

# Panhandle SUN

The Newsletter of the Panhandle Library System

April / May 2005

## PLS Coordinator's Message

Recent school library positions have been advertised with words like “we are looking for an educational leader”; “the library media program functions as an essential part of the teaching/learning process”; “collaborative planning is the core of our program”; “the position requires someone knowledgeable in the application of technology to research.”

These are not listings from Panhandle schools. My recent school visits indicate that our job listings would look more like: “we are looking for a staff person to teach 4 math classes in the morning and sit in the library in the afternoon”; “the library media specialist will staff 3 schools each day, and cover for other teachers as needed; coaching position available”; “library duties include supervising the computer lab, managing the Accelerated Reader® program, organizing book fairs, monitoring study hall, providing technology support; option of summer hours at minimum wage to do cataloging and conversion to automated system.”

How did the value of school libraries, and more importantly the staff, get lost? LM Specialists are educated to teach, and beyond that, to be learning leaders who work with every teacher and every child to open the world of life-long education. How did school administrators miss the message that they have a curriculum partner who can do as much as anyone in the school to help students achieve?

My perspective is influenced by the fact that in all of the schools where I've worked, the library has been the foundation of the school, and the library skills were completely integrated into the rest of the curriculum. I had principals who viewed the LM Specialist as an educational leader. Almost all school librarians I've met are dedicated, knowledgeable, and hardworking. The school library job is huge. But at least I was doing what I was trained to do, with support staff to keep the library running efficiently. These were not rich school districts. These were districts with different priorities than I'm seeing in many of the schools in our area. They believed that reading and research, an excellent library, and a well-qualified librarian were essential to learning.

Cherie Longmuir



## Panhandle Library System Upcoming Events



### **April 7, 2005 Academic Integrity at School in the Digital Age**

Sponsored by ESU 13 and ESU 14  
Presenter: Phyllis Brunken  
Location: ESU 13, 4215 Avenue I, Scottsbluff

Time: 9:00 a.m. to Noon

Please bring a copy of your copyright/plagiarism policies and guidelines for review/updating.

**Register by March 24, 2005** with Sandy White 308-254-4677, [swhite@panesu.org](mailto:swhite@panesu.org)

### **April 7, 2005 Computer Trouble Shooting**

Presenter: Craig Hicks  
Location: ESU 13, 4215 Avenue I, Scottsbluff

Time: 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

**Register by April 1, 2005** with the PLS office, 888-879-5303 (toll free), 308-632-1350

### **April 10 – 16, 2005 National Library Week**

More information at: [www.ala.org](http://www.ala.org)

### **April 11 – 17, 2005 Young People's Poetry Month**

Materials can be found at:

[www.cbcbooks.org](http://www.cbcbooks.org)

### **April 12, 2005 National Library Workers Day**

See more information at: [www.ala.org](http://www.ala.org)

### **April 20, 27 & May 4, 2005 Basic Skills: Public Services Classes**

Location: Scottsbluff Public Library  
Time: 10:00 a.m. to Noon & 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. (MST)

Cost: \$35 for all three classes

**Register by April 6, 2005** with Pam Scott, 800-307-2665, Email:

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

### **April 28, 2005 Bibliostat Connect™ Training: Using Statistics to Compare Libraries**

Location: CBIT Center, 250587 Airport Rd. Room 102, Scottsbluff

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

No Cost

**Register by April 18, 2005** with the PLS office, 888-879-5303 (toll free), 308-632-3978

### **April 29, 2005 College of DuPage "Library Hot Topics"**

Panhandle Locations: Chadron State College, ESU 13 Scottsbluff, WNCC Sidney

Time: 10:00 a.m. to Noon (MST)

**PLS will tape**

**Register by April 28, 2005** with PLS, 888-879-5303 (Toll free), 308-632-1350

### **May 3, 2005 PLS Board Meeting**

Location: Bluffs Business Center, 1517 Broadway, Mail Floor Conference Room  
Time: 10:00 a.m.

