

**MARCH/
APRIL
2007**

Eastern Express

The Newsletter of the Eastern Library System

From the Administrator

by Kathy Tooker

Library Advocacy is *Your* Responsibility

This newsletter is sent to approximately 675 librarians, library trustees, library Friends and library supporters. Most of the 675 are in the seven-county Eastern Library System, but others are in one of the five other Nebraska Regional Library Systems. Now think what might happen if every person in the state that is a librarian, or library trustee, a library Friend or library supporter were to advocate for more funding for Nebraska libraries. What a grass roots support group that would be!

The Nebraska Legislature's Appropriations Committee has developed its preliminary biennium budget recommendations for state agencies. This budget would reduce the Nebraska Library Commission's operating budget by approximately \$138,000 a year. NLC's budget is in two parts, state aid, which had not be reduced, and operating. The operating side of the budget could have serious consequences on NLC's staffing and therefore its ability to deliver the services you have come to count on in order to provide library services in your community. Such services as interlibrary loan, reference, Talking Book and Braille Service, continuing education could all be affected plus database training, NEBASE / OCLC training, digitization workshops, erate assistance, and consulting.

As library advocates, we must ask the senators on the Appropriations Committee to restore NLC's funding to assure maintenance of the Commission's current

staffing as well as an increase in funding for additional electronic databases licensing. We all know what a benefit it has been to have NebraskaAccess available to every library in the state at no charge as well as for Nebraska citizens from their home.

Governor Heineman's budget recommendations include a slight increase for the Library Commission. The Appropriations Committee's hearing on NLC's budget was March 13. So it is important that you make contact with committee members as soon as possible. The budget issue probably will not be resolved until later in the legislative session that will end on May 31.

When contacting a state senator, make your message clear and short. Concentrate on only one issue or bill. It is very important for others to act as advocates, not just librarians, as we have a vested interest in the restoration of funding. Consider that:

- 10 librarians = one trustee
- 10 trustees = one friend
- 10 friends = one library user
- Whenever possible, have children and young adults make contact too.

Appropriations Committee Members

- Sen. Lavon Heidemann—District 1 (Chair)
lheidemann@leg.ne.gov—402-471-2733
- Sen. Lowen Kruse—District 13 (Vice-Chair)
lkruse@leg.ne.gov—402-471-2727
- Sen. L. Patrick Engel—District 17
lengel@leg.ne.gov—402-471-2716
- Sen. Tony Fulton—District 29
tfulton@leg.ne.gov—402-471-2734

→

- Sen. John N. Harms-District 48
jharms@leg.ne.gov- 402-471-2802
- Sen. Danielle Nantkes—District 46
dnantkes@leg.ne.gov- 402-471-2720
- Sen. John E. Nelson—District 6
jnelson@leg.ne.gov- 402-471-2714
- Sen. John Synowiecki—District 7
jsynowiecki@leg.ne.gov—402-471-2721
- Sen. John M. Wightman—District 36
jwightman@leg.ne.gov—402-471-2642

While you can contact any of the senators on the committee, those Omaha senators are: Kruse, Fulton, Nelson, and Synowiecki. Remember when you do contact a senator's office, it is fine to talk to one of their administrative assistants. These senators are very busy people. After attending a hearing earlier this session and seeing the amount of time each puts into his/her job and the amount of information given to each to read and study, they all deserve out respect and thanks!

Going the Extra Mile Award

It is time to think about nominating deserving people for the annual Going the Extra Mile Award. Go to: <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/eastern/GoingExtraMileAward.pdf> to see the requirements and the nomination form. The deadline to submit is May 15th.

Who do you know that makes
an extra effort?



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System news

Legislative Day

Five youth volunteers were honored at the Nebraska Library Association's Legislative Day on February 14th. There were many fine nominees including Ellen Fluehr, Omaha Public Library, Millard Branch and Brian Krajicke, Gretna Public Library.



L-R Jacob White, Omaha Public Library, Millard Branch - Victoria & John Xiong, Omaha Public Library, Washington Branch - Aillie Hue, Lincoln City Libraries, Eiseley Branch - Lena Erickson, North Platte Public Library

Nebraska Library Association Library Champion Award for 2007

This award was introduced in 1998. It honors a state or federal legislator or an individual who has promoted and supported legislative efforts that promote Nebraska libraries and librarianship. The recommendation for this award is made by the NLA Legislative Committee, in the form of a letter of support written by the chair, and forwarded to the NLA Citations Committee for ratification by the NLA Board. The award is presented at the fall conference, or on Nebraska Legislative Day. The award is not necessarily presented annually, but only as a worthy candidate is identified.

