

**July/August
2004**

Eastern Express

The Newsletter of the Eastern Library System

ELS Annual Meeting

by Matt Rohde, UNO

Did you miss it? You missed it? Well, 91 librarians attended this year's annual meeting at the La Vista Public Library June 4, 2004. WOW, what a turnout! We had a great time.

Rainbow Rowell, Omaha World Herald Columnist, shared some wonderful insights on why reading was important to her, and fielded questions on everything from her name to what kind of editorial pressure she receives. We learned that her six-week-old son is named Galahad, and that, yes, her mother is a hippie. Rainbow had some car trouble, and arrived a few minutes late so I got to help with a small group discussion on Customer Service. There were other small groups that were probably much more enlightening.



Shaista Wahab, University of Nebraska at Omaha, presented a 52 minute documentary "Afghan Women Under the Taliban"; this documentary focused directly on the women of Afghanistan and

what their living conditions are like. This was like a kick in the gut. It gave a little different perspective on life in Afghanistan; before, during, and after the Taliban. If you ever get a chance to see this presentation - do it!



We had a wonderful lunch with make your own sandwiches with croissants, various meat salads, a pasta salad and chips. The cookies were still warm when they arrived. There are librarians out there who are saying - "isn't it just like a man to give lunch a whole paragraph?". Yes. During lunch, the Eastern Library System held the annual business meeting. Our member going off the board, Denise Grunke, was thanked, members re-elected or elected were welcomed, and a few old friends were thanked as well. News of the new library science courses offered at Metropolitan Community College was announced. The minutes from last year's meeting were accepted and treasurer's report approved.

The afternoon left us with a plethora of good choices of sessions to attend. Karen Hein, UNO, hosted two sessions - back to back. These sessions were on the digitization process, and how to get started. Shannon Behrhorst, NLC, presented the wonderful new NebraskaAccess program from the Library Commission. Gail Formanack, Omaha Public Schools, explained the mysteries of MARC to another group of enthusiastic listeners. ➔

Later Dorothy Willis, UNO, presented her version of "Copyright 101," and Tracie Klosterman, NETV, gave an overview of digital resources you might want to use in your library or media center.

Whew! It was a long and successful day. When we weren't in sessions, there was plenty to eat, and several very kind vendors displaying what they do best. You could purchase something from the Bookworm, shirts or bookbags from the Nebraska Library Association Store, notecards from the UNO Library Friends group with Afghanistan scenes on the front, or a button that said "Libraries Work Because We Do" - that is if you beat Lupe Mier to the buttons. There was a display from the McGoogan Library of Medicine and the Regional Library of Medicine, Early Childhood Training Center, and Magnetic Imaging Services displayed their equipment during the digitization sessions. Mark your calendar now - be ready to attend next years annual meeting. Hope to see you there.

Welcome to new ELS Board Member, **Lynn Schnoor**. Lynn is representing Dodge County. She is an insurance agent, Friend of the library and will be a great asset to the board.

Re-elected to the board were **Becky Pasco**, and **Dorothy Willis**.

Fulfilling her term and going off of the board was **Denise Grunke**. Thank you Denise!

The Eastern Library System is fortunate to have active and interested board members. Kathy and Nancy are grateful for their support and willingness to be involved with all libraries in the system. We depend on their expertise and encouragement to carry out our programs. We thank you so much for another year of good work and we look forward to new and interesting happenings next year!!

Thank You

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Book Reviews

by Joan Chesley

Keene Memorial Library, Fremont



No Dogs Allowed! By Sonia Mazono, Illustrated by Jon J. Muth, Athenaeum Books for Young Readers, 0-689-83088-2. Written by the Maria from Sesame Street, this book brings all the exuberance and joys of the extended family to a story which would be delightful to read to a group or a single child. The main character, Iris, introduces her family when they used to live in a place called the Bronx in the Kingdom of Third Avenue in the Land of New York City.

The family decides to go for a picnic in the Enchanted State Park, and each family member packs a bag with everything that person thinks is important. The big sister packs a huge back pack, but then she is a fortune teller so she needs many supplies. Her mother, Mami the Busy, packs lunches and after lunch snacks while her father Papi the Clever gets everything ready. Cousins and neighbors too pack their necessities and soon the cavalcade is on their way. Just as they are ready to leave, the Fortune Teller Big Sister prophecies that bringing their dog means nothing but trouble. And so it is. The “No Dogs Allowed” sign is the first things the group sees when they arrive at the Enchanted State Park. The group mulls over what to do about the dilemma, and finally a solution is found which makes everyone happy, especially the dog.

Plaidypus Lost by Janet Stevens and Susan Stevens Crummel, Holiday House, 0-8234-1561-9. The plaidypus, sewn from a plaid shirt, becomes a little girl’s favorite toy. She takes the Plaidypus everywhere, to the park, to the lake, to the grocery store. But that silly Plaidypus seems to lose himself each time, and the little girl has to search. Plaidypus is lost and found, the story “goes around and around.” Finally the dear toy is truly lost, blown out of the car window. But not to worry. The Plaidypus turns up rather the worse for wear but then as long as Grandma has her shears, Plaidypus can be returned to loveable form.