For questions contact the PLS office

### **May 3, 5, and 12, 2005 School JobALikes**

Locations: Chadron 3<sup>rd</sup>, Bayard 5<sup>th</sup>, and Sidney 12<sup>th</sup>

Time: 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Register with PLS

### **May 10, 2005 NLA Public Library Section and TUFs Joint Spring Meeting**

Location: Kimball Public Library

Time: TBA

This year's focus is fundraising

### **July 22, 2005 PLS Annual Meeting**

Location: ESU 13, 4215 Avenue I, Scottsbluff

Time: TBA

## INSIDE OUR LIBRARIES

Barbara Goerke has found the perfect job at **St. Agnes Elementary** school library in Scottsbluff. She works on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and half day Friday with 80 students in grades K-5. The library is in the lower level of the school. Although it has no windows from the hallway, once you open the door you enter an enchanting world of books. In the center of the floor is a bright carpet for story time. There are creative displays on every wall, enticing children to read. The shelves are well-weeded, leaving only the best and most appealing titles. End shelf displays and shelf tops are filled with books facing out waiting to be chosen. Barb is looking forward to putting up the Golden Sower bulletin board, as this is a major program emphasis for spring. She is a Golden Sower reader for grades K-3, so is familiar with every selection. This year St. Agnes celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary; but Barb celebrates her work with children and books every day.



**Goodall City Library** in Ogallala is having several book discussions of *My Antonia* this month, including one at the Keith County Senior Center. They also have three regular book clubs that meet monthly at the library: fantasy, biography/non-fiction, mystery. They are distributing a newsletter to keep the public informed of library activities.

***GET A LIFE –  
GET A LIBRARY CARD!***



One of the teen volunteers honored at the Library Legislative Day in Lincoln was Jacee Anderson, who helps at **Sidney Public Library**. She and four brothers and sisters are homeschooled, and find the library a natural extension of their learning. Library director Mary Beth Sancomb-Moran says Jacee is committed to her responsibilities, which results in quality work at the library.

**Alliance Public Library** has their catalog online at <http://www.alliancelibrary.org/> APL is also sponsoring a brown bag event at noon on April 11, with a theme of Willa Cather through quilts. It will be the highlight of their Willa Cather Day, in conjunction with the “Nebraska Reads: One Book One State - My Antonia” program. Welcome to new employees Jan Sears, filling the position of Technical Services librarian, and Sue Murphy as library assistant.

**Crawford Public Library** has been awarded an LSTA grant for a digitization project. They will be working with the local historical society to create a digitized collection of historic photographs that will also become part of the “Nebraska Memories” state digital collection. Jim Soester, Library Board president, has been the driving force behind the idea. He promises to share what they learn with other area libraries who are interested in similar projects.

## NEWS YOU CAN USE

The deadline to apply for Nebraska Library Association **scholarships** is April 15. If you are an NLA member and would like to pursue additional education, you are eligible for the \$1000 Louise A. Nixon Scholarship (graduate level) or the \$250 Duane Munson Scholarship. See details at <http://www.nol.org/home/NLA/> Scholarships up to \$300 for any type of professional development are also available from Panhandle Library System. Contact the office for an application.

**Jim Trelease**, well-known reading advocate, will be speaking at Concordia University (Cattle Conference Center) in Seward, on October 19<sup>th</sup> from 9am-3pm Central Time. There is a \$5 registration fee. Jim said last year that he was going to stop touring, so this may be your last opportunity to hear him. If you need inspiration about how important reading is, he will give it to you. The registration form is at [www.sewardlibrary.org/trelease.htm](http://www.sewardlibrary.org/trelease.htm) or you can send your \$5 check made to Seward Memorial Library along with your name, address, phone, library, and email address to SML at 233 South 5<sup>th</sup>, Seward, 68434. For more information, call 402-643-3318.

The Nebraska Library Commission is expanding its web page on **trustee information**. It now includes the Nebraska Trustee Handbook, Board Certification information, links to trustee associations, and citations to relevant Nebraska library laws. Trustees and Library Friends can use this as a one-

stop resource to help them fulfill their roles: <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/trustees.html>.

Would you like to book a program for your school or library? **The Nebraska Humanities Council Speakers Bureau** has 300 programs, including writers, musicians, storytellers, and folklorists. Most are available to non-profit organizations for \$50. Find out more at [www.nebraskahumanities.org](http://www.nebraskahumanities.org) (“Speakers and More”), or call 402-474-2131, or email [nhc@nebraskahumanities.org](mailto:nhc@nebraskahumanities.org). Speakers that have been recommended lately include Vicki Harris ([vicki.h@charter.net](mailto:vicki.h@charter.net)), who presents “The African American Pioneers and Cowboys of Nebraska,” Cherrie Clarke ([cherrieclarke@hotmail.com](mailto:cherrieclarke@hotmail.com)), who “becomes” Maria Monahan, an early settler in western Nebraska, dramatizing life in the 1870’s, and Dean Jacobs ([deanjcs4u@yahoo.com](mailto:deanjcs4u@yahoo.com)), a Native Nebraskan who spent two years traveling the world and taking photos, which he published in a book, and now shares with teen and adult audiences.