This year's award winner is **Senator Lowen Kruse**,

elected to the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature in 2000 & 2004. **Committees:** Inter-governmental Cooperation (chairperson); Has been a member of the Appropriations Committee since (vice-chair this year). **Biography:** Born in Boelus, 1929.

Wesleyan graduate. **Occupation:** Retired from pastoral work, Omaha District of

United Methodist Churches, 1994. **Member:** Miller-Park-Minne Lusa Community Association; North Omaha Kiwanis; Lions International; volunteer in con-



struction and housing rehabilitation in Omaha, Chile and Texas; habitat volunteer. **Library Support:** Introduced LB 572 this year--benefits for Library System employees; previous bills on system employee benefits; has advocated for libraries to colleagues in Senate; has supported library funding while on the Appropriations Committee.

Papillion

The Sump Memorial Library in Papillion was closed for Martin Luther King's birthday as were most area libraries. However, that did not stop the library from providing service outside its walls. John Seyfarth, Information System's Manager, stopped at the library to do a little work. He found several cars already in the parking lot with the drives using their laptops to connect to the library's wireless connection.

Omaha Public Library

Congratulations to Ben Brick, new manager of the Benson Branch. There have been many changes at OPL. Here are all of the branch managers:

- Sarah Watson, Main Branch
- Mary Griffin, Millard Branch
- Susan Thornton, Abrahams Branch
- Kay Scarpello, Sorensen Branch
- Pam Scott, Swanson Branch
- Ben Brick, Benson Branch
- Lillian Wunsch, Florence Branch
- Norma Pountney, South Branch
- Lucille Lewis, Cather Branch
- John Bernardi, Washington Branch
- Wendy Anderson, Bess Johnson Elkhorn Library

Winner

In the November/December issue of the *Eastern Express* a story about things left in books returned to the library included a request ... "what is the most unusual item you have had left in a book?" Sheryl Williams, McGoogan Library of Medicine at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, sent in the following for which she won the prize!

"Several years ago I was collating a journal for binding. I found an individual's income tax refund check in the issue, in the amount of over \$500. The individual's name and address was on the check, and there was still a listing for him in the phone book. I mailed it to him with a brief note of how I had found it. The check was actually made out to the husband and wife, and I would love to know which one had used it as a bookmark. I never did hear back from them."

Resources For Youth Services Librarians & Media Specialists

VOYA (February 2007) has named 29 titles to its *Top Shelf Fiction for Middle School Readers 2006* including problem novels, romance, historical fiction, mysteries, and horror stories. Selected by a committee of professionals also picked out five titles that seemed to have the widest appeal to middle school teens. These are the books that sparked interest by both boys and girls, while crossing ethnic and economic influences.

- *Alabama Moon* by Watt Key
- *All of the Above* by Shelley Pearson
- *The Sea of Monsters* from the *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* series by Rick Riordan
- *Runaway* by Wendelin Van Draanen
- *Skin* by Adrienne Maria Vrettos

Contact the system office to interlibrary loan a copy of this bibliography.

Need Librarian Tattoos?

The folks at Archie McPhee, who brought us the Nancy Pearl —inspired Librarian Action Figure, now offer *The Illustrated Librarian Temporary Tattoos*, a 3½" x 4½" book with 12 nontoxic temporary tattoos for anyone who wants, "Read or Die," on a bicep—or elsewhere. See www.mcphee.com/items/11696 to look at the choices.

Spanish-speaking library customers needing health information for children should try <www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/childandteenhealth.html>. Here you can find an encyclopedia, information on diseases and conditions, drug information including herbs, and more.

2007 Notable Software and Online subscription Services for Children

Selected by the Association for Library Service to Children, a division of ALA, These computer programs and online subscription services are for children 14 years of age and younger.

- **Bookworm Adventures.** PopCap Games. www.popcap.com. All ages.
- **Bookworm Deluxe.** PopCap Games. www.popcap.com. All ages.

- **Dr. Peggy Healy Stearnes' Stationery Studio.** FableVision. www.fablevision.com/stationerystudio. Ages 5 and up.
- **Dragon NaturallySpeaking Professional 9.** Nuance Communications. www.nuance.com. Elementary and up.
- **Giggles Computer Funtime for Baby—My Animal Friends.** Leveractive. www.giggles.net. 6-24 months.
- **Grolier Online.** Scholastic Library Publishing. <http://go.grolier.com>. All ages.
- **I Spy Mystery.** Scholastic, Inc. www.scholastic.com. Elementary.
- **Instant Immersion American Sign Language v 2.0.** Topics Entertainment. <http://topics-ent.com>. Elementary-Adult.
- **Key Skills Phonics Mastery K-1.** Sunburst Technology. www.sunburst.com. Elementary.
- **Lego Star Ware II: The Original Trilogy.** LucasArts. www.lucasarts.com. Ages 10 and up.
- **Letter Olympics.** Tool Factory, Inc./SEMERC. www.toolfactory.com. Elementary.
- **Microsoft Student with Encarta Premium 2007.** Microsoft. www.microsoft.com/student. Middle/High School.
- **Music Ace Maestro: Music Educator's Professional Edition 4.0.** Harmonic Vision. www.harmonicvision.com. Elementary/Middle.
- **Pirate Poppers.** Brighter Minds Media. www.brightermindsmedia.com. Elementary.
- **The Secrets of Da Vinci: The Forbidden Manuscript.** Tri Synergy/Nobilis. www.trisynergy.com. Ages 10 and up.
- **Tool Factory Keyboarding Adventure.** Tool Factory, Inc. www.toolfactory.com. Elementary.