Plaidypus Lost is a dear story to read to the younger story time group, with large colorful illustrations to make each point.

Once Upon a Starry Night, a Book of Constellations by Jacqueline Mitton and Christina Balit, National Geographic, 0-7922-6332-4.

This very impressive book tells the story of the constellations in a manner that is interesting to the lower elementary grades. Beautifully done by National Geographic, each constellation is gloriously illustrated by Christina Ballit’s paintings to further enchant the reader and urge the reading of the stories. The illustrations include bright silver stars that glitter and gleam. Additional information about star formations is found at the back of the book. Take this book and a child outdoors on a starry night and begin the fascination with astronomy in the child’s life.

The Goose Girl by Shannon Hale, Bloomsbury, 1-58234-843-x. Every once in a while, the Battle of Books kids find a book they all rave about, a “Five Star Book.” Not since I read “Summers of Castle Auburn” (by Sharon Shinn, Ace Books), some of them said, have I loved a book so much. Anidori Kiladra Talianna Isilee is the Crown Princess of Kildenree. She learns from her aunt, who teaches her to talk, that there are three ways to talk: People speak, Animal Speak and Nature Speak. Dori cannot people speak but finds she can speak and understand animals and nature. When her father, the king, dies unexpectedly, her mother names her brother as heir to the throne. She plans to marry Dori off to a neighboring kingdom to keep peace. But on the way to Bayeen, her future home, she is betrayed by Selia, her lady in waiting, and most of the guardsmen who are accompanying her. Selia takes the princess’s place and Dori is left for dead in the forest. But Dori finds friends who help her find a position as a goose girl, a lowly and unremarkable occupation, but Dori knows she must keep her identity a secret for fear of her life. The plot becomes interestingly complex as she becomes friendly with one of Bayeen’s guard as she begins to plot her revenge. Definitely not a guy-book but full of love, adventure, fantasy, and everything else that makes a good read.

Announcements



Trustee Survey in the Future

A survey of the Nebraska Library Trustees will be conducted late summer/early fall. All trustees are encouraged to participate. Each trustee will receive 2 hours of continuing education credit that can be applied toward board certification. Lynn Bradman, a social science professor at Metropolitan Community College and a PhD student, is conducting the survey. Lynn is also a member of the Eastern Library System Board of Directors. Results of the survey will be used to plan activities and workshops that would be most helpful to trustees.

ELS Awards 2 Grants

The Eastern Library System Board awarded Children's / Youth Services Grants of \$500 each to the Springfield Public Library and the Mead Elementary School Library. Connie Manzer, director at the Springfield library, plans on using the money to purchase biography books for their juvenile collection. Anne Swanson, Media Specialist at the Mead Elementary School, will use the funds to add Caldecott Medal winners and Honor books to their collection. Congratulations to both!

The Nebraska Library Commission Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Grant application will be available on October 1, 2004. It is due December 31, 2004; grants will be awarded on March 8, 2005. The funds are available for accredited public libraries, regional library systems, and state-operated institutional libraries to improve library and information services to Nebraskans.

Scholarship Winners

Nixon \$1,000 scholarship:

- Jane Raglen Holt, Lincoln East High School.
- Karen Frizzell, Metropolitan Community College, Omaha.
- Kathy Jacobs, South Sioux City Public Library.

Duane Munson Scholarship:

- Elizabeth Wilcox, graduate of UNO and continuing at the University of Missouri.

Public Library Accreditation Guidelines

A revised list of guidelines can be found on the Nebraska Library Commission website www.nlc.state.ne.us. These guidelines will be implemented gradually over the next three years.

Motion Picture Video License

The Nebraska Library Commission has renewed the statewide license for July 1, 2004 through September 30, 2005 for all Nebraska public libraries. With this license, videos may be shown in the library facility as part of library programming at no charge.

New Slovak Film Now in Release

Pictures from the Old Country, which chronicles the filmmaker's quest to uncover the mysteries of her Slovak identity, after it had been lost behind the Iron Curtain, has been acquired for worldwide distribution by the prestigious CINEMA GUILD, INC in New York City.

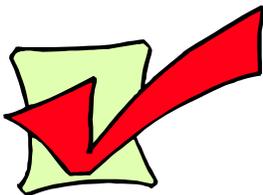
You or your organization can now order the video for sale or rent from The Cinema Guild. It is available to general viewing audiences and also ideally suited for classroom instruction and curriculum enrichment. You will find it in their catalog under "World Cultures - Europe" as a new title. You can access the Cinema Guild CATALOG ONLINE: at www.cinemaguild.com. E-MAIL Inquiries can be sent to info@cinemaguild.com. Or request a catalog be mailed to you By PHONING: (800) 723-5522 or (212) 685-6242. Or By MAIL:

The Cinema Guild, Inc.
130 Madison Avenue
Second Floor
New York, NY 10016-7038

As a young girl growing up during the Cold War, she is curious about the "strange" language her grandmother is speaking and the enigma that shrouds her past. Fantasizing that Grandma must be a communist spy, she begins to ask questions that are never fully answered. Years later, still haunted by her family's secrecy, the filmmaker embarks on a journey that crosses continents and generations - to learn about Slovakia, why her grandmother came to America, and who she left behind. Gradually the filmmaker fits together the pieces of the puzzle, and the telling of Grandma's story inspires her to connect with her family and cultural heritage - and ultimately, to discover her own Slovak soul.

