLS Board Meeting**

Location: Bluffs Business Center, 1517  
Broadway, Main floor conference room  
Time: 10:00 a.m.

### **March 12, 2004 College of DuPage Soaring to Excellence**

"Web Filtering"  
Policies, software, staff training and  
CIPA  
Panhandle viewing sites: Chadron State  
College, ESU 13-Scottsbluff, WNCC-  
Sidney  
Time: 10:00 a.m. to Noon  
PLS will videotape  
Register with Panhandle Library System,  
888-879-5303, 308-632-1350, 308-632-  
3168

Check out these upcoming events and  
more at: <http://teacherweb.panesu.org/pls>

## PLS UPCOMING EVENTS

**March 17, 2004 Paraprofessional Section 2004 Spring Conference**  
"Feeling Welcome @ your library"  
Panhandle viewing sites: Chadron State College, Scottsbluff Room in the Student Center; ESU 13 Scottsbluff; WNCC-Sidney

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

**Registration deadline is March 10, 2004**

Cost: para=\$7.00, NLA member of NEMA=\$9.00 and Non-member of NLA or NEMA =\$12.00

Register with Nancy Meyer, Staff assistant, Eastern Library System, 402-330-7884, 800-627-7884, fax: 402-330-1859 or e-mail [nrmeyer@alltel.net](mailto:nrmeyer@alltel.net)

**Mar 26, 2004 College of DuPage**  
Soaring to Excellence

"Professional Toolkit, Tools for Advancement"

Panhandle viewing sites: Chadron State College, ESU 13 Scottsbluff, WNCC-Sidney

Time: 10:00 a.m. to Noon

PLS will videotape

Register with Panhandle Library System, 888-879-5303, 308-6332-1350, 308-632-3168

**Apr 2, 2004 PLS Summer reading Workshop**

"Discover New Trails @ your library"

Presenter: Sally Snyder

Time: 10:00 a.m. to Noon and 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Lunch is on your own.

Location: Gering Public Library, 1055 P Street, Gering – Downstairs meeting room.

Register with Panhandle Library System, toll free 888-879-5303, Coordinator 308-632-3168, e-mail:

[clongmuir@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:clongmuir@nlc.state.ne.us)

Assistant 308-632-1350, e-mail:

[debm@charterinternet.com](mailto:debm@charterinternet.com)

Registration deadline is March 26, 2004  
4 C.E. Credits

**Apr 16, 2004 College of DuPage**  
"Preparing for the future of Digital Reference."

Panhandle viewing sites: Chadron State College, ESU 13-Scottsbluff, WNCC-Sidney

Time: 10:00 a.m. to Noon

PLS will videotape.

Register with Panhandle Library System, Toll free 888-879-5303, Coordinator 308-632-3168, e-mail:

[clongmuir@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:clongmuir@nlc.state.ne.us)

Assistant 308-632-1350, e-mail:

[debm@charterinternet.com](mailto:debm@charterinternet.com)

**Apr 18 – 24, 2004 National Library Week** Check out the American Library Association website <http://www.ala.org>

**Apr 19, 2004 Pat Wagner Workshop**  
"The Visible Library" Promoting Library value with marketing and Advocacy

Location: Gering Civic Center, 1050 M Street, Gering

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.n.

Lunch is included

Cost: \$15.00 per person

Register with Northeast Library System, 800-578-1014, 402-564-7977, e-mail:

[nelibrary@megavision.com](mailto:nelibrary@megavision.com)

**May 13, 2004 NEBASE Annual Meeting – West**

Location: Gering Civic Center, 1050 M Street, Gering

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Includes lunch

Cost: \$20.00 per person

Register with Jeannette Powell, 800-307-2665, 402-471-7740, e-mail:

[jpowell@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:jpowell@nlc.state.ne.us)



Panhandle Library System  
1517 Broadway, Suite 129  
Scottsbluff, NE 69361

Tel: 308.632.1350  
Fax: 308.632.3978  
Toll-free: 888.879.5303

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**Nebraska Library Commission**  
**The Atrium**  
**1200 N Street, Suite 120**  
**Lincoln, NE 68508-2023**

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- Carolyn Brown
- Lillian Diedrichsen
- Diane Downer
- Pat Gross
- Vickie Retzlaff
- Kathy Terrell