CLICK Meeting

April 2nd at the Gretna Public Library
9:30 am. Let Jean know if you are coming - jean@cityofgretna.com

We will be talking about copyright issues. Phyllis Brunken will answer your questions. Please email questions in advance to: ktooker@alltel.net

This is the second in a series of Eastern Library System member interviews by Nancy. ELS serves public, school, academic and special libraries. One representative of each type will be featured in the articles.



Creighton University Health Sciences Library & Jim Bothmer, director and a nice guy

In the Eastern Library System Directory this library is listed as a "special library." Serving the Health Sciences schools

of Creighton University, the library's patrons include students from the Schools of Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, and Pharmacy and Health Professions, as well as doctors and other staff of the hospital. Creighton has three libraries, including Reinert (general majors) and the Klutznick Law Library, a luxury for a relatively small university.

With the cost of materials ever-increasing the library utilizes consortiums in purchasing some reference material online, however, there are still those hefty association and licensing fees to contend with. According to Jim, he estimates that in 10 years there will be no current print journals. They will all be available electronically. Too, many of the older back files are now available digitally. As e-journals replace print there is valuable shelf space that can be converted to other purposes. *The Journal of American Medicine* and the *New England Medical Journal*, two of the more utilized publications, are offered online for a sizable fee, which the library pays. Many doctors opt to drop their subscription to the print version. The library also teaches many classes. One class is offered on how to use "RefWorks," a relatively new software program, which is used in organizing journal articles to aid in research.

Jim has been director of the Health Sciences Library/Learning Resources Center for the past 15 years. His education and work history has taken him from Minnesota to Iowa, Sioux Falls, Wyoming, New Mexico, Colorado and finally Omaha. Having a science background is a valuable asset when working in a health sciences library, but a couple of courses in human biology and/or medical terminology helps a lot also.

Jim doesn't limit his "library" interest to his own place of employment. He has served on the Eastern Library System Board for several years and has been on the

State Advisory Council on Libraries. He enjoys being exposed to many types of libraries and is amazed at the things that can be done in the small public library even with limited resources. A perk of serving on the ELS board was being able to visit so many wonderful small communities and making good friends.

Jim is bullish on libraries and sees them as critical components to universities and life in general. The future will bring many exciting changes. For example, the Regional Medical Library is exploring "reference continuity" - the possibility of providing continuous reference to libraries even when the librarian is not there. "It is a good time to be working at a library - time to be a part of technological revolution yet still be able to guide people to information. Libraries are not going away - but they must change."

Jim has three daughters who keep him "poor" but happy. One was recently married, one is getting married next fall, and one is a freshman at Creighton - on the rowing team. I told Jim that being a grandparent is really wonderful.



Even the perceived stuffiness of an academic health sciences library can be lightened up. After many years of requests for a coffee bar in the Health Sciences Library, **Cafe A La Cart** opened in the Library on 1/8/07. To date, it has received rave reviews from the students, faculty, and staff of the health science programs.

***Jim wanted me to announce that the Joint meeting of the **Mid-Continental and Midwest Chapters of the Medical Library Association will be held October 12-16, 2007** in Omaha. "License to Learn, License to Lead" is the conference slogan with speakers including Fred Lee and Lorraine Ray. For more information go to <http://www.mcmla.org/2007/index.html>. Jim says that there is a lot in the meeting for non-health science librarians too and he encourages you to attend.

Thanks Jim for the visit and the coffee and scone - & GO BLUE JAYS!

FYI



Incentives for Public Libraries

At their January 12 meeting, the Nebraska Library Commissioners approved an incentive payment to acknowledge the achievement of enhanced and excellent accreditation status by some of Nebraska's public libraries.

In 2004 the Public Library Accreditation Guidelines were revised, based on input from library personnel statewide. These revised guidelines allow for libraries to be accredited at one of three levels of achievement: essential, enhanced, or excellent. Each level has increased expectations of local libraries in terms of funding, hours open, and programs and services offered.