Have you heard about these “**phishing**” **scams**? Electronic versions of the Harry Potter books on the Internet? Don’t fall for it! Someone is trying to get your credit card information. A person calls and then asks you to transfer him to another number (he “misdialed”) by using \*72 or 72# or 90#. Don’t fall for it! This activates the call forwarding function on your phone to the other number, which gives the caller access to your line to make long distance calls charged to your bill.

## **LESSONS FROM GEESE**

I'm sure many of you have seen this little fact sheet that has been applied in corporate culture as well as other situations. But since we are reminded of the wonder of geese every day at this time of year, and since those of us in libraries belong to about the most caring and sharing profession, I think it might help to keep our work in perspective.

1. As each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird following. By flying in a "V" formation, the whole flock adds 71% greater flying range than if the bird flew alone.
2. Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to fly alone, and quickly gets back in formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front.
3. When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates back into formation and another goose flies at the point position.
4. The geese in formation honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.
5. When a goose gets sick or wounded, two geese drop out of formation and follow it down to protect it. They stay with it until it is able to fly again or dies.

## **IT'S SPRING – TIME TO WEED!**

Have you checked the "weed of the month" lately? ([www.sunlink.ucf.edu/weed/](http://www.sunlink.ucf.edu/weed/)) An area recently highlighted for weeding was **baseball** – seems like a good time to check your non-fiction and biography titles in this subject for accuracy, attractiveness, and currency, and the fiction for relevance with today's readers. Here are some titles to "pitch": All the Homeroom Kings (1972); Baseball Facts, Records, & Statistics (1977); The Baseball Encyclopedia (1976); Baseball's Greatest Players (1963); A Wife's Guide to Baseball (1970). You get the idea.

Here are a few the fans might root for: The Chicago "Black Sox" Baseball Scandal (2003); Play Ball: A Tribute (2004); The Great Shutout Pitches (2004); Lou Gehrig: Story of a Great Man (2003).

## **SUMMER READING PROGRAM**

More than 30 participants left the summer reading workshop at Scottsbluff fired up and ready to plan for their upcoming children's programs. "Dragons, Dreams and Daring Deeds" were woven through songs, poems, books, crafts, and treats, presented by Patti Sinclair, editor of the SRP manual, and Sally Snyder, coordinator of youth programs for the Nebraska Library Commission. Nancy Escamilla and Deb Carlson of Scottsbluff Public Library led the local sharing portion, with a skit and creative ideas for prizes and activities. A few libraries are considering moving their program to July, to avoid the crush of early summer activities in their communities. Panhandle Library System will provide a theme-related live performance in 20 libraries.

## **BITS AND PIECES**

The Panhandle Library System has a new member: **West Nebraska Family Research and History Center**. The director is Floyd Smith III. Located at 1602 Avenue A in Scottsbluff, it is a non-profit public genealogy and local history research library, with the purpose of providing general assistance to people who would like guidance while tracing and understanding their family history. Call or drop in Monday - Saturday from 9-5.

Library Journal chose these as the **best audiobooks of 2004** in their Feb. 15, 2005 issue: The Burglar on the Prowl; Kill the Competition; The Lady and the Unicorn; The Best Awful; The Last Juror; Going to Bend; Retribution; The Second Chair; Last Citadel; The True and Outstanding Adventures of the Hunt Sisters; The Full Cupboard of Life; In the Bleak Midwinter; My Life; The House on Beartown Road; Funny Cide Team with Sally Jenkins; The Last Stand of the Tin Can Sailors; Mao's Last Dancer; Louder: We Can't Hear You (Yet!); The Carolina Way; Trump: How to Get Rich; Love in the Driest Season. Circulation of adult audiobooks rose nationally 13.5% in the last two years. And now you can subscribe to a new service with NetLibrary to allow patrons to download audiobooks directly to their own computers and players. See the article in this newsletter.

**The Nebraska State Genealogical Society** will hold their annual conference in North Platte on May 6-7. For registration information, contact Jeanette Cline: 308-534-5040.