You can also watch for "PICTURES" this fall on select PBS Stations!!

Worth Checking Out



The System office has added five new books to our professional collection. You may borrow any of these or the other items in the collection by calling either Kathy or Nancy at 330-7884 or 800-627-7884.

1. *The Visible Librarian: Asserting Your Value with Marketing and Advocacy* by Judith A. Siess. Published by ALA (2003), Siess' book gives you the tools you need to make your community aware of just how indispensable your services are. Practical strategies are offered on how to connect with customers and make service both visible and valuable to the community.
2. *The New Planning for Results A Streamlined Approach* by Sandra Nelson, also published by ALA (2001), is an all-in-one guide that outlines a tested, results-driven planning process for all sizes of public libraries.
3. Library Technology Reports "Filtering and Filter Software (March/April 2004, Vol. 40, No.2.) by Lori Bowen Ayre. Chapters cover: The History and Development of Filters, Selecting a Filter, Best Practices, and What's Next for Library Filtering? Also provided are examples of Internet use policies.
4. *Sears List of Subject Headings*, published by H.W. Wilson, the 18th edition (2004), features many new subject headings.
5. *Abridged Dewey Decimal Classification and Relative Index* published by OCLC (2003). This 14th edition is useful to libraries with collections of 20,000 titles or less and contains many new features and changes.

[Check out our Professional Collection at www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/eastern. Click on Programs and Services.

Afghanistan Bibliography— Afghanistan is in the news everyday and you may need to add books to your collection about the country. As part of her presentation at the ELS meeting (see pg. 1) in June, UNO librarian Shaista Wahab prepared a bibliography on books about the history, the women of Afghanistan, fiction, and a book written by Wahab *Beginner's Dari (Persian)*. For a copy of this book please call the System office. Thanks to Shaista for providing this list of books about Afghanistan.

Web resources you may want to bookmark are:

nncf.unl.edu.nrrs -Nebraska Resource Referral System is a great resource for Nebraskans as the site contains information about thousands of community organizations that provide services such as Alzheimer's, Assisted Living, Children's Mental Health, Families, Eldercare, etc. There is also a Share and Discuss page. NRRS is maintained by the Nebraska Health and Human Services.

www.ala.org—American Library Association has added a "Take Action!" web page that is accessible by clicking on the image located on their home page. The page is designed to allow librarians and library advocates to forward letters, faxes, and e-mail messages to members of Congress regarding library legislation by entering their zip code.

How to Delegate in 8 Easy Steps

1. Learn to recognize the types of projects and tasks best assigned to others.
2. Decide which tasks would be best suited to individual employees' talents and interests.
3. Frame the assignment.
4. Agree upon expectations.
5. After assigning a project, follow up to check progress and convey your continued interest.
6. Remember that "follow-up" does not mean micromanage.
7. Emphasize open lines of communication.
8. Show your appreciation.

[Seen in *Nebraska Municipal Review*, February 2003— adapted from *Women in Business*.]

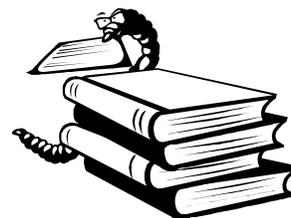
Create Your Own Online Resources Page

Libraries can now easily create their own online resources page. We have designed a simple form that librarians can fill out that will generate a customized page. After the page is created it will need to be saved to your local computer. It can then be put on the library's web site or it can be accessed off of a local computer.

Get started by going to: www.nlc.state.ne.us/nebraskaaccess/toolbox/yourownpage.html. A sample of the completed page is shown in the black box. Below the sample is the form you can use to customize your own resource page. The form will allow you to select a background color and the color of the text headings. You can also add the library's name, contact information and a link back to your web site. Libraries that purchase other resources, such as netLibrary or SIRS, can add up to five additional links.

Before you get started make sure you read the directions! If you have questions or problems please contact Allana Novotny at 402-471-6681, 800-307-2665 or anovotny@nlc.state.ne.us.

The Smartest Card—Get It Use It @ your library™ is the new campaign to help promote the value of your library and public libraries nationwide. Visit www.pla.org/smartestcard.htm for more information.



SYSTEM NEWS



Wanted:

Omaha church seeks hand-me-down book truck, to be used for outdated liturgical materials, sorting and shifting, etc. Rough condition OK. Contact Kenny Oyer, Alegent Health Bergan Mercy Medical Center, 402-679-7191.

Gretna

An adult program at the Gretna Public Library, L.E.A.R.N., has been very popular. Library Education and Reading Niche is held the fourth Thursday of each month and topics range from antique and quilt appraisals to health concerns.

Bancroft

The 39th Annual Neihardt Day Celebration will be held Sunday, August 1st at the John G. Neihardt State Historical Site in Bancroft. Featured is Lemuel Sheppard, composer/musician/poet performer. For more information call 402-648-3388 or 1-888-777-4667.