In 2006 the revised guidelines were fully implemented, with all eligible libraries accredited at one of these three tiers. The Commissioners have approved incentive State Aid payments for Enhanced and Excellent accredited libraries as follows:

- Libraries with Excellent Accreditation status will receive an additional direct state aid payment of \$800.00.
- Libraries with Enhanced Accreditation status will receive an additional direct state aid payment of \$300.00.

Nebraska Libraries Invited to Help Celebrate 2007 ONE BOOK ONE NEBRASKA: Nebraska Reads *Crazy Horse; The Strange Man of the Oglalas*, by Mari Sandoz

The Mari Sandoz historical biography, *Crazy Horse; The Strange Man of the Oglalas* has been selected as the featured book for the 2007 statewide celebration of One Book One Nebraska. Published in 1942, *Crazy Horse* is one of the best-known books written by Sandoz. More than a description of the life of an individual, *Crazy Horse* is an in-depth look at the culture and spirituality of the Oglala Sioux.

As a warrior, Crazy Horse was revered for his skill, having defeated Custer at the Battle of the Little Big Horn. As a leader, Crazy Horse was steeled by child-

hood memories of predations his people suffered at the hands of government troops. As an individual, Crazy Horse was known for his appearance (lighter skin and curly hair) and his demeanor (calm and sometimes introspective). Sandoz conducted extensive research on all of her subjects, and Crazy Horse was no exception. She interviewed numerous native people who knew the subject and events that shaped the fate of their culture. An unswerving advocate for the Plains Indians, Sandoz worked to shed light on the challenges native people faced in the wake of the expansion of a growing American nation.

Activities to mark the 2007 celebration of One Book One Nebraska are being organized by the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society and the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center at Chadron State College. Those efforts will include book discussion groups, school resource guides, traveling exhibits and the Annual Conference of the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society to be held at Chadron State College March 29-31, 2007.

The daughter of Swiss immigrant, Old Jules Sandoz, Mari Sandoz wrote more than 20 books and dozens of short stories during her career. A widely recognized expert on the history of the Plains and the Plains Indians, Sandoz is a member of the Nebraska Hall of Fame. She died in 1966.

Details concerning programs, resources, and activities of the 2007 One Book One Nebraska celebration will be available at www.onebookonenebraska.org. Information is also available from Sarah Polak at the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center, 308-432-6066. Additional information can be found on the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society website, www.marisandoz.org, on the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center website, www.csc.edu/sandoz, and on the University of Nebraska Press website, www.nebraskapress.unl.edu.

CONTACT:

Lucinda Mays, Executive Secretary, 308-432-6307
Sarah Polak, Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center, 308-432-6066

Mari Sandoz Heritage Society

P.O. Box 219, Gordon, NE 69343

www.marisandoz.org

ELS has two book bags (10 copies each) of "Crazy Horse" to lend to system member libraries. Call the office if interested.

more FYI

Now Hiring @ your library®

Since the Nebraska Library Commission is always interested in experimenting with new ways to communicate with Nebraska library staff and supporters, we hope you'll take a look at the new section of our Website and tell us how it works for you.

Now Hiring @ your library®, a new section of Nebraska Library Commission Website is now live. It provides easy access to information about library education options, scholarships, job openings, library careers, mentoring, and recruiting. Nebraska and regional job listings have been repackaged and are now provided through a searchable job bank resource at www.nlc.state.ne.us/NowHiring/JobsAndCareers.asp.

This Website supports the work of the Library Commission's federal grant, *Recruiting the Next Generation of Nebraska Librarians @ the movies*. With this \$343,682 grant awarded from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) in FY 2005, the Nebraska Library Commission began developing a campaign to recruit the next generation of Nebraska librarians and train and support current library workers. The project grew out of a recommendation from the Nebraska State Advisory Council on Libraries, and was prompted by the need to fill current and expected job vacancies, as identified by the Library Commission's Recruitment and Retention Task Force.

The goal is to increase the number of professionally trained librarians and media specialists in Nebraska. The Library Commission's grant is part of the \$19 million "Recruiting and Educating Librarians for the 21st Century" national initiative. Through this project, high school and college students are recruited, matched with mentors and educational opportunities, and provided with stipends, grants, or scholarships to support the pursuit of pre-professional and professional education. For *Recruiting the Next Generation of Nebraska Librarians @ the movies*, the Library Commission developed a marketing plan to create awareness and identify prospects for library service careers. The focus is recruiting talented and diverse library personnel for all types of Nebraska libraries, matching them with mentor/recruiters and educational/employment opportunities, and providing grants, scholarships, and stipends to support their pursuit of pre-professional and professional training.