According to the U.S. Census, Americans spent over \$173 billion on residential remodeling in 2002. Two of the nation's largest **home improvement** retailers, recorded over \$90 billion in consumer sales in 2004. Cable TV shows like HGTV are highly popular. What message does this have for our library collections? There are more books published on a variety of do-it-yourself topics than ever before. Spring may be a good time to remove some of the "dead wood" and have something fresh for our weekend warriors the next time they visit.

Your library may not have a large collection of current consumer health books. But you have access to a very large collection of health information. **CHIRS** is the Consumer Health Information Resource Service, available free to all Nebraskans. It is the health resource library for the state of Nebraska. Put a link to it on the computers in your library: <http://www.unmc.edu/library/consumer>. A new addition is a Nebraska-based support group data base. CHIRS also links to **MedlinePlus**, which contains a medical encyclopedia, drug information, and the latest data on hundreds of health topics.

Have you checked TechSoup lately? That's the place where non-profits can buy technology products very inexpensively. The last time I looked, Publisher 2003 was \$5; Word 2004 for Mac was \$9; PowerPoint 2003 for Windows was \$14; Norton Antivirus 2005 was \$15. Hundreds of programs are listed. Before you purchase software, go to [www.techsoup.org/stock](http://www.techsoup.org/stock)



## MORE BITS AND PIECES

The Sagebrush Corporation now provides access to full text **book reviews** from School Library Journal, Library Journal, Publisher's Weekly, and Criticas for the books they sell. You can also link to Accelerated Reader lists, award lists, and a variety of collection development tools:

[www.sagebrushcorp.com/books/](http://www.sagebrushcorp.com/books/)

Would you like to be a “**Read Aloud Community**”? There is no fee, but there's a big reward: happy and smart children (also certificates, recognition, eligibility for grants, etc). The purpose is to emphasize the commitment of libraries, businesses, civic organizations – the whole community – to the importance of reading aloud. Deadline to apply for this year is April 15:

[www.readaloudnebraska.org](http://www.readaloudnebraska.org)

If you have patrons of any age interested in having a **book club**, send them to <http://www.readinggroupguides.com>. The site includes 1560 discussion guides, plus ideas for club selections with descriptions, and a link to book clubs for teens and book clubs for kids, which also includes everything they need to get started.

The summer reading theme is “Dragons, Dreams and Daring Deeds.” Children who want to do some **medieval research** might enjoy <http://renaissancemagazine.com> or <http://skell.org>.



Here's an idea for your new teen group. The Central City Public Library held a “**Crafty Duct Tape Crafts**” program for youth in grades 5-8.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> **Nebraska Library Leadership Institute**, sponsored by the Regional Library Systems with support from the Nebraska Library Commission, will be held July 25-29 at St. Benedict's Retreat in Schuyler. This is an opportunity to learn leadership skills from two outstanding consultants, plus Nebraska's own library leaders. See the flyer in this newsletter for information and an application, or call the System office.

Nebraska Library Association will have **spring meetings** across the state in May. Kimball Public Library will host the PLS event, on May 10<sup>th</sup>. The theme will be fundraising strategies – something all libraries need as budget dollars disappear. Registration fee is \$20, which includes lunch. The speaker will be Tom Jorgensen, professional fundraiser. This activity is open to anyone. See the enclosed flyer for registration.

### **Speaking of Libraries ...**

A quote from novelist Chris Bohjalian: “Libraries matter because they bring people together as a community, helping us to discover our commonalities, understand our differences, while offering us the enormous pleasures of the written word.”

And from author Tom Perrotta: “I'm grateful for everything you do in your everyday work, but also in protecting our rights to read what we want in a climate where that's not always valued as it should be.”

## **ESPECIALLY FOR SCHOOLS**

We salute the 30 year career of **Bill Dixon**, library media specialist at Chadron High School, who will be retiring on May 20<sup>th</sup>. He and his wife are building a home in New Mexico, land of hot air balloons, one of their hobbies. Thank you for all you've done for students over the years, Bill – and enjoy your next life!

**Laurie Bauer** borrowed the Senior High School Library Catalog from the PLS office to help with the weeding of her fiction collection. Fiction is difficult to weed, because the obvious “obsolete” qualities are not there as they are in non-fiction. But if a book is no longer listed in the “Catalog,” it's no longer considered part of a basic collection, and you can feel okay about discarding it. By the way, Laurie's fiction shelves look fresh and inviting. The Wilson “Catalogs” can also be used for ordering, as the books are all recommended and include reviews. PLS also has the Middle/Junior High Catalog, and the Children's Catalog available to borrow.