Omaha

A new community reading program, Omaha Reads, has announced the six finalists from more than 100 suggestions from the public. They are:

- “Fahrenheit 451” by Ray Bradbury
- “A Lesson Before Dying” by Ernest Gaines
- “Peace Like a River” by L.L. Enger
- “The Things They Carry” by Tim O’Brien
- “The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963” by Christopher Paul Curtis
- “The Weight of Dreams” by Jonis Agee.

Ballots were available at Omaha Public Library branches and the winner will be announced in August. Reading and related programs will be offered in September and October.

La Vista

The La Vista Public Library will be the recipient of the National Video Resources 12 volume Human Rights Video collection this summer. This collection is being sent to 300 public libraries across the country and La Vista Public Library was chosen as one of those. A grant concerning human rights was submitted to the organization.

Additional information about the videos can be located at www.humanrightsproject.org

Elkhorn

The Bess Johnson Elkhorn Public Library has collected 233 used cell phones in the last 6 months. The cell phones are given to a domestic violence shelter in Omaha. The used cell phones will be recycled and some parts resold to benefit the shelter. Some phones are given to battered women to use for dialing the 911 emergency number in case they are in danger. The Elkhorn library would be willing to make arrangements to pick up any used cell phones that other libraries manage to collect if they do not have a charity of their own choice. Contact Wendy Anderson, director, at 402-289-4367 or e-mail her at wanderson@elkhorncity.net.

Dodge

The John Roger Memorial Library held a “Create a Cover for You Book” contest to celebrate National Library Week. There were 72 entries in four age groups. Each participant created a book jacket design for the book they would write. The entries were on display at the library for several weeks. For their summer reading program Alex Meyer, an area historian, gave a presentation on the Lewis and Clark Trail and showed the children items he collected on the Trail.

Beemer

This year’s summer reading program has the 9-11 year-old children writing and illustrating their own books which will be published in hard cover.

The next CLICK (children's librarians information coffee klatch) will meet August 2nd at the Sump Memorial Library in Papillion at 9:30 am. We will recap the Summer Reading Program and talk about What is New for Fall. If you are coming call Toni Reese 402-596-2051.

MORE NEWS

Blair

The Blair Public Library has received a grant from the Blair Community Foundation to purchase a multi-media projector. Bob Coffey, President of the Blair Community Foundation presented the check to Ruth Peterson, library director.



Dale Clark, Humanities speaker from Grand Island, presented a program on the Lewis and Clark Expedition at the Blair Public Library. Of course, his dog was a bit hit with the kids.



Electronic Databases

The following databases have been renewed by the Nebraska Library Commission for the 2004-2005 year:

- FirstSearch Base Package of eleven databases
- Wilson OmniFile Full Text Select
- Wilson Biographies Plus Illustrated
- Kiplinger Forecasts

- Books in Print Professional and Patron Books in Print
- eLibrary from proQuest

These resources are provided to public, K-12 school and post-secondary academic libraries by the Nebraska Library Commission with funding from the State of Nebraska. To find more information go to www.nlc.state.ne.us/nebraskaccess.

Don't forget you can get a free day of training on the statewide databases. Database Roadshow sessions run from 9 am—3 pm with lunch on your own. Sessions in our area include:

- July 22, John A. Stahl Memorial Library, West Point
- August 5, University of Nebraska at Omaha, University Library
- August 11, Ord Township Library
- August 19, Morton-James Public Library, Nebraska City

Register at www.nlc.state.ne.us/nebraskaccess/toolbox/roadshow.html.

Take a Look

Siobhan Blackwell, Regional Medical Library Coordinator for the Health Sciences Library at Creighton University, suggests that you take a look at this website

<http://ehrweb.aaas.org/PDF/ChallengePubLibraries.pdf>

The publication, "Challenge of Providing Consumer Health Information Services in Public Libraries" is available for printing. The booklet includes seven key findings.

1. Health information in libraries is valuable.
2. Health information is written for a level above those who use it.
3. Libraries are important health information providers
4. Experienced librarians provide valuable lessons.
5. Regional networks provide health information.
6. Health care libraries also provide valuable information.
7. Resources offered by government agencies.

Got Any Good Books?

by Kathy Tooker



Ever been asked this question? You want to reply, “Of course we have good books, after all this is a library.” But, being good librarians, we try to find out what the reader is looking for in the way of a good book.

I had the opportunity to hear Duncan Smith, a nationally recognized trainer in reader’s advisory, at a training day for the Omaha Public Library staff. Theresa Jehlik, the continuing education trainer and coordinator for OPL, invited area librarians to attend the program also.

Duncan Smith is the creator of EBSCO Publishing’s NovelList, a web-based readers’ advisory tool. Before demonstrating how NovelList can be used to connect readers with books, he gave an excellent presentation about what you can do to find out what the reader’s interests are in order to be able to suggest other titles.