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- Cheyenne, Dawes, Deuel,
- Garden, Grant, Keith,
- Kimball, Morrill, Scotts
- Bluff, Sheridan, and Sioux
- Counties

Cherie Longmuir, PLS Coordinator, e-mail: [clongmuir@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:clongmuir@nlc.state.ne.us)  
Debbie McCall, PLS Administrative Assistant, e-mail:  
[debm@charterinternet.com](mailto:debm@charterinternet.com)

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**February / March 2004**

MARCH 5, 2004

# FOLLETT USERS MEETING



Tom Merchant will present-Inventory and Beyond:

- ◆ How to use the PHD scanner
- ◆ What's new from Follett: version 6.0 and new products
- ◆ Q & A time

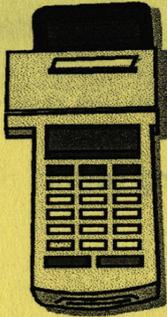
Time: 9:30 a.m. to Noon

Location: Scottsbluff Public Library, 1809 3rd Avenue, Scottsbluff

No charge

CE Hours 2.5

**Registration deadline is March 1, 2004**



Please register with Panhandle Library System, 1517 Broadway, Suite 129, Scottsbluff  
Fax 308-632-3978, Toll Free 888-879-5303  
Coordinator's phone 308-632-3168, e-mail: [clongmuir@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:clongmuir@nlc.state.ne.us)  
Assistant's phone 308-632-1350, e-mail [debm@charterinternet.com](mailto:debm@charterinternet.com)

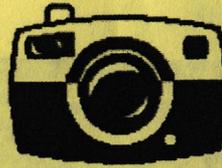
**MARCH 5, 2004**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Library \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

(See other side for Digital Photography Workshop)

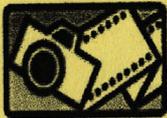


March 5, 2004

# Digital Photography Workshop

Presented by Jim Soester

1. **DIGITAL BASICS:** How digital cameras work: how they are like/different from 35mm cameras; lighting, film speed, and other technical things; alternatives to using a digital camera.
2. **IMAGE BASICS:** How to transfer, store, and enhance digital images. Free programs and for-pay programs to work with the images.
3. **PRINTING, SHARING, EXHIBITING IMAGES:**



Commercial print sources; home printing pro's and con's; sharing on the Web.

**Location:** Scottsbluff Public Library, 1809 3rd Avenue, Meeting room

**Time:** 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

**Cost:** \$5.00 per person

**3 Credit Hours**

It is not necessary for attendees to have or even plan to use a digital camera; alternative methods of handling images will be presented. Also there will be a short presentation on selecting digital cameras and photo printers for those who are planning to purchase.

**Registration deadline is March 1, 2004**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Library \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Register with Panhandle Library System, 1517 Broadway, Suite 129, Scottsbluff. Fax 308-632-3978, Toll free 888-879-5303  
Coordinator's phone 308-632-3168, e-mail: [clongmuir@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:clongmuir@nlc.state.ne.us)  
Assistant's phone 308-632-1350, e-mail: [debm@charterinternet.com](mailto:debm@charterinternet.com)

(See other side for Follett Workshop)

## NLA PARAPROFESSIONAL SECTION TELECONFERENCE

# Feeling Welcome @ your library™

Wednesday, March 17, 2004 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. CST

Paraprofessionals Spring General Meeting 1:00 - 1:45 p.m.

9:00-  
12:00  
mountain  
time

### Programs (3 sessions, each one 50 minutes with a 5-10 minute break between):

- **Checkin 9:45 - 10:00 a.m.**
- **Welcome from Para Chair 10:00 - 10:05 a.m.**
- **Session I - Customer and Co-Workers Etiquette/Staff Relations - greeting customers on the phone, in person, and by email in a welcoming manner through a series of skits showing good and bad examples**  
**Speaker:** Julie Simpson, Lincoln City Libraries and Robin Brooks, Kilgore Memorial Library, York
- **Session II - Hispanic Resources - how to get the Hispanic community to feel welcome in your library and what materials are needed**  
**Speaker:** Linda Garcia, South Branch of the Omaha Public Library
- **Session III - Young Adult Services - creating an inviting environment and welcoming atmosphere in the library for young adults**  
**Speaker:** Toni Reese, Papillion Public Library

Paraprofessionals Spring General Meeting 1:00 - 1:45 p.m.