Coming soon to a theater near you, **The Anybodies**, taken from the children's book by the same name by N.E. Bode. It follows the adventures of 11-year old Fern, a human with the power to change shape.

April is **School Library Media Month**. Resources for informing the public about how library media specialists help kids are located on the American Library Association's web site: [www.ala.org/@yourlibrary](http://www.ala.org/@yourlibrary). April 11-17 is **Young People's Poetry Week**. Materials to support your celebration can be found at [www.cbcbooks.org](http://www.cbcbooks.org).

### **Lesson Plans for NebraskaAccess**

Lesson plans designed to enhance the research and information seeking skills of K12 students in Nebraska have been added to the Librarian's Toolbox: <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/nebraskaccess/toolbox/lessonplans.html> They address a variety of national, state, and local standards and can be integrated into the curriculum.

**Jan Varn** and library assistant **Susan McCarthy** at **Gordon** schools entered the Scholastic Book Fair scrapbook contest, and ended up in the top 20 of 800 entries. They won \$2500 in books for the school!

If you or a work mate is ever feeling discouraged, think about this. Each article in National Geographic Magazine has about 30 photographs. It takes on average 14,000 images to produce those 30 – which means that most of them are “failures.” But look at the glorious result!

Mark your calendar for our spring **School JobALikes**: May 3 in Chadron, May 5 in Bayard, and May 12 in Sidney. Come prepared to share one accomplishment from the past year and your hopes/concerns for next year. This is for any school library staff. See the flyer in this newsletter for details.



## **BOOK REVIEWS**

The Reincarnation of Bennett McKinney by Steve From – 1-932053-06-9

While Books In Print states the audience as “college,” as a woman in my early 50’s, I enjoyed this book. Bennett McKinney, a rodeo bull-rider, and his closest rodeo friends travel the entire country from California to Florida, to North Dakota trying to win the big purse at the rodeos. Steve From, an award-winning rodeo bull-rider himself, spins a very entertaining tale of the ups and downs of rodeo life, including the loneliness, heartbreaks, and injuries incurred. Bennett tells his buddies that should he ever die, he would come back as a Braymer bull with the initials BM on the right shoulder, similar to the BM tattoo on Bennett’s right shoulder; and he and his best friend, T.J. Jorgenson, would win the World Finals. Bennett is killed by the fiercest bull ever on the rodeo circuit, Genghis Khan, and T.J. and friends come across a bull with the BM on the right shoulder. In Las Vegas, the suspense builds.

Reviewed by Cindy Mielke, Goodall City Library (Ogallala)

Our Secret, Siri Aang by Cristina Kessler – 0-399-23985-5

Are you ready to take a mental trek to the land of Africa with its exotic wildlife, flora and culture? This book provides an enriching and emotional journey with a twelve year old Maasai girl named Namelok. She becomes friends with a mother black rhino and her baby that was born before her eyes. This bond helps her deal with the struggles of a pre-teen who is questioning the traditions of her culture and family. The author, who addresses the struggles the family has with the changes of modern society and the impact it has on them, worked in Kenya as a Peace Corps volunteer and later made it her home. Through Namelok, she shows the universal importance of friendship, family, courage, and passion for life.

Reviewed by Pam Scott, Nebraska Library Commission

### **Grant Information**

The Beaumont Foundation of America’s Education Grants are available for public, private, and parochial schools serving underprivileged populations. Awards are state-of-the-art laptop computer equipment. Letters of interest may be submitted Oct. 4-22. For more information: <http://www.bmtfoundation.com/bfa/us/public/en/grants/education/> or call 1-866-546-2667.

To access the Foundation Resource Directory, which has current information about foundations and the grants they provide for children, youth, family, and community projects: [http://crd.neded.org/publications/documents/Foundation\\_Res\\_Dir.pdf](http://crd.neded.org/publications/documents/Foundation_Res_Dir.pdf)

### **Panhandle Library System Awards**

One of the inserts in this newsletter is a nomination form for two new PLS awards. The **PLS Advocacy Award** will provide recognition to a person who is committed to promoting the cause of libraries, but does not work in a library. The **PLS Distinguished Leadership Award** will commend someone employed in the library who has gone above and beyond to provide excellent library service in whatever position he or she holds. If you know of someone who deserves one of these awards, to be announced each year at the annual meeting, please fill out a nomination form.