Scholarships are available to students seeking a master's degree in Library and/or Information Science, master's

degree in Education in School Library Media, bachelor's degree in Library Studies, or a Library Technical Assistant degree. Since November 2005 state and federal scholarship funds awarded are approximately \$88,000. To reach Nebraska's growing Hispanic community, the Library Commission funded Spanish-speaking interns at nine libraries across the state through a partnership with the Nebraska Humanities Council's "Prime Time Family Reading Time" program.

Mentoring is an important component of the recruitment activities. The primary strategy is a one-on-one, each-one-recruit-one, mentoring approach. Mentors and recruiters will be trained to use a multimedia package (including a video PSA for television and movie theatres, print and broadcast communication, Web resources, and exhibits/displays) to identify prospects and inform them about the opportunities for rewarding careers in library service. The resources will be made available to K-12, postsecondary, and public library staff, as well as library supporters and advocates, helping them to form a state-wide network of mentors and recruiters. Please request a recruiting kit if you would like to test the materials at a local community or school career fair. For more information contact Mary Jo Ryan, Nebraska Library Commission Communications Coordinator, 402-471-3434, 800-307-2665, mjryan@nlc.state.ne.us.

Accessed Now Hiring @ your library® by clicking the "coffee cup" icon on the left side of the Nebraska Library Commission Home Page (www.nlc.state.ne.us) or directly at www.NowHiringAtYourLibrary.com and www.NowHiringAtYourLibrary.org

Free Comic Book Day

The 6th annual Free Comic Book Day will be held on Saturday, May 5. This is a single day when participating comic book shops across North America and around the world are giving away comic books absolutely free to anyone who comes into their stores. The event celebrates the independent comic book specialty store.

Go to: <http://www.freecomicbookday.com> for more information and to find a comic books store in your vicinity.



Worth Checking Out √

Professional Collection Additions

1. Fritz, Deborah A. and Richard J. Fritz. *MARC 21 for Everyone: A Practical Guide*. ALA, 2003.
2. Kao, Mary L. *Cataloging and Classification for Library Technicians*. Haworth Press, 2nd, 2001.
3. Kao, Mary L. *Introduction to Technical Services for Library Technicians*. Haworth Press, 2001.

Contact the system office to borrow any of the materials in the Professional Collection. A bibliography can be located at <www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/eastern>.

Services to Older Adults

As more of the population ages, libraries need to consider what services would benefit senior citizens besides large-print books. A good list can be found at <webjunction.org/do/DisplayContent?id=8502>. Compiled by Allan M. Kleiman, it appeared in “Library Services to the Sandwich Generation and Serial Caregivers,” by Linda Lucas Walling.

Gaming, It’s Not Just for Kids!

Jenny Levine in her article in *American Libraries*, January 2007, “Getting Your Game On,” says that the statistics on gaming speak for themselves.

- The average age of games players is 33.
- In 2005, 25% of all gamers were over the age of 50.
- The head of the household plays computer or video games in 69% of American homes.
- Women age 18 or older represent a greater portion of the game-playing population (30%) than boys age 17 or younger.
- Adult gamers have been playing computer or video games for an average of 12 years.
- Among gamer parents, 80% report playing video games with their children, and 66% feel this activity has brought their families closer together.

Doing Wheelies

Here’s a helpful tip for people who find they are squinting and straining their eyes to read the small print on their computer screen:

Hold down the “CTRL” key on your keyboard and turn the wheel in the middle of your mouse away from you or toward you, and see the print size change. It will either get larger or smaller, depending on which way you turn the wheel. *Branching Out*, Baltimore County Public Library Staff Newsletter, September 2006, p.4. [Http://www.bcpl.info](http://www.bcpl.info). [Seen in *the Unabashed™ Librarian*, Number 141, p. 7.

Gifts for Books Lovers

For a wide selection of gifts and apparel visit the Reader’s Shop at <www.readersshop.com>. Apparel is available in 35 styles for infants to adults. Gift items include bags, drinkware, coaster, tiles, teddy bears and infant bibs. Categories include: reading, books, support your library, library & librarians, holiday & celebrations, bibliomania & humor, quotations, politics & censorship, addicted to books!, and I love my library.

Front Door People Counter

One statistic librarians are supposed to keep for the annual report is the number of people who enter the library. Most libraries use hash marks, make a guess, or count for people for a period and time.