Robin Brooks, Chair of Paraprofessionals, will guide us through our annual spring general meeting. Those who have paid for lunch at the Lincoln or Omaha site will have lunch at this time.

## Sites:

This year's conference will be telecast to several sites across the state (we will cancel any sites not having at least one participant by the registration deadline-see below). If you want to talk and network with people then come to Lincoln! Videotapes will be available for loan after the conference. \*

- Beatrice, Beatrice Public Library, 100 North 16th St
- \* Chadron, Scottsbluff Room in the Student Center, Chadron State College, 1000 Main St
- Columbus, Raider Room, Central Community College-Platte Campus, 5400 63rd St
- Hastings (tentative), Educational Service Unit #9, 1113 East South St
- Kearney, Central Community College - Kearney Campus, 3519 2nd Ave
- Lincoln, UNL East Campus Union, park at NETV, 1800 No. 33rd, 33rd & Holdrege, just over the back hill??
- Norfolk, Northeast Community College, 801 E. Benjamin, Lifelong Learning Center
- \* North Platte, Mid-Plains Community College - Technical Campus, 1101 Halligan Dr., Room 102
- Omaha, Douglas/Sarpy County Extension, 8015 W Center Rd
- \* Scottsbluff, ESU 13, 4215 Ave. I
- \* Sidney, Western Nebraska Community College

## Registration Fees:

- \$10 NLA - Para member (includes lunch\* at the Lincoln or Omaha site)
  - \$7 without lunch\* (at any site)
- \$12 NLA - non-Para member but member of NLA (includes lunch\* at the Lincoln or Omaha site)
  - \$9 without lunch\* (at any site)
- \$12 NLA - member of NEMA (includes lunch\* at the Lincoln or Omaha site)
  - \$9 without lunch\* (at any site)
- \$15 Non - non-member of NLA or NEMA (includes lunch\* at the Lincoln or Omaha site)
  - \$12 without lunch\* (at any site)

\*Lunch is served at Lincoln and Omaha during the Paraprofessional Spring General Meeting, you may bring your own lunch/snacks if you prefer and still stay for the meeting from 1 - 1:45 p.m.

## Contact for registration:

Nancy Meyer, System Administrator Staff Assistant, Eastern Library System; 11929 Elm Street, Suite 12; Omaha, NE 68144; 402-330-7884, 800-627-7884, Fax: 402-330-1859, E-mail: [nrmeyer@alltel.net](mailto:nrmeyer@alltel.net)

Continuing Education (CE) credits (program number #4265) will be 3 hours for the day (you will need to attend all three sessions to receive this).

No refund in case of bad weather.

## Co-Sponsor:

Nebraska Library Commission



# PLS SUMMER READING WORKSHOP



April 2, 2004

*“Discover New Trails @ Your  
Library”*

Sally Snyder will introduce books that relate to the summer reading theme, plus suggest phrases to use for displays, graphics, decorating ideas, food ideas, program and activity ideas for various ages, bulletin boards for small and big libraries, press releases and PR materials. Sally will also be presenting book talks about new Nebraska/prairie region books. She will introduce you to other good new books for grades pre-school to young adult. It will be practical and fun. Don't miss it!



APRIL 2, 2004

**TIME:** 10:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Lunch is on your own.

**LOCATION:** Gering Public Library, 1055 P Street, Gering, NE

Downstairs meeting room

4 C.E. Credits

Registration deadline is March 26, 2004



Names \_\_\_\_\_

Library \_\_\_\_\_

Phone  
Number \_\_\_\_\_

Please register with Panhandle Library System, 1517 Broadway, Suite 129, Scottsbluff, Fax- 308-632-3978, Toll free-888-879-5303, Cherie's voice/mail 308-632-3168, e-mail: [clongmuir@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:clongmuir@nlc.state.ne.us): Debbie's voice/mail 308-632-1350, e-mail: [debm@charterinternet.com](mailto:debm@charterinternet.com). **Registration deadline is March 26, 2004.**

# The Visible Library: Promoting Library Value with Marketing & Advocacy

Pat Wagner of Pattern Research, Denver, will conduct six interactive workshops throughout the state to assist Nebraska libraries in increasing visibility within their communities through creative and strategic marketing. Participants will discuss the ways in which they are already marketing their libraries, the roles research and customer awareness play in marketing, and how the library's marketing plan aligns with its strategic plan. Participants will bring real-life marketing materials to share and evaluate with the group and will be given time to complete a draft of their own marketing plan.