## TECHNOLOGY TRENDS

**Blogs** (reprinted with permission from the Idaho State Library Newsletter)

### What are Blogs?

Blog is the shortened way to refer to a weblog – a type of website where content is presented as a series of entries starting with the most recent entries first. Entries are added regularly and may contain news, opinion and/or announcements relating to the topic of the blog. With the most recent entries at the top of the webpage, current information is immediately available.

### How are they used?

Blogs are created by people or organizations to share information. They are also used by individuals to keep up to date on current events or topics of interest. In libraries, blogs may be used to keep users up to date on programming events, to inform about updated policies, and to promote services to potential customers. Library staff may use any of the great many library-related weblogs to keep informed about library law, keep up with new technologies, and stay up to date on current trends in library services.

### What are the benefits?

Blogs are easy to create and maintain. Freely available services and software make it possible to create a new blog in a matter of minutes with very little need for technological know-how. Blogs are commonplace tools among tech savvy people and an easy method of outreach to younger patrons. Blogs create community by allowing readers to contribute comments and participate in discussion. Blogs are easily accessible and available on a variety of topics including all areas of librarianship. Even library staff in remote locations no longer have to feel isolated.

### Examples of weblogs

[www.libdex.com/weblogs.html](http://www.libdex.com/weblogs.html) - a list of library weblogs

[www.lisnews.com](http://www.lisnews.com) – multiple contributors devoted to current events and news in the library world

[www.marincountyfreelibrary.blogspot.com/](http://www.marincountyfreelibrary.blogspot.com/) - Marin County Free Library Blog

[www.toomanybooks.com/librarygirl](http://www.toomanybooks.com/librarygirl) - deals with high school libraries and teen reading from the librarian perspective.

Book: Weblogs and Libraries by Laurel A. Clyde, 2004.

### More Information

Weblog software has a built-in template, so you do not need to know how to create a Web page. Weblog tools provide free space, so you do not need to use space on a server. As a blogger, all you have to do is write. Here are some weblog software tools: **Blogger** ([www.blogger.com](http://www.blogger.com)), **Movable Type** ([www.movabletype.org](http://www.movabletype.org)), **Live Journal** ([www.livejournal.com](http://www.livejournal.com)). Many library workers are using blogs to connect and exchange ideas with others that share their professional interests, as well as to communicate with patrons.



## **Wireless Technology for the Library**

### Where can I get information?

Try a website called The Wireless Librarian: <http://people.morrisville.edu/~drewwe/wireless>  
Bill Drew provides this as a place to begin your research.

### Why have a wireless network?

It allows people to bring their own laptops to the library, reducing some of the demand on library computers. Computers can be used anywhere in the library, eliminating the need for much of the designated space and furniture. A library can create a mobile training lab that is not dependent on a specific library space. The expense of rewiring old buildings may be solved by using wireless access points instead.

### How much does it cost?

One company that provides wireless connectivity through the library's own system charges \$2500 for "gateway" equipment and management software, an access point and support. This setup allows libraries to restrict use of the network to authorized users.

### Is anybody doing it?

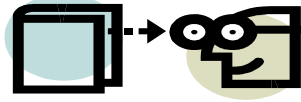
About 800 libraries across the country are currently providing wireless access.

## **Your Library From Google and Yahoo! Search**

Libraries whose records are in OCLC and who have an online catalog, will now be accessible to Google and Yahoo! Search users when they enter a search phrase that matches the title of a library-owned item. Their search results will include a link to Open WorldCat "Find in a Library" interface, where the person can enter geographic information to locate the nearest library that has the item. This is a way for libraries to reach out to Internet users who might not otherwise think of the library as a first source of information. It also has the potential to greatly increase the visibility of library resources.

## **Patron Downloading of Recorded Books**

NetLibrary® has partnered with Recorded Books, LLC, to provide audiobooks that can be downloaded into a library patron's personal listening device. The library pays for an annual subscription, and the patron locates the book in the library's catalog, then uses library card authentication to download the recording. Any number of users can access the same book at once. This allows the library to have a large collection of audiobooks without using any shelf space, providing containers, replacing lost parts, or being concerned about switching to the next format. For info: [www.netlibrary.com/recordedbooks/](http://www.netlibrary.com/recordedbooks/)



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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### College of DuPage Programs

The topics in this year's College of DuPage series have created interest and a list of people borrowing the video tapes from the PLS office. Recent program titles are "Making Copyright Work for your Library," "The Role of Teaching in Libraries," "Reference Tools for the Information Age," "Dealing with Difficult People," "Marketing for Librarians," "Libraries as Place," and upcoming "Library Hot Topics." Viewing these videos counts toward certification credit for librarians and Board members. But they are also good for keeping up on current topics in our field. Call the PLS office if you would like to borrow them.