Smith said most readers are browsing without knowing what “good book” really means to them. The best thing to say to a reader is, “Tell me about a book you’ve read and enjoyed.” Then the librarians need to listen carefully to discover if the reader talks about one or more of these characteristics:

- Characters
- Plot, action, format, genre
- Location, time geographic area, setting
- Theme or subject
- How book affected the, emotional experience

The secret is to listen instead of already trying to think of titles to recommend. Smith demonstrated using this technique by using videotapes of readers talking about books they have read and enjoyed. He said he had had good success helping people find “good books” this way. Other suggestions were to use statements like, “I have an author you might like.” This gives the readers a chance to respond. Don’t say, “Everyone just loves this book.” Reader’s advisors must establish a trust with the reader and the reader reads the book and doesn’t like it, he/she might not trust you to make another recommendation. It is much like a reference interview.

It is still true what S. R. Ranganathan said in 1931 in his Five Laws of Library Science:

1. Books are of use.
2. Every reader his/her book.
3. Every book its reader.
4. Save the time of the reader.
5. The library is a growing organism.

** Recommended reading —*Guiding the Reader to the Next Book* by Kenneth D. Shearer, Neal-Schuman, 1996.

Library Facts

[from ALA Public Information Office]

- 91% of Americans believe libraries will play an important role in the future, despite the wealth of information available through the Internet. Public library cardholders outnumber Amazon customers by almost 5 to 1.
- Reference librarians in the nation’s public and academic libraries answer more than 7 million questions weekly. Standing single file, the line of questioners would stretch from Boston to San Francisco.
- Research shows the highest achieving students attend schools with good library media centers.
- Libraries serve 63% of the public every year for less than the cost of a hard-cover novel. Your library is worth as much to your community as any bridge, road or utility in town.
- Americans spend more than three times as much on salty snacks as they do on public libraries.



TITANIC The Artifact Exhibit

is now open at the Omaha Children’s Museum. Jennie Mathisen, (former ELS board member) and director of guest services at the museum says this is an excellent exhibit. It is open from now until September 6, 2004. For more information visit their website at www.OCM.org or call 402-342-6164.

Hundreds of artifacts tell the stories of passengers on the ill-fated Titanic.

For Children's Librarians & Media Specialists



Is There Space in Your Library for a Teenager?

by Nancy Meyer

Reminder! The System office has available for loan to libraries a Follett PHD Dolphin + barcode scanner. Take inventory faster with this lightweight hand-held computer. The Dolphin features USB support that works for both Windows and Mac OS. It works only with Follett automation software. Call the System office to borrow the PHD+ Dolphin.

EZRA Jack Keats Foundation 16th Annual Minigrant Program will award minigrants of \$350 (a total of \$40,000) to public libraries and public school libraries for innovative and imaginative programs the combat illiteracy. Contact: Deborah Pope, dpope@Ezra-Jack-Keats.org; www.ezra-jack-keats.org/programs/minigrants.htm. Due by September 15, 2004.

Over 10,000 public and private school media specialists were surveyed a new study by the Department of Education, "Status of Public and Private School Library Media Centers in the United States: 1999-2000" addresses topics such as: characteristics of the library media center, staff characteristics, library expenditures, collection holdings, and library policies. So if you want to find out how many paid state-certified media specialists are in a state or do some comparisons between public and private school media centers go to www.nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid+2004313 for the answers.

The next Harry Potter book, the sixth in the series by J.K. Rowling, will be *Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince*. The author is still in the process of writing the book with no release date set yet.

The 2004 Public Library Section Spring Meeting, held in May at the new Seward Public Library had a session on "Teen Spaces" which I attended. The presenter, Kimberly Bolan Taney from the Webster Public Library in New York, was an enthusiastic and interesting speaker. Throughout her presentation she encouraged teen participation at every level of programming. Their ideas, likes and dislikes are honest reflections on their needs and will be credible with other teens as well. We all know that this age-group is unique and peer-driven which means that their surroundings and activities need to be "out-of-the-box" and certainly much different than those of children and adults.

We viewed lots of before/after pictures of space redone to accommodate and welcome teens, and I learned some important ingredients for developing an inviting teen space:

- Make it colorful - posters add a lot. (www.allposters.com)
- Equip it with comfortable and moveable furniture - a wild rug can be considered a great place to sit. (www.rugsrugs.com)
- The collection must be up-to-date and displayed in unconventional ways with lots of videos, DVDs, magazines and graphic novels. Spend your money on what they will read not what you want them to read.

You can have the very best teen space but if you don't market it or promote your services it won't be successful.

Kim's book, "Teen Spaces: The Step-by-Step Library Makeover," would be a great addition to your professional resources.

Circuit Rider

By Kathy Tooker



May 19 was a beautiful day for a drive to visit Eastern Library System libraries. Matt Rohde (ELS intern) and I left early and made calls at seven public libraries and one special library. Very much like “riding the circuit” in days past.

First stop was at the Wisner Public Library. Director Carol Duncan provides a unique service to her customers—a cup of cappuccino for 50¢. The Wisner library also has a compact disk cleaner and customers can bring in their person CDs to be cleaned for a small fee.

Next stop was Beemer and the Karlen Memorial Library. Tammy Lorenz has been the director here for about 10 years and has many improvements in both the collection and the services offered. She showed us some nifty canvas bags that were purchased with memorial money. The memorial is printed on the bag—a very useful and visible tribute.