To be held 9:30a.m.—4:00p.m.  
at a location near you:

April 19, 2004 Gering Civic Center,  
1050 M Street, Gering

April 26, 2004 Board Room at the Perry  
Campus Center, Doane College Campus,  
1014 Boswell, Crete (please see map at  
[www.doane.edu/virtual\\_tour/index.asp](http://www.doane.edu/virtual_tour/index.asp))

April 27, 2004 Midland Lutheran College,  
Dining Hall, 900 N Clarkson, Fremont

April 28, 2004 Northeast Community  
College, Lifelong Learning Center,  
801 E. Benjamin, Norfolk, NE

April 29, 2004 Ord Township Library,  
1718 M Street, Ord

April 30, 2004 Ella Missing Community  
Center, 411 6th St., Arapahoe

- Registration Fee: \$15 (includes lunch)
- CE Hours: 6
- Participants are asked to bring examples of their marketing to share (e.g. photos of displays, flyers, brochures, press releases, etc.)

*Ideal for ALL TYPES (Library Friends, Trustees, Public, School, Academic, Special) of Nebraska Libraries and library folks.*

## The Visible Library: Promoting Library Value with Marketing & Advocacy REGISTRATION FORM

Please indicate which date/location you will be attending, then mail with registration form and \$15 per person to: Northeast Library System, 3038 33rd Avenue, Columbus, NE 68601-2334. Make checks payable to: Regional Library Systems.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

I will attend the workshop at:

Library: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_ Gering Civic Center, 4/19  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Doane College, Crete, 4/26  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Midland Lutheran College,  
 Fremont, 4/27  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Northeast Community College, 4/28  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Ord Township Library, 4/29  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Ella Missing Center, Arapahoe, 4/30

**Please register (no later than) one week  
prior to the workshop you are attending.**



Sponsored by the  
Nebraska Regional Library Systems  
and funded through a  
2003 NLC Continuing Education &  
Training Grant.

# The Librarian's Guide to Great Web Sites for Kids



The Internet, World Wide Web, information superhighway, and cyberspace are all words used to describe an exciting and fun learning tool that continues to offer families and children access to a wide variety of information.

At the touch of a keyboard or screen, at the click of a mouse or by voice command, it is possible to view a copy of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address or today's breaking news. Children can find assistance with their science projects, watch a movie trailer, or send electronic messages by e-mail, instant messages, or chat, to a friend across the street, in another town, or another country.

Using this technology wisely with your children will help keep them safe and provide fun and educational experiences for the whole family.

Since the sheer volume of places to go and things to do online can be overwhelming, parents and children might need help finding the most useful and appropriate information on the Internet. Librarians are experts at selecting, organizing, and categorizing information, making it easier for you and your children to use. Today, librarians are applying those same skills to cyberspace so that you and your child can make the most of the vast resources the Internet offers.

We hope that these tips and guidelines will help you and your children enjoy the benefits of the Internet. Remember: It's not the technology, but how it is used that makes a difference in a child's life.

## Keep up with the Internet

How do parents and children keep up with new technologies and the opportunities they provide for fun and learning?

Whether you have Internet access from home, libraries and librarians are always there to help. Almost all libraries also offer free Internet access for adults and children.

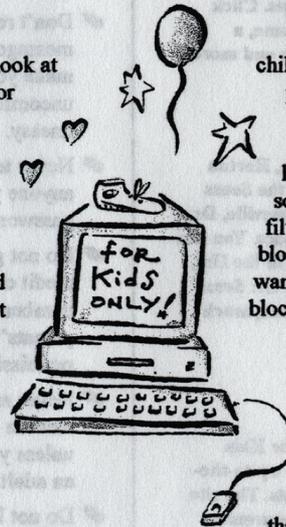
A great starting point is the American Library Association's "Great Web Sites for Kids" ([www.ala.org/greatsites](http://www.ala.org/greatsites)). These sites are fun to visit and many of them are educational. They are easy to navigate, have clearly identified authoring sources, and make effective use of the Internet to create unique, interactive experiences.