### Conferences

Is this the year that you're going to attend a big conference? Start planning now. September 28-30 is the Nebraska Library Association (NLA) conference in Lincoln. October 12-15, 2005 are the dates for the Mountain Plains Library Association (MPLA) conference in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. The annual American Library Association (ALA) conference is in Chicago, June 23-29, 2005, and in New Orleans, June 22-28, 2006. The American Association of School Librarians (AASL) conference is in Pittsburgh, October 5-9. The Public Library Association (PLA) conference is March 20-25, 2006 in Boston. And if your budget has no travel funds, consider applying for a Continuing Education grant from the Nebraska Library Commission. Applications are available May 16<sup>th</sup>. The Panhandle Library System offers scholarships up to \$300 to support professional development activities. To quote a popular airline advertisement: "You are now free to move about the country."

### JobALikes – A Western Nebraska Thing

Have you been to a JobALike? It's a creature created in the Panhandle, and it involves food, fun, and friends – all within the context of the library life we share. Library folks in the Scottsbluff/Gering area get together 3 times a year. Someone volunteers to be the host, providing a place and a meal and some type of activity. A recent one was held at Gering High School with Pat Gross as host. She set up a buffet on the circulation desk that included pulled pork and beef for sandwiches, potato salad, cole slaw, baked bean casserole, topped off with two kinds of homemade chocolate bars. Seventeen guests, from schools, public libraries, and retirement, sat at heart-shaped placemats, enjoyed opening their "librarian survival kit" favors, and settled into catching up on what was happening. After dinner, Beth Trupp shared a lively power point presentation explaining the process she and Sandy Strey have gone through to develop a Teen Space at Gering PL, including how they obtained a youth services grant. Following this, Laurie Bauer showed a new database that is available at Bayard HS. It is the ProQuest Historical Newspapers, which allows students to search for events from 1851-2001, and read the actual account in the New York Times.

If you feel like there's never time to talk to your colleagues and hear what's new in their lives and libraries, come to a JobALike – or start your own!

## **WE ARE MAKING PLANS FOR THE FUTURE!**

Those who attended the two planning workshops presented by Mary Beth Sancomb-Moran and Cindy Mielke in January are moving ahead with new ideas for the direction of their libraries. There was instruction in the planning process, including getting input from the community, understanding the impacts of change, making the library relevant and responsive, writing goals and objectives. Also very important was the sharing that occurred among group members, which created energy and enthusiasm. As plans are being written, many of the ideas from the workshop have been incorporated, and library directors are looking forward to the future.

Here are a few thoughts that surfaced during the discussions:

- pay attention to the “marketing” information that every patron gives you;
- laminate and post your policies in the library;
- remember that you need to build evaluation into programs;
- get people to start thinking, “is anything going on at the library today?”
- treat each person like a person, not a type;
- have a suggestion book or box for patrons to give you daily input;
- become a part of whatever promotions are going on in your community;
- evaluate why you have fines and other things that create negative feelings;
- get your message out any way you can – grocery bags, other groups’ newsletters.

We reminded ourselves that we are there for the public, not for ourselves.

Here are a few goals that have appeared in the new planning documents:

- Residents of XYZ will have increased access to the library’s resources (objectives included expanding hours of operation, putting the catalog on the web, publicizing and providing instruction on the databases)
- Residents of XYZ will see the library as a place for community involvement (objectives included creating a comfortable meeting space, offering programs of community interest at the library, encouraging the formation of book clubs)
- More students in the XYZ community will use the library as a resource for their reading assignments and interests (objectives included cooperating with schools in the AR program; doing Golden Sower promotions; visiting schools to provide information about library programs and get input from students; encouraging young people to work in the library for community service credit)



Panhandle Library System Board Meeting  
January 11, 2005  
Bluffs Business Center, Scottsbluff

The Board of the Panhandle Library System met January 11, 2005 at the Bluffs Business Center in the upper level conference room. The meeting was called to order by President Maryruth Reed at 10:00 A.M.

Present: Maryruth Reed, Ruth Walker, Jill Ellis, Carolyn Brown, Lillian Diedrichsen, Diane Downer, Kathy Terrell, Allison McBride, Cherie Longmuir, Pam Scott, and Debbie McCall.