Matt and I took a turn to the North to visit the Bancroft. We made an unscheduled stop at the John G. Neihardt Center Library and were greeted warmly by Mary (I didn’t get her last name). When she found out we were both librarians, she had several cataloging questions for us that we were pleased we could answer. If you haven’t visited the Neihardt Center, it is well worth the trip.

The Bancroft Public Library and a visit with its director, Judy Meyer, were only minutes away. Judy reported how appreciative they are of the Gates computer they received and how many children use the library and attend storytime programs.

Back south to the John Rogers Memorial Library in Dodge. This small but very attractive library was full of people. All computers were in use with a waiting line. Mary Mandel, director, showed us a flyer announcing the library’s teen book discussion group.

Snyder was our next location. Snyder has a very small library but it is enjoyed by the children of this community. Director Betty Niewohner mentioned she really needed to weed the collection so Matt and I volunteered to come back another day and help with

the project. A special thank you to Mary as she had snacks for us. And we did go back and help weed the collection.

Evla Saafeld told us how busy the North Bend Public Library gets during the summer reading program. She and her staff have planned many activities to encourage the kids to read. The North Bend Library is a Carnegie library, one of the few left in the state. Going up the steps brings back fond memories of library visits.

The final stop of the day was at the Valparaiso Public Library. This is an interesting library as it used to be a bank. Director Mary Rittenburg has managed to turn it into an inviting place with a comfortable sofa to sit on and read and a new circulation desk since my last visit. It looks very nice.

Matt and I had a good day, covered quite a few miles, and really enjoyed the visits with fellow librarians. If you would like me to visit your library or have a consulting question, please call me so we can arrange a time.

MPLA Road Trip in the Works

Mountain Plains Library Association 2004 Conference will be held October 21-24 in Denver, Colorado—and done jointly with the Colorado Association of Libraries. Conference theme is: **Libraries: All that Jazz.** The Nebraska Regional Library Systems think that this would be an ideal time to consider a group Road Trip. If you are considering attending MPLA this year and would like the opportunity to network on the road, as well as at the conference let us know if you would be interested in a large carpool. If we have enough numbers interested we are hoping to charter a bus. For more information on the conference go to: www.cal-webs.org/conference.html.

___I am definitely interested in traveling to MPLA as part of a road trip.

___I am considering the possibility or traveling to MPLA as part of a road trip, and would like to be made aware of any plans made.

Send your response including name and contact information to: Jenni Puchalla, SELS -

Eastern Library System Board Meeting May 21, 2004

Blair Public Library

Present: Lynn Bradman, Becky Pasco, Nina Little, Tammy Lorenz, Kenny Oyer, Lori Long, Sam McMullen, Becky Sims, Lupe Meir, Denise Lawver, Matt Rohde, Paul Emmerich, Kathy Tooker, Nancy Meyer. Guests: Casey Kralik, Ann Moore and Ruth Peterson.

Introductions & Guest comments – Casey Kralik, Joslyn Art Reference Library, discussed the programs and services she's been working since taking over as Director of Abrahams Library in the Joslyn Art Museum. In particular, Casey has been working on marketing the library to both internal and external audiences. She reported that both general and art specific databases are available in the library and described the types of valuable art and history archives that patrons can access through the library. Items cannot be checked out of the library – but are available to the public through Interlibrary loan.

Comments:

Ruth Peterson, Director of Blair Public Library reported that they have had several author visits and are getting ready for summer reading program. She welcomed the Board to their library.

Becky Sims brought her reference librarian, Ann Moore to the meeting. Offutt is busy updating their net server. Becky described the professional reading group for active duty or retirees which has met with good success.

Bellevue Public Library is updating their Internet computers.

Tekamah Public Library has a new library director, Joyce Grass (previously a paraprofessional at Tekamah-Herman Elementary School)

Wahoo Public Library is getting ready for the summer reading program and are working on final papers/plans for a new library.

UNO library just finished moving reserve collection to circulation area.

Metro Community College – Library Technical Assistant program will begin September 2004.

Beemer – Tammy Lorenz reported that her son is doing well and thanked the Board for their concern.

Gretna Public Library – Lori is getting ready for her first summer reading program and discussed successful Book Bugs program and picnics.

1. Approval of minutes of March 19, 2004, meeting. Motion to approve minutes – Oyer Second – Lawver. Minutes approved and filed.
2. Treasurer's reports for March and April 2004. Motion approved to be filed for audit.
3. Correspondence: Tracy Bicknell Holmes – thank you to Kathy for work on Legislative Day.
4. Administrator's Report: See written report.

Committee Reports:

Continuing Education: Annual meeting August 2 - Reference workshop – HollingCenter at Immanuel Hospital – Joy Winkler.

Technology Committee: No meeting yet but working on possible one day web page class in July and perhaps another half day graphics/publisher workshop.

Nominating Committee: Ballots are were sent out to most members electronically – 7 ballots distributed by snail mail.

Ad-Hoc Wine Tasting Fundraiser: Estimated amount of funds raised is \$1100.

Old Business - none

New Business:

Business Personal Property Insurance – need to increase to cover equipment and other items in office – currently coverage is \$10,000. Motion by Sims to increase to \$25,000 for next year. Second by McMullen Motion approved.