You and your children can also look at your local library's Web pages for recommended Web sites, take classes on Internet use for children and adults, get homework help, and attend the special programs your local libraries, schools, or community centers provide to get acquainted with the newest and best Internet technology and content. This way both you and your children can become experts in what the Internet has to offer.

## Keep up with Children

Spending time online with your children is the best way both to learn about the Internet and to teach your children responsibility, good conduct and the values that are important to you. Ask children to share their favorite Web sites and what they like about them. Help them discover Web sites that can assist with their homework, hobbies, and other special interests. A set of suggested criteria is available at the Great Web Sites for Kids. These criteria are helpful for parents and children when considering the quality or validity of any Web site.

The vast majority of Internet sites are safe. But, like the real world, the virtual world contains content that may not be appropriate for children. Parents also should examine Web sites for racial, gender, and other biases they feel are inappropriate for their



children. For your home computer, parents need to learn about and decide if filtering software has an appropriate role in your household. Studies on such software have demonstrated that filters are not perfect. They cannot block everything you might not want your child to see, and may block information that is helpful.

Whether or not a filter is in place, guidance from parents and other adults is crucial in creating safe and positive Internet experiences for your children. We strongly recommend that you supervise older as well as younger children's Internet use at home and at the library. It's a good idea to place computers in the kitchen, family room, or

## Sites for Parents and Caregivers



### Child Safety on the Information Highway

☛ [www.safekids.com/child\\_safety.htm](http://www.safekids.com/child_safety.htm)

A guide to Internet safety for young people, originally from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and Interactive Services Association.

### Connect for Kids

☛ [www.connectforkids.org](http://www.connectforkids.org)

This nonprofit site provides news and information on issues affecting kids and families, over 1,500 helpful links to national and local resources, and two e-mail newsletters.

### KidsHealth.org

☛ [www.kidshealth.org](http://www.kidshealth.org)

Articles on many aspects of child health—for parents, kids, and health professionals—from the Nemours Foundation.

### Mother Goose Pages

☛ [www-personal.umich.edu/~pta/dreamhouse/nursery/rhymes.html](http://www-personal.umich.edu/~pta/dreamhouse/nursery/rhymes.html)

A collection of nursery rhymes, with tips on how to share them with children of different ages.

Find out more at  
[www.ala.org/greatsites](http://www.ala.org/greatsites)

## Sites for Kids

### Harry Potter

☛ [www.scholastic.com/harrypotter](http://www.scholastic.com/harrypotter)

Scholastic has created a fun-filled site for Harry Potter fans of all ages. Click on this site and find a trivia game, a pronunciation guide, owl posts and more.

### Seussville

☛ [www.seussville.com](http://www.seussville.com)

The Cat in the Hat, Sam-I-Am, Horton and the Whos, and the rest of the Seuss characters welcome you to Seussville, Dr. Seuss's playground in cyberspace. You can play games, chat with the Cat in the Hat, win prizes, find out about new Dr. Seuss books and CD-ROMs, and much, much more!

### Time for Kids

☛ [www.timeforkids.com](http://www.timeforkids.com)

This companion to the Time for Kids magazine connects youth with up-to-the-minute news and current events. The site also includes a dictionary, measurement conversion table, country information and games. Full-text articles are available in English and Spanish.

### Congress for Kids

☛ [www.congressforkids.net](http://www.congressforkids.net)

Learn the basics about the U.S. government with activities led by Uncle Sam.

Find out more at  
[www.ala.org/greatsites](http://www.ala.org/greatsites)

living room so that you can see your children using it. Young children should never be allowed to "surf the Net" alone. Review your safety guidelines with them on a regular basis.

## Suggested Family Internet Safety Guidelines

The best way to ensure your child's safety on the Internet is to be there. Of course, that is not always possible. Just as you teach your children rules about dealing with strangers outside the home, you must provide rules for communicating online at home or elsewhere. Discuss your library or community center's Internet use policy with children as well as your family rules. You may also decide to

make an "Internet Use Agreement" with your child. Getnetwise.org offers sample contracts.