Absent: Vickie Retzlaff, Dena Crews

The agenda was approved. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

There was a roundtable of school librarians. Kathy reported that the Reading First grant will continue for two more years. Her schedule will be difficult. Lillian reported that Accelerated Reading Program will be used at the elementary school. DVD and VCR players have been purchased. Ruth reported that a DVD player was purchased for the elementary school. The sixth grades are doing book reports on the Golden Sower books. Allison reported that a 32 inch TV, DVD, VCR, LCD projector, shelves, and a couple of couches have been purchased for her library.

Pam Scott, NLC, reported that sixteen libraries applied for LSTA grants. Eight of those are dealing with digitization. Teresa Dickson is to do workshops dealing with communication skills and problem solving January 26 in Paxton. Basic Skill Classes will be taught by Pam and Cherie in Scottsbluff on April 20, 27, and May 4, 2005. The Nebraska Library Commission was awarded a Bill and Melinda Gates Grant to support sustainability efforts in public libraries. There were over 40 applications for Youth Services grants.

Cherie reported on the library visits that she has made. She attended several trainings, meetings, and did consulting for several libraries. Four PLS libraries have been awarded youth grants. They include Gering Public, Crawford, Gordon, and Ogallala. New carpet will be installed in the System office. Cherie is willing to speak at service group meetings. It was suggested that guests be invited to the System meetings. These could include staff from libraries not represented on the Board, Administrators from schools, or board members from public libraries. Cherie had gathered more information on Board insurance. After considerable discussion, it was decided not to change the liability insurance coverage at this time.

Carolyn moved that three Legislator luncheons be paid for Legislative Day which is \$15 each. Kathy seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with Lillian, Ruth, Allison, Diane, Kathy, Jill, Carolyn, and Maryruth voting yes. Dena and Vickie were absent. The motion carried. Legislative Day is February 23.

There will be a Willa Cather Festival in Red Cloud on April 29. High School students are encouraged to enter an essay contest. It was suggested that the libraries promote "Nebraska Reads: My Antonia."

Knights and Castles is a book that has lots of ideas for the Summer Reading Program. It was suggested to order the book in bulk. There will be a summer reading workshop in March. The theatre production was discussed. The plan is to have 3 theatre groups, each one performing in one area of the System.

The Scholarship committee reported that they will meet before the next meeting to finalize the new PLS award. The Annual Meeting committee reported that Barb Netterlin from the North Platte Valley Museum will give a program on the Henderson Collection for the Annual Meeting which will be July 22, 2005.

The next Board meeting will be Tuesday, March 15, 2005 in the Lower Level Conference Room of the Bluffs Business Center.

The Meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Ruth Walker, Secretary



*It's time to*

# ***THRIVE!***

*Libraries & Literacy*

**T**eaching and supporting **basic literacy** skills

- Books for Babies
- Toddler and Preschool Storyhours
- Outreach to Daycare Centers
- Partnerships with Schools
- Homework Center
- Summer Reading Club Programs
- Adult Basic Education Support

**H**eritage: past, present, and future = **cultural literacy**

- Genealogy and Local History
- Cultural Programs and Resources
- Book Discussion Groups and Author Talks
- Local Art and Cultural Event Information

**R**esponsible and informed citizens = **civic literacy**

- Meeting Rooms for Public Use
- Neighborhood and Community Development Resources
- Resident and Newcomer Information
- Community Information and Displays
- Government Documents and Tax Forms

**I**nvesting in personal prosperity = **business and financial literacy**

- Employment and Career Development Resources
- Financial Planning Materials
- Small Business and Marketing Resources

**V**ital Information for a healthy and productive life = **life skills literacy**

- Health and Consumer Information
- Personal Growth and Development Resources
- Family Resource Centers
- "How to" Materials

**E**ducating the public for **21<sup>st</sup> century literacy**

- Internet Access
- Computers for Public Use
- Computer Classes

# Panhandle SUN

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## Your System Board Members:

Maryruth Reed, President  
Dena Crews, Vice President  
Ruth Walker, Secretary  
Jill Ellis, Treasurer  
Carolyn Brown  
Lillian Diedrichsen  
Diane Downer  
Allison McBride  
Vickie Retzlaff  
Kathy Terrell

## Serving libraries in these counties:

Arthur, Banner, Box Butte,  
Cheyenne, Dawes, Deuel,  
Garden, Grant, Keith,  
Kimball, Morrill, Scotts  
Bluff, Sheridan, and Sioux  
Counties

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