All Systems Board Meeting: Kathy discussed the possibility of having representation from all Systems Boards meet in a retreat to review, discuss and compare operations, policies and procedures. Chil-

dren's Grants: Motion was made by CE Committee that we award grants to Springfield Public Library (Biographies for Juveniles) and Mead Elementary School (Book Nook) Seconded by Oyer. Motion approved.

Salary percentage increase for Administrator and Assistant. Motion to offer a 4% increase in salaries for 2004/2005 fiscal year by Becky Sims – seconded by Oyer. Motion approved.

Motion to create an Ad Hoc committee on annual salary review – Motion by Sims Second by Oyer- Motion approved

Next Meeting:
July 16, 2004
Bellevue Public Library

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Pasco, Secretary

Board Meeting Locations Needed

If you would like to host a board meeting in the coming months please let Kathy or Nancy know. Upcoming board meeting dates:

November 19, 2004
January 21, 2005
March 18, 2005
May 20, 2005
July 15, 2005

Board members appreciate meeting in different libraries in the System. It is a pleasure to tour the facilities, meet staff and, if possible, eat lunch in a new place!

Anyone is welcome to attend ELS Board meetings. New to the agenda last year, Kathy invited system library directors to talk to the board about their library and services they provide. All we need is a place to meet for 15-20 people, some refreshments (optional but appreciated.)

Public Library Directors

The next DIRECT Meeting will be at the
John A. Stahl Library, West Point
9:30 A.M.—11:30A.M.

Please invite any of your library Friends or foundation members to attend the meeting too as we will discuss organization, community involvement, advocacy, fundraising, and services. Refreshments will be served!

Please let Mary Jo Mack, director of the Stahl Library if you and any guests will be attending at 402-372-3831 or wplibrary@cableone.net.



Golden Sower Award Winners

The 2003-2004 Golden Sower Award winners are:

- Salt in His Shoes by Deloris Jordan and Roslyn Jordan
- Skeleton May by Joseph Bruchac
- Touching Spirit Bear by Ben Mikaelson

Thanks to everyone who promoted the program and voted!

Funny Quotes

“Book lovers never go to bed alone” - unknown

“There are two kinds of statistics, the kind you look up and the kind you make up” - Rex Stout

“Seventy million books in America’s libraries, but the one you want to read is always checked out” - Tom Masson

NLA/NEMA Conference Events

The NLA/NEMA Conference will be held October 6-8 in Grand Island.

Come see the King! The King of Rock 'n Roll that is!
Elvis will swivel his hips, come swivel yours at



The Nebraska Regional Library Systems
Sponsoring the
NLA/NEMA
Banquet and '50's Style Sock Hop
Thursday, October 7th
6:30-9:30 p.m.
Grand/Governor's/Executive, Holiday Inn
\$20



Good Golly, Miss Molly! Don't Be Cruel, Dream Along With Me while listening to the library band, the Bookends, play a couple of familiar hits. Then Rock Around the Clock and skin the cat with a DJ who will have you yelling Great Balls of Fire and Do You Wanna Dance? Eventually though we will have to say Goodnight, Irene and get ready for Friday's sessions. Dress to impress in your fifties finery to participate in best-dressed and dance contests. There will be a cash bar.

Register at: www.2004nla-nemaconference.info or see the Fall issue of NLAQ.

Mark your calendars . . .

For the Nebraska Regional Library Systems 2004 Pre-conference to NLA/NEMA, "**Ways to Construct an Evaluation**", on October 6th from 10:00 to 3:00. Lynn Bradman, PhD. Student at ISU and Social Science Instructor for Metro Community College in Omaha, will be our presenter. Lynn will provide you with the best practices in constructing an evaluation. Information will be useful for program evaluations, long range planning and for staff evaluations.

Registration fee: \$25
We hope to see you on **October 6th**.

Registration form and information available at:
www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/sesys/index.html



2004 Pre-Conference for NLA/NEMA

Hispanic Voices @ your library™

Voces Hispanas @ su biblioteca™

Wednesday, October 6, 2004 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. CST

Morning Session: "Spanish That Works", Elisabeth Almann, 9:00 -11:30 a.m.

Afternoon Sessions:

Session I: Multicultural Consultant, Yolanda Cuesta, 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Session II: Hispanic authors, Francisco Jimenez (Golden Sower Award nominee), and Luis Rodriguez, 2:45 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Location: Holiday Inn Midtown, Grand Island

Registration deadline is Friday, September 24, 2004.

This is a firm date and late or onsite registrations will not be accepted.

Registration form -- please print and snail mail (faxes will not be accepted) to:

Jenni Puchalla, System Administrator Staff Assistant, Southeast Library System; 5730 R. Street, Suite C-1, Lincoln, NE 68505; 402-467-6188, 800-288-6063, E-mail: jennip@alltel.net

Registrant's Name: _____

Library or if Student school attending: _____

Member of NLA _____ NEMA _____ Library School Student _____ Other _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

My fee is: (check one and make check payable to the **Paraprofessional Section**, if payment cannot be made by the deadline date please call the Registration Chair).