Sensource Counters <www.sensourceinc.com/basicpeoplecounters.html> has a model, PC-QS06, that starts at \$140. A sensor is on one side of the door; a reflector is on the other side of the door. Whenever someone walks between the two, a count is registered. Since this counts entrances and exits, the total count must be divided in half for a true count of the number of people entering the library. [Taken in part from *CKLS Post*, January-February 2007]

Find the Distance

Use Google Map Calculator to calculate the distance as a crow flies between any two points on the globe. <www.daftlogic.com/Projects/Google-Maps-Distance-Calculator>. Distance is given in both miles and kilometers.

iPod Tops Beer on Campus

A Lifestyle & Media Study by research firm Student Monitor, found 73% of college students identify the iPod as the number one “in” thing on campus. Beer—for years the traditional favorite—tied with Facebook, the college networking site, registering 71% responses as “da bomb” on campus. [Seen in *School Library Journal*, July 2006.]

No matter what
accomplishments
you achieve, some-
body helps you. —
Althea Gibson



NLA PUBLIC LIBRARY/SCYP/TUFS SECTIONS

2007 Spring Meetings

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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NAME _____
ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____
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Please check the day that you will be coming:

___ **Mon, May 7** Alliance Public Library 1750 Sweetwater Ave Alliance, NE

___ **Wed, May 9** Kearney Public Library 2020 First Ave Kearney, NE

___ **Thurs, May 10** Lifelong Learning Center, Northeast Community College 801 E. Benjamin Ave
Norfolk -- hosted by Norfolk Public Library

___ **Fri, May 11** Eiseley Branch, Lincoln City Libraries 1530 Superior St Lincoln, NE

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

Eastern Library System Board Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2007
Papillion/La Vista South High School

Present, Denise Lawver, Kathy Tooker, Carrie Turner, John Seyfarth, Mary Jo Mack, Becky Sims, Lupe Mier, Barbara Dean, Robin Bernstein and Nina Little. Guest was Lorelei Perkins, Media Specialist at South High School.

President Denise Lawver called the meeting to order. Introductions and brief comments were made.

The minutes from the November 17, 2006, were reviewed. The minutes will be filed as written.

The treasurer's reports for November and December 2006 were reviewed. No corrections were noted and the reports will be filed for audit.

There was no official correspondence.

Administrator's report: See written report. The webpage and blog workshop was very well-received so another one will be held on March 23rd.

Committee Reports: Kathy gave the continuing education committee report. A book repair class will be offered on March 26th. Plans are being made to hold a workshop for media specialists at UNO. The annual meeting will be held on June 8th at Bellevue University. Ted Smith will be the keynote speaker. The next colloquium will be held in Lincoln on April 21st.

New Business: Approve Policies. The scholarship policy was approved with two changes. The Play-Away Books Policy was approved after one change.

Strategic Planning: Nancy Busch will facilitate a session on strategic planning

Board meeting date: A motion was made, seconded and passed to change the date of the next Board meeting. The meeting will be held on March 9th at Waterloo Public Library. The meeting is scheduled to last morning and afternoon to accommodate strategic planning. Nancy Busch will attend this meeting.

Appointment of new board member: Jan Therien is the newest Board member and represents Dodge County.

Next meeting: March 9, 2007, Waterloo Public Library

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Jo Mack, secretary

What is the role of the System Board?

The twelve-member System Board is the governing body of the Eastern Library System. Board member responsibilities include approval of policies, budgets, plans and selection and evaluation of the system administrator. The System Board, though volunteer, is a "working" board and each member is expected to be active on one of the committees. Current committees are: Planning/ Executive, Continuing Education, Nominating, and Technology.

How does one become a member of the Board?

A slate of names shall be prepared by the Nominating Committee. Not more than 75% of the board members shall be library employees and there shall be one representative from each system county on the board. Ballots are emailed (or mailed if necessary) to all system member directors and the results announced at the Annual Meeting of the system.

How long do board members serve?

Members of the System Board shall serve no more than two consecutive terms. Terms are three years.

Are members of the System Board reimbursed for their expenses?

Though members cannot receive a salary, wage, or fee for their service, they are reimbursed for mileage expenses incurred as a result of work performed for the System at the current IRS rate per mile.

What if a board member cannot attend a meeting?

Four former board members act as alternates for the System Board. Alternates are elected from names suggested by the System Board at their first meeting following the Annual Meeting. If a board member cannot attend a meeting an alternate may be contacted to attend in their place. A quorum of six members must be present to conduct business.

Nomination Form

Eastern Library System Board 2007-2010

Here is an opportunity to meet others interested in libraries and visit libraries in the area. Nominate yourself or another person for a three-year term on the ELS Board of Directors. Winners of the election will get the opportunity to broaden their perspective of the library world, get a crash course in advocacy, and the chance to promote libraries in the state. This means visiting libraries of all types, hearing of their activities and services, and looking for innovative ways to tell the library story. Past board members tell us they enjoyed serving on the board.