## Suggested Rules for Kids

- ☛ Always ask your parents' permission before using your full name, address, telephone number, or school name anywhere on the Internet.
- ☛ Don't respond to messages that make you feel uncomfortable or uneasy.
- ☛ Never tell anyone your passwords.
- ☛ Do not give out credit card numbers without parents' permission.
- ☛ Never arrange to meet in person someone you've met online unless you discuss it with your parents and an adult goes with you.
- ☛ Do not believe everything you see or hear online. Some people may be trying to sell you something or spread inaccurate information. If information you see or hear seems untrustworthy or frightening, discuss with your parents or other adults you trust.



## Suggested Netiquette for Kids

It's also important to teach children "netiquette"—how to behave online. Such straightforward rules as not typing in all capital letters (it looks like you are shouting), being polite, and keeping quiet in chat rooms until you get a sense of what people are talking about, are simply good manners as well as common sense.

## Definitions

Just as there are different TV channels and kinds of magazines, there are many types of places to visit in cyberspace.

Here are a few examples:

**World Wide Web** sites often contain colorful graphics, sound and animation, as well as text, and each may be linked to many other Web sites. Many of the most informative sites are sponsored by educational and nonprofit organizations. Some

sites are sponsored by movie companies, toy manufacturers, publishers, and other firms to sell their products. There also are thousands of sites created by individuals to express an idea, pursue a hobby, or "publish" their own vision.

**Databases** offer an enormous quantity of searchable information. Whether compiled by a commercial entity or other institutions such as museums and the federal or local government, experts tend to be consulted or in charge of content selection.

**Search Engines** are computer programs that search and store information about Web sites and allow users to locate web sites based on such information. Unlike a database, a search engine is not composed of human experts in its compilation process and cannot judge the validity or authority of each Web site found.

**E-mail** is electronic mail that makes it possible to send a written message to one person or thousands almost instantaneously.

**Instant Messaging (IM, IMing, ICQ, etc.)** allows people to see if their friends are using the Internet and then send messages back and forth in "real time." This combines the "instant" aspects of a chat with the messaging aspects of e-mail. IM is also available on some cellular phones.

**Blog (Weblog)** is a frequent, chronological publication of personal thoughts and Web links—a personal online journal that can be viewed by all.

**Chat rooms** are generally devoted to particular subjects like baseball or video games. Participants can talk to each other in "real time," with their remarks appearing as they type them in.

**Usenet groups** are postings on specific topics, where the comments—and sometimes images—follow one another in a "bulletin board" style.

**Discussion/Mailing Lists (listserv®)** are email-based online communities that allow subscribing members to exchange ideas on a given topic. List topics range from pure entertainment (movie star fan mailing list) to highly specialized professional discourses (applications of biopsychology).



Association for Library Service to Children

Association for Library Service to Children  
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American Library Association Public Information Office

50 East Huron St. ■ Chicago, IL 60611 ■ Toll Free: 800-545-2433, ext. 5041/44 ■ Fax: 312-944-8520 ■ [pio@ala.org](mailto:pio@ala.org)

## Panhandle Library System Computer with Printer for Sale

Panhandle Library System is accepting bids for a Compaq Presario computer and HP DeskJet printer as described below. The computer and printer will be sold as is, with no warranty, to the highest bidder. Terms of the sale are cash or check. The computer and printer may be inspected at the system office by appointment. Please call 308-632-1350, 308-632-3168 or toll free 888-879-5303.

Sealed bids will be accepted by mail or in person and must be received in the System office by March 5, 2004. Successful bidder will be notified by March 12, 2004. In the case of two equal bids, the bid received on the earliest date will be accepted. There are no restrictions on who may bid on this computer.

**Description:**

Compaq Presario 5284 computer  
Intel Pentium III processor  
Princeton Ultra 72 14" monitor  
Keyboard and Speakers  
Hard Drive: 19.0 GB (1) UltraDMA  
Floppy Drive: 3.5" 1.44 MB  
DVD-ROM Drive  
Microsoft Office Suite 2000  
Two USB Ports (Front Accessible)  
Includes all original software

**Printer: HP DeskJet 500**

Black & white printer  
Prints envelopes  
Includes 2 black ink cartridges

To bid on this computer and HP DeskJet printer

1. Indicate bid price
2. Complete the bidder information below
3. Mail or deliver completed form (or copy) to:

Panhandle Library System  
1517 Broadway, Suite 129  
Scottsbluff, NE 69361

**Bid Information:**

Total Bid \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Successful bidder must pay for and pickup the computer within 30 days of notification of acceptance of bid.