_____ \$25 Member of NLA, Registration includes luncheon buffet

_____ \$25 Member of NEMA, Registration includes luncheon buffet

_____ \$25 Library School Student, Registration includes luncheon buffet

_____ \$35 Non-member of NLA or NEMA, Registration includes luncheon buffet

For more information: <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/comp/para/preconf/2004PreConf.html>

Sponsored by: the Paraprofessional, Special & Institutional, School Children's and Young People's Sections of the Nebraska Library Association; Nebraska Educational Media Association; Scottsbluff Public Library; and the Omaha Public Library (South Branch). This project was supported in part by state aid funding appropriated by the Nebraska Legislature, granted and administered by the Nebraska Library Commission and in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, administering the Library Services and Technology Act through the Nebraska Library Commission.

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you
enjoy...**

- working with people?
- books?
- technology?

Maybe a career in the Library and Information Sciences is right for you!

Coming Fall 2004!

LIBS 101 - Introduction to Library and Information Services

August 30, 2004 - December 13, 2004

Orientation: Saturday August 28, 2004

This 4.5 credit hour course provides you with a broad overview of the library and information science profession.

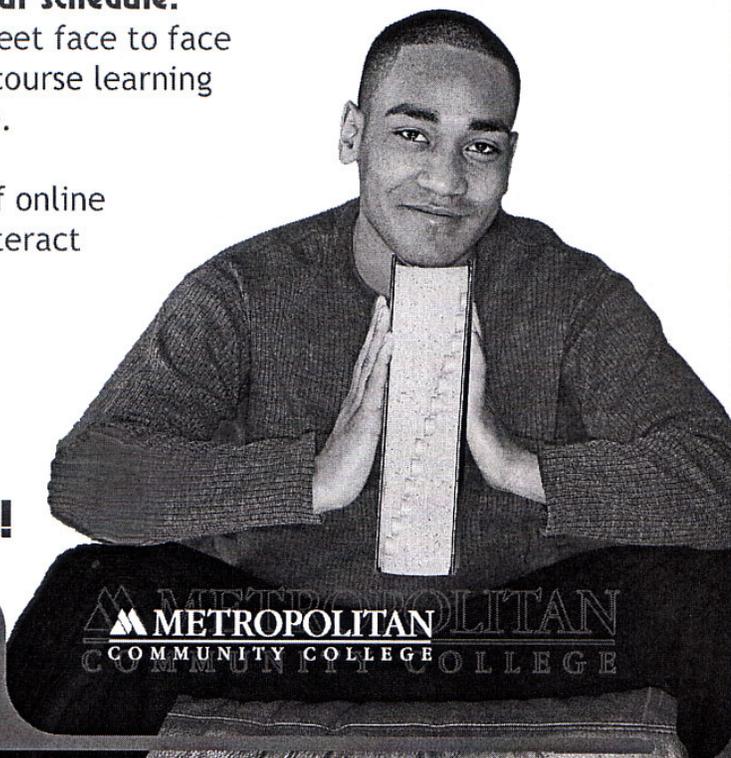
LIBS 101 is easy to work into your schedule.

It's a mixed-mode course. We'll meet face to face once a month and the rest of the course learning activities will be completed online.

This format offers the flexibility of online learning and the opportunity to interact with students and faculty in a classroom setting.

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Gretchen Schaeffer, MA, MLS
gschaeffer@mcneb.edu
402.457.2376 or
800.228.9553



METROPOLITAN
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Upcoming Events



July 16— ELS Board Meeting, Bellevue Public Library.

July 17—Web Page Class, Sump Memorial Library, Papillion, 9 am—3 pm.

July 22—Database Roadshow, Stahl Library, West Point (contact Jeanette Powell, NLC (jpowell@nlc.state.ne.us.)

July 23—We're All In This Personnel Thing Together, Aren't We Workshop? 9-3:30,
Platte River State Park. Contact: Jacque Croker, NLC, 800-367-2665.

July 28—DIRECT Meeting, Stahl Library, West Point, 9:30-11:30.

August 2—"A+ Reference Service: Connecting People With Information" workshop at the Holling Center,
Alegent Health Immanuel Medical Center, 9 am—2:30 (see flyer in this issue.)

August 2—CLICK Meeting, Sump Memorial Library, Papillion, 9:30 am.

August 5—Database Roadshow, UNO Library.

August 6—Ethics & Enlightenment Leadership Institute Reunion, Seward.

September— Library Card Sign-Up Month (visit ALA web site, www.ala.org for program ideas.)

September 5-October 2—Banned Books Week (information at www.ala.org/bbooks.)

October 6—Nebraska Regional Library Systems Pre-conference "Ways to Construct an Evaluation."

October 6—Preconference, "Hispanic Voices @your library, Voces Hispanas @ su biblioteca."

October 7-8—NLA/NEMA Conference in Grand Island (www.2004nla-nemaconference.info.)

October 20-24 MPLA Conference, Denver.

October 28-29—Youth Services Retreat (more information in next issue.)

November 2—Read Aloud Nebraska presents Mem Fox, Peter Kiewit Conference Center, Omaha.

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

*Eastern Library System
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