Please submit your name or the name of someone from your library community who is willing to serve. Nominees may be public librarians, school library/media specialists, trustees, library customers or community members.

Nominees representing any of the seven counties in the ELS area, Burt, Cuming, Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy, Saunders, Washington, will be considered.

I submit the following nomination to the Board of Directors of the Eastern Library System:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email _____

Present Positions (Classification, e.g. school media specialist, trustee, library customer, librarians, etc. including work experience _____

_____ I have contacted this person and he/she is willing to be nominated for membership on the Eastern Library System Board. This person understands the obligations as outlined on the back of this sheet.

Nominated by: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Mail or fax to:
Eastern Library System
11929 Elm Street, Suite 12
Omaha, NE 68144
Fax: 402-330-1859

Nominations due by April 14, 2007
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Calling all Friends & Trustees

by Kathy Tooker

Every library Friend, foundation member, trustee and library director reading this should plan on attending the **Maximizing the Value of Friends** training being offered March 28 at the Keene Memorial Library, Fremont, from 9:30 am to Noon. While the presenter Sally Reed is the Executive Director of Friends of Libraries (FOLUSA), what she has to say is applicable not only to Friends groups but to library staff, trustees and library foundation members as all should be interested in learning how to work together to raise funds, strengthen boards, be advocates, and create awareness.

Sally has much practical experience as a public library director who worked with both Friends groups, foundations, and library boards, and now as director of FOLUSA. If you have ever heard Sally talk you know that you are in for an inspiring and informing message on how to create support for your library. I heard Sally tell a story about how she spent several years campaigning for additional funding for a public library and finally got it. When she attended the first city council meeting after winning the budget battle, she expected to take some flack from the other department heads, and sure enough, one department head did just that. Sally sat down by the police chief who raised his hand and said, ***“Better to give it to the library now instead of to the police department later.”*** I have never forgotten this story and have repeated it many times as libraries are important and we must get the story out to our communities about what libraries can do to change lives.

Now to the best part. All this is FREE. The Nebraska Library Commission and the Regional Library Systems are sponsoring this event at no charge to you, you just need to register with NLC or call the system office now.

“All you need in life is truth and beauty and you can find both at the Public Library”

Author Studs Terkel

Scholarships Available

The Louise A. Nixon Scholarship Fund and Duane Munson Scholarship Fund are now taking applications for 2007 scholarships. The deadline to apply is April 15th for both scholarships. To read about the scholarships and download an application form go to: <http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/scholarship.htm> If you have questions, please contact Kathy Jacobs, NLA Scholarship Committee Chair, at kjacobs@southsiouxcity.org.

Runner-UP!

[from Nancy Chmiel, Omaha Public Library - Benson Branch]

It all started with a simple email...

My group of teens had decided to enter a “Pimp My Bookcart” contest put on my Overduemedia.com. They wanted to “retro-pimp” our bookcart into a Hippie VW Bus. I faithfully sent an email to all Omaha Public Library staff to see if they could help us acquire VW parts, shag carpet and anything else that could help up transform a lowly wooden bookcart into a hip bus that any righteous dude would want to push.



April Nedved, whose husband Dan is part of the VW Club of Omaha, sent back a reply that let me know if I could tone down the “librarianese” in the email, Dan would send it out to the club. I did my best and the very next morning I walked into work and was handed a message from Phil Cram. Phil offered to let the teens wander around the basement of Cram Auto Parts and take whatever they could use. He graciously donated ever piece of genuine VW history you see on the cart. I’ve never seen three teens so excited about an adventure!!! I drove Scott, Ben and Sara to South O for an afternoon of VW parts shopping. They were in heaven!

The first afternoon I gathered teens to start painting and creating our masterpiece, Scott Wiley showed up to find out more about the venture and ended up sitting in on our creativity fest. He brought us a model VW bus to use as we painted, drew, nailed and drilled our way to the perfect Hippie Mobile!

After finishing our cart within 24 hours of needing to enter it in the contest, the kids asked every day if we’d won! It took over a week for the judges at Overduemedia.com to make up their minds. It was a joy to be able to tell the teens that we tied for runner-up in a contest that had over 100 entries nationwide.

Feature on Nebraska Book Club Kits Titles

by Lisa Kelly – Nebraska Library
Commission

Empire Falls by Richard Russo c2001 was amongst the final five selections for the 2003 One Book/One Lincoln Selection <http://www.lincolnlibraries.org/depts/bookguide/obol/obol2003/front.htm#nominees>. It was also a selection I recently read for my book group and my first Russo novel. Sometimes picking up a book that's been given the Pulitzer Prize can be daunting. No worries here. How often is the story of the everyday man written in such lovely and readable prose? Miles Roby is the character upon which all relationships are built in this novel and Miles is someone that you may not care for immediately, but you feel you know him. It's Miles' daughter and a veiled mystery of his past that hooks you into the book and makes you want to know more. At least that's what my book club members all said. A great deal of this book takes place in the grill named for the town in which it is located. As with many novels, place is a character in this book and it's nice to be in the Northeast region of the United States, Maine specifically. Regardless of the location, elements of the town apply to anywhere in the United States. *Empire Falls* is a working class town where hard times have finally taken their toll. The royalty of the city, Mrs. Whiting rules over the citizens financially and otherwise. Miles' father Max and the priest provide needed comedy to the story and Miles' brother David is the character who is often assigned dialog you wish you could insert to snap Miles out of his stuck-in-a-rut life.

I'm not sure if this is an indicator of successful book selection, but our book group discussed this novel for almost two full hours and still had issues yet to consider. What I adore about the magic of a book discussion is what I learn from the others and revelations about the book that I would have never achieved without examining the text with a group. It doesn't always happen and sometimes it requires a bit of cajoling, but when you have a book club epiphany, you want more and

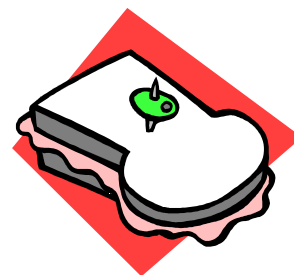
more.

Again, this is another book where you can add in a movie/book discussion. Paul Newman read this book (who also played the lead role in another Russo book made into a movie, *Nobody's Fool*) and worked with HBO to produce *Empire Falls* with no time constraints on the final movie so it was released as a mini-series. I watched the movie the day after I finished the book and enjoyed very much the visualization of a story I'd had in my mind in a different way. I think the book had more humor but it's not a difficult thing to watch Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward act.

Want to couple this book with food? It's a snap with diner food of which I always lean towards Grilled Cheese and chips. Here's a recipe for a dressed up Grilled Cheese Sandwich to head you towards the Empire Grill. I'll let you choose your own beverage.

The Ultimate Grilled Cheese Recipe

5 servings
25 min 15 min prep
1 (3 ounce) package
cream cheese, soft-
ened
3/4 cup mayonnaise
1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese
1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
1/8 teaspoon seasoning salt
10 slices Italian or sourdough bread
4 tablespoons butter, softened



- In a mixing bowl, beat cream cheese and mayonnaise until fluffy.
- Stir in cheeses, garlic powder, and seasoned salt.
- Spread five slices of bread with the cheese mixture, about 1/3 cup on each.
- Top with remaining bread slices.
- Butter the outsides of sandwiches; cook in a large skillet over medium heat until golden brown on both sides and cheese is melted.

Upcoming Events

- March 23—Webpage and Blog Workshop, 9-12,1-3, Sump Memorial Library, Papillion
- March 23—College of DuPage Teleconference: Library Transformation: Making It Happen. 11 am—12:30 pm, Bellevue University and Creighton Health Sciences Library
- March 26—Basic Book Repair Workshop, Bess Johnson Elkhorn Library, 9:30 am—Noon
- March 28—Maximizing the Value of Friends, Keene Memorial Library, Fremont, 9:30 am—Noon
- April 2—CLICK Meeting, Gretna Public Library, 9:30—11:30 am
- April 4—The Customer-Centered Library, Columbus Public Library, 10 am—3 pm
- April 9—Introduction to Digitization, Nebraska Library Commission, 9 am—4 pm
- April 10—Introduction to Scanning, Principles & Best Practices, Nebraska Library Commission, 9 am—3 pm (Contact Shannon Behrhorst - sbehrhorst@nlc.state.ne.us)
- April 12 & 19—Days two & three of Basic Skills Public Services, Gretna Public Library, 10 am—3 pm
- April 21—Spring Colloquium with Dr. Kate Marek, Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln, 5:30 pm
(See flyer this issue)
- May 4—DIRECT Meeting, 9:30—11:30 am, Oakland Public Library
- May 5—Library Media Specialist Training Day, Kayser Hall, UNO
- May 10—NLA Public Library/SCYP/TUFS Sections Spring Meeting, Lifelong Learning Center, Northeast Community College, Norfolk (registration form at www.nlc.state.ne.us/news/content/2069.html)
- May 11—NLA Public Library/SCYP/TUFS Sections Spring Meeting, Eiseley Branch, Lincoln
- June 8 - ELS Annual Meeting, Bellevue University
- July 9-13 - Nebraska Library Leadership Institute (www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/eastern)

Check out the Nebraska Library Commission's web page calendar (<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/libcal/libcal.html>) for a schedule of events.

For more information on any of these events, call the System Office.

*Eastern Library System
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